

BENEFICIARIES INCLUDE WIDE VARIETY OF GROUPS

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make a difference."

Gysel said some organizations rely on grassroots events, like barbecues, movie nights or euchre tournaments to raise funds, which weren't possible during the pandemic.

Acton Foodshare was hit particularly hard during the pandemic. Both food and monetary donation decreased while demand for the service increased. On top of that, expenses increased as it had to buy personal protective equipment such as masks and gloves for both clients and volunteers.

"Their donation was a godsend. It really helped," said Mike Albano, chair of Acton Foodshare, which received \$5,500 last August.

Albano said the donation allowed the food bank, which serves 25 to 30 families a week, to buy an industrial fridge and freezer, helping it keep more food on hand. It also allowed the food bank to buy food in bulk, helping keep costs down.

The pandemic not only took a toll on charities but also on the local Women Who Care group.

Gysel said their membership topped 100 at one point but experienced "quite a drop off during the pandemic" as they moved to an online/email format

"I like it because sometimes we donate to groups that you may not have known about before."

- Lori Gysel

for meetings. She said that was understandable given everyone wasn't in a position to donate.

The group meets for an hour four times a year. At each meeting, members nominate organizations to receive a donation. Three organizations are then randomly chosen, and the nominator makes a presentation about the organization. Members then vote on the recipient.

Thurman said the format helps spread awareness about local charitable organizations.

"They always share information and people learn about you," she said. "Any time word gets out, it's a chance to educate people about what you do and why."

"I like it because some-



100 Women Who Care Halton Hills committee member Sarah Burrows (centre), presents a cheque for \$5,800 to Food for Life volunteer and 100 Women member Eleanor Young (left) and Food for Life North Halton Community Lead Lori Brading.

times we donate to groups that you may not have known about before," Gysel said.

Once a charity is chosen, members donate \$100, either directly to the organization online or by cheque.

Gysel said the only condition is that an organization uses the money in Halton Hills. So if a Halton-wide organization is chosen, it must have a specific

Halton Hills project to direct the money to.

The group has donated to groups as diverse as the Bennett Centre, Special Olympics Halton Hills, the Canadian Federation of University Women's scholarship program, Cancer Assistance Services of Halton Hills and Georgetown Little Theatre and Norval United Church to help sponsor a Syrian family.

With public meetings

again allowed, Gysel hopes the local 100 Women Who Care can start to rebuild its roster of members, though she recognizes the rising cost of food and gas still might make it difficult for some people to donate.

"I think it's great that people are willing to write a cheque four times a year," Gysel said. "And I love that the money stays in Halton Hills. For these organizations, that's

huge."

To learn more about 100 Women Who Care Halton Hills, visit www.100womenhaltonhills.com/

STORY BEHIND THE STORY: With 100 Women Who Care Halton Hills recently celebrating a donation milestone, we wanted to learn more about how the local group got started and how they're supporting the community.

Thank you for your support!

Ted Arnott

Wellington-Halton Hills

Approved by the CFO for the Campaign to Re-Elect Ted Arnott



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