

Gay Lea Foundation supports ONE CARE meal programs

A grant from the Gay Lea Foundation has helped replace a new walk-in freezer at ONE CARE Home & Community Support Services to support programs like Meals on Wheels.

This past December, Gay Lea Foundation directors travelled to Clinton to visit ONE CARE Home and Community Support Services, a local, not-for-profit health organization that provides a range of supportive care services for seniors and people with disabilities in Huron and Perth counties.

Serving more than 6,000 people per year with programs like Meals on Wheels, Transportation, Adult Day Programs, Seniors Dining, home care, exercise and wellness, the organization works to support and strengthen the health, independence and quality of life for individuals and their families, many of whom live in remote, rural areas within the community.

During the visit, directors were welcomed into the centre's commercial kitchen to see the newly installed walk-in freezer, purchased with the support of a \$20,000 grant from the Gay Lea Foundation in 2018. The Foundation was also acknowledged by the organization's Executive Director, Kathy Scanlon, in an address to approximately 90 seniors who had gathered for the weekly Seniors Dining program at the centre.

"The generous \$20,000 donation from the Gay Lea Foundation directly supported the replacement of the walk-in freezer at our commercial kitchen here in Clinton, where 125 to 200 hot, ready-to-eat meals are

prepared and delivered across Huron and Perth counties to our clients each day," said Scanlon. "The new, more efficient freezer provides us with more room to store our frozen food products, ensuring we can continue to provide the delicious, quality food our clients count on."

Every year, ONE CARE prepares and delivers more than 20,000 hot meals through their Meals on Wheels program and for five Adult Day Programs in Clinton, Wingham, Goderich, Grand Bend and Exeter. The kitchen also produces an additional 2,300 meals a year for the Congregate Dining for Seniors program, held each Wednesday at the Clinton site.

"The kitchen here is essential to our meal service programs, which are growing," said Scanlon. "Our meal production in the Clinton kitchen has expanded by 50 per cent over the last year alone, as the program has expanded into more rural areas in North and South Huron."

"It was an honour for us to see in person how Gay Lea Foundation dollars have helped ONE CARE provide much-needed supportive services in this community," said Foundation Chair, Rachel Caldara. "It was clear to those of us visiting that these services, delivered with warmth and compassion by a dedicated team of staff and volunteers, offer a critical network of support and a caring community for seniors and people with disabilities living at home."



Gay Lea Foundation Directors (from left to right) Robin Redstone, Rachel Caldara, Robert Hillborn, Gerry Van den Hengel and Don Dietrich join Kathy Scanlon, Executive Director of ONE CARE (centre) and Charlene Tolton, Supervisor of Nutrition Programs, for a cheque presentation in Clinton.