



March 5, 2021

Dear Mayor Guthrie and City Councillors,

My name is Glenna Banda and I am the Executive Director of United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin and I am writing in support of the zoning by-law amendment for permanent supportive housing located at 85 & 89 Willow Road.

United Way strives to meet existing and emerging social needs in order to improve lives and build community. We are proud to walk alongside the organizations who are working on the frontlines to address homelessness and have been faced with supporting soaring mental health challenges and increased rates of overdose. All of these issues, which have become worse through the pandemic, are complex and require a collective and integrated approach to address. Permanent supportive housing is an important part of that approach. It is an evidenced-based and cost-effective solution for people who are chronically homeless and/or highly vulnerable because of long-term disabilities.

Along with endorsing the Kindle project, we are committed to mobilizing community support together with the Guelph Community Foundation, to fund the renovations, services and long-term sustainability of this important project.

I believe that everyone should have a safe, stable and affordable place to call home, and access to supports to make that possible. I encourage City Council to approve this amendment and help put an end to homelessness in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Glenna Banda".

Glenna Banda
Executive Director