

Bobcaygeon relief fund calls for those in need to reach out

Sarah Sobanski

Bobcaygeon's community relief fund has raised more than \$100,000 and supporters want you to reach out if you're in need.

In the two weeks since it's been started, the Bobcaygeon and Area COVID-19 Relief Fund has raised more than \$100,000 and has begun to be administered by the Community Foundation of Kawartha Lakes.

The fund is available to individuals, families and care facilities' staff for food, transportation, technology, mental wellness counselling and more.

"People should absolutely apply and not be embarrassed," summer Sturgeon Lake resident Jerry Lennox stated in a release. He and his wife, Mary, donated to the fund. They're currently self-isolating in Whitby.

"We have all had a hard time at some point in our life," he said. "When I began my business I was glad someone helped me out too."

Assistance has already been provided to staff at Pinecrest Nursing Home, Bobcaygeon area residents, the Bobcaygeon Helps Food Bank, a local agency to hire overnight crisis line staff for people having to self-isolate in homes at-risk of violence, and the local Canadian Mental Health Association to provide counselling.

One recipient who had not been working due to COVID-19 reported "crying good tears" when notified she would be receiving support from the fund, according to a release by the fund. A Bobcaygeon nursing home worker has expressed "heart-felt thanks" on behalf of all her colleagues upon receiving relief kits from the fund.

"Our community is always there for one another. Sometimes we give and sometimes we need a helping hand, the fund is here to provide that helping hand," Ann Adare, Bobcaygeon resident and volunteer for the citizens' group who started the fund, said in the release.

The community foundation is advised by the concerned citizens group who started it, headed up Kawartha Lakes Ward 2 Coun. Kathleen Seymour-Fagan. Bobcaygeon and area patients, families and health care workers who have needs should contact her at kseymourfagan@kawarthalakes.ca.

To donate to the Bobcaygeon and Area COVID-19 Relief Fund, contact Foundation Coordinator Margaret Cunningham at [705-731-9775](tel:705-731-9775) or through email at info@kawarthafoundation.ca.