



GRAND BEND
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Media Release

March 30, for immediate release

Foundation Matches All Donations to COVID 19 Fund

Grand Bend Community Foundation has created a COVID 19 Emergency Relief Fund to support charities affected by the crisis. Every donation from community members will be matched dollar for dollar, up to \$15,000.

“This is an unprecedented situation. We recognize that charities who serve the most vulnerable populations are in a difficult situation,” says Chair Penny Nelligan. “On one hand, their fundraising activities are curtailed due to social distancing. On the other, many of their clients have even greater needs during this time.” She adds that while generous government funding has been promised, it may take some time to come.

The fund will support charities providing food and other necessities. It will be administered by the Board of the Grand Bend Community Foundation, community leaders with experience in making grants to local charities. The application process will be simplified, while maintaining full accountability for the funds granted. Grants will be made at least three times over the next two months, beginning April 3.

GBCF is making \$10,000 in matching dollars available from its own endowment funds, and the Grand Bend Rotary Club has added another \$5,000.

“People want to help in some way,” says Janette Baillie, Chair of the GBCF Grants Committee. “Many are volunteering to do deliveries to people self-isolating. Donating to the fund is another meaningful way to reach out to neighbors in need. And thanks to the matching dollars, the impact of every gift is doubled.”

To make a donation, go to <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/grand-bend-community-foundation/> and click “Donate Now.” All donors will receive an official tax receipt automatically.

For more information about the Foundation, visit grandbendcommunityfoundation.ca. To contact the Foundation, grandbendcf@gmail.com or 519.619.8630