

July 24, 2020

Dear Friends,

We hope this letter finds you well and safe.

Before providing our update, I would like to draw your attention to an initiative being led by the Ontario Non-Profit Association. In the last month, some insurance companies announced that they would no-longer cover COVID-related incidents - even if organizations followed all the best guidance and practices in managing in this new and difficult environment. Not only did this heighten the risk of operating, it also put an excessive burden of liability on non-profit volunteer Boards of Directors, officers, employees and volunteers.

Fortunately, ESS was successful in securing insurance coverage without this exclusion – but many others remain at risk.

To help address this situation, community members are urged to reach out to local Members of Provincial Parliament asking the Government of Ontario to take immediate steps to pass an emergency order that provides “Good Samaritan” protection to our sector. For more information on this campaign, so critical to the ability of agencies like ours to continue to operate, and how you can help please visit <https://theonnc.ca/ontario-nonprofits-call-to-action-call-and-email-your-mpp/>.

On a more positive note, sincere thanks is sent to everyone that supported our GIVE65 campaign. We are pleased to share that with the help of our donors, we not only raised a gross total of \$9,650, we were also awarded an additional \$5,000 in matching funds and a \$2,500 bonus grant from the Home Instead Senior Care Foundation of Canada. This could not have been done without your generous contributions and support. These funds will make a real difference in our ability to furnish, equip and launch our new Adult Day Program and overnight Caring Centre at 30 Rosemount Avenue, York, ON.

I am also delighted to let you know that that ESS’ application for a \$25,000 grant under the United Way Emergency Community Support Fund to create and provide Activity Kits for Seniors and Caregivers, was approved.

Also, in partnership with the Dorothy Ley Hospice, ESS will help deliver a grief counselling program. The \$40,000 grant awarded to Dorothy Ley, also provided under the United Way Emergency Community Support Fund, will train community members and build local capacity to support people suffering loss. As it is developed, updates will be sent and we will be asking for volunteers who may be interested in participating in this program.

As you may know, COVID-19 has been particularly challenging in North Etobicoke. ESS continues work on a committee led by the City, United Way and the Health Commons Solution Lab to plan and implement community-led outreach, establish 'pop-up' testing centres and develop wrap-around care and support for people impacted by this terrible disease.

Of course we continue to send our best wishes to you and hope that if you or anyone you know may need our help, please call (416) 243-0127, access us through our web site at www.esssupportservices.ca or by e-mail at agency@esssupportservices.ca.

Regards,



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