



Winter Warm-up Fundraiser – St. Patrick’s Day Style

Shelldale Family Gateway has been hosting the Winter Warm-up Fundraiser for over 8 years as a community event, however, this year because of COVID-19 we went virtual for the very first time. We chose St. Patrick’s Day as a day that we hoped the greater community would also participate and in turn we could spread the word and showcase the amazing things we do here at Shelldale Family Gateway.

We are happy to say that we were successful in gaining some new supporters and raised \$7,407 for our Youth & Community Programs!

The event included 75 authentic Irish Dinners prepared by our sponsor SR-P Creations Gourmet Catering and ready for COVID safe pickup at Shelldale. Prior to the event we hosted an on-line auction with 34 amazing items donated by businesses and individuals in Guelph and area. The auction alone raised \$2,750 and was a lot of fun!

Our community children and youth were challenged to a St. Patrick’s Day Hat Contest for the event. Over 80 packages (thanks again to SR-P Creations), filled with hat decorating items were picked up from our Community Donation Table. Children submitted pictures of their hats and prizes were awarded!

The Winter Warm-Up event itself, was a gathering on Zoom. Thank you to our dear friend, [Bob MacLean](#) who opened the evening playing some great Irish music for all to enjoy. Special guest Mike Schreiner MPP, announced the \$91,400 *Resilient Communities Fund* grant we received to help us recover from the impacts of COVID and to assist us in continuing to provide the programs and resources to the children, youth, and families of this community.

A big shout out and special thank you to our Pot of Gold Sponsors, [SV Law](#) and [Skyline Group of Companies](#) and [SR-P Creations Gourmet Catering](#) for sponsoring the wonderful Irish Dinner as well as our auction donors and everyone that participated in making this a successful event.



Michele & Scott
Richardson

Guelph Senior's Association
Quilting Club

Sharron Riley-Persson &
John Persson

Heena Mistry

Russ Powel
President,
Rotary Club of Guelph South

Bob MacLean

Ontario Trillium Foundation - Community Resiliency Fund

Our MPP, Mike Schreiner attended our Winter Warm-up fundraiser to announce and congratulate us on the \$91,400 *Resilient Communities Fund* grant that we received from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The grant will increase opportunities for Shelldale Family Gateway to assist the Onward Willow Community recover from the devastating impacts on COVID-19, through programming for children and youth and through resource offerings to families in need.



Canadian Tire – Jumpstart Sport Relief Fund

We are so fortunate to be awarded a 2nd grant and are amongst nearly 300 sport and recreation organizations nationally to be supported by *Jumpstart's Sport Relief Fund*. Canadian Tire has dedicated \$20 million to the Fund since the onset of COVID, which is absolutely remarkable! We are beyond grateful and know the positive impact it will have on sports and recreation right here in our neighbourhood. We will be able to continue to provide mini sport clinics for our afterschool and teen programs and purchase enough equipment so that each participant can safely have their own soccer ball or basketball and thereby cut down on possible COVID related contamination.



Community Donation Table

With strict COVID restrictions in place, we found that many of our families were struggling and needed support in securing food for their families as well as just everyday items. Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 am to 1 pm, staff fill a table behind the Shelldale building with purchased or donated items such as perishable and non-perishable foods, arts, crafts, toys, formula, diapers, masks and much more.

This program is so popular we can see up to 35 families accessing it per day and it was featured on [CTV Kitchener News \(click here to see the story\)](#) !

If you would like to donate items, it would be greatly appreciated! Please contact our Youth & Community Coordinator, Lorie Delane at ldelane@shelldale.ca



International Women's Day - #Choose to Challenge

This was our 16th **International Women's Day** celebration at Shelldale Family Gateway, and it certainly looked a lot different! The EarlyON staff put their heads together to be creative in celebrating all the amazing women in our community, especially after a tough year of staying home and supporting their children through the pandemic.

A virtual celebration took place with the support of some wonderful women within our community. We started off the celebration with a "mindfulness practice" led by Pragya Pandey from GCHC, then we were inspired by an Art Gallery of work from the women involved in our programs that we hope to display on our website soon. Our student, Lauren, led a sharing discussion of "Who is your Hero?" which brought us all closer together to hear and celebrate these heroes. To end this powerful celebration, we danced! A big THANK YOU to [Kween](#) who energized us all in a lively Afro-Tribal dance. A big THANK YOU to the [Shoebox Project](#) , who created 120 lovely self-care bags which included a \$15 gift card. We delivered these to all the women who participated in the event. It was so special to see their faces light up when they received them. A shout out to [ARCH Guelph](#) for their contribution in funding this event. A great time was had by all!

Fundraising Committee Update

There are normally 420 youth that participate in our Afterschool and Teen Programs and these programs are vital in this high risk neighbourhood. Shelldale Family Gateway Youth & Community Programs receive no core government funding, therefore, fundraising is essential in order to provide the programs and supports to the youth and families of this community.

We will be hosting a number of fundraising events in 2021 and hope that you will support us and share with others the wonderful things happening at Shelldale Family Gateway!

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



Children's Program Update

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

It has been a busy start to the spring at Shelldale EarlyON. After a year of working virtually and running all our programs on-line we received the go ahead to open.

On March 22nd we started with indoor programming, however, just over one week later due to the announced provincial COVID restrictions we pivoted back to our Virtual programs and our delivery of activity bags to our families.

We were able to get a sneak peak and a feel for how we will resume our programs when it is safe to do so again. The indoor programming in our week of opening was for one family cohort at a time. This style of programming keeps everyone as safe as we possibly can. Our staff practiced safely with PPE gear, screening of each family and extensive cleaning between families each day. We hope to have 13 families visit us for a playtime each week. Each family will be able to return after 14 days to enjoy the space again.

On March 29th we were able to sample our outdoor programming. Staff were leading and supporting 3 families at a time with no more than 15 people on some of the many beautiful trails we have in Guelph. Again, our staff practiced safely with PPE gear, screening, and social distancing.

So, for now, only our Virtual programs and on-line supports will continue and we look forward to when we can see all of our families again, safely. We will continue delivering activity bags to our families. We are always looking for donations of creative materials to put inside the bags.

We also still have a BIG need for diapers, we continue to look for donations of all sizes to support the wee ones of our community.



OUR WISH LIST

- **Computers/laptops** for our families to participate in our virtual EarlyON children's programs and parent support and education,
- **Creative materials** for our "Activity Bags" delivered to our families,
- **Diapers** of all sizes *(desperate need)

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.

It continues to be a challenging time for our Youth & Community Programs with the current COVID situation in Guelph Wellington, however, we are staying in touch with our youth and their families and offering support in any way that we can. We are sending out a weekly email to all parent/ participants updating them on any upcoming events as well as supports available within the greater community. We have been posting weekly videos prepared by staff to our Facebook page to encourage community to engage in self-care, outdoor fun, and activity as well as arts and crafts with Aml.

Some of our youth have been fortunate over the last few months to enjoy dinner provided by a volunteer on Tuesday and Thursday evenings as part of our Teen Program. We are beginning to plan more youth programs to begin in May and, of course, we were disappointed that we are not able to provide the Spring Break program that we were looking forward to.

We continue to adapt our programs according to Public Health guidelines and look forward to when we can all be back to our regular programs and busy schedules!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Are you interested in sitting on a Community Garden Committee?

Please call Lorie Delane at 519-824-8498



BREAKFAST CLUB

We continue to serve a nutritious Grab & Go 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**
- **Non-perishable food & snack items** for Breakfast Club and Afterschool Programs as well as our Community Donation table (in need of flour for baking)
- **Fruits and veggies, milk, eggs**



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