



United Way
Peterborough & District

WOMEN UNITED™

United Way Peterborough & District Announces the Recipients of the Inaugural Women United Fund

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – September 27, 2023

PETERBOROUGH, ON – United Way Peterborough & District was honoured to announce the recipients of their inaugural Women United Fund at the Peterborough Child and Family Centres' main office this morning. Joining United Way was Maryam Monsef, Founding Chair of Women United Peterborough, and representatives from the two recipient organizations.

The 2023-2024 Women United Fund was made possible by a generous gift from Maryam Monsef that allowed United Way to offer a special funding opportunity for one-time projects. United Way published a Request for Proposals this past June that sought out initiatives that support women, girls and gender-diverse people in our community. In particular, the RFP focused on equitable opportunities for personal growth, economic security, and leadership among members of these groups.

“The Women United Fund embodies what is possible when community comes together to address a shared goal,” said Betsy Farrar, Manager of Community Impact at United Way Peterborough & District. “This grant was not only made possible through Maryam’s generous donation, but also her drive and awareness of local issues as the founding chair of our local Women United group. In addition, we want to extend our gratitude to all of the applicants who brought forward creative and compassionate solutions to complex gender-based issues.”

Taking place between September 1st, 2023, and August 31st, 2024, the inaugural Women United Fund recipients are:

Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre, for their project titled Leading Ladies. \$4,750 in Women United funding will contribute towards leadership training for women in the local non-profit sector. Through weekly seminars, women will engage in training that spans across topics related to leadership and advocacy. Guest speakers from a range of professional backgrounds will participate in the delivery of the training. Women have traditionally made up a strong portion of employees within the non-profit sector, so providing leadership training that is tailored to the unique intricacies of the sector will support their personal and professional growth as they advance into senior roles.



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“KSAC is honoured to have received funds through the Women United Fund. With this funding we will be able to provide leadership training and expertise to women in the non-profit sector. Our Leading Ladies Curriculum will create a safe community for women to support their growth as future leaders,” shared Brittany McMillan, Executive Director of Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre.

Peterborough Child and Family Centres, for their project titled Empowering Two Generations. \$11,050 in Women United funding will support young, parenting women through life skills programming. This project will enhance their current programming to ensure their vulnerable clients are able to increase their skills and confidence in areas of parenting, health and wellbeing, educational support, financial literacy, and personal development. Participants will also be supported through access to transportation, childcare, and a meal to reduce barriers in accessing the programs and services at PCFC.

“Peterborough Child and Family Centres has been providing support to vulnerable pregnant women, parents, and their young children for almost 30 years. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to expand our work with young parenting women, providing the tools they need to overcome barriers to employment and education, build resilience, and improve their families’ well-being,” said Nicola Lyle, CEO of Peterborough Child and Family Centres.

Founding Chair of Women United Maryam Monsef concluded the announcement with her gratitude for those who are working to improve our community for women and girls.

“Tough economic times are often toughest on women and women-led families. I applaud every agency working to support women and the most vulnerable in our community. Thanks to the team at United Way for working with me to establish the Women United Fund and for selecting two projects that offer professional and personal development opportunities for young moms and leaders in the non-profit sector. I look forward to building on this momentum with the Women United Steering Committee and our caring community.”, said Maryam Monsef, CEO and Founder of ONWARD.

For more information, please contact:

Betsy Farrar

Manager of Community Impact, United Way Peterborough & District

bfarrar@uwpeterborough.ca

705-742-8839 ext. 28