

Covid-19 Community Emergency Fund

The public gets behind community workers

Nearly \$204,000 donated

Gatineau, Wednesday, April 8, 2020 – On Thursday, March 26, Centraide Outaouais launched an appeal for solidarity in the form of help for community agencies whose needs are more urgent than ever in these times of crisis. As always, donors responded, and Centraide Outaouais is happy to announce that the total donated has reached \$204,000.

To date, some **\$52,000** has been paid out to 8 agencies, mainly to meet needs for food security and support for the elderly, to hire staff, and to purchase disinfectant and sanitary products. Centraide-supported agencies are continuing to submit requests, which are processed twice weekly.

“Community workers are guardian angels for the vulnerable, whose resources for coping with the pandemic are already very limited,” says Centraide Executive Director Nathalie Lepage. “Not to mention people who have lost their jobs and are turning to our agencies for help. The public’s solidarity is remarkable, and we sincerely thank all our donors for their generosity. We are nevertheless concerned at the thought that the funding provided to our agencies will be sufficient for, at most, four weeks. There is therefore a need for donations to keep coming, and for those who are able and willing to donate to keep Centraide Outaouais in mind.”

Centraide Outaouais follows a flexible funding allocation procedure that can react to the public’s needs and to what our agencies are experiencing at ground level. This means that consideration of requests is a continuous process, and funds can go out to agencies within three days of receipt of a request. Note that the board of directors invested \$15,000 to kickstart the emergency fund.

Agencies that have received funding so far:

Alliance Alimentaire Papineau / Centre Intervalle Pontiac / Le BRAS Outaouais / Les Résidences Le Bel Âge de la Vallée du Lièvre / La Manne de l’Île / Maison de la Famille L’Étincelle / Mon Chez nous / La Table de Concertation sur la Faim et le Développement Social de l’Outaouais (TCFDSO)

Centraide Outaouais would like to thank the following enterprises for their generosity:

Fondation Chagnon - \$62,000
Fondation Jean Coutu - \$37,741
Evolugen via Énergie Brookfield - \$25,000
Desjardins - \$5,000
Erco Mondial - \$2,000
Constructions Lovail - \$500

The funds raised will be allocated to the following priorities:

- **Essential needs:** making sure that people have access to necessities like food.
- **Community service capability:** making sure that our community partners continue to provide essential services.
- **Help for the elderly:** offering support to the most isolated members of the community.
- **Mental health support:** staffing helplines and providing psychological assistance.

Donations can be made to Centraide Outaouais at www.centraideoutaouais.com or by contacting Julie Brassard at brassardj@centraideoutaouais.com or 819-771-7751, extension 240.

-30-

Source: Isabelle Brisebois, Director, Communications and Marketing

Cell: 819-639-0392

briseboisi@centraideoutaouais.com