



Looking back at 2020 and all that we accomplishedtogether!

The year 2020 was certainly one for the record books, as the saying goes. Here at Shelldale Family Gateway we faced several difficult challenges and yet with the help of our amazing staff and **YOU**, we were able to overcome them all!

When the pandemic started in March, Shelldale Family Gateway was able to immediately pivot to virtual connections. Both our Community Program and EarlyON were extremely successful in providing an exceptional level of care and support to our children, youth, and their families. We provided over 500 personal connections to the community alone, and with the help of amazing volunteers and donors we delivered our cool 'Discovery Bags' which held treats, games, and learning materials for our kids.

We were able to offer safe programming in person during the summer and began our fall programs for youth with great excitement. Our numbers were slightly lower, but all children were welcomed back.

Breakfast Club has been awesome! We provide 25-30 meals every weekday morning to children and their families. We could not do this without the help of our sponsors – like you. Shelldale Family Gateway is so fortunate to have such outstanding, caring people who ensure no child in our community starts the day hungry.

THANK YOU!



Volunteer Dan Barendregt prepares Discovery Bags for families



Afterschool participants enjoy activities at Shelldale Centre, Fall 2020

"When we learn together and work together as partners, we build a stronger community."

LOOKING FORWARD IN 2021

So far in 2021, things are looking much better for our Community in terms of funding. With the help of outstanding staff and Board members, we have started on new campaigns and hope to see success! Of course, we are in lockdown again now, but we CAN still offer Breakfast Club for children returning to school.

Our after-school programs are filled, just waiting for the word to go! This includes a new Teen basketball mini league, thanks to Canadian Tire Jumpstart. EarlyON continues to offer their amazing programs virtually to hundreds of Shelldale families.

Planning is already happening for this summer and we hope to see everyone's smiling faces again soon.

Volunteer Highlight

Community staff member, Zack was happy to present **Mariam Muqueem** with **Community Youth Volunteer of the Year 2020** award!

Mariam was in our programs as a young child and has actively participated over the years. In grade 7 she came every day to volunteer in the Afterschool Programs and participate in the Teen program. As Mariam moved on to high school she continued to volunteer and worked for us as a part-time staff under a 2nd Chance grant. This past summer she worked for us during COVID and acted as one of our cleaners. She role modelled for other staff how to be diligent, respectful, and kind.



Staff Award

Shelldale Family Gateway was awarded Employer of the Year by the Employment Coordination Committee of Guelph Wellington!

This is due in great part to the amazing and hard work **Lorie Delane**, our Community and Youth Coordinator, puts into our relationships with Second Chance Employment and Lutherwood Employment in making these placements a success. We are so fortunate to have such a strong advocate for youth and the under employed in Lorie and we are so proud of her.

Words from another staff member, Jacqueline to Lorie.....

"I admire Lorie how she builds relationships with people in and out of our community and introduces them to this great program, she is an AMAZING mentor and cheerleader to them as they experience a placement at Shelldale. I watch people's self esteem and confidence grow and how they build new relationships with other staff and participants. Lorie I would just like to say you go above and beyond to support these individuals who enter this program, and you make a difference in their lives. This Award is definitely YOURS!!!!"



Thanks to our Donors!

Shelldale Family Gateway staff, children, youth, and their families would like to thank **ALL** donors and funders that helped support us in 2020! Without **YOU** we could not have provided the programs and supports during this difficult year. Here are just a few of the businesses and funders, but we would also like to say a huge thank you to all the individuals in our community that donated to our programs in 2020!



St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser!

Since we can't get together for our Winter Warm-Up fundraiser this year,
we are having a St. Patrick's Day Virtual Party!
STAY TUNED! WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US!



Children's Program Update

*Providing opportunities for children from birth to 6 years of age
to participate in play and inquiry-based programs,*

This has been a year to go down in history!

In March, the EarlyON programs closed within the Shelldale Centre and we began a whole new way of working virtually. Our EarlyON staff and parents have become tech savvy and creative in the way we work and deliver programs and support. It has been my honour to lead the EarlyON team of 6 amazing, resilient women. They have supported around 150 families, we have celebrated the successes, shared those delightful moments of the children and families and have been there to listen. Our daily connections with our families who felt isolated during this time has brought comfort and light into their daily lives.

We now offer 7 scheduled virtual programs and create and post daily videos of songs, stories, and activities for our families to enjoy and remain connected. This has been incredibly challenging for many of our families as their only means of joining in is on their cell phone. As you might imagine this proves to be difficult for the whole family to participate. We would like to do a **big call out** to our supporters for computers/laptops or tablets that can be used by our families to take down the barriers of feeling isolated during this difficult time.

We have also been delivering activities to our families at their home once a month and have been supporting families in getting any needed items such as diapers, (Thank You to Well.ca for being so generous during this time), formula, food, and clothing. This time even though challenging, has brought us all closer together.

In December we had some amazing donors that brought smiles and excitement to children and parents! We were happy to deliver gifts for our families from Hammond Power Solutions and anonymous donors and 50 - \$25 gift cards from The Shoebox Project. The EarlyON staff made over 100 bags of playdough and made gift bags from Santa to deliver to over 100 families! Each year we organize a Holiday Party for the children, so as not to disappoint, we delivered one virtually with lots of singing, crafts, stories and of course a visit from Santa who brought smiles to all those faces on the screen.

Thank you to the EarlyON staff for their support, kindness, endurance, passion, and humour. They have been great cheerleaders to our families.

Jacqueline Blundell, EarlyON Program Supervisor



Watch!

*Here is a sample video that our amazing
staff post for our children to enjoy!*

<https://youtu.be/8dixrwGiqzk>

OUR WISH LIST

- **Computers/laptops** for our families to participate in our virtual EarlyON children's programs and parent support and education,
- **New quality books** for preschool children and youth for our "Books for Birthday" program,
- **Baby items** to support families in need (diapers, formula, bottles, wipes, infant cereals etc.)

Youth and Community Program Update

We offer several programs for youth living in the Shelldale Family Gateway neighbourhood.

Our Community Programs are responsive to the needs of the community and are created and sustained based on expressed needs from community members themselves.

We ran our Afterschool and Teen programs for 100 youth in our neighbourhood this past fall, with each day having different age groups. Our staff are diligent in following the safety protocols in keeping our children and staff safe. We have major renovations going on at the Shelldale Centre, so we have had to be very flexible in moving to different workspaces to allow the construction team to continue their work.

Some highlights of this fall and Holiday Season:

- We currently have 5 placement students working in our programs through the Second Chance Employment and Lutherwood Employment Job Connect program,
- We continue to work closely with the Integrated Youth Services Network,
- We have worked closely with the University of Guelph counselling department who want to provide more support for our youth,
- 15 - 20 families were supported by staff to navigate the social services systems for a variety of reasons,
- 110 gifts generously sponsored by Hammond Power Solutions were delivered to families over the Holiday Season,
- We delivered 18 Christmas gifts to community donated by the Ashdown family,
- Once again supported the Salvation Army hamper applications with 400 people from the community coming to register,
- Guelph Police Association bought our youth a PS4 for our Youth Room!

Lorie Delane, Youth and Community Program Supervisor

We are proud to be partnering with many community organizations to support Mental Health. Watch for us on social media and support the Mental Health of our Youth!



On January 28, join the conversation.

bell.ca/letstalk

BREAKFAST CLUB

We continue to serve a nutritious Grab & Sit Breakfast Club to over 60 children and youth in the community.

Your donation of \$20 per month can help feed children a nutritious breakfast before school on an ongoing, regular basis. We are fortunate to receive funds from Food & Friends of the Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington, however, it does not cover all our costs.

YOU can help do that with a small monthly donation that would mean the world of difference to our Breakfast Club Program!

[Click here to make a monthly donation](#)

OUR WISH LIST

- **Grocery Gift Cards** to support our Youth Programs such as after school programs and Breakfast Club, where youth are provided with a nutritious snack as well as support to any families in need during this time of crisis.
- **Art & crafts supplies,**
- **Discovery Bag Items** do you have an item that you think our children and youth would enjoy?!



Shelldale Family Gateway
20 Shelldale Cres.
Guelph, ON N1H 1C8
519-824-8498

www.shelldale.ca

