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Boys and Girls Clubs of Kawartha Lakes finances boosted by donation Commonwell makes \$50,000 donation to agency to help it weather the storm until fundraising activities recover from COVID-19 pandemic

Community Sep 19, 2020 by [Catherine Whitnall \(/kawartha-author/catherine-whitnall/1E0E6AE6-EB40-4A3C-A4A9-CC957BF70779/\)](#) [\(mailto:cwhitnall@mykawartha.com\)](#) [Kawartha Lakes This Week](#)



A \$50,000 donation from Commonwell Mutual Group, presented recently by Enrico Mastrangeli, vice-president of Distribution and Member Innovation to Boys and Girls Clubs of Kawartha Lakes executive director Amy Terrill will help the organization weather the storm of lost fundraising and program fees as a result of the COVID-19

pandemic..... - Catherine Whitnall/Torstar

This was supposed to be a big year for celebrations at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Kawartha Lakes.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic squashed virtually every plan the organization had to mark its 50th anniversary and, more importantly, continue to raise funds to support programs for children and youth in the Kawartha Lakes.

Recently, Commonwell Mutual Insurance Group helped soften the funding shortfalls with a \$50,000 donation.

“The economic impacts of COVID-19 are vast, affecting donors, local businesses, the families we serve, and ultimately our organization. This investment will help us weather the storm until fundraising activities recover from the pandemic,” stated Club and Foundation executive director Amy Terrill.

Earlier this year, the Foundation – which provides funding to keep programs affordable and provide subsidies so all children can access programs and services regardless of their financial situation – launched a COVID-19 Relief campaign to bridge the lost revenues gap.

“As the pandemic continues we’re concerned about its physical, social and emotional impacts on children and youth. We’ll continue to do what we can to meet the growing needs of our community,” continued Terrill. “It emphasizes the importance of the COVID-19 Relief campaign because we are bound to that commitment, regardless what is happening around us.”

Terrill noted, despite the challenges, everyone did an amazing job, going above and beyond expectations.

“We set high standards for ourselves, above what the government protocols required,” said Terrill. “Our families have adapted very well and have been very understanding. Our kids have done a great job and have been very respectful.”

The Club’s summer camps also afforded children an opportunity to be better prepared for school through such practices as wearing masks, physical distancing, sharing and hand hygiene.

“I think it really helped kids be less anxious for when they went back to school,” said Terrill.

Despite being able to offer summer programs – all before and after school programming are hoped to be up and running by the end of September – the pandemic has hit the club hard financially. Fundraising that would offset costs has been dramatically impacted.

It’s why Commonwell president and CEO Tim Shauf was pleased to support the Club.

“COVID-19 is a generational-impacting event that we will see effects from for years to come.”

To contribute to the COVID-19 Relief campaign, or to invest in the Club’s 50 for 50 Campaign for youth programming, visit <https://www.bgckl.com/giving> (<https://www.bgckl.com/giving>).

by [Catherine Whitnall](/kawartha-author/Catherine-Whitnall/1e0e6ae6-eb40-4a3c-a4a9-cc957bf70779/) (/kawartha-author/Catherine-Whitnall/1e0e6ae6-eb40-4a3c-a4a9-cc957bf70779/)

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