

MEDIA RELEASE

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\$36,600 OTF Grant Helps Meet Growing Demand for Vital Community Services on Hamilton Mountain

Hamilton, ON – On Thursday, Neighbour to Neighbour Centre (N2N) held their Annual General Meeting at their offices on Athens St. During the meeting, N2N's Board of Directors celebrated the impact of a \$36,600 Capital grant to help meet the growing demand for emergency food assistance in Hamilton thanks to new upgrades to the organization's IT infrastructure.

"Neighbour 2 Neighbour has long been a cornerstone of our community, taking meaningful action to reduce poverty," said Monica Ciriello, MPP for Hamilton Mountain. "This \$36,600 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation will empower Neighbour 2 Neighbour to have the proper tools to continue to serve families across Hamilton, and especially right here on Hamilton Mountain. That's why I'm so proud to see this investment going to an organization that plays such a vital role in supporting those who need it most."

Prior to these improvements, N2N's aging computer hardware had begun to suffer from increasingly frequent software issues, crashes, and data loss, which impeded the Centre's ability to cope with growing demand for its services. Thanks to this \$36,000 OTF grant, N2N was able to completely revamp their computer hardware and IT infrastructure, which will allow them to better continue to serve their community.

"Record high food prices, increased rent, stagnant wages and overall economic uncertainty has led to many more individuals and families reaching out to Neighbour to Neighbour to support basic food access. Thankfully, we have community partners and funders like OTF, who recognize that need to meet that challenge head on and invest in thriving communities." says N2N Executive Director, Barrington C Hector.

Since 1986, Neighbour to Neighbour Centre has been working to lead the Hamilton community to an improved quality of life. What started as a small food bank has evolved into an indispensable part of Hamilton's social fabric. N2N gets to the very root of its community's needs, offering access to healthy food, skill building programs, tutoring for children, utility support programs, counselling and a host of other interventions.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is an agency of the Ontario government with a mission to build healthy and vibrant communities across the province. Last year, OTF invested nearly \$105M into 732 community projects and multi-sector partnerships. Projects aim to enhance economic well-being, foster more active lifestyles, support child and youth development, provide spaces for people to come together and connect, and create a more sustainable environment. Visit otf.ca to learn more.

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