

2021 REPORT to the COMMUNITY



Living with the combined crisis of

CANCER in the era of COVID













To our **SUPER, INCREDIBLE, HEROIC** legions of supporters:

In 2020, Wellwood was completely reimagined. Through the introduction of virtual programs, expanded online resources and a dramatic increase in peer mentoring, we continued to be resilient and responsive, with our volunteer team quickly mobilizing to meet new needs in new ways. It took a lot of hard work and determination, but registrations soared and our geographic reach grew to include participants from B.C. to the Yukon to Ireland. Like Wellwood itself, our virtual space was diverse, safe, inclusive and as barrier free as possible. Everything remained free of charge and evidence-informed.

In 2021, the thousands of people in our community who are still living with cancer continue to report unprecedented levels of anxiety. Most face serious or life-threatening illness and many are immune-compromised. Frequent visits to hospitals and clinical settings, while necessary, can be frightening and lonely. Cancer is already isolating. They need us, more than ever.

Even once it is again considered safe to gather, we know that Wellwood will emerge as a hybrid of in-person and virtual offerings. This new direction will ensure that we better meet the needs of those who are unable to come to our physical spaces – whether that is due to geography, mobility, caregiving responsibilities, feeling too unwell to travel, or even having made the decision to continue the practice of physical distancing for personal safety.

We are so grateful that you support our work, especially now. These worrisome and uncertain times are also very challenging for charities. We need you, more than ever, too.

With warmest appreciation, and wishing you safe days ahead.

Katherine Jane George Executive Director

Inspired by the REAL HEROES who walk, run, wheel – or fly – through our doors (and into our zoom rooms) every day, our enthusiastic E.D. tackled 7 sports dressed as 7 superheroes over 7 days for our "Walk/Run/Wheel...or Whatever."

Need a laugh? Check out her superhero shenanigans: www.wellwood.ca/the777video









PROGRAM SNAPSHOTS:

from "that" year we will always remember...but would rather forget

30+ volunteer instructors are delivering 25+ virtual programs to clients in 20+ cities...

...which includes engagement from many rural and geographically underserved communities.

In addition to our popular kids' sessions, we have launched a new program for youth, ages 12 to 15... ...providing a safe space to explore wellness strategies through interest-based programming.

We are now making 4X the number of peer mentor referrals than we were a year ago.

Our volunteers are doing safe, drop-off deliveries of art supplies, program materials and even food to clients. Guided visualization recordings now broadcast to 140 households, which multi-use increases by 5X.

New collaborations:

Green Venture

Hamilton Music Collective

United Way

Stone & Shadow

Play with Clay
Hamilton Fringe





Financial Notes:

It has been a difficult year for everyone, and these remain very challenging times for charities.

While we can't know what the future holds, ultimately, Wellwood's sustainability is largely due to the gift of time and talent provided by our team of more than 250 organizational and situational volunteers. All programs are volunteer-delivered, which keeps staffing costs to an absolute minimum.

The foundation of our revenue generation is the result of an endowment fund that is <u>invested in its entirety</u> and provides income on an annual basis to support operating costs; however, it is just one-quarter of the money needed to run the organization. We have also been eligible for the federal pandemic wage subsidy program.

The in-kind support provided by our community partners at Hamilton Health Sciences remains vital to our success. That said, <u>Wellwood is not government or hospital funded</u>, nor is it financed by user fees. We provide all of our programs at no cost to everyone who needs them.

Our donors can rest assured that you will see exceptional return-on-investment because of the efficiency of our volunteer-driven delivery model, and know that we are transparent, responsible, accountable custodians of your gifts.

We invite you to view our financial statements and previous Reports to the Community, or make a donation at www.wellwood.ca.



THANK YOU to our FUNDERS & IN-KIND SUPPORTERS:

City of Hamilton Enrichment Fund Doug and June Barber Family Foundation McKeil Family Foundation Project Concern, Hamilton Police Employees Coleford Investment Management Kiwanis Club of Hamilton East Image Honda/Queenston Chevrolet Buick GMC DeGroote School of Business, MBA Program, McMaster Hamilton Music Collective (An Instrument for Every Child) Michelle Guitard and Jane Thompson (Art & Soul) Wellwood Art Students and Holiday Market Vendors The Burlington "Square Ladies" The Estate of Winnifred Curry Unity Spiritual Centre First Unitarian Church of Hamilton Anne Bokma (The 6-Minute Memoir)

Stone & Shadow Green Venture Play with Clay Hamilton Fringe Dee Signs Vipond JKR Telecom Keith Revie AceWebsites.ca United Way CR Landscape Reliance Security Rawden Cleaning Bert Dorpmans Stuart Seldon Subway (Westcliffe) Farm Boy

HAMILTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION:

Malloch Foundation Fund
Martin Foundation Fund
Milne McGrath Fund
Shirley M. Elford Gift of Today Fund





Of course, our 2020 Walk/Run/Wheel – usually held at McMaster – had to go virtual. So, you walked, ran, wheeled, swam, paddled, hiked, skated – and raised \$80,000!



























virtually

KICKING cancer's BUTT

WELLWOOD.CA

Walk/Run/Wheel...
or Whatever
ALL WEEK LONG
OCTOBER 17-23
FREE
REGISTRATION
FUNdraise for prizes!

Thank you

PARTICIPANTS & TEAMS
PLEDGE COLLECTORS & DONORS
OUR "BUTT-KICKING" COMMITTEE

2020 SPONSORS

Effort Trust
Trisura Guarantee
Canada Life
Braemar Building Systems
Millcroft Financial
Mackesy Smye
Pendopharm
B'Nai Brith Hamilton
Sports Celebrity Dinner
Aldo De Santis Realty
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Ten Toe'n Shoe Shop

ONGOING SPONSORS

McMaster University, Office of the President McMaster University, Parking Services McMaster University, Student Centre Regent Health Centre Soundbox Productions Chip Time Results Race Kit Event Service Coca-Cola Bottling Ltd.

Taylor Leibow LLP Staff Team
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Mike Scott & Suzanne Primeau
Dr. Frank D'Alvise Family Dentistry
Marvall Designs

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Runner's Den







Adams, Pat & Tony Ambrose, Catharine Andersen, Simon Anderson, Monica Andry, Dr. Harry Atkins, Tom Beaudoin, Chuck Beaudoin, Jean Beaudoin, Mary Beth Corning, Naomi Cox, Elaine Craney, Eleanor Davies, Clayton Davis, Karen Duffy, Donna Marie Evanoff, Martin Fazari, Vincent

Fehrman, Ronald Forchielli, Reno Ford, Evelyn George, Gwen George, Peter Halford, Clyde Halford, Steve Hamilton, Rita Hartnett, Barbara Haynes, Rev. W. Allison Held, Jeanne Hiscock, Norma Howarth, Robert larusso, Jeffrey Jaksic, David Knight, Cassie Knight, Susan

Koblyk, George Koblyk, Patty Kraft, Biddy Lawruk, Christine Leduc, Bernie Marazzato, Maria Martin, Joyce McCulloch, Dr. Peter Milan-McGregor, Rachel Montague (Gui), Maggie Morrison, David Morin, Dana Mossuto, Frank O'Connell, Dr. Greg Parton, Steve Pokoradi, Gary Pronesti (Philip), Lois Marie

Raso, Nancy Salena, John Schleissner, Hans Scott, Sally Siroonian-Davis, Elissa Smosarski, Olivia (Liv) Steele, Randy Stevenson, Renee Trull, Chris Taylor, Bernice Taylor-Armstrong, Patricia Treleaven, Richard Vincent, Tina Louise Watson, Sean Wilkinson, Linda Wooley, Pauline Zwolak, Bob

Wellwood also extends our appreciation to individuals who made donations between July 1, 2020 and May 1, 2021, in honour of the following:

Barrows, Phyllis Brimicombe, Kathy Cookie, Peggy & Uncle Coombs, Heather Currie, Lynda Durance-Hine, Rebecca Forgie, Blaze Frankoff, Norma George, Jane George, Mike Hoddy, Patricia Iarusso, Greg Knight, Kate Mohide, Ann Murphy, Mike Newcomb, Kent & Terry

Odom, Matthew
Oluszak Family
Pilzecker, Jen
Salena, Kira
Silvestri, Cesare
Silvestri, Frank
Toby **
Wellnitz, Lukas



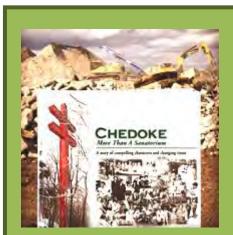


Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of these lists. Please contact us if you note errors or omissions.



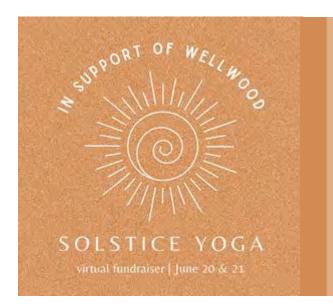


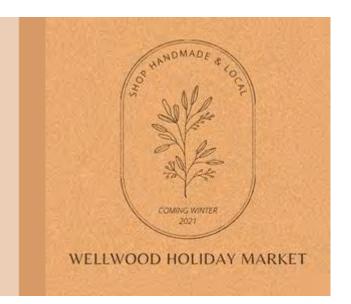
We acknowledge the privilege in providing Wellwood's safe gathering spaces on lands that Indigenous peoples have called home for thousands of years. Chedoke Hospital, formerly on the grounds of our community site, was an unwanted home to 1,274 Inuit (many of whom were children) during a traumatic forced relocation for tuberculosis treatment. This is a promise to never forget the harm that was done.



The last few standing hospital buildings on the former Chedoke land, adjacent to our community site, came down this year, making way for a large residential development. As people bring their kids and grandkids to stand in Wellwood's driveway, witnessing this moment in history (and seeing really cool mighty machines), we know this event may feel complicated for many.

For us, this is bittersweet. We will never forget the history of the land. At the same time, we had seen some interesting activities while the buildings were vacant (including the filming of a certain film with an infamous scary clown). As we plan our post-pandemic reopening, we're excited to become part of this new vibrant community, preparing to welcome new neighbours.









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PINK SHIRT DAY promotes awareness and symbolizes a stand against bullying. This originated in Canada, and is now held around the world.



ORANGE SHIRT DAY promotes awareness in Canada about the residential school system and the traumatic impact it has had on Indigenous communities.

Hospital Site

O'Connor-O'Connell Family Support Centre Jura vinski Hospital, E1 711 Concession St., Hamilton, ON L8V 1C3

Community Site

Juravinski House, presented by HHHBA 501 Sanatorium Rd., Hamilton, ON L9C 0C3

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STAFF TEAM:

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with support from Vicky Grimshaw Finance Administrator



It's really NOT about the money. Even though we talk a lot about funding in every annual report, Wellwood is about PEOPLE. It is about SELF-DISCOVERY, EMPOWERMENT, COMPASSION and COMMUNITY. Until it is safe to gather again, let's raise our hopes for better days ahead.