

MEDIA RELEASE



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\$223,200 OTF Grants Expands on Counselling Program

Richmond Hill/York Region – In 2018, Catholic Community Services of York Region (CCSYR) received a multi-year, \$223,200 Grow grant the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) to expand its counselling program focusing helping youth facing barriers and their families. The work done with the grant finished at the end of 2021 and served over 160 youth and their parents, caregivers and adult allies.

“It is so gratifying to see the impact of this grant on disadvantaged youth, their parents, and caregivers in York Region at a time when it was needed most,” said Richmond Hill MPP Daisy Wai. “Having direct access to professional counsellors provided them with the coping skills and supports that will serve them well into the future.”

The grant also allowed CCSYR counsellors to reach out to over 160 youth, parents, and caregivers facing mental health challenges, family relationship issues, social isolation and other concerns and barriers. The organization’s Registered Psychotherapist and Registered Social Workers provided them with accessible one-to-one and family counselling and taught them lifelong skills that enabled to strive and flourish in life. “The impact of this funding reached many families and continues to give every day,” said Gary Thompson, former Board Chair of Catholic Community Services of York Region. “We feel thankful that the Promising Young People Grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation has allowed us to provide counselling to people who would otherwise not have access to service.”

“My living situation has improved. I found and moved into a safe and warm apartment,” said an anonymous parent who accessed the OTF-funded counselling program. “My communication and relationship with my 11-year-old has improved. I feel that I can be a better parent now since I have had the help and someone to turn to while handling all life's emotional chaos.”

At CCSYR, the vision is to helping individuals and their families thrive and grow in relationship with one another and within the community. It reaches out to support, counsel and guide individuals and families from diverse background and faiths. Inspired by the Key Principles of Catholic Social Teaching, it recognizes the dignity and worth of each individual. CCSYR provides a broad array of programs and services that enable all citizens, immigrants, newcomers and refugees, to participate fully in the social, economic, political and cultural life of our community. Please visit us at www.ccsy.org for more information on CCSYR’s services.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada’s leading granting foundations. Last year, nearly \$112M was invested into 1,384 community projects and partnerships to build healthy and vibrant communities and strengthen the impact of Ontario’s non-profit sector. In 2020/21, OTF supported Ontario’s economic recovery by helping non-profit organizations rebuild and recover from the impacts of COVID-19. Visit otf.ca to learn more.

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