

MEDIA RELEASE

Thank You to the United Way Leeds & Grenville and the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville

May 8, 2020

National Mental Health Week seems like a very fitting time to say thank you to the United Way Leeds & Grenville and the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville for supporting people living with addiction and mental health issues in our region. Recently, LLGAMH was the recipient of two generous grants to support care during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Clients tell us they are very grateful for this support. "I was out of milk, I am so happy now, I can have my coffee. Please make sure you thank everyone who helped me get the card," says one client.

Another from Gananoque notes: "I was starting to feel bored. Now I am going to make out my list, it is a beautiful day and I can walk to the store and pick up some things I need. Thank you."

The United Way Leeds & Grenville provided a total of \$6,253.96. Grocery cards have been distributed to 73 clients and they tell us they are very grateful.

"The United Way provides ongoing funds for LLGAMH and we are grateful for this additional assistance," notes Chief Operating Officer Tim Mack. "The money is being put to good use during this difficult time for our clients and their families."

The United Counties of Leeds and Grenville recently approved LLGAMH's proposal for \$10,000 as part of its Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF). The provincial government's new SSRF is in response to the COVID-19 crisis; it is a shared initiative between the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services.

"This money allowed us to provide \$100 Loblaws cards to 74 of our clients that are most in need of this type of support. As well, some of the money will be used to cover transportation costs such as taxi fares for our clients," explains Sean Somerville, LLGAMH's Clinical Administration Manager. "Many of our low-income clients are experiencing additional financial stress and are not eligible for other COVID-19 related financial assistance programs."

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