

Media Release

February 3, 2022

John Howard Society Highlights Local Impact of \$405,300 in OTF Grants

York Region, ON - On Friday, Christine Elliott, MPP and Logan Kanapathi, MPP joined a virtual meeting with representatives from the John Howard Society of York Region to mark the end of work being done by the group thanks to two grants awarded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Joining the MPPs on the call was Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) volunteer Marv Chantler. The event celebrated the success of the organization's Healthy Youth Preventative Education (HYPE) program which was able to expand thanks to a multi-year, \$380,000 Grow grant awarded in late 2017, and a more recent \$25,300 Resilient Communities Fund grant awarded in late 2020 which provided COVID-19 recovery support.

"The John Howard Society of York Region is a valued part of our community, supporting families during difficult times and helping us to build a strong and safe Ontario," said Christine Elliott, MPP for Newmarket—Aurora. "This funding provided through the Ontario Trillium Foundation has helped them expand their programming for youth and adopt new approaches so that members of our community can continue to access the services they rely on during the pandemic and in the future."

Funds from the grants have enabled the John Howard Society of York Region to continue providing over 600 youth with new mental health services through the HYPE initiative. The OTF Grow grant helped the organization with the costs needed to expand on the program that focuses on supporting the positive development of children and youth, helping children and youth facing barriers to develop strong emotional and social skills. And thanks to the Resilient Communities Fund grant, the group was able to purchase case management software, provide training for staff, make needed office safety upgrades, and purchase PPE and sanitizing equipment as well.

"This funding will bring more awareness and further create new initiatives for the Mental Health Services within the Markham-Thornhill community," said Logan Kanapathi, MPP for Markham-Thornhill. "The John Howard Society has put forth the people and removed occurring issues for individuals through its special and targeted services. In particular, bringing its attention on aiding the youth and numerous individuals that have been negatively affected due to COVID-19. As a community it is our duty to assure everyone's safety in every way."

"The funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation has made a considerable difference to the availability of youth mental health services in York Region over the past 3 years. The support has also provided our organization with the infrastructure needed to adequately respond to emerging community needs during the COVID-19 pandemic." – Christin Cullen, Executive Director, John Howard Society of York Region

For more information, please visit the organization's [website](#) or [Facebook page](#). Follow John Howard Society on Twitter [@JHSOntario](#)

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada's leading granting foundations. Last year, nearly \$112M was invested into 1,384 community projects and partnerships to build healthy and vibrant communities and strengthen the impact of Ontario's non-profit sector. In 2020/21, OTF supported Ontario's economic recovery by helping non-profit organizations rebuild and recover from the impacts of COVID-19. Visit [otf.ca](#) to learn more.

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