

Additional relief grant allows Cloverdale Community Kitchen to keep feeding seniors

Surrey Community Relief Fund continues to help during pandemic but support still needed

Beau Simpson
Black Press Media

Cloverdale Community Kitchen is continuing to make meals and deliver them to hundreds of seniors across Surrey during the pandemic, thanks to another grant from the Surrey Community Relief Fund.

A \$5,000 grant was the third SurreyCares doled out to to the Cloverdale Community Kitchen's Mobile Meals Program. The total of all three grants is \$21,000.

Matthew Campbell, director of the CCK, said funds from the Surrey Community Relief Fund have enabled the organization to introduce its Mobile Meals program and keep it going, serving hundreds of vulnerable community members per week.

"At the beginning of COVID-19, we heard that there was a big need to get people meals," said Campbell. "They couldn't come on the buses anymore

and a lot of meals on wheels programs were unsure if they could take more clients."

He said once the Mobile Meals program was sponsored by SurreyCares, CCK was able to make more meals and deliver them to hundreds of seniors.

"While we have around 300 people serving on a monthly basis, we are always looking for new volunteers," Campbell said.

The SurreyCares Community Foundation created a special emergency fund in March to benefit the non-profit sector during the pandemic. The Surrey Community Relief Fund supports social service agencies in Surrey who are "in the trenches," as they help people impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. The fund is being delivered through a partnership with the *Cloverdale Reporter's* sister paper the *Surrey Now-Leader*, the Surrey Board of Trade, and The Saheli Foundation.



SurreyCares presents a \$5,000 cheque to Cloverdale Community Kitchen. The grant was made possible by the Surrey Community Relief Fund. (Submitted photo)

With added financial support from individuals, philanthropists and businesses, the goal is to raise and distribute \$500,000 to address the increased demand due to the impact of COVID-19.

While the fund has now completed its current cycle, the need for further funding is still acute, said SurreyCares' executive director Christine Buttkus.

"This funding is extremely important

as food insecurity increases this holiday season," she said. "There is a medley of communal issues that arise with the holidays and they are amplified with COVID-19. We are looking to keep the momentum of giving going through and beyond the Christmas season so that non-profits like the Cloverdale Community Kitchen can continue their amazing programs."

Since the start of the pandemic, Sur-

reyCares has distributed \$440,000 to four non-profit organizations in the region. They are Cloverdale Community Kitchen, Fraser Region Alzheimer's Society, Fraser Region Association of Food Bank and Surrey/No. 1 Meals on Wheels.

"We could not do this without the many donors who have given to us. We can from an individual's \$500 scheduled donation, through the largest business donation of \$100,000 from the First West Credit Union," Buttkus said. "Every donation, no matter how small, has made a difference to the lives of vulnerable individuals in the community."

John Lawson, chair of SurreyCares, said he is grateful for the level of community support we have received directed at local charities with a "constant need" of extra support.

"We know the need for funding is significant and we're urging the community to continue to give," Lawson said. "People and businesses who would like to support charities are asked to give to the Surrey Community Relief Fund to support the most vulnerable population in Surrey."

To donate to the relief fund, visit surreycares.org.

Carrots
5lb bag
\$3.99

Blu Jay Oranges
3lb bag
\$3.99

Meat Lasagna
\$5.49 /ea

Roast
\$3.99 /lb

Local Russet Potatoes
10lb bag
\$3.49 /ea

Gala Apples
5lb bag
\$4.99 /bag

Fresh Customized Platters
Made in Store see deli for details
\$4.99

Stapleton Sausage
(Local Meat + Handmade + All Natural + Gluten Free + MSG Gourmet) (Pork, Beef, Chicken and Turkey)

Blu Jay Grapefruit
99¢ /ea

Kiwi
79¢ /ea

Summerland Sweets Syrups
(Peach, Mapleapple, Cherry, Strawberry, Blueberry and Peach n brandy)
\$4.99

Natasha's Frozen
(Apple, Strawberry Rhubarb, Blueberry Apple & Bumblebee)
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