



City funding of community organizations bring 'tremendous' returns

\$1.81 million given to 15 initiatives in 2019

Oct 29, 2020 10:00 AM By: Richard Vivian



Staff from Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition summer camps, one of those that benefit from the city's Community Benefit Agreement program, strike a pose in 2019. Tony Saxon/GuelphToday file photo

MISSION

We support Neighbourhood Groups that are inclusive, engaging, responsive, and build a sense of belonging.

VISION

A healthy, safe community where everyone feels at home.

Since Last Delegation

5 Reasons to Vote “Yes”

1. The City has grown and so has the GNSC



2. An increased minimum wage for program staff



3. A Staff position for our youth/camp programs



4. Growth in the Coalition



- 3 new NGs to date & more waiting to join

- Increased activity and participation in the GNSC

5. GNSC’s increased contributions to city-wide actions

- Poverty Alleviation/Reduction, Food Insecurity



- City Community Plan

THE FOOD WORK WE ARE DOING



FOOD CUPBOARDS/PANTRIES

- **8 NG's** run non-perishable and frozen food cupboards



COMMUNITY GARDENS

- **12 NG's** host communal gardens with plots for community members
- Food growing, skill sharing



FOOD SKILLS

- **8 NG's** run collective kitchen and other cooking programs
- eg: Brant Avenue NG preps 5000 snacks per month for their after school snack program



FOOD SHARING

- We share food between NG's through all of our programs
- We share resources and food between organization
- Community events, suppers, and gatherings.



COMMUNITY MARKETS

- Weekly fresh food markets run in **3 NG's**
- Two are no-cost and one is a sliding scale model



“The SEED would not exist if not for the GNCS’s vision and leadership ...”

- Gavin Dandy, Director

Food Insecurity

GNSC plays a role in larger projects and collaborations as advocates and system navigators.



A Smart Cities Challenge initiative

- Part of the **Steering Committee** for the successful Smart Cities grant
- Member of the Nutritious Food Stream Committee of **Our Food Future**



- One of the **Co-founders of The SEED**
- Member of **Steering Committee** since its inception



- Co-chair of **Steering Committee**
- Partnering on **Decent Work project** together

FOOD INSECURITY DURING COVID-19

GUELPH AND WELLINGTON COUNTY

VitalFocus.

*Stats below from VitalFocus®

According to a Statistics Canada Study* conducted between May 4 -10, 2020, food insecurity has increased and is significantly higher during COVID-19 compared to the 2017-2018 reference period. This study also found:



Almost 1 in 7 (15%) of Canadians reported living in a food insecure household.



Canadians living in household with children were more likely to be food insecure (19%) compared to those with no children (12%).



Canadians who were absent from work due to COVID-19 (because of business closure, layoff or personal circumstances) were almost three times more likely to be food insecure than those who worked.



• We changed to a delivery model



• Added cost of PPE and sanitizer



- On average, each NG has doubled their emergency supports (food, diapers, toilet paper)
- \$6,000 per NG per year
- Added cost of PPE and sanitizer

Anti-Racism & Equity

“They are an example that equity and values work because they are accountable, caring, and ensure that everyone's voices are heard.”

-Dayami Ramirez, Immigrant Services GW

- GNSC has played and will continue to play a large role in the big issues facing our community (Community Plan, Housing & Homelessness, ACEs Coalition GW).
- We bring needed community voice, advocacy, & values to every room.
“Not Us Without Us”
- Our work is rooted in community voice and collaboration.
- We have done a lot of work but have not had a sustainable, dedicated role to ensure progress and continuity.

Fresh Insights @fresh_insights · Jan 27

HUGE shoutout to Sonali Menezes @GuelphNSC for bringing together this Equity Conference: Starting the Conversation!! Deeply grateful! ❤️



“The sincere and authentic GNSC approach to inclusion is something we worked to emulate in our city-wide engagement efforts... They are a tremendous partner and resource for our community”

- Stewart McDonough, City of Guelph

Anti-Racism & Equity

Timeline and Key Actions

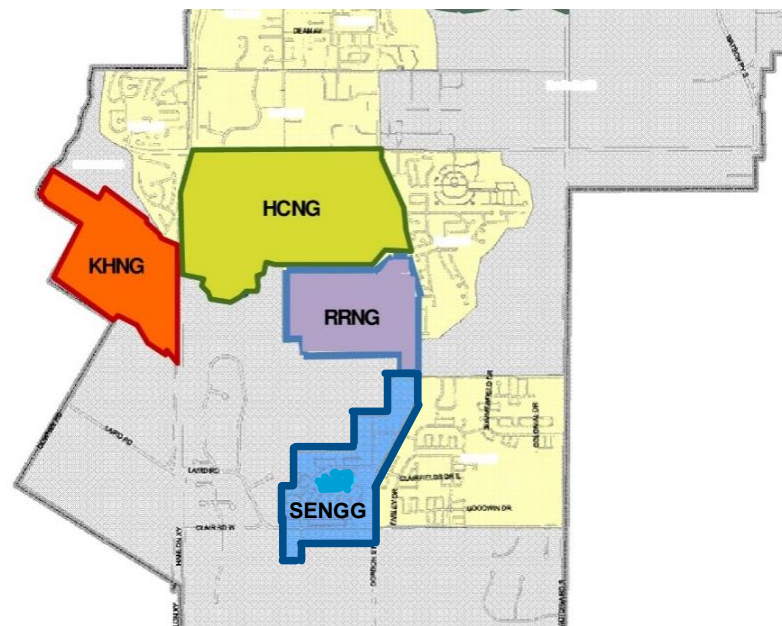
1. Community Connections Coordinator (2014/2015)
2. People of Good Will (2014/2015)
3. Equity Coordinator (2015 – 2017)
4. Storytelling Series (2016)
5. ‘Hidden Histories’ Neighbourhood Storytelling through Documentary (2016)
6. Transported: Stories of Immigration and Significant Objects (2017)
7. Equity Conference (2018)
8. GNSC Values (2018 – Current)
9. Continuing the Conversation (2019)
10. Tools for a Supportive Professional (2019/2020)
11. Indigenous Cultural Safety Program (2020)

“...the innovative conference on centering equity, is work that drew from within and outside of our community and neighbourhoods, planting the seed for work that is being undertaken now. “

- Marva Wisdom

South End

- **10-15%** of calls for support to PGNG, OWNG, GHENG and TRNG are coming from the South End
- **North End Harvest Market - 22%** of deliveries and **5%** of the drive-thru pick ups are for South End community members
- **KHNG** is developing plans to open a food cupboard in 2021
- We have 4 South End NGs, 2 of which are new and growing. We hope to help build at least 2 more in the coming 3 years.



COVID-19

- **NEHM** has seen a **250%** increase in marketers
- **PGNG** has seen a **150%** increase in calls for support



- On average, each NG has doubled their emergency supports (food, diapers, toilet paper)
- \$6,000 per NG per year
- Added cost of PPE and sanitizer

STAFF

- As the **GNSC and City has grown**, the need for more staff hours has grown (most notably in priority communities) and the need for new staff opportunities in emerging Neighbourhood Groups has also grown (especially in the South End).
- The GNSC along with the PTF has been partnering on a **Decent Work** project in Guelph. We are changing our policies and practices to create decent work in our coalition. We are also sharing the principals across the city with peer trained individuals.



2017 - 2019 NUMBERS

980 PROGRAMS



189,246 PARTICIPANTS



3,460 VOLUNTEERS



111,660 HOURS





City Support
\$550,188.00



Partner Support
(Cash + In-Kind)



\$250,000.00



Grants and Donations



\$258,691.00

Volunteer Hours

*(*from The Conference Board of Canada Report 2018)*



\$1,042,713



\$1,551,404

\$1,551,404

GNSC

Return On Investment

*(*Calculated at a Living Wage \$27.00)*

A Tale of Two Cities

	CAMBRIDGE	GUELPH
# of Neighbourhood Groups	8	15
City Investment (2019)	1,185,000.00	\$550,188.00
Return on Investment (\$ leveraged for \$ invested)	\$1.74	\$2.82
Population (2016 Census)	129,920	131,794

4 Reasons to Vote **Yes**

1. **FOOD INSECURITY & EMERGENCY SUPPORT (\$100,000)**

- Our food security work such as the North End Harvest Market is key to the health and wellbeing of 1000s of community members.
- Over the next 3 years, the GNSC will play an important role in supporting our most vulnerable friends during the pandemic and recovery period
- All of the NG paths to raising funds (events, raffles, newsletters) have been lost

2. **ANTI-RACISM, EQUITY, & ADVOCACY (\$70,000)**

- GNSC has played and will continue to play a large role in the big issues facing our community (Community Plan, Housing & Homelessness, ACEs Coalition GW).
- We bring needed community voice, advocacy, & values to every room. **“Not Us Without Us”**

3. **GROWTH (\$50,000)**

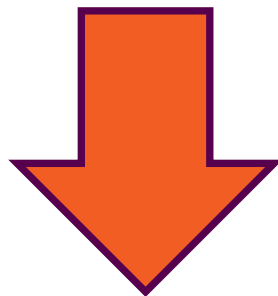
- GNSC continues to grow and add to the scope of our city-wide work
- We will continue to add new Neighbourhood Groups.

4. **RETURN on INVESTMENT (ROI)**

- Every **\$1** of support the City provides brings in **\$2.82** of additional support

Our Ask

\$220,000 increase to our **Community Benefit Agreement**



~0.085% 2020 City Budget
(tax supported budget)

*“COVID-19 has hit our communities hard & those that have relied on these connections & services have found themselves more isolated than ever. **The Coalition continues to be a light & life line for our community in this dark time.**”*

- Maryann Sly-Kensley, Parent Outreach Worker, GCHC



Huge Gratitude and Thank You





GNSC Letters of Support

Name	Neighbourhood Group/Organization
1. Gavin Dandy	Director, The SEED
2. Dan Gillis	Professor, University of Guelph
3. Lloyd Longfield	MP
4. John Borthwick	Pastor, St. Andrew's Church
5. Brad McInerney	Kazoo!
6. Emmalia Bortolon-Vettor	Girls Rock Camp
7. Barb McPhee	GNSC Board Member
8. Barb McPhee	North End Harvest Market (NEHM) Manager
9. Hayley Kellet	The Making Box
10. Caroline McCullough	NSW, North Riverside Neighbourhood Group
11. Jessica Barrie & Chris Willard	Guelph Community Foundation
12. Judi Gough	Community Member, NEHM
13. Sharon Henriques	Community Member, NEHM
14. Tara Secor	Volunteer, Kortright Hills Neighbourhood Group
15. Jaya James	Executive Director, HOPE House
16. Patricia Tersigni	Director, University of Guelph & United Way
17. Lynne Kloostra	Parent Outreach Worker, Guelph Community Health Centre
18. Kelly Royea	Volunteer, NEHM
19. Joy Sammy	Volunteer, The Junction NG
20. Ryan Waller	Onward Willow NG Volunteer, GNSC Board Member
21. Samantha Blostein	CESI, University of Guelph
22. Leone Schadenburg	NSW, Kortright Hills NG
23. Leen Al-Habash	Project Director, G-W Local Immigration Partnership
24. Heather Chesney	Trinity United Church
25. Maryann Sly-Kensley	POW, Guelph Community Health Centre
26. Kim Cusimano	Executive Director, PIN
27. John Dennis	Chair, Guelph Tool Library
28. Carol Tyler	Nookomis
29. Margaret Penner	Manager, Lutherwood
30. Michelle Wall	Volunteer, Hanlon Creek NG
31. Kevin Sutton	Black Lives Matter, Threshold
32. Noor Aqsa	PGNG
33. Dianna Gamble	PGNG
34. Emma Roger	Executive Director, Children's Foundation of Guelph
35. Lisa Maslove	Community Member
36. John Benham	Pastor, Trinity United Church
37. Joanna Goode	Executive Director, Facilitation Wellington Dufferin
38. Sarah Stubbs	Director, Life Gears Academy
39. Dayamai Ramirez	Immigrant Services G-W



40. Gord Cobey	Chief, Police
41. Adrienne Crowder	Director, WGDS
42. Naomi McLeod	Volunteer, SGPNG
43. Helen Fishburn	Executive Director, CMHA WW
44. Shawn Van Sluys	Executive Director, Musagetes
45. Marva Wisdom	Community Member, PGNG
46. Mike Anderson	UGDSB
47. Dr. Laura Brown	Director, The Nightingale Centre
48. Ellyn Lusia	Exhibition Park NG
49. Dunja Lukic	OWNG and Ontario Works
50. Esmani	NEHM Participant
51. Kim Gadoury	SUPER Volunteer
52. Vanessa Lodge	Active Scholars
53. Vanessa Lodge	Guelph Youth Basketball Association
54. Eleni Hughes	Guelph Public Library
55. Glen Soderholm	Reverend, Two Rivers Church
56. Michelle Peek	Executive Director, Art Not Shame
57. Debbie Bentley-Lauzon	Executive Director, Wyndham House
58. Kevin Nguyen	Youth Worker
59. Sly Castaldi	Executive Director, Women in Crisis
60. Anne Toner Fung	Executive Director, Innovation Guelph
61. Jennifer Antler	Manager, Indigenous Healing & Wellness program WW
62. Jenny Mitchell	Volunteer and Mobile Studio Coordinator, CFRU
63. Karen Bechard	Volunteer, Hanlon Creek NG
64. Kim Davids Mandar	Founder and Volunteer, Rickson Ridge NG
65. Katie Ewald	Volunteer, Two Rivers NG
66. Julianna Stephens	Silvercreek Community Market
67. Sarah Haanstra	Manager, Toward Common Ground
68. Gail Hoekstra	Executive Director, The Welcome Drop In Centre
69. Staff Team	CFRU
70. Bry Webb	Community member, Two Rivers NG
71. Donna Haskett	Volunteer, Onward Willow NG
72. Peter Gill	Executive Director, Chalmers Community Services Centre
73. Yesenia and Juan Monterroza	Grange Hill East NG
74. Chris Robb	Volunteer, Kortright Hills NG
75. Nicki Hammond	Neighbourhood Support Worker, Brant Avenue NG
76. Tracy McLennan	Associate Director, WCDSB
77. Aimee Copping	Executive Director, Blackball
78. Molly Roberts	Guelph Wellington Seniors Association
79. Bryan Gilmore	Executive Director, Onside Athletics
80. Dominica McPherson	Director, Poverty Task Force
81. Kate Vsetula	Director, Guelph Community Health Centre
82. Andrew Seagram	Community Use of Schools Coordinator, UGDSB



83. Jennifer MacLeod	Manager, WDG Public Health
84. Geetha Van den Daele	Volunteer, GNSC
85. Erin Harvey	Director of Service, Family & Children's Services GW
86. Nathan Lawr	Operations Manager, Guelph Film Festival
87. Charlene Downey	Volunteer, Two Rivers NG
88. Rick Rocher	Playtime Coordinator
89. Mark Linesman	Volunteer, Two Rivers NG
90. Emily Stahl	Volunteer, Two Rivers NG
91. Adrian Iacovino	Two Rivers NG
92. Pranay Bhatia	International Student Volunteer, Grange Hill East NG
93. Bronwen Buck	Neighbourhood Support Worker, Grange Hill East NG



COLLEGE of ENGINEERING
AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES

October 2, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am an Associate Professor & Statistician in the School of Computer Science at the University of Guelph, and **I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's (GNSC) delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.**

I have had the pleasure of working with and learning from the GNSC for the past 8 years. In particular, the GNSC has graciously offered their time to support the students in computer science - through numerous community-engaged software design projects. GNSC members have offered their time to guide student understanding, and inform the development of tools that have helped organizations such as The SEED grow their various programs. Beyond this, they have given the students in my courses the opportunity to become more active citizens, by highlighting the challenges in our own backyard. In a world that often sees students disillusioned and disconnected, the GNSC has offered my students a way to see themselves as part of the solution to the challenges we face. This is invaluable.

Outside of the work with the students in my class, I have served on numerous steering committees and projects with members of the GNSC. Without a doubt, they represent the voices of those who often are not heard. They stand for those who might not have the opportunity or space to stand for themselves. Without the work of the GNSC, so many organizations and community projects that currently work to improve the lives of so many of our neighbours would not exist.

I absolutely support and recommend that the City of Guelph invest in the GNSC by increasing their funding, particularly at this time when so many more of our fellow citizens are suffering due to the effects of COVID-19. We will get through the pandemic, but only if we ensure that each and every one of our neighbours has the support they need to thrive.

The GNSC offers these supports, and has proven time and time again their value and importance to the City of Guelph. I have no doubt that the GNSC will continue to be a leader in this time of crisis, and a voice for those who are most vulnerable in our community. I am proud to live in a City that supports the work of an organization such as the GNSC, and I hope you will find a way to support their request for increased funding.

Sincerely

Dan Gillis, PhD Statistics
Associate Professor, School of Computer Science
1.519.824.4120 ext 52951
dgillis@uoguelph.ca



Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Active Scholars has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for **3** years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their work, particularly pertaining to the following areas:

- ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces
- centring of community voice in their work and decision making
- earned reputation as the Go-to organization for community engagement
- readiness and resources to pilot, promote, mentor new ideas/programs
- equity and values work. They lead by example in our community

Active Scholars has worked with the GNSC on a variety of programs to help forge a great partnership that we hope to continue to run in the future. Through our partnership, they have shown they are an integral part of our community. Through Covid-19, the GNSC has had a great impact on our organization through supporting initiatives and offering administrative help. Due to their assistance, our organization has a greater chance of surviving during Covid-19.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives.

Thank you kindly,

Vanessa Lodge

Active Scholars –Guelph Manager

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of the Two Rivers Neighbourhood Group's Wild in the Ward program. As an instructor for this program, let my direct experience with the families involved tell the story of uplifting benefits that I notice in the young people that I work with in the neighborhood.

Today one of the kids went home with an uncontrollable toothy grin bursting with stories from her experiences exploring the river and meeting a tree. Another one walked off with his guardian telling them about finding a bird's nest for the first time ever. The quiet kid that doesn't say much, smiled and greeted me briefly before running over to a climbing tree and spending the next 15 minutes by himself (within eyesight) before coming over to the group and joining in our game. Four and a half year old today that is still growing into his "paws" walked across a log today without falling chanting "I belieb [sic] in myself". These kids in the Ward always needed this program - and the pandemic has only amplified this need.

Exploring the banks of the Eramosa river, climbing trees, running through the garden space, searching for feathers, bones, and homes of wildlife, noticing incremental changes in the seasons, and doing this in a small cohort of mixed aged kids is what makes Wild in the Ward uniquely meaningful for the neighborhood. Young people learn how to take care of themselves in small ways like packing and unpacking a knapsack, staying hydrated, and learning how to appreciate and manage being entirely outside for 3 hours in any weather condition. We transform the wild spaces into gaming arenas where we engage our imagination and become hawks and mice; an enclosure of trees becomes a storytelling amphitheater; and we act as guests as we enter the homes of wildlife neighbours along the riverbanks of the Eramosa. As an instructor for the Guelph Outdoor School and a nature connection mentor for a multitude of different projects throughout Southern Ontario I have not experienced levels of anxiety in children and parents as I have observed in the past 5 months. Out of my 7 years of working with kids in public parks, community gardens, and riverside properties in Southern Ontario, this is the year that we need it most.

Wild in the Ward's nature immersion program supports kids in emotional regulation by spending time breathing fresh air (maskless when safe), getting varied exercise by using their bodies on naturally uneven ground, and by engaging the full range of senses as smelling, touch, balance, and listening skills are meaningfully activated.

This program is a crucial lifeline for young people to socialize during these times of physical distancing requirements. By creating a space for young people in the neighbourhood to be listened to by their instructors (adults) and peers (children aged 4-13), each afternoon kids are invited to share their name, a piece of gratitude, and a story from the week. This promotes self-worth, appreciation for others, and confidence in public speaking. As always, conflict arises between participants, and caring adults are there to support and work through disagreements in a positive and safe way.

I offer my support for the TwoRivers' Wild in the Ward program because I see how foundational these weekly programs are in establishing healthy routines, relationships, and recognition of natural spaces.

With Gratitude,
Adrian Iacovino



Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing to support the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council to request increased funding for their organization.

The WGDS has great appreciation for the important, grass roots, social-justice focused community development that the GNSC undertakes. Their "boots on the ground" service model has shown its value in many ways:

- The GNSC collaborates with other community leaders to address key community needs. For instance during the early days of the pandemic, while other organizations were reorganizing their services, the GNSC was actively distributing food hampers to the City's marginalized and economically challenged residents.
- The GNSC has a history of piloting, promoting, and mentoring new ideas/programs such as Pet Protect Guelph, and the North End Harvest Market...
- The GNSC plays a key role in nurturing many amazing programs and organizations in our city such as The SEED and the ACEs Coalition GW. The active support of these new projects is essential to their growth and development.
- The GNSC is a champion for social equity and inclusive values. They lead by example in our community, and encourage and support other organizations to follow suit.

From the WGDS perspective, the services that the GNSC offers and the relationships that it has built in the City of Guelph's priority neighbourhoods are foundational to creating community and individual health. By delivering services that provide essential social determinants of health, the GNSC increases community health and wellbeing. The accessible, engaging programs that they offer in a hyper-local way provide community members with resources and support that would not be available otherwise. These services have a major impact on the wellbeing of the families and individual who receive them.

The WGDS enthusiastically supports providing increased funding for the GNSC because it has demonstrated its ability to lead needed social change in our community.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Crowder
Manager, WGDS



UPPER GRAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Andrew Seagram

Coordinator, Community Use of Schools

Board Office: 500 Victoria Road N. Guelph, ON N1E 6K2

Email: Andrew.Seagram@ugdsb.on.ca

Tel: 519-822-4420 ext. 800 or Toll Free: 1-800-321-4025

November 13, 2020

Mayor Guthrie and City Councilors
Guelph City Hall
1 Carden Street
Guelph, Ontario
N1H 3A1

Dear Mayor Guthrie and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

The Upper Grand District School Board's Community Use of School's Department has been working with the GNSC since its inception and with the City's Neighbourhood Groups for many years before that. Since the founding of the GNSC the UGDSB has worked as a partner and built up a strong relationship to support our mutual communities of students, parents and community members. Our work together has seen GNSC staff work within schools, create community gardens, and offer mutually supportive programming; the GNSC has been a great partner over the years.

The work the GNSC does for Guelph in leveling the playing field for all Guelphites to participate in the social, political and community aspects of the life in our city is immeasurable. The lifting up of people; the skills building so that all people can understand, and speak to the important issues in their community without fear or shame is creating a City that is stronger, more vital and a wellspring of personal and social awareness. Guelph is a stronger City because of the GNSC.

During COVID the UGDSB has been working with the GNSC to ensure continuity of programming, particularly in our schools. We continue to support and ensure food is delivered to hundreds of families through the North End Harvest Market and provide space for the North Riverside Neighbourhood Group, at Waverley Drive Public School. We are working to continue programming at a number of UGDSB schools.

The UGDSB and the GNSC have worked together to provide equity training and the GNSC has led the entire community in inclusive and equitable practices. The GNSC is a leader in Guelph

Upper Grand District School Board

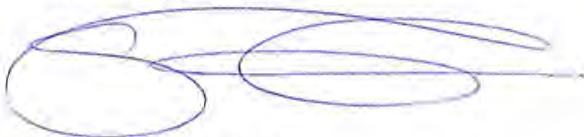
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- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------|
| • Martha MacNeil; Chair | • Mark Bailey | • Jolly Bedi | • Linda Busuttil | • Gail Campbell |
| • Barbara Lustgarten Evoy; Vice-Chair | • Jen Edwards | • Mike Foley | • Robin Ross | • Lynn Topping |

in ensuring that all people and communities can be participants in the governance of the GNSC no matter who they are and what their circumstances are. The great gift of the GNSC is its community mentorship: lifting up and believing in people so that they may lead and fulfill their lives.

The UGDSB greatly appreciates it's work with the GNSC and supports its many programs throughout the summer, winter and March breaks, by ensuring space for camps and innovative programming, like the Girls Rock Camp. The Girls Rock Camp is a wonderful program where girls and young woman have the opportunity to play music amongst their peers and perform in front of a crowd. It is an inspirational program that allows the participants to pursue artistic dreams in a safe and nurturing environment.

The UGDSB's Community Use of Schools Program supports the request for increased funding by the GNSC. The UGDSB charges only an Admin Fee (\$39.95) per school use of all our facilities. All bookings are free of charge (including custodial costs) and are supported by the Community Use of Schools Grant. We want to see the continued growth of the GNSC and its important programming throughout Guelph and the UGDSB will continue to support he GNSC through free bookings of school space.

Sincerely,



Andrew Seagram

Upper Grand District School Board

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| • Linda Busuttill; Chair | • Mark Bailey; Vice-Chair | • Jolly Bedi | • Gail Campbell | • Jen Edwards |
| • Mike Foley | • Barbara Lustgarten Evoy | • Martha MacNeil | • Robin Ross | • Lynn Topping |



November 2, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

Innovation Guelph is writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Innovation Guelph has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for three years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their support of camps for girls with the focus of improving the self-confidence of our young women and engaging them in STEM education. The Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition has been instrumental to the following initiatives:

- ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces
- centring of community voice in their work and decision making
- earned reputation as the Go-to organization for community engagement
- readiness and resources to pilot, promote, mentor new ideas/programs.
- equity and values work. They lead by example in our community
- Helping to nurture many amazing programs and organizations in our city: The SEED, ACEs Coalition, Rhyze on the Road
- ability to provide meaningful employment and decent work for community members

Innovation Guelph initially partnered with GNSC to deliver our Rhyze on the Road summer camps initiative and they had the grass-roots relationship with the youth targeted for this program. In subsequent years, GNSC delivered this trademarked program for Innovation Guelph, leveraging their front-line knowledge of the issues faced by at-risk young women in our community. With this lived experience to bring to the curriculum and available facilities to host the camps, having GNSC deliver the program on our behalf was a logical extension of the partnership and we were confident they would maintain the objectives of our Rhyze on the Road program. Nurturing confidence and providing options for our young women is essential to their healthy development and their ability to make good choices. We hope to serve these young women in the future as entrepreneurs who create positive change in the world.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anne Toner Fung".

Anne Toner Fung, CEO
Innovation Guelph

InnovationGuelph.ca • 519-265-4495 • 361 Southgate Drive, Guelph, ON N1G 3M5



Barb McPhee

October 5th, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing this letter in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization,

I have volunteering and working with the GNSC for the past 20ish years. I have been with the GNSC for this long as I respect their work and how deeply they respect the work of the community, especially in making them feel like family with their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces.

The Coalition centres on the community voice in decision making and helping community to become leaders in their neighbourhoods as well as leaders in organizations in the bigger community. They teach wonderful equity – equality – caring and fun in all areas of their work.

I have sat at tables and volunteered for organizations that the GNSC also supports and takes part in such as the Poverty Task Force, The Seed, The Pod, Aces, Pet Protect where they are just as nurturing and supportive. I have worked in 5 neighbourhood groups over the years and felt so supported and loved how they in their nurturing way treat their staff to learn and grow in a way that helps their work in neighbourhoods. How they make this happen is because of the trust and relations they have built and nurtured.

I sit on the Board of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition as well as chair the Neighbourhood Panel and have been with the Coalition through all of its stages of development and I have never felt unheard or ignored and have always been impressed with how the community voice is brought to the forefront of all the discussion and decisions.

Also being the market manager for the NEHM – the GNSC has been most supportive in helping us to reach and support the most vulnerable and marginalized members of our community with helping to get fresh produce on their tables. They have pitched in to help with deliveries – when drivers cancel or find volunteers to help out as well as finding the much needed dollars for safety items and a tripled budget – which we would not have been able to do on our.

I enthusiastically and totally support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven community leader, dedicated collaborator with community and agency and an agent of change in our community using values built and created by themselves and the community. They have certainly – personally and professionally helped me to enhance my life with supports – training – mentoring and teaching me how to be a better leader and able to have a better quality of life and having the courage to share what I learned with other community members and for that I am eternally grateful.

Barb McPhee

Blackball

Aimee Copping

Monday 5 October 2020

Dear Mayor, City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

I've had the good fortune to work with the GNSC for the last two and a half years. I continue to be impressed by the work of this organization and their readiness to pilot, promote and support new programs like ours.

Blackball is a federally incorporated non-profit that teaches electronic music free of charge to marginalized community members. Originally launched in downtown Toronto, the program relocated to Guelph at the beginning of 2018. Thanks to the diligence, creativity and dedication the Coalition, I was able to start delivering programming just a few months later.

The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community, and I enthusiastically support increased funding for this vitally important organization.

Aimee Copping

ED, founder

Blackball





The Friendship Place
35 Algonquin Drive
Guelph, Ontario N1E 3P2
Phone: 519-821-9243 Fax: 519-821-7519
Email: brant.ave.ng@gmail.com

Dear Mayor and City Councilors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

The Brant Ave Neighbourhood Group has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for over 27 years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ability and openness to collaborate with individuals and organizations that are directly solicited by neighbourhoods.

The model the GNSC follows allows for neighbourhoods within Guelph to directly connect with the services and supports that individual residents and community members request access too, and show interest in. This makes for an empowered, connected and active community, who not only live together, but grow together.

In my short period of time with the organization, I have seen single mothers go back to school and start careers, with community computer training lighting the flame. I have seen parents form strong healthy relationships with their children, with the help, and coaching, of positive parenting groups. I have seen people start careers, by making employment services accessible. I have seen community members form safety nets around at risk families and help pull them out of darkness, and most recently I have seen a life saved by providing access to Naloxone training.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Thank you,

Nicole Hammond-Breese



"neighbours connecting with neighbours passionate about building a safe, welcoming, and inclusive community"

November 19, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's (GNSC's) delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Joining as a Neighbourhood Support Worker in November 2019, I worked with a dedicated volunteer team to develop, oversee and promote neighbourhood programs and events. These serve to cultivate future leaders, decrease isolation, and foster a sense of community and place.

With the onset of the pandemic, food security and helping families in crises quickly became top priority. Our group operates a small emergency food pantry. In a typical month, this resource serves fifteen to twenty families experiencing food insecurity. But, by the height of the pandemic, we were delivering weekly hampers to over 35 families (100+ people) in need of assistance.

Our pantry is normally stocked with donated items and food purchased through a meager \$200.00 monthly budget. By the end of March, our shelves were almost bare. **Without GNSC's support, many within our community would have gone hungry during this time.** Sudden job-loss, fear of going out, and the compound stresses imposed by the lockdown, heavily affected many of our neighbours.

GNSC played a critical funding and coordinating role that allowed our volunteers to reach out and help those in need. Our community members were able to access food from The Seed Market, the North End Harvest Market and other sources.

Our patrons reported feeling hugely relieved as a result. As one client put it, "You are not only helping to feed people, you are giving us hope and some sunshine we desperately need by caring."

GNSC has stepped up and increased the capability of a number of Neighbourhood Groups to address food insecurity during unprecedented times. **One of its finest strengths is that the Coalition supports the engagement of community members, including those who are vulnerable and marginalized, in a meaningful way.** This, in turn, builds a network of trusted volunteers who are invaluable in reaching and connecting with others, especially during crises.

As we adjust to this "new normal" we know that the pandemic will have long-lasting effects. I support increased funding for the GNSC, as it means we will be able to increase access to the supports, services and resources needed to live productive, meaningful and connected lives.

Yours sincerely,

Bronwen Buck,
Neighbourhood Support Worker, Grange Hill E.

November 12, 2020

Re: Increasing Funding for Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition

To the Mayor of Guelph, and our City Councillors,

I'm writing to voice my support for the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding to reflect the growing need for their work in our city.

As a professional touring musician of over twenty years, I have lived in Montreal, Toronto, London, and spent a substantial amount of time connecting with people in cities large and small, all over Canada, the US, and Europe. Ten years ago, when my wife and I decided to start a family, we chose Guelph as the place we wanted to call home. One of the primary reasons for this was our perception of Guelph as a socially progressive community, often supporting creative initiatives to help its most vulnerable citizens. Living here over the last decade, I have seen those values most directly and substantially manifested in the work of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition.

Though I have spent years visiting different communities and looking into the ways they are supporting their most marginalized and vulnerable groups, the GNSC's model is one of the most inspiring I've ever encountered. Their advocacy for resource allocation to allow groups and individuals to empower themselves with creative and needs-based programming and services is everything community leadership should be. Advocacy often takes the form of well-intentioned, well-to-do folks telling those with less privilege what is needed and how to get it. The GNSC model flips that dynamic, and cultivates support relationships based on trust, openness, and listening. Those are three of the most important values in any successful community initiative.

In the COVID-19 era, we have come to understand the need for community and human connection more clearly. The value of listening to, communicating with, and caring for everyone in our locality are central factors in our own mental and physical health, whatever our socio-economic standing. In order to ensure Guelph is able to maintain a level of support and care needed for everyone living here, please give increased funding to the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition. It is our responsibility as a city that continues to grow and develop, as their work improves the quality of life of everyone engaged in our community. It is a clear expression of the values that have continually drawn good folks to call this place home.

Sincerely,

Bry Webb





1 Carden Street
Guelph, ON
N1H 3A1

Monday, November 16, 2020

Re: *Support Increased Funding for Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition*

Dear Mayor, Cam Guthrie and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

I have been connected and involved in some capacity with GNSC since it's inception, serving as a committee member, volunteer, and community leader. Through my role at Onside Athletics we have been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for 5+ years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces. The GNSC provides much needed services to our communities and city, including day camps, North End Harvest Market, and leadership development for youth.

Together we have worked to provide affordable, recreational sports programs for families in primarily three neighbourhoods: Grange Hill East, Brant and Waverley. The GNSC is an important part of our community that works to serve many families in need. The City of Guelph is a better community with the work of GNSC.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives.

Bryan Gillmore

Executive Director, Onside Athletics

Onside Athletics
519.546.8765
info@onsideathletics.ca
onsideathletics.ca

Mailing Address | P.O. Box 26014 Guelph, ON, N1E 6W1
Office Location | Orchard Park, Unit 253 - 5420 ON-6, Guelph, ON, N1H 6J2





Aaniin Boozhoo Mino gizheb Mayor and City Councillors,

Warmest welcome, Good morning

As an Anishinaabekwe nookomis [Anishinaabe grandmother] grateful to live with All Our Relations on this land in this place, I am using my voice to support the vision, values and actions of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition.

The GNSC people with the energy of their many strong relationships, petition you, the City Councillors and Council, to once again gift even more generously financial resources during the second wave of Covid-19 to meet the growing basic food needs of those people in this City who are marginalized by our community's inequities.

As one of Guelph-Wellington's 30,000 First Nations, Metis, Inuit, I have been walking with and holding much regard for the work of the GNSC and how that work is done responsibly and respectfully, with reciprocal non-judging, trusting relationships. I have had the opportunity to participate in this journey well before the pre-incorporation stage of GNSC.

Grassroots initiatives, driven and led by volunteers with lived experience have witnessed the GNSC as holding space and place in a good way, as ready to walk with them, to work consistently at being authentic allies with integrity, and bringing into the mix a wide array of resources that nurture many unique 'firsts' for Guelph.

A few examples are advocacy for living wage, food insecurity, inclusivity, and programming and/or administrative supports for Back Packs, The SEED, The POD, Pet Protect Guelph, Poverty Elimination Task Force, the First Nations Métis Inuit Circle, and the North End Harvest Market.

Ancestral teachings guided our community to gather/harvest no more than that which is needed, that there be no waste, and that no one is left behind. I am a personal witness to GNSC people as proven community leaders guiding with open hearts and clear minds, dedicated to respectful reciprocal relationships and sustainable interdependence, and inspired to walk with change for the greater good.

This GNSC petition is brought to Council with these Anishinaabeg ancestral teachings held in many hearts....

With gratitude and humility

All Our Relations

In Unity

~nookomis

Carol Tyler





November 12, 2020

Re: Increasing Funding for Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition

To the Mayor of Guelph, and our City Councillors,

We, the staff of Guelph's campus and community radio station, CFRU 93.3 FM, are writing to express our support for the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding to continue and enhance their profoundly important work in our city.

As a media organization operating in Guelph for over forty years, we have documented the culture, politics, growth, development, struggles and needs of Guelph and surrounding communities in great detail. We have partnered with many organizations to promote engagement between campus and the community at large, and support initiatives that enhance the lives of the people who live here. One of the most impactful collaborations in CFRU's history has been our involvement with the GNSC over the last six years. It was clear from the beginning of this relationship that the GNSC's work is integral to the health and wellbeing of Guelph and its people. They continue to advocate for, and help generate access to, a better quality of life for the most vulnerable people in this city.

As can be heard in hundreds of hours of archived CFRU programming, through the GNSC our staff and volunteers have had deeply enriching involvement in community enhancement initiatives that have helped shape how we connect with the world, ongoing. The wide variety of projects include, but are not limited to:

- Broadcasts from the North End Harvest Market (a free fruit and vegetable market intended to support low income families and individuals to meet healthy food needs)
- After-school student media-making projects
- Participation in the Community Kitchen collaborative cooking initiative
- Promoting and documenting Women's Self Defence Training classes and Women's Empowerment Groups
- Promoting Onward Willow's refurbishing and re-distributing of computers to low-income families

- Live broadcast of a Neighbourhood Group's Halloween Haunted House
- 600 new local voices and stories on the air, from vulnerable and often marginalized groups
- Documenting and supporting the Guelph Community Food Drive
- Documenting the development and successes of the 10C Shared Space Project
- Broadcasting live from many neighbourhood arts & music events
- Media Literacy and Communication Skills development projects in many local public schools

This list is truly the tip of the iceberg, but gives some idea of the amount of work being supported by the GNSC on a daily basis. Perhaps most illuminating and inspiring is the GNSC's advocacy for allocation of resources to allow neighbourhoods, groups, and individuals to come together and develop ways of sustaining and improving our own lives. This is true leadership.

Guelph has grown and developed exponentially over the last decade. In this important time of transition for the city, we have the privilege and opportunity to direct more funding and resources to support the incredibly valuable work of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition, to ensure *everyone's* quality of life is supported and enhanced. Please increase funding for the GNSC, and show the people of Guelph that you are looking after us all.

"The true measure of a society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members."
– Mahatma Gandhi

Sincerely,

Christopher Currie, Ian McDiarmid, Jenny Mitchell, Alex Rimmington, and Bryan Webb
Staff of CFRU 93.3 FM Radio and Media Centre

CFRU 93.3 FM

U.C. Level 2, University of Guelph
Guelph, Ontario
N1G2W1

E: outreach@cfru.ca

11/10/20

Greetings Council and Staff,

It has been brought to my attention that my wonderful neighbourhood group, Two Rivers, and the other neighbourhood groups in our beautiful city are struggling as many are during this pandemic. The Guelph Neighbourhood Group Coalition, is the lifeblood, that binds our communities together during a regular season, but now it really is a vital service that has come to represent so much more. We have all come to rely on our neighbours for connection during this unprecedented time and the GNGC has stepped up, going beyond the call, providing food, deliveries, online support, all while losing income. No camps or pay what you can programs, to help lighten the financial load. No fundraising events to keep them in the red.

The GNGC requires additional funding to continue providing for those who have fallen through the system. They know who have not been able to leave their house due to a compromised system. They know which families need extra food because a parent (or both) have lost jobs due to the pandemic. The GNGC know their names, they know our names, they are the front line workers of our neighbourhoods and they need your support to continue to make sure we all come through this pandemic together.

Volunteering with Two Rivers these last 2 years has reinforced my belief that the GNGC is really the last line of defense for many individuals and families in Guelph. They are a connection point to resources and community, building up our neighbourhoods on a one-to-one level. A common ground where individuals from all walks of life can interact and support each other. The GNGC is a connection point that **MUST NOT** be allowed to falter! Support the GNGC and you support the people of Guelph.

Sincerely,

Charlene Downey



Guelph Police Service

15 Wyndham Street S., Guelph, Ontario N1H 4C6
(519) 824-1212
TTY (519) 824-1466

October 22, 2020

Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition
42 Carden Street
Guelph, Ontario
N1H 3A2

Re: Support for ongoing work of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition

Dear Chair Holmes,

The Guelph Police Service is proud to partner with the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition (GNSC) in carrying out its sustainable neighbourhood engagement framework. The GNSC's mandate of fostering resilient communities aligns directly with our Service's Community Policing and Diversity Committee priorities. Accessibility, diversity and inclusivity are the goals of both of our organizations. We are grateful for the valuable work the GNSC does and we look forward to continuing and expanding the work we do together to support our community.

With this in mind, the Guelph Police Service wishes to re-affirm its commitment to supporting the GNSC in our continued work to foster a strong sense of community across our various city neighbourhoods. I am pleased to advise that Staff Sergeant Jeimy Kavelus has been identified as our liaison with the GNSC. Jeimy is looking forward to working together with the GNSC to ensure our joint goal of building strong community-centric relationships based on trust and collaboration continues into the future. He can be reached at (519)824-1212 ext. 7192.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gord Cobey".

Gord Cobey,
Chief of Police



**Children's
FOUNDATION**
OF GUELPH AND WELLINGTON
Building brighter futures

October 13, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

The Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC since its inception. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition, their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces, and their readiness and resources to pilot, promote and mentor new ideas/programs.

Our work together includes partnership and collaboration on many programs of the foundation including Adopt-A-Family, Food & Friends, and Free to Grow.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services, and resources they need to live productive, meaningful, and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator, and an agent of change in our community.

Regards,

Emma Rogers, *CEO*

Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington
87 Waterloo Ave, Guelph, ON. N1H 3H6
emma@childrensfoundation.org
519-829-0353
www.childrensfoundation.org

Kortright Hills Neighbourhood Group
23 Ptarmigan Drive, Guelph



Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Kortright Hills Neighbourhood Group as been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for many years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces.

We have a very small core group of volunteers that work hard to bring our community together. The events have become a tradition to our community for the 8th, 9th, 10th ... year in a row. Whether it be a Halloween Boonanza or an Easter Eggstravganza, these particular events have created formative memories to all that attend instilling what Community is all about; people of all diversities coming together to celebrate. To take a break from the day to day grind.

Without the dedicated support and leadership our Neighbourhood Group would not be as viable as it is today. The funding provided to put together engaging events within our community would not be possible without the GNSC.

Due to the recent Covid-19 pandemic, community engagement with social events have been non-existent. Our core members have continued to communicate through social media and our website extending that lifeline to our KHNG Neighbours. With the encouragement of the GNSC we have been afforded the ability to continue our mission of "Creating a Village in the City".

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives.

Chris Robb

Dianna Gamble

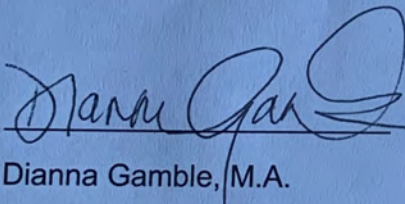
Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Parkwood Gardens Neighborhood Group (PGNG) has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for **many** years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces.

I worked with PGNG this spring and summer to deliver food hampers to food insecure families in our neighborhood here in the West End with the input of the GNSC. I am proud of the dedication of the GNSC and neighborhood groups such as PGNG in reaching and supporting the most vulnerable and marginalized members in our community.

I therefore enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.



Dianna Gamble, M.A.

Registered Psychologist

To:
City of Guelph
Mayor & Councillors

Re:
The Guelph
Neighbourhood
Support Coalition's
funding request

Date:
November 17, 2020

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I am pleased to write this letter in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's (GNSC) delegation to City Council requesting an increase in funding for their organization.

As many of you know, the Guelph & Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination works collaboratively, informed by diverse voices of experience, to take local action and advocate for system and policy change to address the root causes of poverty. Our work is strengthened because of our strong ties to the GNSC.

As an organization, the GNSC is represented at the PTF Member Committee and the PTF Steering Committee. As an engaged partner, the GNSC enriches discussions and informs actions by sharing the unique perspectives and experiences of community members from across our city.

The GNSC acts as a key champion on important community issues, playing the difficult yet pivotal role of supporting vital emergency responses while also pushing for policy change that addresses the root causes. This includes the GNSC playing a critical leadership role in household food insecurity as part of nurturing The Seed and in supporting fair wages and working conditions as a recognized living wage employer and partner on the PTF's decent work project.

The GNSC has a solid reputation for building trust-based relationships and supporting efforts to build an inclusive community. The strength of this work is especially prominent within the context of the pandemic where the GNSC has been quick to adapt, connect and respond to the needs of some of our community's most vulnerable and marginalized members.

The PTF strongly recommends that the GNSC be considered for increased funding opportunities from the City of Guelph in order to support their powerful and impactful work in our community.

Sincerely,



Dominica McPherson
Poverty Task Force Coordinator

November 12th, 2020

To the Guelph Mayor, and City councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Over the past 8 years that I have volunteered in the Onward Willow neighbourhood, I have come to realize how important it is for marginalized communities to have a strong voice in their community. The OWN centre has gone through so many challenging times and changes of leadership; but through it all, one thing has remained the same; the strength and perseverance of the GNSC to find someone who truly supports, and understands the needs of our impoverished community!

The sense of security that a neighbour who is struggling to make ends meet feels from a centre such as this one, is irreplaceable, and the benefits to one's life are impossible to measure. They have provided supports in our community such as: access to free healthy food in the kitchen, free clothing, toys, books, and furniture for those in need at the OWN centre. They have provided opportunities for community members to improve their computer skills, through holding on-site courses for upgrading, with Action Read at the OWN centre. They have implemented a "wish list" for those who are in need of very specific items of life, such as beds, dressers, appliances etc... It is truly a place to serve our neighbourhood needs, and wouldn't be such, without the support of the GNSC.

Ours is a very challenging low-income neighbourhood; but at the end of the day what really matters is that there are people behind the scenes, who you can trust to find a path that supports those families in need or crisis, and listens and responds to their needs, giving them a voice, such as the many new immigrants, single parents and residents here, who suffer from disabilities.

Based on the above testimonial, I support increased funding for the GNSC. **Everyone**, including marginalized neighbourhoods, should have a voice that is included in requests, plans and accessibility of the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC has given our community that opportunity through supporting of the OWNC.

Thank-you,

Donna Haskett

October 26, 2020

Dear Mayor Cam Guthrie and Guelph City Councillors:

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

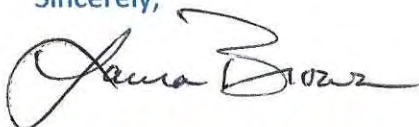
I am the founder and executive director of the Nightingale Centre for Grieving Children, Youth and Families. We are a relatively new non-profit organization who has been in business for just less than two years. We provide grief and bereavement services to children and families in Guelph and Wellington County who have experienced, or are anticipating experiencing, the death of a family member.

The GNSC has been enormously supportive in helping us to get launched as an organization as well as supporting our mandate of providing outreach and education about grieving children to communities in Guelph. Our presence in the community was launched through two free education events for community members about how to support grieving children and how to talk with grieving family members. The St George's Park Neighbourhood Group was indispensable to us in hosting these events, providing us with space in J.F. Ross C.V.I., childcare, set up and take down assistance, and refreshments, as well as promoting the events within their Neighbourhood Group and others. In both cases we had well over 100 people in attendance.

In addition to the education events, the GNSC was instrumental in helping the Nightingale Centre find space to host a week-long training event to teach professionals working with children about how to support grieving children and families. They connected us with a senior manager at Family and Children's Services and we worked out an agreement to use their space for the entirety of the course. The GNSC has also helped the Nightingale Centre to connect with individual grieving families within Neighbourhood Groups and provide grief support as we work hand-in-hand with other members of the support community for vulnerable families.

The Nightingale Centre is so grateful to the GNSC for their assistance as we work to become an integral part of the network of support for Guelph families. We strongly believe that everyone should have access to the supports, services, and resources they need to live meaningful and connected lives and have great respect for GNSC's efforts in this regard. The families of Guelph and organizations supporting them are lucky to have the GNSC working on their behalf and providing leadership in our community to create the network they need.

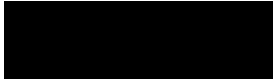
Sincerely,



Dr. Laura Brown, C. Psych.

laura@nightingalecentre.org | Tel: 519-820-7400 | www.nightingalecentre.org

Dunja Lukic



October 28, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

RE: Support for GNSC's Request for Increased Funding

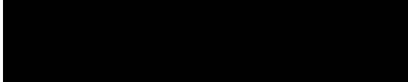
I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

I know that my neighbourhood group, Onward Willow, has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for a number of years. My family and I deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their commitment to grassroots community development in the city of Guelph. You are likely already aware of the GNSC's ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces, as well as their role in nurturing many programs and programs in our city, including the SEED, and piloting programs that have become community mainstays, such as the North End Harvest Market.

I am writing this letter to you as a community member and resident of Guelph, but in my current professional role at Ontario Works, I see first hand the impact of the GNSC on the lives of the people we serve. This includes providing supports that are responsive, relevant, and agile as only a grassroots organization can because of the personal connections the GNSC builds on the ground. I also deeply value the community-building that results in the work that the GNSC and Onward Willow do that allows all of us from all of our diverse backgrounds to feel like we belong to the same neighbourhood. Just this summer, my family and I organized a group of families on our street and we put together backpacks for Onward Willow's back to school drive. Doing so helped us foster a sense of belonging and connection to where we live and to other families in our neighbourhood. In these unpredictable times where we need supports and connections more than ever, and needs are greater than ever, the GNSC has a proven track record of serving our community and should have the capacity to continue doing so.

I enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Dunja Lukić



Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization. I have been living in Guelph for more than 13 years now, most of which I have spent being a proud member of the EPNG (Exhibition Park Neighbourhood Group). It started out with fun and free things we, (as parents in the community), could run in Exhibition Park - things our kids would want to be a part of. Our ideas got bigger and we noticed we were able to connect with a much larger population of our neighbourhood. We would see different families at different events each time, new faces which we are always proud to greet and support. Our legendary **Family Dance Parties** bring in 100+ people for a daytime dance together, our **Creativity Picnic's** bring 400+ people for a free day of Creative fun outside, and our free Pick-up Soccer (for both kids and adults) connect people from all over Guelph.

COVID-19 has changed a great deal of this. We've had to cancel family dances this year and our Creativity Picnic. We are forging ahead with our popular **Living Advent Calendar** in our neighbourhood and have reached out to the Downtown Business Association with the hopes that they would like to participate. *We always look for ways to support our local community and share that message in our neighbourhood.* Though we've all had to pivot in this new normal, we still look for ways to be together as a neighbourhood (while safely apart), and offer any support to our neighbours during this very difficult time.

To me, this is what living in Guelph is. It is one big neighbourhood, full of neighbours helping each other out. **We could not do ANY of this without the help and support of the GNSC over the years.** They are always happy to support, collaborate and supply safe spaces whenever we've asked. Not only that, but they have always happily attended our events. *The GNSC is the heart of our community and the neighbourhood we call 'Guelph'.*

I know they are an integral part of MANY other community programs in other neighbourhoods. They also have nurtured programs like The SEED, ACE's, North End Harvest Market and are our community's voice for larger projects like Smart Cities.

At a time like this, we as a community *need community organizations to keep us together.* To find ways to *pivot* and *new ways to connect*, so that we all come out of this time safer, healthy and together.

I'd like to ask as a member, as a parent and as a neighbour in Guelph, that you please **increase funding** for the GNSC and the important work they do. *Every city should be as lucky to have such an organization to keep meaningful connections alive, neighbourhoods activated and communities engaged.*

We are all just neighbours after all.

Thank you.

Ellyn Lusia RGD
EPNG Member since 2007

Dear Mayor and Councillors;

The Two Rivers neighbourhood group is one of the reasons why we re-located in the City to the Ward. As a long term resident of Guelph, I have had the opportunity to work with many neighbourhood groups. Their dedication to their community goes beyond their 9-5 duties.

Two Rivers has provided my family a sustainable way to eat healthier, live lighter, become more resilient and create friendships with neighbours I would have not met otherwise. Their community programs such as the food market and PB&J have provided me with the feeling of "normality" in this uncertain time. For example, the food market has allowed us to safely purchase local food to feed and nourish our bodies while being busy with a new baby. He is now also enjoying this food as well. Although I consider myself wealthy, but we are not untouched by Covid. As being on maternity leave has drastically reduced our budget and my husband not being able to find work during this time, we rely on this market to provide our weekly produce knowing we are getting quality goods at a fair price.

PB&J drop ins have allowed me to experience what a new mom should experience in building a community. Having the safe space of the community garden allows for my little guy to watch other kids and learn from them, getting social time without a screen. We love hearing the stories and playing in the space weekly. Also I am making connections with new mom neighbours which I have looked forward to since I became pregnant last year. This has ensured me a space to get outside and make connections which has contributed to me feeling healthy and okay during this anxious time of bringing a new life into the world.

Please support the neighbourhood group with their ask for additional funding. Their programming is amazing and truly adds value beyond what can be calculated to us, the neighbourhood and the larger community.

Thank-you for your time and consideration,
Emily Stahl



November 16, 2020.

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing on behalf of Family & Children's Services (F&CS) to give our wholehearted backing to the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

F&CS has been working (in partnership with the City) alongside the GNSC since it's inception – over 25 years. The GNSC does something that no other organization can do – it elevates the voices of citizens to build community, to take action on very local issues, to take care of each other and each other's children, to form friendships, to celebrate life. All the things that we, as public services could never hope to achieve but which have lifelong benefits across all health and wellbeing domains.

The importance of relationships in a person's life cannot be understated. Neuroscience research has been coming out over the past 20 years or so revealing that the number and quality of relationships in a person's life (most importantly in a child's life) is critical in all domains of health and wellbeing. This is most crucial during periods of life when the brain is developing – the early years and the adolescent years. The GNSC should be seen as an important investment in the present generation and even more importantly, with the kinds of partnerships and programs the GNSC has that directly target children, parents, and families... a vital investment in the next generation.

If we do this right as a community, we will actually be able to respond to things like calls to defund the police, because people will be healthier and happier because they live in strong, caring, engaged communities that support kids and families who struggle. When that happens, those struggles will be far less likely to turn into bigger problems like crime, addictions, and mental health issues. When there are less of those things, there is less need for a police response to community problems. We will have prevented the problems upstream rather than patch them with very temporary band-aids downstream.

F&CS sees, first hand, what happens when families and kids don't have strong networks of support around them. When we get involved with a family who's children are at risk of being harmed, the first thing we try to do is find networks of support. We are seeing incredible results when we get intentional about that. If we could do that at a population level, you might just put us out of business... or at least really reduce the need for a child welfare response to families

CONTACT US

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TOLL-FREE 800-265-8300
WEB www.fcsgw.org
EMAIL info@fcsgw.org

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275 Eramosa Road
Box 1088
Guelph, ON, N1H 6N3
F 519-763-9628

COUNTY OFFICE

6484 Wellington Rd. 7
Unit 1
Elora, ON, N0B 1S0
F 519-846-1005

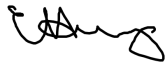
SHELLDALE OFFICE

20 Shelldale Crescent
Box 1088
Guelph, ON, N1H 6N3
F 519-766-4537

that struggle, because neighbourhoods are all over it just by being who they are when they have nurturing and structure offered by Neighbourhood Groups. They can become the village that raises the child. It doesn't happen by itself though. It happens with skilled community development and strategic partnerships and programming. That's what the GNSC does.

F&CS enthusiastically supports increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to meaningful connections that naturally provide encouragement, support, programs, connections and also links to services and resources they need to live and thrive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erin Harvey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Erin Harvey, MSW, RSW
Director of Service, Family & Children's Services
Chair, GNSC Partner Panel

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

October 28th, 2020

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

My name is Esmani and I live in the South End Neighbourhood.

I have 2 children and am expecting another child and at the moment am a single mother. I was referred to the North End Harvest Market by my mid wife and when I called – it was a very good experience. I was put at ease right away as I was a bit leary of calling.

I was set up with a delivery every two weeks and they usually have the same person deliver, so it is nice to see a friendly face at least every two weeks. They call to let me know they are on their way and I meet them downstairs with a smile and a friendly wave and a few nice words.

The market was doing a virtual bingo where they put a bingo card in our produce bags and they called so many numbers a week. We won a couple of lines and they made sure that our prizes were put in our delivery bags . It was so nice to receive those gifts and the kids said it was just like Christmas. They also put treats in the bags for the kids for Halloween. Such a nice gesture.

If we did not have the opportunity to receive these fresh vegetables, and once a month nice bread, we would have to back to not eating healthy and the kids are just getting use to fresh fruits and vegetables and have so much fun now preparing salads and dressing. The market had sent us a really simple recipe for salad dressing that even the kids can make and they love it.

Please consider giving some extra support to the market.

Esmani

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

October 14, 2020

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Facilitation Wellington Dufferin has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for over 6 years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their commitment to community development and empowerment, their collaborative spirit and willingness to work in partnership with individuals, organizations, and leaders in Guelph for the benefit of our shared community.

As an organization who supports people who experience disability to take up full citizenship, we value the work that GNCS does to make our community accessible, welcoming and appreciative of the contributions of each member. We have worked collaboratively on a number of training and outreach events, and routinely look to the GNSC for resources and opportunities for people that we support to become more engaged members of their communities. In particular, we recognize GNSC's commitment to making all of their initiatives open to the most marginalized members of our community.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.



Joanna Goode
Executive Director
Facilitation Wellington Dufferin
joanna@facilitationwd.com



November 12/20

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

The Welcome In Drop In Centre has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for many years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their connection to individuals and families in local neighbourhoods that need support. The Welcome In Drop In Centre has partnered with the GNSC when they come across a situation in which an individual or family that are experiencing a financial crisis which might become at threat to their ability to maintain housing. At the Welcome In Drop In Centre we support these families through our Diversion Program. Our Diversion Program supports individuals and families to stay housed despite a financial crisis so that they do not become homeless. We appreciate the GNSC for their social reach into neighbourhoods and their connection to vulnerable people in those neighbourhoods.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Gail Hoekstra MSW

Executive Director

Welcome In Drop IN Centre



October 5, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

We are writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

The Guelph Community Foundation (GCF) has been proudly funding and collaborating with the GNSC for the past 19 years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ability to collaborate with community leaders in many neighbourhood spaces throughout the City of Guelph.

The GNSC has become an increasingly important service provider in our community.

- They help the Foundation's dollars reach many of our most vulnerable citizens and neighbourhoods
- They intimately know and understand our current resource challenges
- They offer everyone in the community access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives.
- The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

It is worth noting that over the past six months they've demonstrated their readiness and ability to pilot, promote, and mentor new programs, as illustrated through their grant applications and reporting during the pandemic. They lead with their heart and connect to so many in our community who need extra support. They have proven time and time again to our Grants Committee, Board of Directors and staff they can execute programs that provide significant support to many of our most vulnerable, and they do it in a safe, respectful and honest way—services and programs nobody else provides.

Further, the GNSC is facing a significant increase in demand and need for their services. The volume of requests and support needed has increased - we know the North End Harvest Market is experiencing double the weekly traffic they normally plan for. Children and youth need additional mentorship and supportive programming, and they've stepped up and partnered with other charities to supply food hampers and supplies. They are respected leaders in our community.

On behalf of GCF, we enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC.

Thank you for your consideration.



Chris Willard
Executive Director
The Guelph Community Foundation
cwillard@guelphcf.ca



Jessica Barrie
Operations & Community Engagement Manager
The Guelph Community Foundation
jbarrie@guelphcf.ca



Geetha Van den Daele, CE

5 Edinburgh S, Guelph ON N1G 4Y3

Community Consultant

Evaluation | Research | Engagement

[647.400.3935](tel:647.400.3935)

www.freshinsights.ca

November 17, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization. It is very much needed to support the kind of programming and leadership this organization provides, as it lends itself to creating healthy, resilient, safe, and thriving individuals and communities.

I have been a volunteer of the GNSC for over 5 years. My two children see the GNSC as family and an organization that supports connection, kindness, and love. By allowing me to participate, along with my kids, my children have grown a stronger sense of connection to the community and an understanding of how beautiful and wonderful community can be and the importance of community. The organization has made a profound influence on my life and the life of my kids; I honestly can't imagine how I would have made it through challenging life moments without their support.

While the GNSC deserves and has received formal credit on the many things they have achieved and continue to achieve, I want to take the opportunity to speak about how they approach the work that they do. Which is significant. An organization that works to put community-first, people-first, and one that works on dismantling and reducing the barriers to accessibility is one that is greatly needed in our community. For others to learn and model the approaches that the GNSC is taking and work together to address systemic issues.

Why does this matter? Community matters. Connection matters. For individuals and families to thrive, safe, supportive, and meaningful connections are vital. They make all the difference in the world. I encourage you to watch this TED Talk, mentioned to me by a woman who was living in a shelter that I had the opportunity to connect with:

https://www.ted.com/talks/johann_hari_everything_you_think_you_know_about_addiction_is_wrong#t-202527. One of the most striking quotes, and I believe is true, is "the

opposite of addiction is not sobriety, the opposition of addiction is [human] connection."

The GNSC helps foster and nurture real, authentic, human connection and places and spaces to support these connections.

Unfortunately, this is not easy work; it requires time, trust, resources, and a strong ability to carry the pressing issues and weight that individuals and families face in our community. Supporting individuals and families on the ground while also addressing and dismantling systemic barriers, the GNSC works on both by sitting on various tables, taking part in cross-sector initiatives, being action-oriented while taking the very precious and vital time to address real-time issues that surface for individuals and families. To do this work, takes resources. To sustain this work, takes resources. I enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. **Everyone** should have access to the supports, people, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives.

Sincerely, Geetha



Friday, October 2nd 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

We are writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Girls Rock Camp Guelph has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for five years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their readiness and resources to pilot, promote, mentor new ideas and programs.

The early conceptualization of Girls Rock Camp Guelph was embraced by Brendan Johnson and Dan Evans, where they helped us with grant applications, recruitment, school bookings, resource sharing, and so much more. Our first year of camp would not have happened without the knowledge and support enthusiastically provided to us from the GNSC. The GNSC continues to significantly aid Girls Rock Camp Guelph by supplying aid to venue rentals, insurance, and expertise in organizational growth and grant processes. The GNSC are fundamental to connecting and growing community initiatives such as ours. After the first two years of our camp's existence, we were able to grow the camp to sustain itself as financially independent. This leap in growth would not have happened without the aid of the GNSC. Above all, the GNSC has helped us develop important skills in developing an organization with values in functional community relationships and respect.

The GNSC is an invaluable asset to the City of Guelph.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the support, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Sincerely,

Emmalia Bortolon-Vettor
Girls Rock Camp Guelph Co-Founder

Oct. 29th, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

I have previously been a member, and Convenor, of the Downtown Neighbourhood Association Board of Directors. I have always appreciated the vision of the GNSC in promoting human flourishing and the common good in our Guelph neighbourhoods. This aligns well with my role as pastor of Two Rivers Church. We as a church we want to collaborate with community groups that care about the social, emotional, physical, and spiritual needs of community members, and believe that the GNSC fits that description.

We are particularly grateful for the support of the Downtown Community Garden (in which we are involved) which has been supported by the GNSC, it is a thriving project which benefits our neighbours in the downtown.

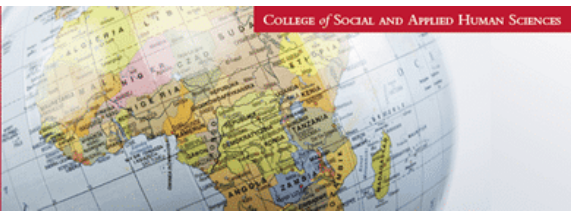
We affirm increased funding for the GNSC whose work has been important in sustaining healthy citizenship in Guelph.

Sincerely,

Rev. Glen Soderholm
Two Rivers Church
(A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Canada)



COMMUNITY ENGAGED
SCHOLARSHIP INSTITUTE



October 7, 2020

Dear Mayor and City of Guelph Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

The University of Guelph Community Engaged Scholarship Institute and Guelph Institute of Development Studies have been proudly collaborating with the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition (GNSC) for over 5 years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces and the centring of community voice in their work and decision making. We admire and appreciate their central role in nurturing many amazing programs and organizations in our city including The SEED and the ACEs Coalition GW.

I had the opportunity to work with the GNSC in my capacity as Instructor of the Engaging in Development Practice Course in the International Development Studies program at the University of Guelph.

In this community-engaged experiential learning course students work on an applied research project in partnership with a local partner organization in the community. We partnered with the GNSC on a research project to identify best practices in conducting a community-level asset mapping process to create an asset map as a tool for community empowerment.


This was an extremely valuable experience for the students as well as the University to be involved in the excellent work of the GNSC. The time spent in collaboration was a highlight for many of my students in their degree program and many have used the skills and contacts acquired in this partnership to further their academic and professional development.

The GNSC is a vital organization, making a tangible impact at the University and within the City of Guelph.

community. campus.
collaboration.

17 University Ave East
Guelph, Ontario, Canada N1G 2W1
T 519-824-4120 ext. 53829
cesi@uoguelph.ca
cesinstitute.ca

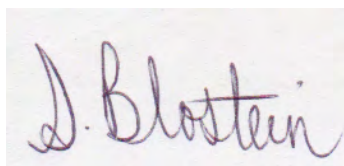
IMPROVE LIFE.



During the COVID-19 pandemic the GNSC has been able to help reach and support the most vulnerable and marginalized members of our community because of the trust and relationships they have built.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Sincerely,



Samantha Blostein, M.A. | Global Community Engagement Specialist
Community Engaged Scholarship Institute / International Development Studies
University of Guelph
17 University Ave East | Guelph, ON | N1G 2W1 |
519-400 7426 | blostein@uoguelph.ca
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cesinstitute.ca



IMPROVE LIFE.



Guelph Public Library

Explore • Connect • Thrive

October 30, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

The Guelph Public Library has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for over five years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ability to collaborate with community leaders. They are a pivotal piece in bringing many community organizations together to work on making Guelph a great city to live in. Guelph residents are proud of their neighbourhoods and this is the result of amazing programming, innovative ideas and the wonderful staff and volunteers who bring these ideas to fruition.

The GNSC and the Guelph Public Library have worked together on a number of programs through the years. Projects such as Library Hubs Meeting Community Needs and the Digital Literacy Grant, and programs such as Bookmobile visits to GNSC summer camps and afterschool groups all help to reach out to and support our marginalized communities. Without the partnership of the Coalition, these initiatives would not have been successful.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live meaningful and connected lives. The Coalition strives to make this a priority in our community.

Sincerely,

Eleni Hughes | Bullfrog Mall Branch & Bookmobile Supervisor

380 Eramosa Road Guelph, ON N1E 6R2

T: 519 829 4401 x251

www.guelphpl.ca



Guelph Tool Library
55 Unit T8, Wyndham St N
Guelph, ON N1H 7T8

Date: Friday October 9, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's (GNSC) delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

The Guelph Tool Library has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC since our inception over 4 years ago. We deeply respect the work of the GNSC and their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces. The GNSC and its leadership team has provided guidance, mentorship, and much needed resources towards the growth and success of the Guelph Tool Library.

Our work with the GNSC has been in a number of areas. Most significantly, the GNSC facilitated the community use of space at Tytler Public School which allowed us to grow and expand our offerings to the residents of Guelph. The Guelph Tool Library saw our membership and loan activity triple in the three years we were based out of Tytler Public School. The GNSC has also hosted a number of Repair Cafes, free fixing events, around Guelph. Repair Cafes have seen over 3000 kg of waste diverted from landfill. The GNSC has also partnered with us on a number of our events including the Good Call Program, Sew North, and the Urban Sugaring Project. The GNSC's readiness and resources to pilot, promote, mentor new ideas/programs has had a major impact on our organization.

Even this year with the shutdown caused by the pandemic, the GNSC was able to assist us with one of our outreach projects, the Merry Mask Makers. The Guelph Tool Library recruited nearly 100 volunteers to sew over 2000 reusable cloth masks and distribute them for free. The GNSC aided the program by helping us recruit volunteers, offering to be the designated charitable partner for grants, and distributing the masks through their network. Their assistance allowed us to protect and provide some sense of security to nearly 2000 people living in Guelph.



Finally, I would like to speak to the leadership of the GNSC. Brendan Johnson and Dan Evans are inspiring leaders and wonderful assets for everyone in the city. My dealings with them have always been thoughtful and they each possess an encyclopedic knowledge of resources and people to turn to for projects in Guelph. They have provided excellent counsel to Guelph Tool Library and other projects that I have been involved with in Guelph. Their willingness to help or provide feedback is one of the best aspects of the GNSC and the role the organization plays in the City of Guelph.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Dennis".

John Dennis
Chair - Guelph Tool Library

October 7, 2020

Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition (GNSC)
Attn: Brendan Johnson – Executive Director
42 Carden Street
Guelph, ON N1H 3A2

Re: Letter of Support for GNSC Services

Mr. Johnson,

This letter serves as an expression of our support for GNSC's request for funding through the City of Guelph. GNSC has supported and provided input on many of our programs, providing vital input on community needs to *Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada's* Community Consultation, kick-starting the Community Connector Initiative, and most recently, our informing and participating in our *#StrongerTogetherGW* campaign, sharing a message of solidarity by highlighting the wide diversity of individuals that continue to provide services essential to our wellbeing during COVID-19. GNSC has also proven to be a key partner in the dissemination of information to both community organizations and community members that is key to our organization's mission.

Established in 2009, the Guelph-Wellington Local Immigration Partnership is responsible for bringing community stakeholders in Guelph and Wellington County together in support of immigrant integration. A significant contributor to the activities our Council and strategic plan, GNSC has been a key contributor to our project's success. The connections to key stakeholders and perspective that GNSC staff and volunteers provide are invaluable to our organization.

More than ever, Canada needs immigrants to maintain population growth, and to sustain our community's ageing population, but key to an integrated community is a sense of belonging. Through their community driven initiatives, GNSC remains a key organization in ensuring that our communities remain inclusive and welcoming as immigration trends increase.

I look forward to our continued partnership supporting newcomers.

Sincerely,



Leen Al-Habash

Project Manager, Guelph-Wellington Local Immigration Partnership



Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Guelph Youth Basketball Association (GYBA) has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for **3** years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their work, particularly pertaining to the following areas:

- ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces
- centring of community voice in their work and decision making
- earned reputation as the Go-to organization for community engagement
- readiness and resources to pilot, promote, mentor new ideas/programs
- equity and values work. They lead by example in our community

GYBA has worked with the GNSC on basketball programs within the Grange Hill East Neighbourhood Group and helped forge a great partnership that we hope to continue to run in the future. Through our partnership, they have shown they are an integral part of our community.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives.

Thank you kindly,

Vanessa Lodge

GYBA VP of Development and Admin



Evergreen Seniors Community Centre
683 Woolwich Street
Guelph Ontario N1H 3Y8
519-823-1291
gwsa-guelph.ca

Be active Get involved Make friends

November 5, 2020.

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighborhoods Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

The Guelph Wellington Seniors Association-Community Support Services (GWSA-CSS) has been delivering food to older adults living in Guelph during the coronavirus pandemic. This new model of delivering our program has been both rewarding and challenging. Our agency has been fortunate to collaborate with the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition during the pandemic.

Neighbourhood Support Workers have made our work easier by offering guidance and practical food support. Our weekly produce delivery was enhanced by the provision of COBS bread from three Neighbourhood Groups including Grange Hill East, Brant and Parkwood Gardens. As our pandemic work unfolded GWSA-CSS delivered a pilot community food market at 32 Hadati Road. Bronwen, the Neighbourhood Support Worker from Grange Hill East provided pantry items, frozen meat and frozen prepared soups from the food cupboard for the pilot market. Bronwen offered safe, in-person support to these vulnerable older adults by coming to the market and making connections. Finally, the North End Harvest Market and Barb McPhee have been instrumental in helping GWSA-CSS get its food delivery model up and running. Barb has frequently shared her best practices, resources and connections to other community agencies able to help us.

The GNCS has always gone out of their way to offer tangible support and have absolutely made our work easier in a challenging time. We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNCS. Everyone should have access to the support, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'M Roberts'.

Molly Roberts, RD
Community Eat Well Coordinator



Canadian Mental
Health Association
Waterloo Wellington

Association canadienne
pour la santé mentale
Waterloo Wellington

October 23, 2020

Mayor Cam Guthrie and Guelph City Councillors
Guelph City Hall
1 Carden Street
Guelph, ON N1H 3A1

Re: Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's Delegation to City Council

Dear Mayor Guthrie and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's (GNSC) delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

CMHA WW is the local provider for children, youth, adults and seniors in our community who require support and treatment for complex mental health and addiction issues. Given the clinical complexity we see across all ages in our community, it is essential for us to partner with many providers across numerous sectors, to effectively support the vulnerable. We have worked hard to cultivate partnerships with local community services to fully support our clients' journeys toward meaningful, healthy lives.

Canadian Mental Health Association Waterloo Wellington has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC since its inception. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition, the way they centre the community voice in their work and decision making, as well as their role in nurturing many amazing programs and organizations in our city, such as The SEED, ACEs Coalition GW, and the North End Harvest Market. Many of CMHA WW's clients access these programs on a regular basis.

CMHA WW has partnered with the GNSC in creating a bridge between the informal systems created by neighbourhood support groups and the formal healthcare system. The GNSC help us ensure community members get their mental healthcare needs met, as we would not necessarily hear from or see these individuals without this vital link. CMHA WW also trains and supports Neighbourhood Support Workers to build their capacity via education like Mental Health 101 and Mental Health First Aid courses. Together, CMHA WW and the GNSC advocate for what our community needs.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Sincerely,

Helen Fishburn, MSW

Executive Director, Canadian Mental Health Association Waterloo Wellington
hfishburn@cmhaww.ca Cell: (519) 835-5645

October 13, 2020.

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

Please accept this letter of support on behalf of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

As a member organization of the GNSC Partners Panel for more than 5 years, Immigrant Services Guelph Wellington has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC to bring our lens about the needs and work with newcomers to Canada in our community. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their dedication and commitment to ensure that access to equitable resources is available, especially to the most vulnerable members of our neighborhoods. They are an example that equity and values work because they are accountable, caring, and ensure that everyone's voices are heard. They do strive for a healthy, safe community where everyone feels at home!

ISGW and the GNSC have worked together in different projects such as the World Next Door, to celebrate the different cultural fabric of our community members and we have collaborated in delivering English conversation circles to facilitate access to English practice in the convenience of the own neighborhood of the newcomers to Guelph. Along these years, our close relationship has allowed us to even help those with challenges to access our office due to transportation or because of critical circumstances, in a one on one basis, out of the neighborhood group space. Furthermore, we have partnered to run the weekly Happy Friday Asian seniors' group at the Parkwood Gardens Neighborhood Group, which is a strong community connector for that particular demographic group in that area of our City. Without this collaboration these seniors would be isolated and would not have a safe space to feel integrated, do gentle exercises, participate in workshops of their interest and practice English. This is a unique opportunity for them to integrate in the community and learn about programs in the City.

We wholeheartedly support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services, and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator, and an agent of change in our community.

Thank you for your attention and we wish for the best decision in this matter.

Sincerely,



Dayami Ramirez
Program Manager
Tel: 519-836-2222 ext 225
Email: dramirez@is-gw.ca



October 6, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's (GNSC) delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization as they are representative of positive social change within our city.

HOPE House has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC on many projects and programs for 8 years. The power of working with the Coalition is that we have had the increased ability to pilot, launch, and execute new ideas and programs quickly, effectively, and with a larger reach across Guelph.

We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces as well as their ability to centre the community voice in their work and decision making. It is these strengths that have allowed us to work together to effectively deliver the Guelph Community Backpack Project for the past 8 years. Together, we supported over 1400 children and their families in the community in 2020 by ensuring they began the school year with the tools needed for success. GNSC support and work with this project has allowed this project to expand throughout the city to ensure that all families in need are able to get the support they need through this initiative.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. The GNSC's work is rooted in community and it makes the work we do together more powerful and successful. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jaya James".

Jaya James
Executive Director, HOPE House



Dear Mayor Guthrie and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Indigenous Healing & Wellness Program has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for 3 years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ongoing readiness and resources to pilot, promote, mentor new ideas, programs and services. One such program is the North End Harvest Market which IHWP clients utilize. The North End Harvest Market has been an invaluable food insecurity measure relied upon not only by the Indigenous community but all other community members facing food insecurity issues. The GNSC has been strong advocates on making good whole foods accessible to all in need without the stigma of poverty attached to its community members. They make their programs accessible along with giving community members a sense of dignity and autonomy. The GNSC has also played a pivotal role in nurturing many amazing programs and organizations in our city such as the with The SEED, which is another food insecurity program that was supported by the GNSC. Through these initiatives and partnerships they have the ability to provide meaningful employment and decent work for community members

GNSC's ability to help reach and support the most vulnerable and marginalized members of our community is because of the trust and relationships they have built in the community. That has established deep roots within each neighborhood recognized as a provider of safe and inclusive spaces for community to gather, learn and build better futures not just for themselves but their children. The Indigenous Healing & Wellness has sat at many community and organizational tables where the GNSC advocacy work around poverty, living wage and health related topics have made huge impacts to community they serve.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives.

In health and wellness,

Jennifer Antler
Manager, Indigenous Healing & Wellness program
Wellington Waterloo



October 6, 2020

To Whom it May Concern,

The purpose of this letter is to recognize the excellent value that the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition (GNSC) brings to the city of Guelph through its many programs and initiatives. WDG Public Health intentionally maintains strong partnerships with the GNSC because the work of the GNSC elevates the well-being of the community.

Public Health works within a social determinants of health framework. Social determinants of health are the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, play, work, and age. The health and well-being of individuals depends on social, economic, and environmental factors as well as individual behaviors, and living conditions. Research has identified the negative health impacts of inequity and the importance of early experiences for children. There is strong evidence supporting the effectiveness of building strong communities to foster resilience in children.

Population health assessments completed by WDG Public Health have demonstrated that some neighbourhoods in the city of Guelph are characterized by higher rates of low income, unemployment, low education, and lack of social and community support, relative to other neighborhoods in the area.

The GNSC supports community-based activities to respond to the local needs and strengths of Guelph neighbourhoods. The type of initiatives supported by the GNSC can have a profound influence on conditions that can change health and well-being outcomes. GNSC initiatives such as educational opportunities for children and adults and skill-building opportunities in areas such as leadership result in supportive, inclusive neighbourhoods with strong social support networks. These supports serve as protective factors. This work has become even more important as COVID-19 has significantly impacted the overall health and wellbeing of communities. In response to COVID-19, the GNSC pivoted their program delivery model to ensure they could continue to provide high-quality programming promoting protective factors and to address new and emerging issues caused by COVID-19. One example of this is the partnership in developing a Parenting in a Pandemic resource.

There is also a strong economic case for investing in prevention and early intervention activities. The costs associated with investing in preventing problems are typically much lower than the costs of intensive, long term interventions required to remediate complex, long lasting issues that could have been prevented. Because the work of the GNSC addresses root causes of disparity it has the potential to prevent economic and societal costs associated with inequities.

The GNSC has a long track record of successfully and meaningfully supporting neighbourhood action, amplifying community voice, and sparking community led initiatives which leads to neighbourhood groups that are inclusive, engaging, responsive and build a sense of belonging.

Regards,

Jennifer MacLeod

Manager, Health Analytics

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health



CFRU 93.3fm

Guelph's Campus and Community
Radio and media centre
celebrating 40 years on the fm dial

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

I work for CFRU as the "Volunteer and Mobile Studio Coordinator" and have been running remote studio opportunities in collaboration with the GNSC for the past five years. Our remote studio aims to create a platform for folks in our community who are often marginalized or ignored in other forms of the media, to allow them to share their stories and perspectives, and learn some of the skills that go into producing radio. The GNSC has been essential in this work – the GNSC's awareness of the needs of different community groups, and how the geography and services in our city impacts those needs, has provided me with informed, honest, and thorough insight into who lives in our city, and how meaningful and respectful relationships can be built with these community members. It has not only aided in my process of deciding where to take these radio recording projects, but how I should set them up, and how I should navigate my work in these spaces.

I have learned so much from the GNSC, and their support and guidance has shaped the project in immeasurable ways. You can check out radio projects created in collaboration with the GNSC at cfrumobile.com. The project has been implemented in eight of Guelph's neighbourhoods with additional projects in schools and at neighbourhood events. As a result of our collaborations, over 600 additional Guelph voices have made it onto CFRU's airwaves. It's an amazing thing!

I strongly support increased funding for the GNSC! I think it is such a gift that Guelph has such an incredible organization to learn from, and to implement programs through. How they manage to do the work they do with the budget they have is a mystery to me, and I truly believe without them the city would spend much more funding trying to create programs and supports for our citizens, and that those programs would be far less effective. Without the groundwork and genuine relationship building the GNSC helps implement, our programs and supports would not be nearly so person-centred and would leave a lot of community members behind. So please support their request!

Sincerely,

Jenny Mitchell
volunteer@cfru.ca



Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

Oct 7, 2020

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

I have been a volunteer with the The Junction Neighbourhood Group for 4 years. Through this relationship our neighbourhood group has developed 2 community gardens, several neighbourhood events and connections with the primary school in our area. I deeply appreciate the work of the Coalition and their efforts to be an equitable, inclusive and values based organization. **The GNSC is effective because it is both grassroots and city wide.** Neighborhood volunteers and staff know their communities, the importance of these relationships can not be overstated.

In a recent conversation with an elder of the First Nations Métis and Inuit community here in Guelph the work of the North End Harvest Market came up. We were discussing how quickly marginalized communities were left behind when COVID 19 forced isolation and the closure of many emergency food providers and how quickly the colonial structure of service provision failed to reach the most vulnerable. For her community, who are members of OUR community, the North End Harvest Market and their volunteers stepped up to provide access to food and basic necessities. Going above and beyond to create safe spaces to meet vulnerable community members in ways and places that were most comfortable and accessible for them. **This work was based on relationships and trust** and this is the work of the GNSC.

I whole-heartedly support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Joy Sammy

October 5th, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a strong supporter of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition (GNSC) because of the significant contribution it has made to the City of Guelph.

Many people in our community would not have access to the programs and resources they need without the GNSC.

I have seen first hand the impact the GNSC has on our communities through my volunteer work with the North End Harvest Market (NEHM).

I have been volunteering with the NEHM for 5 years in many aspects such as:

- Hosting the 2019 K-W Klobberfest Slo-Pitch Tournament. This was a fundraiser through my employer and the NEHM was our chosen Charity. The Tournament raised enough money that we were able to sponsor 2 weeks of the market with our donation of \$1,200.00.

- Picking up the donated bread from COBS bakery on Tuesday evenings to be included in the Wednesday distribution of food at the NEHM.

- Since the NEHM reopened in April 2020 (after having to close due to COVID-19), I have been working every week with the NEHM, organizing and packaging fresh produce for over 120 families. We have also begun to deliver throughout the City of Guelph to include people from other Neighbourhood Groups. I created a database/spreadsheet in order to organize our deliveries to those who are housebound.

The NEHM was very fortunate to be able to reopen as many other organizations were not able to do so. Because of this, the NEHM began to work with other neighbourhood groups in order to provide the fresh produce so desperately needed throughout the City of Guelph.

Some of the other Neighbourhood groups that have benefitted from being able to utilize the NEHM include:

- Grange Hill East Neighbourhood Group – Two Rivers Neighbourhood Group - -North Riverside Neighbourhood Group - -Brant Avenue Neighbourhood Group and even been able to support some families in the county.

Everything I have seen and have been able to assist with would not have been possible without the support of the GNSC. Their efforts and commitment have kept the NEHM operating during a time of unprecedented uncertainty, and every week I hear many comments of appreciation for our help.

Your support is crucial in their continuing efforts and I thank you for your time and consideration.

With Kind Regards,

Judi E. Gough



Silvercreek Community Market
210 Silvercreek Pkwy N.
Guelph, ON
N1H 7P8



*Silvercreek Community
Market*

November 11, 2020

Dear Mayor Guthrie and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's (GNSC) delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization, especially in the area of food security.

The Silvercreek Community Market has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for four years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their readiness and resources to pilot, promote and mentor new ideas/programs. Our market has been modelled after the North End Harvest Market that has been providing fresh food to guests since 2014. Being able to collaborate with other community leaders in the area has greatly assisted in the success of our program. When we began in 2017 we were able to redirect many guests from the NEHM to a free fresh food market in their own community.

With Covid-19 impacting many community programs, ours included, we were able to help each other to continue to support those living in the Onward Willow Neighbourhood Group community. Our market closed down at the end of March as the church building was not accessible for community use. By mid summer the Onward Willow Neighbourhood Group (OWNG) reached out to us to use some space when it became available to run a food hamper program. The demand for food increased during the initial months of Covid-19. We were able to collaborate with them to use our facilities, provide funds for fresh food purchase, distribute canned goods on hand and provide volunteers to pack and deliver the food hampers from June-August. We also helped with the packing and distribution of school backpacks in late August. We continue to communicate with each other to provide assistance where required. If it was not for the collaboration of our initial contact with GNSC the relationship with OWNG may not have happened as easily and the support we now provide to the most vulnerable and marginalized members of the community we serve. This will not be possible without funding for GNSC and in particular during the pandemic we are living with.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the support, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives.

Julianna Stephens

Silvercreek Community Market

TO: Mayor and City Councillors
SUBJECT: Letter of Support for Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's Delegation to City Council
DATE: November 11, 2020
SUBMITTED BY: Karen Bechard

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing to express my support for the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's (GNSC) delegation to City Council. The GNSC has requested increased funding due to an increased need associated with both Covid 19, and an increased population, and I support their request.

I have volunteered as a planning member, and active event volunteer of the Hanlon Creek Neighbourhood Group (HCNG) since my eldest daughter (now 10) was a toddler. In that time, the HCNG, and the GNSC have always been very conscientious of making the city's dollar stretch. Our neighbourhood group, for example saves money by buying required items for craft nights on sale, sharing equipment through the GNSCs program, and by having a 100% volunteer-based group (i.e. our sub-organization has no paid staff). HCNG, and GNSC as a whole, are effective with every dollar it receives. Nothing is wasted, and many items are recycled, or shared through programs like the Clothing Closet and Food Bank projects.

The GNSC is the glue that gives Guelph a 'community' feel which many big cities struggle to maintain. Not only does the GNSC connect its members and communicate the needs of the general population to the City, it also offers non-judgemental resources and support to residents. The staff of the GNSC, particularly Dan and Brendan whom I've had the pleasure to engage with over the years, are exceptional. They lead by example in showing compassion, guaranteeing inclusivity, encouraging connectedness, and of course, being fiscally responsible. Without the GNSC, the city of Guelph would not be able to maintain the 'small town feel' that the neighbourhood groups collectively bestow to its members.

If the GNSC has requested an increase in funds, it is not a frivolous request. It is because those funds are absolutely required to continue providing the services that it excels at now, and to have the capacity to offer additional equitable and inclusive programs to bring the people of the City of Guelph together.

I strongly support the GNSCs request for funding and urge you, the Mayor and City Council, to vote in favour of this request.

Sincerely,



(Karen Bechard)
Resident of Guelph
Member of the Hanlon Creek Neighbourhood Group

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

November 5, 2020

The Guelph CHC strives for a community without barriers to health and wellbeing. We know that the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's work aligns with this goal, that is why we are endorsing the request for additional funding for the GNSC to do its critical work in our community.

The GNSC's has the ability to ensure that community voice is centred in decision making. They relentlessly build social capacity and bring it to the surface in neighbourhoods and our community at large. They are a nimble organization that brings equity and values work to our community. The GNSC creates a fostering environment for neighbours supporting neighbours. The Guelph CHC is deeply partnered with the GNSC through various programs and services including our Parent Outreach Worker Program, our SEED programming and through our Health Promotion Strategy.

GNSC works to build social networks, norms of reciprocity, mutual assistance and trustworthiness in neighbourhoods – all which are critically important for our city. This request is to support this continued work to make our community stronger, healthier and better positioned for the future as we all are striving for, as per the City of Guelph's community plan. We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone deserves to have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

The Guelph CHC has been an integral partner and supporter of the GNSC since its inception and long before when this work was embedded more fully in the city. We work closely on program partnerships and use a data informed approach to providing intentional supports at a neighbourhood based level. We are thankful for GNSC's leadership in the shared work we do. Please deeply consider the opportunity to support this essential organization.

Respectfully,



Kate Vsetula
Director of Community and Organizational Development
kvsetula@guelphchc.ca
519-821-6638 ex 335

“A possibility is brought into being in the act of declaring it” Peter Block

Katie Ewald



November 11, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

As a citizen of Guelph *and* as very active member of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion committee at Ecole King George's Parent Council I have found help, support and council when I need it. When we needed Racial Justice training in our Parent Council last January, they were extremely supportive by providing money and a local recommendation as to who could best provide this type of training. They also expanded this training to include the neighbourhood groups that have children in them that go to Ecole King George. What a way to listen to the needs of a citizen and a group of concerned citizens, run with, improve and support an idea!! That is true leadership!

I deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces. I also find deep value in their equity work. They lead by example in our community. They **walk the walk** in terms of putting recourses where they say action is required. In a world where it takes courage to "put your money where your mouth is" they do JUST that. But it is beyond money and resources. It is real dedication to making this community and therefore the world a better place. And this happens in efforts in all different kinds of ways: from food insecurity to equity education and support, to living wage and back packs for kids in need.

I VERY enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives.

And you are lucky because YOU can be a part of that by supporting the GNSC! They need more money and you can provide this! Lucky you.

Sincerely,

Katie Ewald



Kazoo! Festival

106 Huron Street, Guelph, ON N1E 5L6
(519) 760-3628 - info@kazookazoo.ca

Friday October 2nd, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Kazoo! Festival has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for over 7 years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ability to collaborate with communities to enrich the lives of everyone in Guelph. The work they do is responsive to the unique needs of communities while centering the voices of people in their work and decision making.

Over the years we have worked alongside the GNSC on a number of unique community based projects. Our first project with the GNSC was in partnership with Musagetes in 2013 entitled "All Over the Map" which was a multi-venue moving festival showcasing music performances in schools, parks, and community spaces throughout the city. We also worked with the GNSC to help assist with the creation of Girls Rock Camp Guelph, a vitally important program encouraging the participation of young women and gender non-conforming youth in the local music scene. In addition to these initiatives, the GNSC has helped us bring our concerts and events to unique spaces in Guelph by helping us navigate relationships with school boards and community groups.

The work that the GNSC do in our community is invaluable and has helped Kazoo! grow as an organization. Their organizational mentorship has been invaluable in helping us plan and host more inclusive and culturally diverse events.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the support, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Brad McInerney
Festival Director - Kazoo! Festival

October 5th, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing this letter in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization,

I grew up in the Onward Willow neighbourhood just as the neighbourhood group was being formed well over 25 years ago. My mom encouraged me and my sister to take advantage of the programs and events that were being offered and we did. Soon after we became Camp Leaders and Youth Council Members and I was lucky enough to be the youth representative on the Management Board. Because of all this training and community supports, I was also chosen as young women of distinction in 1998. I was able to follow the Onward Willow journey as it became a member of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition where I was able to find opportunities to work at Brant and Waverley Neighbourhood Groups using the trainings I got from Onward Willow. After High School – I went off to college and am so full of gratitude for the teachings, mentoring and community spirit that I gained. The GNSC helped me to build trusting and nurturing relations and partnerships and courage to do what I needed to improve my life.

The GNSC centres on the community voice in decision making and helping community to become leaders in their neighbourhoods as well as leaders in organizations in the bigger community and this is certainly true for children – youth and adults.

So many years later – I was voluntold by my mom (Barb McPhee) to come and help out at the North End Harvest Market – but because of all I gained from my GNSC experiences – I was volunteering on my own – she did not have to ask me. In fact – I used to take my daughter Madison – who at 6 years of age - worked on the produce line giving out bread and has been continuing to help out when she can – she is now 12. I now pick up the Cobs Bread each week and help out at all of the fundraising events for the North End Harvest Market and have attended some of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition Events with my children and it has been awesome.

I totally support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives.. They have certainly – personally and professionally made a huge difference in my life.

Kelly Royea

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

October 10th, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

I have been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for five years. I deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their support of community leadership, spirit of collaboration, commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and earned reputation in the community as the focal point for meaningful community engagement, as well as being the catalyst and support system that enables numerous ongoing essential community projects and programs.

I have worked with the GNSC as a part of the Equity Conference. I have delivered multiple Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion workshop series', and completed a youth-engagement framework for the Guelph neighbourhood groups. The GNSC has also provided critical support for the formation of Black Lives Matter Guelph, of which I am a co-founder, in helping us process our donations so we can put the funds to work in the Black community. The GNSC has also provided support for Second Wind Solutions, of which I am a partner, in our organizational development so that we can begin work participating meaningfully in the reimagining of Guelph's systems of community care through community-engaged research and consulting for the City and community stakeholders.

I enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Sincerely,

Kevin Sutton

Threshold: Thriving with Change DEI consulting

Partner at Second Wind Solutions

Co-founder of Black Lives Matter Guelph

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing to support the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Grange Hill East (GHENG) and Brant Avenue (BANG) Neighbourhood Groups have been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for many years. We deeply respect the Coalition's work and their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces to create safe and expressive spaces for the local youth to enjoy themselves freely.

A community is a sense of belonging and feeling together, no matter your background or history. This is one of the values the GNSC upholds greatly and demonstrates it during an unprecedented time. With the GNSC's excellent coordination, both GHENG and BANG were able to run summer camp programs in July and August of this year. With Covid-19 guidelines provided from the school board and public health. The summer camp programs were able to create that sense of community with the local youth and truly help them through this difficult time. But without the precise work and dedication from the GNSC, many local youths from Grange and Brant wouldn't meet new friends and enjoy genuine laughter from camp. Allowing the youth to be together once again and create everlasting bonds was nothing short of amazing.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Yours Truly,
Kevin Nguyen, Youth Worker



October 9, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councilors,

On behalf of the Kortright Hills Neighbourhood Group (KHNG), I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Formed in February 2007 as an offshoot from Kortright Hills Community Association Inc. (KHCA Inc.), the Kortright Hills Neighbourhood Group has been committed to "creating a village in the city" for all our community members. We want to build a healthy, vibrant community spirit, while at the same time having fun. We are eager to continue to grow and be a strong, safe and unique community within our beautiful City of Guelph. We are committed to continuing to develop ongoing partnerships around and within our community and have been a part of the GNSC since it was formed.

The Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition offers tremendous potential to create real change and address issues of access and equity in neighbourhoods across the city. The structure of the organization creates amazing opportunities for inclusion and engagement. The community leaders, working for change in their neighbourhoods, share space and power with the partner organizations who deliver services to their constituents. The result of this structure is accountability and more appropriate, unique and responsive delivery of services even during 2020 uncertain times.

For KHNG, the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition provides us with the organizational structure to address the needs of our unique neighbourhood including after-school club programs, community events, workshops and providing space for other organized programs to meet. It is because of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition that our neighbourhood is able to create village in the city. The Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition is vital to our on-going success.

KHNG is a dedicated and passionate supporter of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition. We are proud to be part of this organization and see the potential for civic engagement, through this collaborative organization, as limitless.

Thank you,

Leone Schadenberg
Kortright Hills Neighbourhood Group
Neighbourhood Support Worker



RICKSON RIDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP

November 11, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

Thank you for the valuable work you continue to offer and steward on behalf of the citizens of Guelph. We benefit from the historical efforts of those who lived on this land before we did. On this Remembrance Day, we recall, also, those whose sacrifices enable us to pursue lives in which we can build a democratically equitable community, with increasingly greater levels of widespread participation. As we attempt to keep this in mind and make choices that will resonate positively for generations to come, I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Rickson Ridge Neighbourhood Group has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for 6 years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition for their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces. They assist in the essential social justice work of Guelph by bringing all parties to a collaborative table, with wisdom, insight and productive action. They have an empowering approach to leadership that gives local citizens both the support and ongoing opportunity to offer organically relevant services in their respective neighbourhoods. The GNSC's readiness to pilot, promote, and mentor new programs continues to assist us in our young, yet steadily expanding experience.

In our neighbourhood in Guelph's growing south end, for example, we have been building a community hub that is dedicated to inclusion and active service. Whereas traditional Guelph narratives tend to centre the downtown core as the "real Guelph" and relegate the south end to "commuters" and "newcomers" who don't espouse the same core values that mark Guelph as a leader in agriculture, conservation, the arts, service and education, forming RRNG has provided a hub through which these stereotypes are being challenged. Through the GNSC, we are exploring the emergence of an inclusive and growing network of engaged citizens who are learning how to become protagonists in their own material and social evolution within the broader vision of our city. We are also, by definition, more deeply connected to our sister neighbourhoods through the GNSC commitment to sharing resources and learning.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives.

Yours in Service,

Kim D. Mandar

Kim Davids Mandar

Co-Founder, RRNG

The GNSC

RE: Profound Impact that a Neighbourhood Support Coalition has

To whom it may concern:

My name is Kim Gadoury and I once described the GNSC as a "Hot bath" on a Sunday night; I believe I included a piece about a good book being with it, however I digress. *The recording is available if interested and can be provided; I'm at about the 20 minute mark, if I remember correctly, and it was myself as a delegate seeking an additional outreach worker, whereby the Guelph Police themselves offered up the budget dollars, that one council member questioned the location of, within the City's budget.*

The Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition is an entity that encompasses all that is required within ANY City/Township to properly and **respectfully** address mental health ALONG WITH poverty and the basic needs of families.

Through the various Outreach Programs this Organization fulfills the role of confidante and access to support systems, both Provincial and Federal programs, day to day food needs, meal programs for children, whether school age or not, and mental health empowerment.

For me, I see it as Poverty doesn't make me "stupid" or ignorant, but rather builds barriers to my voice. Through the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition, I have been able to accomplish many personal and professional goals and continue to build DOORS to open up those barriers built, including, but not limited to HAVING that Voice!

Just last week I found a lady passing out in the street, possibly overdosing, and drove her to the Guelph General Hospital and it was Brendan Johnson, of the GNSC, that met me at the Hospital to support ME in getting this person the help they needed at the time; nevermind the "doing everything" within his power to get HER the necessary help.

Knowing that I had that support, it ENABLED me to feel that making the RIGHT choice was in fact an option!

Throughout the City of Guelph the people at the GNSC and ALL Neighbourhood Groups, including, but not limited to, the Brant Neighbourhood Group, Waverly, North End Harvest Market, the Junction, Grange Hill, Two Rivers, Onward Willow, (and sorry if I missed any) have ALL dedicated their lives to the well-being of those in need; ANY need. It's about unconditional help, no judgments and no expectations, and above all TRUST.

As we know TRUST is integral to the human spirit and the GNSC BREEDS trust.

In conclusion, the GNSC really is like a Hot Bath on a Sunday Night. Where you can relax, share your worries, THINK, ponder and DEVELOP strategies for a better quality of life. I know that's what they've done for ME.

With all of my respect and admiration...and maybe a lot of Love,

To all of those who Give,

Kimberley D. Gadoury



10/7/2020

Ryan Waller

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

The Onward Willow Neighbourhood Group has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for many years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces

- centring of community voice in their work and decision making
- readiness and resources to pilot, promote, mentor new ideas/programs.
- equity and values work. They lead by example in our community
- ability to provide meaningful employment and decent work for community members

Onward Willow NG plays a key role in the Willow neighbourhood. From annual initiatives such as the back-to-school clothing drive, tax clinics, homework club, science workshops and winter coat drive, ONWG acts as a hub and "safe place" for many people in the area. Whether people visit for clothing, food, advice or just someone to talk to, OWNG plays a valuable role in the physical and mental health of its area.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives.

Sincerely,

Ryan Waller

October 15, 2020

Sarah Stubbs
Director and Founder of Life Gears Academy
519-766-3030



Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Life Gears Academy has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for three years to provide STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) programs for youth and families. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ability to enrich the community by supporting local dreams to come to life.

As a female entrepreneur at the age of 25, I don't know how I could have launched my STEM education organization without being introduced to the GNSC and the inspiring people who work there. I was a teacher with a dream of making STEM education more engaging and accessible to youth, but I couldn't find space that allowed us to offer affordable programs. The neighbourhood groups at the GNSC worked with Life Gears to offer STEM programs in 7 different locations for thousands of youth since 2018. Through our partnership, we have been able to expand into offering STEM, Business, and Art programs free of charge for under-privileged youth and young women, and we are planning more programs to come.

On a more personal level, the GNSC has developed my understanding of local needs in Guelph and the difference that we can make in our own neighbourhoods. During the pandemic, I lost my job and lost my ability to make a difference in my usual ways and working with the GNSC really helped me to regain that sense of purpose that I was desperately needing.

Life Gears Academy and myself enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Stubbs".

Sarah Stubbs

October 14, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition (GNSC)'s delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

The Neighbourhood Groups fill a vital role in our City in helping to bring support and services to people who need them. Their work is especially needed as we weather and "build back" from the impacts of COVID-19.

I have long admired GNSC for taking a leading role in equity conversations in our community. Their strong reputation for authentic, high-quality community engagement means they are well-suited to continue these initiatives as Guelph, like all communities in Canada, grapples with issues of systemic racism.

In many ways, the work of the Coalition aligns with the goal of inclusive prosperity, which is at the heart of Guelph's Community Plan vision.

There are few organizations in our community that reach so many people in such important ways as the Coalition does. Everyone should have access to the supports they need to live productive, meaningful lives. For this reason, I support increased funding for the GNSC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Maslove', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Lisa Maslove





Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Lutherwood has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for over 10 years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces. We appreciate how GNSC is connected to multiple not-for-profit organizations, investing in bringing communities together, earning a reputation as the go-to organization for community engagement. GNSC utilizes centring of community voice in their work and decision making.

Lutherwood has had much success in working together with GNSC in supporting individuals in overcoming their barriers to employment. GNSC provides placement opportunities for our unemployed individuals to gain meaningful work experiences within the community. We also value the chance to provide employment services on site at GNSC, working in partnership to help our community members.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator, and an agent of change in our community.

Sincerely,

Margaret Penner
Manager, Employment Services
Lutherwood

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Guelph CHC has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for 8 years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their role in nurturing many amazing programs and organizations in our city such as The SEED and ACEs Coalition GW. They always show willingness and are able to provide resources to promote, and mentor new and existing programs that will benefit those in the community such as Pet Protect Guelph, North End Harvest Market, Children's Foundation, Community Gardens, the backpack project and many more. Their ability to provide meaningful employment and decent work for community members has given so many the experience, support, training and tools to thrive, succeed, and even get a hand up.

The Guelph CHC and the GNSC work together in so many areas that immensely support and strengthen those in our community. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, they have really gone above and beyond to do everything they can to support the most vulnerable in our community. They were able to access grants, collaborate with the SEED program and acquire food, supplies and funds from many different sources because of the trust and relationships they have built in so many areas. During these challenging times, they could be seen working on the ground in many ways to be sure everyone but especially the marginalized community members were supported.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Regards,

Lynne Klootra
Parent Outreach Worker
lklootra@guelphchc.ca
Cell: 519-803-9072

Nov. 17, 2020

To City Of Guelph Councillors;

My name is Mark Linseman and I have been volunteering with the GNSC Two Rivers neighbourhood group for the past several months. I have been helping out at their community market, and also helping to deliver food boxes to people in the neighbourhood.

This initiative not only supports local farmers, but it also helps to provide fresh, high-quality produce and staples to families and individuals who could not otherwise afford it.

This is especially important during the COVID pandemic since times like these often makes things tougher for those who are already struggling. I think there should be more of this going on in Guelph - everyone should have access to fresh, healthy and delicious produce and staple foods, and this program ensures that is true for more people.

Thanks,

Mark Linseman, MSc

Triathlon Coach, [Loaring Personal Coaching \(LPC\)](#)

Marva Wisdom

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Parkwood Gardens Neighbourhood has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for many years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and centring of community voice in their work and decision making.

There are many examples of work needed to continue as lead by GNSC, including the North-end Harvest Market, and other work that provides opportunities for the broader community to creatively engage on issues with impact in all our lives.

Having a robust organization that strengthens leadership at the neighbourhood level and coordinates activities – learning from best practices is a good way to build resilience within places and spaces that need this support.

One further example is the innovative conference on centering equity, is work that drew from within and outside of our community and neighbourhoods, planting the seed for work that is being undertaken now.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services, and resources they need to live productive, meaningful, and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator, and an agent of change in our community.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this information.

Sincerely,

Marva Wisdom,
Community member
Senior Leadership, Equity and Inclusion Practitioner



121 Wyndham St N, Unit 201 | Guelph, ON, N1H 4E9

www.artnotshame.org | info@artnotshame.org

519-265-7278

October 31, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Art Not Shame is a relatively new and emergent charitable arts organization in Guelph. Founded in 2017, our mission is to use the arts to build community, deepen access to creativity, increase well-being and create the conditions for inner and outer systems change.

We are thrilled to write this letter from a place of deep gratitude and respect: we would not be where we are today without the support, mentorship, guidance, and collaboration of the GNSC. The GNSC works from an empowering space of trust and belief, and has played an integral role in the growth and impact of our organization. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their tireless efforts to champion people, communities, and organizations in this City who work alongside them to deliver on our shared visions for equitable, empowered, and engaged communities.

In addition to Executive Director mentorship, over the past three years we have partnered with the GNSC on all of our core program offerings. Most recently this includes, as part of our Covid-19 response, convening 45 volunteers to sew and distribute 2800 masks to organizations in need, and *The Mural Project: Art in Hard Times*: a 6-week remote art program and creation of a massive online digital mural, that engaged 50+ people from diverse and marginalized communities in Guelph. From an independent study administered by The Research Shop at the University of Guelph's Community Engaged Scholarship Institute, 92% of *The Mural Project's* survey respondents reported that they agreed or strongly agreed that the workshops allowed them to express their feelings through art, and 76% reported that the program was helpful in reducing social isolation in some way during the Covid-19 pandemic.

What the GNSC offers is unique in the charitable sector. They embody the principles of community-engagement in their belief in people, in their commitment to collaboration, and in their leadership in creating change. With abiding respect for all that they do and all that they enable, we enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC.

Sincerely,

Michelle Peek, PhD

Executive Director

Art Not Shame

Mayor Cameron Guthrie
Guelph City Hall
1 Carden St
Guelph, ON
N1H 3A1

October 8th, 2020

Subject: Increased funding for the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

I am a part of the Hanlon Creek Neighbourhood Group, a completely volunteer group, which has proudly been collaborating with the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition (GNSC) for many years. We deeply respect the work and collaborative nature of the Coalition, as well as their equity and values work. They are true leaders in our community.

Being a completely volunteer-run neighbourhood group, Hanlon Creek Neighbourhood Group relies solely on funding from the GNSC in order to run our activities; we do not have alternate funding, nor the capacity to fundraise. The funding provided by the GNSC allows us to host a variety of activities, including crafts and sports for children, basketball for adults, and information nights where we bring in people from different programs, such as by-law, the humane society, waste services, etc. in order to provide information to those in our geography. The Hanlon Creek Neighbourhood group supports an area that contains a large number of immigrants, as well low-income families. These activities allow for new connections for our community, but really help these segments of the population obtain the information and support that they need.

On a personal note, I am not a Guelph native. When I moved to Guelph in 2008, I did not know anyone in the city. It was a neighbour who reached out and advised me to become involved in the Hanlon Creek Neighbourhood Group where I have been connected with the most amazing group of volunteers, all of whom I consider to be my good friends. This connection extends past Hanlon Creek Neighbourhood Group and into the collaborative community of all Neighbourhood Groups in the city, who are models of passion, understanding, and outreach. This is driven by the GNSC and the amazing leaders of that organization. They are the glue that hold the social fabric of the city together. During COVID, GNSC Executive Director Brendan Johnson has been doing outreach to Neighbourhood Group volunteers and staff in support of mental health and I can tell you that this has had an immensely positive effect on me, as someone who has had their mental health impacted during these times.

In conclusion, I would ask you to consider support for increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,



Michelle Wall

Oct 25, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

While I was the principal at Brant Ave Public School for the past 4 years, we were very proud of the partnership that we developed with the GNSC. The Brant Avenue Neighbourhood Group was the single most important community partner we worked with. Our students and families benefitted immensely from the backpacks for students, snacks for students to eat, parent workshops, after-school programming, and the numerous community programs that were run.

It would be fair and accurate to say that the Brant Community critically depends on the support that is offered through the GNSC programs. I have seen firsthand how the programs have helped students and families improve their lives.

In the spring of 2019, Brant Ave PS partnered with the GNSC and the Guelph-Wellington Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) coalition to bring a new Social Emotional Learning (SEL) program into the school. Through this work, we saw a dramatic and measurable change in how our staff connected with our students and a subsequent improvement in how our students experienced success at our school.

I enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Anderson".

Mike Anderson, Principal

UGDSB Elementary Remote School – Home of the Otters



Lloyd Longfield

Member of Parliament for Guelph



September 30, 2020

Mayor Guthrie and City Council
1 Carden Street
Guelph, ON N1H3A1

Dear Mayor Guthrie and Guelph City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization. In my years as a Guelph resident, president of the Guelph Chamber of Commerce and now in my role as the Member of Parliament for Guelph I have seen the value and impact of the work they do to make our community a better place for everyone, but in particular for the most marginalized in our city.

The Coalition and their team of unsung heroes work in our community to create meaningful partnerships to reduce poverty while supporting engagement and community building action through their collaborative nurturing work model. Their work with the SEED, North End Market and annual summer camps make such a tremendous impact in the lives of those who access their programs. Their values of respect, inclusion and integrity are at the core of building a better community for all.

I have personally seen first-hand the value of the SEED program for those who are food insecure in our community both before and during this pandemic. The SEED project is an excellent example of community coordination between producing, storing, and distributing food. Their work with local business, not for profits, schools, farms and all levels of government is a model that all agencies should work towards. I have in fact highlighted their work and stories to Minister Hussen during a visit to Guelph and shared their model with many of my colleagues in Ottawa as an example to learn from.

I am happy to provide my support for continued and increasing funding for the GNCS.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Longfield
Member of Parliament for Guelph

Hill Office
Room 702 Justice Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Tel: (613) 996-4758
Fax: (613) 996-9922

lloyd.longfield@parl.gc.ca

Constituency Office
111 Farquhar Street – Suite 103
Guelph, ON
N1H 3N4
Tel: (519) 837-8276
Fax: (519) 837-8443



GUELPH FILM FESTIVAL
42 Carden Street
Guelph, Ontario
N1H 3A2
www.guelphfilmfestival.ca
#LetsTalkDoc

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

The Guelph Film Festival has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for over 10 years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces, to consider community voices in their work and decision-making, and their role in nurturing many amazing programs and organizations.

Their dedication to making a meaningful difference in the daily lives of the residents of this city is nothing short of incredible. Their effectiveness in actually achieving this makes them one of the most important organizations in this city.

They do this through humility, sensitivity, and respect to the stories and lived experience of everyone they work with. Now, more than ever, this is something to champion and support.

The city I want to live in is a city in which organizations like the GNSC get all the support they need from our municipal government. I have absolutely zero reservations about enthusiastically supporting increased funding for the GNSC.

Sincerely,

Nathan Lawr
Operations Director
Guelph Film Festival

North End Harvest Market
140 Waverley Drive – Portable #6 (Waverley Drive Public School) Guelph, Ontario, N1E 1H2



Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing this letter in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

The North End Harvest Market has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for the past 6 years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces as well as in the spaces of community partners while recognizing the importance of the community voice guiding their work. The Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition is always ready and available to provide help in finding resources while providing mentorship and most of all a listening ear to both their staff and the community members.

The Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition matters to North End Harvest Market because of their tremendous care and consideration for making sure our most vulnerable population have access to fresh produce. How they do this is by walking along side of us to help us find funding, resources and giving us a backbone to fight for what is necessary to fulfill our mandate while recognizing that this market is for the people and run by the people and that is what community and the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition strive to accomplish in all neighbourhoods.

The Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition matters to the City of Guelph for its sheer ability to build and nurture trusting relationships with community and community partners – especially supporting the most vulnerable and marginalized members of our community. How they do this is by creating ways to build community leaders in their own neighbourhoods – so they have the skills and abilities to maintain the best quality of life for their families and their neighbours. When you build these leaders – the City becomes a much better place to live.

When COVID-19 hit – we were forced to shut down as we are operating out of a portable in a School. With the backing and encouragement of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition – I was able to build a safety plan that I took to the Public Health Inspector and the Upper Grand District School Board and we were approved and were allowed to re-open 3 weeks later. This re-opening would not have been possible except for the support of the Coalition to help us find funding as our numbers and budget skyrocketed to triple because of the demand and need for fresh produce. The Coalition also was able to help us acquire the safety items needed to follow our public health protocol – such as gloves, sanitizer, masks and hand washing sink and gift cards that helped to make our market accessible to everyone.

The North End Harvest Market is 100% supportive of the increased funding for the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition, not only for what it means to the North End Harvest Market but more for what it means to for our community to support an organization that has become a proven community leadership builder, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

With much gratitude.

Barb McPhee - North End Harvest Market Manager - [REDACTED]

Noor Aqsa
Guelph, ON

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

The Parkwood Gardens Neighbourhood group been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for a number of years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their dedication to the community.

During the pandemic, the Parkwood Gardens Neighbourhood group worked with GNSC to deliver food to people while ensuring everyone's safety. This was very much needed at the start of the pandemic when there were a lot of uncertainties on employment and CERB did not exist. Before the pandemic, they worked to obtain and distribute bread to the community members, which was a nice treat for all. Additionally, annual backpack and school supply distributions have helped with ensuring that all children are excited and equipped to go back to school.

I enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC.

Sincerely,

Noor Aqsa
Community member



**North Riverside Neighbourhood
Group**

140 Waverley Dr. Portable #4
Guelph, ON
N1E 1H2
519-821-9677

northriversidegroup@hotmail.com

www.northriversideng.ca

Dear Mayor and City Councilors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

North Riverside Neighbourhood Group has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC from the beginning of their conception. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their dedication to our neighbourhood group, our community and staff that works within our group.

One of the most important components of the relationship between our neighbourhood group and the GNSC is the opportunity to build strong, healthy relationships not only to each other but to our community at large. Together we demonstrate a sincere dedication to the principles of grassroots community development. We feel very fortunate to have this level of commitment and family support offered in our community; it has helped us to make large strides towards our development as a strong and healthy community.

During these very trying times, we have been called on to help families more than ever. Through the help of the GNSC we were able to provide our community with grocery gift cards, to help with food security, and we were able to help with back to school back packs for children in need. We are here as a support to community, we have relationships with these community members making them comfortable to reach out to us. This is an example of reaching out; a community member that has just gone through a very horrific event in her life, lost her only son to tragic circumstances, just before Covid started. Most of the supports that she could access were cancelled to things being shut down. She was able to connect with us and receive some help. The GNSC with myself came up with some supports that she would be able to access. We helped her with food, a safe place to vent, gave her information on grief counselling, and other supports that were available. After connecting with her she told me that "if it wasn't for you guys I think I would have ended everything", I asked her why she came to us, she said "your my neighbourhood group, and I trust you". This is just one of many stories. Together with the GNSC we are helping our community grow.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Caroline McCullough
CMcCullough

October 6, 2020

Dear Mayor Guthrie and City Councillors,

It gives me great pleasure to write this letter in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition (GNSC) delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

As a volunteer with United Way GWD, a parent of a child who has accessed their camp programs, and community member with experience supporting the North End Harvest Market, I've been working in some capacity with the GNSC for six years. The work of GNSC is critical to the ongoing success of all members of our community, including:

- service to those experiencing food insecurity;
- creative collaboration with other not-for-profit organizations in support of marginalized community members;
- distinct role in building key programs such as the SEED;
- supporting youth across all of our neighbourhoods.

The GNSC brings an equity and values-based lens to this work in our community and neighbourhoods. They build bridges between otherwise disparate groups and ensure decision making is collaborative and community-based. Their ability to provide meaningful employment and living wages to community members is a wonderful example of how they lead through those values. They have a strong and well-deserved reputation for supporting our most vulnerable and marginalized populations with dignity. And they ensure joy and celebration of people is a key component of their program delivery.

It's been a pleasure to support their organization through fundraising with United Way GWD, but as council well knows, this funding is not nearly enough to sustain their programs or their mission. As GNSC has proven year over year, they are dedicated to the need of so many and the impacts of COVID-19 has only increased that need. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

I fully support increased funding for the GNSC. Without this, the programs they run, the people they support and the staff they employ are at risk and that is not a risk that our community can afford at this time. I would be happy to discuss my support further at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Patricia Tersigni
Director, University of Guelph
Campaign Cabinet Member, United Way GWD
Resident, Ward 2



November 11th, 2020



Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's (GNSC) delegation to city council requesting increased funding for its organization.

Chalmers Community Services Centre has been collaborating with GNSC for many years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their involvement in so many areas of the life of our city:

- Their reputation as the go-to organization for community engagement e.g. Smart Cities
- Their work in piloting new programs such as the North End Harvest Market
- Their role in nurturing initiatives such as Pet Protect Guelph, ACEs

Chalmers has worked with GNSC on a number of initiatives relating to food insecurity in Guelph. The North End Harvest Market was a collaborative effort whereby Chalmers' food distribution model became the template for the emerging market in the underserved north-east end of the city.

Chalmers and GNSC worked closely together to bring about the creation of the SEED, a city-wide food procurement and distribution system which ensured better access to healthy food for Guelph's most marginalized citizens.

We believe Guelph is a stronger, more resilient community through the work of GNSC, even more critical in this time of Covid-19.

We wholeheartedly support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives.

Yours faithfully,
Peter Gill
Volunteer Executive Director

MAIN: 41 Macdonell St. Guelph ON N1H 2Z4, **WEST:** 577 Willow Rd. Guelph, ON N1H 7H3

www.chalmerscentre.ca | **519 822 8778** | community@chalmerscentre.ca | volunteer@chalmerscentre.ca
Twitter: @Chalmerscentre | Facebook: /Chalmerscentre





Chalmers Community Services Centre is supported by the Government of Canada's Emergency Community Support Fund and Guelph Community Foundation.

MAIN: 41 Macdonell St. Guelph ON N1H 2Z4, **WEST:** 577 Willow Rd. Guelph, ON N1H 7H3

www.chalmerscentre.ca | **519 822 8778** | community@chalmerscentre.ca | volunteer@chalmerscentre.ca
Twitter: @Chalmerscentre | Facebook: /Chalmerscentre



October 9, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

PIN – The People and Information Network is proud to support the work of the GNSC through our pillars of work; Volunteer Network, Community Information and Nonprofit Leadership and has been a community supporter and collaborator with the GNSC for 7+ years.

We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces. Their neighborhood centric community development model empowers, engages and elevates neighbourhood led programming addressing needs.

When community members take an active role through volunteering, they are more connected. *'The impact of social isolation and loneliness on health and well-being is recognized globally as a public health issue'* – StatsCan June 2020. Through the efforts of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition, neighbourhoods identify needs and work together. This creates trust through relationship building where the whole community benefits including vulnerable and marginalized members of our community.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Sincerely,

Kim Cusimano

Executive Director

PIN – The People and Information Network

kim@PINnetwork.ca

Old Quebec Street Shoppes
55 Wyndham Street North, Suite 4A
Guelph, Ontario N1H 7T8

t 519-822-0912 • 1-866-693-3318

f 519-822-1389

PINnetwork.ca



Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization. As a Parent Outreach Worker with the Guelph Community Health Centre, I have been working in partnership with the Two Rivers Neighbourhood Group and the GNSC for the past 8 years. Together we have created meaningful connections for isolated individuals as well as provided safe spaces for community members to gather, to build skills and to access needed supports and services. It is the leadership and creativity of the Coalition that has helped us to take ideas around how to address the unique needs of the community and make them a reality. The work of the Coalition has positively impacted many lives and I have seen this first hand in the work that I do through these spaces.

Over the years, I have assisted with connecting individuals to the neighbourhood groups to access countless programs and services that are engaging and specific to each neighbourhood's needs and strengths. I have seen clients of mine who have complex struggles access the neighbourhood groups and, over time, become valued volunteers/staff of the GNSC. This happens because the neighbourhood groups build trusting relationships, help make the right connections and also give people a sense of purpose and belonging. Part of my work is also connecting individuals to formal or clinical services across the city. For many individuals who have experienced trauma, lack of trust in these formal systems can stop people from getting the support that they need. By using the neighbourhood group spaces we are often able to help people get the support they need by bringing these formal services to the neighbourhood groups where people feel safe and are more likely to engage in a meaningful way. COVID-19 has hit our communities hard and those that have relied on these connections and services have found themselves more isolated than ever. The GNSC has been able to pivot and continue to support the community through food access and providing opportunities for outdoor connections and programming. The Coalition continues to be a light and life line for our community in this dark time.

I enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives.

Sincerely;
Maryann Sly-Kensley
Parent Outreach Worker
Guelph Community Health Centre - Two Rivers Neighbourhood Group

Dear Ms. Bronwen,

I had a fantastic time working with you at the Danby Public School for the backpack program and I wanted to share my personal experience with you.

I was stuck in quarantine for a long time and I was actively looking for a place where I could volunteer to help others deal with this pandemic. I was frustrated and alone and the email that you sent to students was no less than a big blessing. I signed up instantly and I was all ready to work with you. Little did I know that this was going to be one of the best experiences of my life.

When I came on the first day, I didn't know what to expect. I was a little tense, but I was glad to work and help others. The event was amazing, and I learned a lot of things through this. One of the things that I learned was that no matter where you are in life, the feeling of helping others and knowing that whatever you're doing can make someone's day is the best thing in the world. I learned by observing the kids coming in with their parents to take the backpacks that it's the little things that matter and they were so happy while getting basic things such as erasers or pencils, yet we tend to run behind materialistic things in life and depend on them to make us happy. I also learned that there are always good people in the world, and I respect every other individual out there who is helping others deal with their problems, especially in the middle of a pandemic.

My best experience of the day was when I saw a little girl just hugging me and thanking me for giving her all the supplies that she needed. I am an international student and my family lives thousands of miles away from me. I was in quarantine all the time and I felt alone living in this foreign. That hug and the warmth that I got from that child and all the parents I met that day were enough to give me the strength and made me feel that I had a family here too.

I would like to thank you Ms. Bronwen and Mr., Dan for providing me this wonderful opportunity. They have been a great influence and this whole event would not have been possible without their efforts. I am also in touch with them and I would love to work with the neighborhood group again.

Warm Regards
Pranay Bhatia

November 16, 2020

Dear Mayor Guthrie and City Council Members,

My name is Rick Rocher and I am writing this letter to promote the outstanding services that the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition provides for the neighbourhood communities in the City of Guelph. It is for this reason that I support their request for increased funding from City Council.

I have worked as a Playtime facilitator in the Parkwood Gardens and Clairfields neighbourhoods for nine years and have recently joined the GNSC when eight of the Playtime programs were cancelled in 2019. With the support of many parents, grandparents and caregivers, the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition was able to keep four of the programs open with the funding that they received from the City of Guelph. These early years programs play an important role in children's learning, development, health, and well-being. There are many other neighbourhood communities that would benefit from these programs. Extra funding would help us expand these early years programs around the city.

Covid -19 has made life very difficult for individuals and families who depend on the connections, resources and services provided by the GNSC. One of my major concerns centres around children who are having adverse childhood experiences during these challenging times. The GNSC supports and understands ACEs. Children see their parents out of work and struggling to put food on the table. Current ACEs research shows that children are directly affected by anxiety, depression and negative experiences that occur around them and that these experiences can affect their mental health right up into adulthood.

GNSC data has shown an overwhelming need for increased funding from City Council. The Parkwood Gardens Neighbourhood Group has received a 150% increase in calls for support. The North End Harvest Market has experienced a 250% increase in people coming to the market for food. As the City of Guelph grows, the GNSC has found that the South End of Guelph has an increased need for support and that many of these families are calling other neighbourhood groups for help. The GNSC wants to continue playing an important role in supporting families during the rest of this pandemic and into the recovery period. Extra funding is crucial to help them meet their goals.

The Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's vision is to provide a healthy, safe community where everyone feels at home. The people of Guelph deserve the services and resources to help them lead the best life possible. With increased funding, the GNSC would be able to continue to be a lifeline to our community during these challenging times.

Rick Rocher



November 12, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

Toward Common Ground (TCG) has partnered with the GNSC on many projects over the past 6 years. Working with the GNSC has helped us ensure that the voices and experiences of community members inform our collective action in response to community gaps and needs.

Over the past 3 years, the GNSC has been an essential partner in the development of the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Coalition of Guelph & Wellington. The ACEs Coalition has a vision of a resilient community that prevents and reduces the effects of ACEs. Not only is the GNSC a critical member of the Coalition, they partnered directly with the ACEs Coalition to do a Mentally Health Schools pilot with a local Guelph school. The GNSC's neighbourhood-based relationships were critical to initiate and ensure the success of this pilot. Most recently, the GNSC made it possible for the Coalition to develop and distribute a parenting in a pandemic resource to vulnerable families across the City.

The GNSC is embedded in neighbourhoods across Guelph where they amplify the voices and leverage the strengths of residents and communities across the City. They are a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community. The GNSC staff work tirelessly alongside community volunteers and leaders to address local needs and leverage strengths across our City's neighbourhoods. They bridge the gap between community members and the services, programs and systems that are intended to meet their needs. They provide opportunities for citizen to have a voice in the decisions that affect them, their families and their communities. Their efforts drive positive change for residents, neighbourhoods and the City, as a whole.

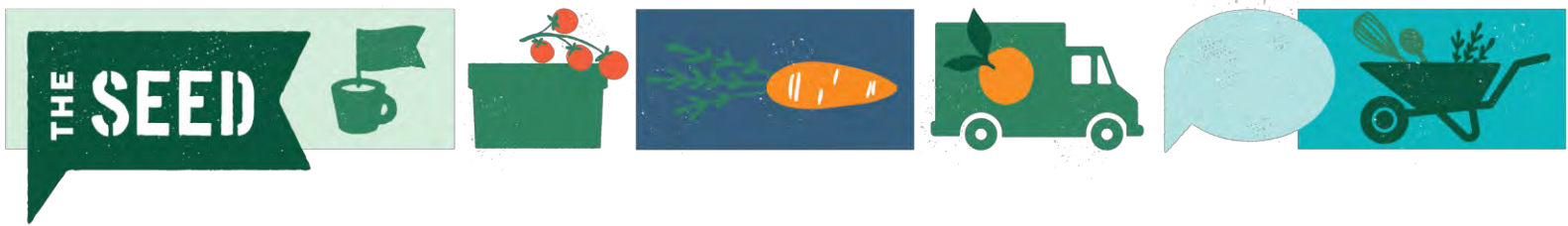
Please accept this letter as my support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for the critical work they do in communities across our City every day.



Sarah Haanstra
Manager
Toward Common Ground



Toward Common Ground



Re: Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition funding

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

The SEED, a project of Guelph Community Health Centre, works closely with the GNSC. In fact, the GNSC was a founding member of The SEED in 2014 and continues to support our work to this day.

The SEED and the GNSC are aligned in our common goal to increase food access for low-income community members. The SEED looks to the GNSC to:

- Facilitate conversations and collaboration with community leaders and community members in general
- Pilot and promote new ways to increase food access in Priority Neighbourhoods
- Provide a strong voice and leadership in ensuring that equity and engagement are at the root of everything we do

The most recent example of the GNSC's impact on our food access work is the role the GNSC played in the rapid creation and scaling up of The SEED's Community Food Warehouse at 69 Huron Street. In April, when the warehouse was donated rent-free to The SEED by Susan Frasson of the Wood Development Group, the GNSC was a leader in convening a series of round-table planning discussions with other food-access organizations who needed better warehouse facilities for storing, packing, and delivering food - and with several businesses and funding agencies who wanted to help equip the space.

Thanks to the GNSC, the above round-table discussions resulted in:

- 40,000 nutritious food boxes delivered by SEED volunteers to low-income community members between April and September
- A fully equipped Community Food Warehouse that is being used by a collaboration of food-access organizations including The SEED, GNSC, Children's Foundation, and others
- Several joint-funding applications and other unique collaborative projects between The SEED and other food-provision agencies

I enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Warm regards,

Gavin Dandy, SEED Manager



A project of the
Guelph Community
Health Centre



WWW.THESEEDGUELPH.CA

176 WYNDHAM ST N, GUELPH, ON, N1H 8N9
519-821-3328 X317

THESEED@GUELPHCHC.CA
@SEEDGUELPH  

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

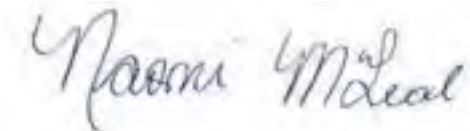
I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization. St. George's Park Neighbourhood Group has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for many years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their commitment to fostering engagement and healthy growth of communities in our city.

- ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces • centring of community voice in their work and decision making
- earned reputation as the Go-to organization for community engagement • readiness and resources to pilot, promote, mentor new ideas/programs. Pet Protect Guelph, North End Harvest Market...
- equity and values work. They lead by example in our community
- role in nurturing many amazing programs and organizations in our city: The SEED, ACEs Coalition GW, Community Gardens
- ability to provide meaningful employment and decent work for community members

Through my involvement with this group, I have been provided with the opportunity to give back to my community. There is an infrastructure, resources and support to help members directly contribute to making a difference in their own backyards. We are proud to engage with our neighbours and to have them provide insight and direction into the activities that matter to them. The events and activities that we have been involved with, have fostered a sense of belonging and provided positive examples of what can be accomplished when we all work together.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Naomi McLeod". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

October 5th, 2020

This is a letter of support for all the wonderful help and support that the North End Harvest Market gives to the community through the GNCS and that the need is not only still there but there is a greater dependence on it for the basic necessities of fresh food especially during this time of crisis with Covid19.

So many people have either lost their jobs or are on reduced hours due to the pandemic so the need is even greater for families and everyone else to continue to survive and have the basic necessities of life like food. In particular fresh food which is vital to stay healthy right now with flu and covid19.

The North End Harvest Market also helps out with backpacks and school supplies along with the Christmas program for gifts is an invaluable help to countless people. I have benefited many times myself and I am so thankful this wonderful market exists. Barb McPhee and her wonderful team is so caring and compassionate to all. They have put sunshine and hope in so many lives and I feel so blessed to know them.

Please give them any support available as they are an invaluable help to the community both practical with food and supplies and also with kindness, compassion and encouragement to all who are blessed to go to the North End Harvest Market.

Sincerely,

Sharon Henriques

October 25, 2020

6 Dublin Street South
Guelph ON N1H 4L5
+1 519 546 7851
www.musagetes.ca
www.artseverywhere.ca

RE: Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's increased funding

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

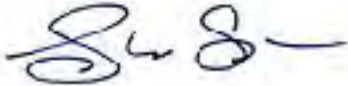
I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

The Musagetes Foundation has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for several years, most notably in 2013 when we did a series of artistic projects in neighbourhoods throughout Guelph. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their commitment to centring the diverse voices of those who make up our communities. They are uniquely positioned to work with the communities because they have the sensibilities necessary to do this work with respect, vitality, and selflessness.

Musagetes has been connected to GNSC since 2013 when we organized the 1mile2 project which involved artists in concerts and community-engaged projects in almost every neighbourhood in Guelph. GNSC has continued to show that it is a leading voice for the most marginalized and vulnerable communities in Guelph, many of which have very few other platforms by which to participate in civic conversations and decision-making. During this time of Covid-19, GNSC have been a lifeline to these communities.

It is vital that GNSC have the resources to continue to do this work, especially during a time of increased need. We at Musagetes enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives.

Sincerely,



Shawn Van Sluys
Executive Director



Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis
PO Box 1451, Guelph, ON N1H 6N9
T: 519-836-1110 F: 519-836-1979
Crisis Line: 519-836-5710/1-800-265-7233
www.gwwomenincrisis.org

24-hour Crisis Line
Marianne's Place
Sexual Assault Centre
Anti Human Trafficking

Rural Women's
Support Program
Transitional & Housing
Support Program
Family Court
Support Program

November 2nd, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Women in Crisis GW has been sharing tables, committees and collaborating with the GNSC for 8 years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces and for their mission to always centre community voice in their work and decision making. We have also seen their efforts to help mobilize powerful collaborative projects like The SEED and ACES Coalition GW.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. They are trusted and value partners and agents of change in our community.

Warm Regards,

Sly Castaldi
Executive Director



St. Andrew's
G U E L P H

**161 Norfolk Street
Guelph, ON N1H 4J8
(519) 822-4772**

**www.standrewsguelph.com
mailbox@standrewsguelph.com**

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

St. Andrew's Guelph has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for years now. We have provided space for their initiatives from time to time and when needs have arisen, our community has responded generously. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their championing of the needs of some of our most vulnerable citizens. They are a trusted partner who is one of our 'go-tos' when something needs to get addressed in our community. It is also extremely important to our organization that they demonstrate in their words and actions a commitment to equity, inclusion, and decent work. Guelph is better because the GNSC's commitment to service and collaboration. Partnership is hard and the GNSC has often proven that it is up to the task of breaking down walls and providing a vision of how we can achieve more together.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Yours in partnership,

Rev. John Borthwick
Minister | St. Andrew's Guelph
Volunteer Chaplain | Guelph Police Service

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Kortright Hills Neighbourhood Group has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for many years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces & readiness and resources to pilot, promote, mentor new ideas/programs.

I moved to Guelph in June 2019 & connected with the Kortright Hills Neighbourhood Group. Being new to the city, they were an excellent resource to connect me with my new community. The programs & events they run are great for families.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Sincerely,

Tara Secor



THE MAKING-BOX INC.
43 CORK ST. E GUELPH, ON
1-800-930-9892
TALKBOX@THEMAKINGBOX.CA

Monday, October 5th, 2020

Dear **Mayor and City Councillors,**

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

I have personally and through The Making-Box been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for 4 years. I deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their passion and patience for community building. They have rightfully earned a reputation as the Go-to organization for community engagement. The Making-Box is all about building community, and the GNSC are awesome at it. Their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces is invaluable.

With the vast changes that have happened due to COVID-19, it is such a gift to know with certainty that the GNSC is ready to pivot, support and adapt as needed. When I was attempting to organize outdoor summer camp content Brendan Johnson was the first to offer support in finding space, resources and supplies. He's never been more than a phone call away and even though my programs didn't work out, I didn't feel like a failure. I felt like a valuable community member.

I enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the support, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Warmly,

Hayley Kellett

Improv Incubator Director, The Making-Box

Trinity United Church.
400 Stevenson Street North,
Guelph ON N1E 5C3

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Many members of Trinity United Church have been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for 6 years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces, readiness and resources to pilot, promote, mentor new ideas/programs.

My pet project is the North End Harvest Market where the GNSC is especially supportive of not only providing food for those in need, but also helping with their adaption to Canada, through the coordinator, Barbara McPhee. The space is used to allow education about ideas and recipes making use of vegetables with which Immigrants may be unfamiliar. Also each holiday, such as Thanksgiving is explained by posters, recipes, and typical foods which Canadians would use for this kind of meal. The North End Harvest Market also makes excellent use of encouraging volunteers from the community to participate each week. In addition to these members of the community, The NEHM is also a place where resources, which have been provided by the GNSC, are made available to help with any problem clients might be experiencing.

The GNSC is strongly nurturing of local community groups. They have a reputation (well deserved) of listening well and including the ideas of the people actually involved when planning new programs or supports for what is already happening. Trinity has been delighted over the past few years to collaborate with GNSC in providing back packs loaded with school supplies so that everyone can start the school year with the equipment needed for success at school.

The GNSC is able to provide various kinds of assistance because of the high level of trust which they have carefully nurtured in every area they have undertaken.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community. Guelph would indeed be a poorer place to live if it were not for the work of this organization!

Sincerely,

Heather Chesney

(representative for Trinity on the steering committee)

hchesney@sympatico.ca

519 763 6738



Trinity United Church

400 Stevenson ST N, Guelph, ON N1E 5C3
Ph 519-824-4800 | Fax 1-888-233-1862

www.trinityunitedguelph.ca info@trinityunitedguelph.ca



October 14, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Trinity United Church has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC for 8 years. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their:

- ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces
- centring of community voice in their work and decision making
- readiness and resources to pilot, promote, mentor new ideas/programs. Pet Protect Guelph, North End Harvest Market...
- equity and values work. They lead by example in our community
- role in nurturing many amazing programs and organizations in our city: The SEED, ACEs Coalition GW....
- ability to provide meaningful employment and decent work for community members

Trinity United Church is deeply concerned for the vulnerable working poor and homeless in Guelph. Our Outreach team is 100% committed to the North End Harvest Market and we do our best to support the Back Packs, and other advocacy efforts to support those who feel marginalized within our city. We see the difference NEHM is making in our neighbourhood and we hope our city leaders know how important it is to our community.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Sincerely,

Rev. John Benham



November 2, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition's delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Wellington Catholic District School Board has been proudly collaborating with the GNSC since 2013. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their commitment to the betterment of the community and the families that we serve in our schools.

- Ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces.
- Centring of community voice in their work and decision making.
- Earned reputation as the Go-to organization for community engagement.
- Readiness and resources to pilot, promote, mentor new ideas/programs. Pet Protect Guelph, North End Harvest Market.
- Equity and values work. They lead by example in our community.
- Role in nurturing many amazing programs and organizations in our city: The SEED, ACEs Coalition GW.
- Ability to provide meaningful employment and decent work for community members.
- We have collaborated with GNSC on many initiatives including the backpack program, which positively affects the families and students in our school community. In addition, we are proud to provide access to our schools for the GNSC to operate important youth and adult programs that would not be accessible without their community work.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Everyone should have access to the supports, services and resources they need to live productive, meaningful and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator and an agent of change in our community.

Tracy McLennan
Associate Director, Corporate Services and Treasurer





November 2, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Guelph Neighborhood Support Coalition’s delegation to City Council requesting increased funding for their organization.

Wyndham House has been proudly working alongside with the GNSC for many years to ensure that services for our community’s most vulnerable remain prioritized. We deeply respect the work of the Coalition and their continued ability to collaborate with community leaders in neighbourhood spaces to nurture many needed programs and organizations such as The SEED and the ACES’s Coalition of Guelph Wellington. This organization is truly unique and much needed in our community and thus continued financial support is vital moving forward.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the GNSC. Wyndham House very much supports the focus that everyone should have access to the supports, services, and resources they need to live productive, meaningful, and connected lives. The GNSC is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator, and an agent of change in our community.

Respectfully,

Debbie Bentley-Lauzon
Executive Director,
Wyndham House

WORKING TO PREVENT, REDUCE AND END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

MAILING ADDRESS:
P.O. BOX 1898 STN. MAIN
GUELPH, ON N1H 7A1

ADMIN OFFICE
106 WOOLWICH STREET
GUELPH, ON N1H 3V2

YOUTH RESOURCE HUB:
133 WOOLWICH STREET
GUELPH, ON

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAMS:
SUFFOLK STREET WEST
GUELPH, ON
BELLEVUE STREET
GUELPH, ON

YOUTH EMERGENCY SHELTER:
18 NORWICH STREET EAST
(519) 837-3892 GUELPH, ON

CRA # 11930 5217 RR0001

Yesenia and Juan Monterroza
C/O The Grange Hill East
Neighbourhood Group
525 Grange Rd.
N1E 7C4

November 5th, 2020

Guelph City Council
Guelph City Hall
1 Carden Street
Guelph, ON N1H 3A1

Dear Mayor and City Councillors

We have been residents of the Grange Hill East Neighborhood for over five years. We are a family of four. Since we have moved to this neighborhood we have tried to be involved as much as possible. Now that our children are getting older, they are starting to get more involved in their community which is amazing to see. When they were younger, they completed a Home Alone Course from the Red Cross through this neighborhood group. They also had the opportunity to attend a summer camp run by this group and LIT's (Leaders in Training). When we were in need during the back to school season, we were given backpacks and school supplies for our children. One of our favorite memories from over the years was the end of summer picnic, where there was an outdoor movie and many fun activities for the kids. We have come to have a deep respect for the work of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition and the work of our local neighbourhood group.

During this year, as many Canadians were suffering due to COVID-19, our family was also suffering along with many other citizens. During various scenarios like being laid off of work for a few months, the Grange Hill East Neighbourhood Group has provided support and help to us, as a family, with love and kindness. The Group has supplied our family with food, and support to our kids, grandkids when we need it just by knocking or emailing us and leaving it outside our door. We followed them for many years on Facebook and when we saw that they could help us with groceries through The Seed Market we just emailed and in about a week so many volunteers had called us to pick the food up or someone delivered the food at our home. We are so blessed that in a time like this someone can do something nice for others. They always try to keep us updated on how they can help the community. Also, we are thankful to The Seed Market for providing us with help for three to four months when the pandemic had laid off people at their jobs in Guelph.

Once again, we would like to give a big thanks to Grange Hill Neighbourhood Group for keeping us in their thoughts, this unprecedented time facing COVID-19 pandemic. They continually communicated with us by having us on their lists, inviting us to things and asking if we could contribute to Workshops to increase funding and help the community in need. By sharing our own history shows how unfair life

is sometimes. People have to work with fear of being fired at work for multiple reasons but they do what they have to do.

We enthusiastically support increased funding for the Grange Hill East Neighborhood Group and Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition. Everyone in the community should have access to the support, services and resources when they need to live, provide, and cover the necessities in these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,

Yesenia and Juan Monterroza

VALUES

COMMUNITY

We believe that community is a grassroots voice that's heard, respected, and centred.

Not about us without us.



GROWING TOGETHER

We believe that recognizing and sharing everyone's gifts will make us all better.

Together we create solutions.



LOVE & KINDNESS

We believe that a compassionate heart is a powerful teacher and guide.

We lead from our hearts.



COURAGE

We believe in creating and holding space to question and challenge our assumptions and practices.

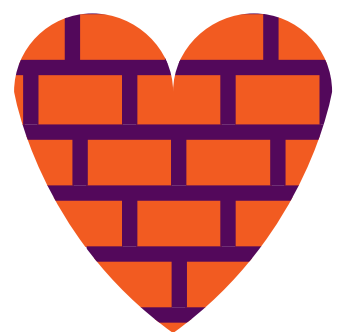
Know when to step up and step back.



INTEGRITY

We believe in building trusting relationships based on respect and honesty.

Do the right thing.



FUN

We believe in celebrating all that we do together.

Be the fun.

