



Town of Aurora
Mayor's Golf Classic Funds Committee
Meeting Agenda

Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

Time: 10 a.m.

Location: Video Conference

		Pages
1.	Call to Order	
2.	Land Acknowledgement	
3.	Approval of the Agenda	
4.	Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof	
5.	Receipt of the Minutes	
5.1	Mayor's Golf Classic Funds Committee Meeting Minutes of September 24, 2025	1
	1. That the Mayor's Golf Classic Funds Committee meeting minutes of September 24, 2025, be received for information.	
6.	Delegations	
7.	Matters for Consideration	
7.1	Application from Huayun (Aurora) Multicultural Association; Re: Funding for Seniors Activities Space Rental Fees	5
	1. That the Application from Huayun (Aurora) Multicultural Association; Re: Funding for Seniors Activities Space Rental Fees be received; and	
	2. That the Committee provide direction to:	
	a. Grant the funding request; or	
	b. Deny the funding request; or	
	c. Defer consideration of the funding request to a future meeting.	

7.2 Application from Canadian Mental Health Association, York Region Branch; Re: Funding for Lead the Way Campaign in support of York Region Mental Healthy Community Care Centre 18

1. That the Application from Canadian Mental Health Association, York Region Branch; Re: Funding for Lead the Way Campaign in support of York Region Mental Healthy Community Care Centre be received; and
2. That the Committee provide direction to:
 - a. Grant the funding request; or
 - b. Deny the funding request; or
 - c. Defer consideration of the funding request to a future meeting.

7.3 Application from A WWB Production, Inc.; Re: Funding for Silver Stars - Female Leadership and Youth Empowerment Initiative 40

1. That the Application from A WWB Production, Inc.; Re: Funding for Silver Stars - Female Leadership and Youth Empowerment Initiative be received; and
2. That the Committee provide direction to:
 - a. Grant the funding request; or
 - b. Deny the funding request; or
 - c. Defer consideration of the funding request to a future meeting.

8. Informational Items

9. New Business

10. Adjournment



**Town of Aurora
Mayor's Golf Classic Funds Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Time: 10 a.m.

Location: Video Conference

Committee Members: Angela Covert (Chair)
Robert Gaby (left at 10:36 a.m.)
Manuel Veloso (Vice Chair)
Ping Zhang

Members Absent: Elia Elliott

Other Attendees: Jason Gaertner, Manager, Financial Management
Michael de Rond, Town Clerk

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Committee acknowledged that the meeting took place on Anishinaabe lands, the traditional and treaty territory of the Chippewas of Georgina Island, recognizing the many other Nations whose presence here continues to this day, the special relationship the Chippewas have with the lands and waters of this territory, and that Aurora has shared responsibility for the stewardship of these lands and waters. It was noted that Aurora is part of the treaty lands of the Mississaugas and Chippewas, recognized through Treaty #13 and the Williams Treaties of 1923.

Mayor's Golf Classic Funds Committee Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2025

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3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Ping Zhang

Seconded by Robert Gaby

That the agenda as circulated by Legislative Services be approved.

Carried

4. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50.*

5. Receipt of the Minutes

5.1 Mayor's Golf Classic Funds Committee Meeting Minutes of August 20, 2025

Moved by Manuel Veloso

Seconded by Ping Zhang

1. That the Mayor's Golf Classic Funds Committee meeting minutes of August 20, 2025, be received for information.

Carried

6. Delegations

None

7. Matters for Consideration

7.1 Application from Shadowpath Theatre Productions; Re: Funding for Apprenticeship Program

Moved by Robert Gaby

Seconded by Manuel Veloso

1. That the Application from Shadowpath Theatre Productions; Re: Funding for Apprenticeship Program be received; and

Mayor's Golf Classic Funds Committee Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2025

3

2. That the Committee grant the funding request in the amount of \$5,000.00.

Defeated

7.2 Application from Chinese Senior's Art Society of Canada; Re: Funding for East Meets West Festival Gala**Moved by** Ping Zhang**Seconded by** Manuel Veloso

1. That the Application from Chinese Senior's Art Society of Canada; Re: Funding for East Meets West Festival Gala be received; and
2. That the Committee grant the funding request in the amount of \$5,000.00.

Carried

7.3 Application from Purse Project York Region; Re: Funding for 2026 Annual Campaign**Moved by** Ping Zhang**Seconded by** Robert Gaby

1. That the Application from Purse Project York Region; Re: Funding for 2026 Annual Campaign be received; and
2. That the Committee grant the funding request in the amount of \$5,000.00.

Carried

8. Informational Items

None

9. New Business

There was brief discussion regarding translation services being available at future committee meetings if required.

Mayor's Golf Classic Funds Committee Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2025

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10. Adjournment

Moved by Manuel Veloso
Seconded by Ping Zhang

That the meeting be adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Carried

Application to Receive Funds

The Aurora Mayor's Charity Golf Classic has raised over \$1 million to date and has financially assisted several community organizations to provide much needed services to residents living in the Town of Aurora. Recipient selection is conducted annually by the application review and disbursement committee of the Town of Aurora Mayor's Charity Golf Classic and is based on the information provided in this application.

Funding Criteria and guidelines;

- Individual applicants and community groups must demonstrate financial hardship or a limited means to retain funds in another manner. Individual applications demonstrating financial hardship will be kept confidential.
- Individuals and organizations may not receive funding for more than two consecutive years.
- Funding requests for more than \$5,000 in a calendar year will not be accepted.
- Funding requests for more than 50% of an initiative will not be considered and applicants must demonstrate how the remaining funds will be or have been obtained
- Applications should demonstrate a benefit to the residents of the Town of Aurora that receiving the funding will provide
- Successful applicants will be required to report back in any way they deem appropriate regarding the utilization of funds within six (6) months of receiving funds

Name of Individual or Community Group *

Huayun (Aurora) Multicultural Association

What percentage of your organization's clients reside in Aurora? *

80%

Address

Street Number and Name *

City/ Town *

Aurora

Province *

Ontario

Postal Code *

Contact Information

Email Address *

Phone Number *

On a separate document, please outline your initiative and any supporting documentation you have. The information being provided should align with the funding criteria guidelines found above. Please attach your documentation with this this form.

**Subject: Please Help Us Get Through This Winter
(Town of Aurora Mayor's Charity Golf Classic Grant Request)**

Dear Members of the Review and Disbursement Committee,
Huayun (Aurora) Multicultural Association has long been dedicated to promoting wellness, cultural connection, and social inclusion for seniors in our community. For the past two years, we have been using the gymnasiums of **Regency Acres P.S.** and **Aurora Heights P.S.** as our main activity venues (Tuesday 6:00–8:00 p.m. and Friday 8:00–10:00 p.m.). However, as winter approaches, the early darkness and icy roads make evening driving unsafe for our senior members, whose average age is now over 70, with the oldest being 88. At the members' request, all evening activities have been suspended since last week, even though rental fees have already been paid.

To address this sudden situation, our board and volunteers have worked hard to find safe and accessible alternatives:

- **Partnership with Sobeys:** We have reached a friendly agreement with the management team at Sobeys. Every second Wednesday morning (9:00–11:00 a.m.), seniors can gather and socialize freely in their dining area, with Sobeys kindly providing free coffee. The first session was held on October 29 and welcomed over 30 seniors. **This activity is open to all seniors, not limited to our members.**
- **Rental of the Aurora Cultural Centre's Dancing Studio (50 Victoria St):** From November 14, 2024, to March 26, 2025, we will rent the space every Thursday morning (9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.) for seniors to enjoy dance, tai chi, and music band activities. These sessions are also open to all seniors in the community.

However, these new arrangements have resulted in additional expenses beyond our approved annual budget:

- Rental fees already paid: **\$1,269.70** (including \$250 deposit)
- Remaining rental fees (Jan–Mar 2025): **\$2,330.08**
- Insurance already paid: **\$365.00**
- Additional insurance cost: **\$1,650.00**

Total: \$5,714.08

Our association currently has about **\$8,000** in the account, including a

\$2,000 credit card security deposit. The remaining \$6,000 is designated for activities through April 2026 – including Christmas, New Year, and the culturally significant Lunar New Year celebrations, as well as our regular weekly programs. If \$5,714.08 must now be used for these unexpected costs, the upcoming festive and community programs would face great difficulty, leaving the holidays uncomfortably quiet for many seniors.

At present, our president and three vice presidents – all low-income seniors aged 70 to 76 – have personally advanced **\$5,000** (President \$2,000; each Vice President \$1,000). The board has resolved that this amount should be reimbursed in the future. However, given their year-round volunteer service and commitment, we sincerely hope they will not have to shoulder further financial pressure.

We respectfully request a total grant of \$5,000 from the *Town of Aurora Mayor's Charity Golf Classic Fund* to help the association get through this winter – so that our seniors can continue gathering safely and warmly during the daytime, stay active and connected, and celebrate the cultural traditions that mean so much to them.

All of our programs – including weekly gatherings and festival celebrations – **are open to the entire community and not limited to members.**

Your support will truly help our seniors stay warm, active, and connected this winter.

Thank you very much for your kind attention and continued support for our community's seniors.

With sincere appreciation,
Huayun (Aurora) Multicultural Association

Hongjun Jiang
Vice President
Huayun (Aurora) Multicultural Association
November 07, 2025

Document prepared by Anne Zhang

Brief Introduction to Aurora Huayun Multicultural Association (2025)

Aurora Huayun Multicultural Association is the first and largest Chinese seniors' association in Aurora. It is a registered non-profit organization dedicated to promoting cultural exchange, inclusion, and active community participation among seniors, newcomers, and local residents.

The association was first formed in 2018 by several retired seniors and was officially registered as a non-profit organization in September 2023. Today, it has 208 active members and offers two regular weekly gatherings and a bi-weekly seniors' chat and tea social ("Tea Time").

Huayun's programs include choir, dance, modeling, Tai Chi, band, gardening, and various social and cultural activities. Members come from diverse backgrounds, including Chinese, Filipino, Vietnamese, Hong Kong, and Taiwanese communities.

In the past year, with the support of government grants, the association's senior programs have expanded significantly.

New initiatives include:

- Day trips for seniors
- Community education lectures and workshops
- ESL learning classes
- Family and community gardening projects
- Birthday celebrations for seniors
- Line dancing sessions and performances
- "Seniors Tea Time" – a relaxed social space for conversation and friendship
- Intergenerational Tai Chi for Cultural Heritage

Aurora Huayun has also become a capable **event organizer**, hosting a large line dancing festival in an Aurora city park with senior teams from **Aurora, Markham, Richmond Hill, and Newmarket**.

The association continues to build strong community partnerships with:

- **Aurora Seniors Centre** – Mandarin choir and ESL programs
- **Fanghua Art Troupe** – Lunar New Year celebrations at the Aurora Public Library (2024 & 2025)
- **Centre for Information and Community Services (CICS)** – Gardening, bridge, and wellness workshops
- **Senior groups from Markham, Richmond Hill, and Newmarket** – Joint line dancing and gardening activities
- **Yi Yang Academy**– Practicing Tai Chi with Children program

To support ongoing growth and modernization, Aurora Huayun has advanced its **digital management and outreach**.

The association has established an **official website**, **Facebook page**, and **YouTube channel**, and has launched **online activities and meetings via Zoom**, allowing members to stay connected and participate virtually when needed.

Aurora Huayun is managed by a **13-member Board of Directors** and a **Material Management Department** responsible for equipment and assets. The association has also formalized its membership, administrative, and financial systems to ensure transparency and good governance.

All of our programs are **run entirely by volunteers**. In recognition of their outstanding volunteer service, President **Yingxin Zhang** and Vice President **Hongjun Jiang** were each

awarded the *King Charles III Coronation Medal* this year — a meaningful honor that reflects both their personal dedication and the growing contribution of Chinese senior communities to Canadian society.

Our mission is to bring seniors together, enrich lives, and build a warm, inclusive, and vibrant community for everyone.

Follow us at: <https://facebook.com/AuroraHuayun>

<https://youtu.be/AuroraHuayun>

Webpage : <https://huayunauroracanada.com> (under construction)

The following receipts record funds advanced to Huayun (Aurora) Multicultural Association by its members to help the Association during a difficult period:

From top to bottom:

- President Yingxin Zhang – \$2,000
- Vice President Hongjun Jiang – \$1,000
- Vice President Yuzhi He – \$1,000
- Amy Wang (Qiuyue Wang) – \$1,000

RECEIVED FROM REÇU DE	No. 2100	
张晓静垫付活动场地费		\$ 2,000
The Sum of la somme de	贰仟元整	
Dollars		
2025. 11. 7		
RECEIVED FROM REÇU DE	No. 2103	
姜建萍垫付活动场地费		\$ 1,000
The Sum of la somme de	壹仟元整	
Dollars		
2025. 11. 7		
RECEIVED FROM REÇU DE	No. 2102	
何玉芝垫付活动场地费		\$ 1,000
The Sum of la somme de	壹仟元整	
Dollars		
2025. 11. 7		
RECEIVED FROM REÇU DE	No. 2104	
王月秋垫付活动场地费		\$ 1,000
The Sum of la somme de	壹仟元整	
Dollars		
2025. 11. 7		

HUAYUN (AURORA) MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the 12 months ended December 31, 2024

	Current Year	Previous Year
Revenues		
Membership Fee Collected	960.00	320.00
Sponsorship Received	10,000.00	-
Other Donations	12,677.00	270.00
Total Revenues	<u>23,637.00</u>	<u>590.00</u>

Expenditures		
Activity Expenditures	12,479.34	-
Depreciation of Capital Assets	723.50	-
Bank Services Charge	95.55	9.74
Office Supplies	103.74	620.31
Rent	-	163.14
Professional Fees		
Application Commission and Legal Fees	2,000.00	-
Total Expenditures	<u>15,402.13</u>	<u>793.19</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	8,234.87	(203.19)
Fund Balance		
Beginning of the Year	(203.19)	-
Fund Balances, End of the Year	<u>8,031.68</u>	<u>(203.19)</u>

28
2025-1-14

HUAYUN (AURORA) MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as at December 31, 2024

	Current Year	Previous Year
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,520.18	756.81
Capital Assets		
Music Instruments for Band	7,235.00	-
Accumulated Depreciation of Capital Assets	(723.50)	-
Total Assets	<u>8,031.68</u>	<u>756.81</u>
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	-	-
Deferred Membership Fee		960.00
Total Liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>960.00</u>
Fund Balance, End of the Year	8,031.68	(203.19)
	<u>8,031.68</u>	<u>756.81</u>

Approved on behalf of the Board:

孫惠敏
Director

2025-1-14
Date



Form 4022
Annual Return

Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act *Loi canadienne sur les organisations à
but non lucratif* (Loi BNL)

Formulaire 4022
Rapport annuel

1	Corporate name Dénomination de l'organisation HUAYUN (Aurora) Multicultural Association
2	Corporation number Numéro de l'organisation 1540518-1
3	Year of filing Année de dépôt 2025
4	Date of last annual meeting of members (YYYY-MM-DD) Date de la dernière assemblée annuelle des membres (AAAA-MM-JJ) 2025-10-28
5	Is the corporation a soliciting corporation? Est-ce qu'il s'agit d'une organisation ayant recours à la sollicitation ? Yes Oui
6	Declaration: I certify that I have relevant knowledge of the corporation and that I am authorized to sign this form. Déclaration : J'atteste que je possède une connaissance suffisante de l'organisation et que je suis autorisé(e) à signer le présent formulaire.

YINGXIN ZHANG
6475147252

A person who makes, or assists in making, a false or misleading statement is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine of not more than \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term of not more than six months or to both (subsection 262(2) of the NFP Act).

La personne qui fait une déclaration fausse ou trompeuse, ou qui aide une personne à faire une telle déclaration, commet une infraction et encourt, sur déclaration de culpabilité par procédure sommaire, une amende maximale de 5 000 \$ et un emprisonnement maximal de six mois ou l'une de ces peines (paragraphe 262(2) de la Loi BNL).

You are providing information required by the NFP Act. Note that both the NFP Act and the *Privacy Act* allow this information to be disclosed to the public. It will be stored in personal information bank number IC/PPU-049.

Vous fournissez des renseignements exigés par la Loi BNL. Il est à noter que la Loi BNL et la *Loi sur les renseignements personnels* permettent que de tels renseignements soient divulgués au public. Ils seront stockés dans la banque de renseignements personnels numéro IC/PPU-049.

10:26 41%

X My Account | Aurora Commu... ...
anc.ca.apm.activecommunities.com

Other Service ▼

Organization Ser... ▲

Huayun (Aurora) Edit
Multicultural Association

Aurora, ON

Account View Det...
balance

Credit on account \$0.00

Current balance **\$2,330.08**

Due now **\$0.00** ↑

List Organization Prior Transactions

☰ ☐ <

2:34 58%

X Listcom

Search criteria ▼

Nov 6, 2023 - Nov 6, 2025 Reservations

Reservations

Reservation
No.3076879.076
Huayun(Aurora) Weekly Cultural Activities
Nov 5, 2025 7:52 AM
\$1,269.70

Reservations

Permit Charges Modification
No.3072173.076
Aug 19, 2025 10:16 AM ↑
\$0.00

Reservations

☰ ☐ <

Rent fee for Aurora Cultural Center Dancing Studio .
Paid \$ 1269.70
Due December 24, 2025 \$ 2330.08



Line Dacing show with other 4 senior teams from Newmarket, Markham, Richmond Hill at Town park Aurora ,09 17 2025



Drum performance , 6th Dragon Festival Toronto , 08 29 and 31 2025
Choir performance 24th international Senirs Fastival ,10 12 , 2025



Mid-Autumn Festival and Birthday party



Volunteer Awards for President Yingxin Zhang and Vice President hongjun jiang



Day trip to Elora On /weekly English study



My back yard garden program 2025



Kids Taichi summer camp with Elamb Acadamy

Application to Receive Funds

The Aurora Mayor's Charity Golf Classic has raised over \$1 million to date and has financially assisted several community organizations to provide much needed services to residents living in the Town of Aurora. Recipient selection is conducted annually by the application review and disbursement committee of the Town of Aurora Mayor's Charity Golf Classic and is based on the information provided in this application.

Funding Criteria and guidelines;

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- Applications should demonstrate a benefit to the residents of the Town of Aurora that receiving the funding will provide
- Successful applicants will be required to report back in any way they deem appropriate regarding the utilization of funds within six (6) months of receiving funds

Name of Individual or Community Group *

Canadian Mental Health Association, York Region Branch

What percentage of your organization's clients reside in Aurora? *

35

Address

Street Number and Name *

#5-1101 Nicholson Road

City/ Town *

Newmarket

Page 19 of 71

Province *

Ontario

Postal Code *

L3Y 9C3

Contact Information

Email Address *

cmatzig@cmha-yr.on.ca

Phone Number *

(289) 879-2450

On a separate document, please outline your initiative and any supporting documentation you have. The information being provided should align with the funding criteria guidelines found above. Please attach your documentation with this this form.

Project Title: *Lead the Way* Campaign in Support of the York Region Mental Health Community Care Centre

Applicant Organization: Canadian Mental Health Association, York Region & South Simcoe (CMHA YRSS)

Executive Summary

Imagine a mother in Aurora, awake at 2 am, terrified because her teenage son is in crisis. She doesn't know where to turn. The emergency room feels overwhelming, and calling 911 seems drastic.

Right now, this is the reality for too many families in our community.

The *Lead the Way* Campaign is changing the story. It's a bold \$2.5 million initiative to support the creation of York Region's first Mental Health Community Care Centre, located in Newmarket but serving all regional municipalities, including the Town of Aurora. Serving over 11,000 individuals annually across York Region, including Aurora's rapidly growing population, the Centre will be a place where hope lives, a place where someone's first crisis can be their last.

This Centre will provide 24/7 low barrier access to crisis care, including 10 crisis stabilization beds and 10 withdrawal management beds, and wraparound supports that guide people from crisis to recovery. Services will be free, evidence-based, culturally responsive, and trauma-informed, delivered by a multidisciplinary team of psychiatrists, nurses, peer supporters, and care navigators.

It's not a building; it's a lifeline for Aurora families.

Our Vision: Turning Crisis into Care

Mental health challenges don't wait for office hours. They strike in the middle of the night, on weekends, when families feel most alone. Mental health crises often lead to fragmented care, repeated ER visits, and police involvement. Our vision is simple yet powerful: breaking this cycle by creating a one-stop hub for comprehensive care that addresses immediate needs and sets individuals on a path to recovery.

Because no one should face a mental health crisis without immediate, expert, and compassionate health.

What Makes This Centre Different:

- **Always Open:** 24/7 access means immediate help for individuals 12 years of age and older, when it's needed most. No waiting for appointments.

- **Integrated Beds:** 10 crisis stabilization beds and 10 withdrawal management beds for safe, calm, therapeutic care for individuals 16 years and older.
- **Comprehensive Services:** From crisis intervention, to therapy, peer support, and care navigation, all located under one roof in partnership with more than 20 community agencies, including local hospitals, police, paramedics, and social service providers.
- **Dignity and Respect:** Evidence-based, trauma-informed care grounded in best practices and culture responsiveness.
- **Voluntary Treatment:** The Centre is not a locked facility; all care is voluntary, and no individuals will be held under Form 1.

How Care Will Be Delivered:

Behind every service is a team of people who care deeply, psychiatrists, nurses, social workers, addiction specialists, peer supporters, and Indigenous traditional healers. After stabilization, we won't just send people home; we will walk with them, connecting them to housing, employment, and ongoing therapy.

For Aurora's diverse community (38.9% visible minorities, 36.8% immigrants), we will offer multilingual support and culturally adapted programs. Because healing looks different for everyone, and every story matters.

Who Can Access It:

- All York Region residents, including Aurora's 66,410 residents.
- No-cost services, removing financial barriers.
- Inclusive and accessible for youth, seniors, newcomers, and those with complex needs.

Why This Matters for Aurora

Aurora residents face the same mental health challenges as the rest of York Region, yet timely access to care remains a critical gap. Currently, individuals in crisis often resort to 911 calls and emergency departments, which are not equipped for specialized mental health care. The Centre will:

- Reduce reliance on emergency departments and police interventions
- Provide immediate stabilization and withdrawal management services
- Offer integrated care pathways for Aurora residents, ensuring continuity of care close to home

Aurora's population is growing rapidly, with 66,410 residents as of October 2025, up from 62,057 in 2021. The town has a diverse demographic profile: 17% under age 15, 15.4% seniors, and a median age of 40.9. Approximately 36.8% of residents are immigrants, and

38.9% identify as visible minorities, underscoring the need for culturally competent mental health services.

Emergency department visits for mental health and substance use have increased by 27% in the past five years, with a projected rise of 63% in the near future. Last year, 79 suicides occurred in York Region, and one in three students needed mental health support but didn't seek it; one in five reported self-harm. The Centre is deigned to meet this urgent, growing need.

Behind these numbers are real people, neighbours, friends, family members, who deserve better options than an overcrowded ER waiting room or a police intervention. This Centre will give Aurora residents a place to turn, a place of hope, healing, and dignity.

Funding Request

We respectfully request \$5,000 from the Aurora Mayor's Charity Golf Classic to help make this vision a reality.

The Town of Aurora will join other donors to the *Lead the Way* campaign, including the Government of Ontario, Regional Municipality of York, Town of Newmarket, York Region Police, York Region Police Service Board, UniversalCare Inc., Bazil Developments, The Kyle Brandon Traves Foundation, Innisfil Community Foundation, the Dunin Foundation and other generous individuals in our community.

Impact on Aurora

Your investment will:

- Directly benefit Aurora residents in crisis, reducing ER visits and police involvement
- Support families and caregivers, improving community well-being
- Contribute to a regional solution that strengthens Aurora's health infrastructure and aligns with the town's commitment to supporting vulnerable populations

Respectfully submitted by:

Catherine Matzig, CFRE
Senior Director, Philanthropy

Canadian Mental Health Association, York Region Branch

cmatzig@cmha-yr.on.ca | 289.879.2450



Lead the Way

A Community Solution
for Crisis Care

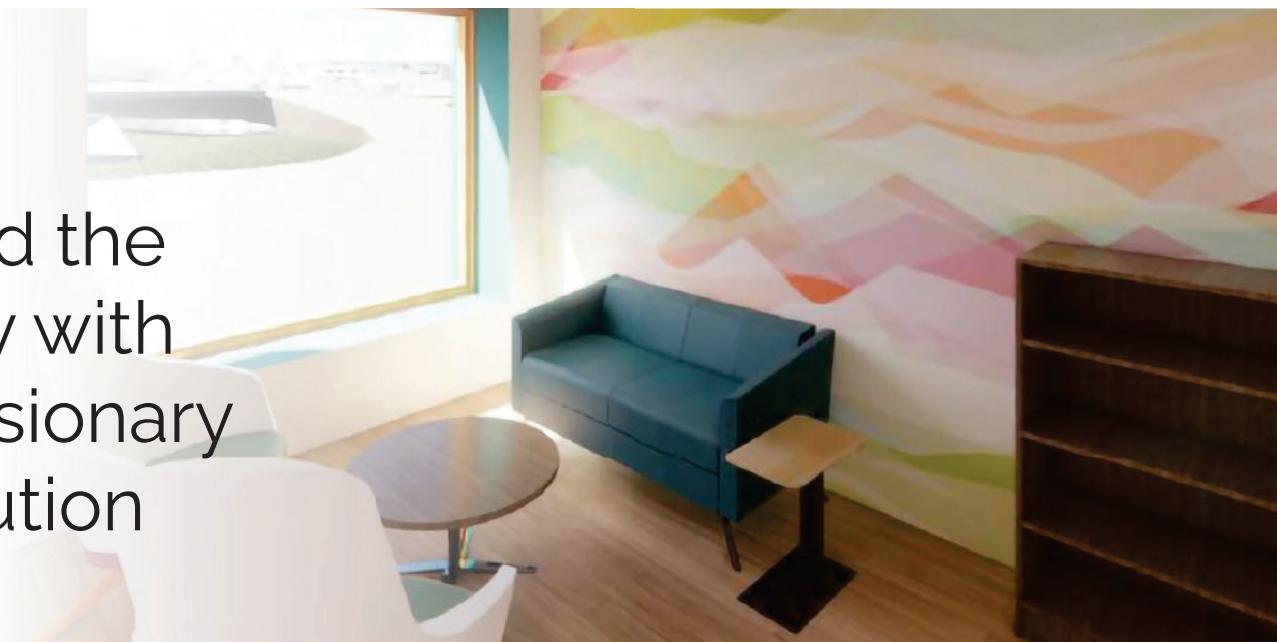
York Region Mental Health
Community Care Centre

Lead the Way



**Canadian Mental
Health Association**
York and South Simcoe

Lead the Way with a Visionary Solution



We believe in a world where there is a cure for mental illness, and we will do our part in the community.

We believe service delivery can be radically improved to solve the challenges faced by people today, realizing true progress and then spreading and scaling these advances across the province, nation and even globally.

With the Ontario Government's commitment, we are building York Region's first-ever Mental Health Community Care Centre, an innovative facility providing free, evidence-based mental health care for youth (ages 12 and up), adults, and families when they need it most.



Together, with your support, we will create a service that will ensure someone's first mental health crisis is their last.

From design to delivery, we aim to address the most pressing challenges by working together with more than 20 partners including hospitals, primary care providers, community organizations, and first responders. Together, we will provide timely, compassionate support, alleviate pressure on emergency departments, and break the cycle of crisis.

The York Region Mental Health Community Care Centre (The Centre) will deliver a range of specialized treatments including peer, clinical, psychiatric, and child and family care that is culturally appropriate, and connects individuals with their next steps in recovery and healing.

For those aged 16 and older, needing stabilization, 10 crisis beds and 10 withdrawal management beds are available.

This is a call to action, an opportunity to solve the never-ending experience of crisis to create and revolutionize mental health care.

Join us now and lead the way to better mental health care.



Canadian Mental Health Association
York and South Simcoe

For more than 40 years, Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) York Region South Simcoe has been leading the way in compassionate, high-quality mental health care, supporting youth, adults and family caregivers during their most vulnerable times. CMHA is proud to deliver more than 30 free mental health and addiction services to maintain and improve mental health, build resilience and support recovery.



Lead the Way in Person-Led Care

At the heart of our vision is a vibrant, inclusive space where you feel welcome, supported and heard.

The Centre is more than a building. It's a place where people receive care with dignity and respect. Most importantly, it eliminates the harmful cycle of navigating a fragmented system by delivering immediate, compassionate care under one roof and supporting the connection to your next step in recovery.

Neda*, a single mother in Richmond Hill, was overjoyed by her baby's arrival, but postpartum depression soon overwhelmed her. Isolated and unable to express her pain due to a language barrier, she felt trapped in a world where help seemed out of reach. The Centre offers mothers like Neda compassionate, culturally sensitive care, breaking the silence and helping them heal, for themselves and their children.

To meet the unique needs of community, our dedicated team includes physicians, psychologists, nurses, youth mental health specialists, social workers, counsellors, care navigators, peer supporters, Indigenous traditional healers, and more.

Located in Newmarket, The Centre is open 24/7. It is centrally located to essential services and public transit, making access easier for everyone in the community.



Believe everyone should receive compassion care suited to their individual needs, starting with "What brought you here today? How can we help you?"



*A Stock image and first name only were used to maintain confidentiality



Lead the Way with Partnership

The Centre is more than a response to a growing need; it is a commitment to building a healthier, more resilient community. We know the best outcomes arise from collaboration, with the individual, the family and loved ones. It is why we have also joined forces with partners—a multi-disciplinary team of mental health professionals, hospitals, community organizations, police and paramedics—building a powerful network of care.

Central to our vision is rigorous evaluation and improvement models, ensuring we use experience and data at every encounter to learn, and improve the quality of care. Communities, societies and research evolve. Our commitment will be to adopt evidence-based best practices and share our results to ensure we are all avid learners here in York Region and across Canada.



Believe in a world where everyone receives the highest quality of care in the midst of a crisis. May someone never have to experience the distress and suffering of another crisis again.

Our Community is at a Breaking Point



1 in 5 students report intentionally harming themselves



1 in 3 students felt they needed professional mental health support in the past year but did not seek it



Last year in Canada, there were approximately 15,000 deaths due to alcohol and 8,049 deaths due to drug poisoning



4,500 Canadians die by suicide every year—equivalent to 12 lives lost each day



Last year in York Region, 257 people attempted suicide and 79 people died by suicide



Over the past five years, visits to emergency departments for mental health and substance use increased by 27%, with a projected 63% increase



Believe we can change these stats together by doing our part.

Lead the Way with Compassion

On April 29, 2013, Jim experienced every parent's worst nightmare. His son Jake died by suicide just weeks before his 22nd birthday, leaving an unimaginable void in his family's life.

The heartbreaking reality is that Jim's family is not alone.

Jake and Jim shared a special bond through their shared love of baseball. By age 17, Jake was an exceptionally talented left-handed pitcher, known for his 90-mph fastball, which drew the attention of MLB scouts. In 2009, he was drafted by the Toronto Blue Jays, becoming the highest-ranked high school selection in Canada. But behind his athletic success was a struggle with mental health that Jim could never fully understand.

Despite managing ADHD and Tourette's with incredible strength throughout his childhood, Jake's world began to darken when he left for college. Depression crept in quietly, then grew relentlessly. Despite Jim's efforts, with therapy, medication and unwavering support, Jake's struggle with mental illness ended tragically.



Image of Jake generously provided by the family



Believe we can prevent tragic stories like Jim and Jake's by providing families with a safe place where they receive immediate care when they need it most.

Lead the Way Together

The Province of Ontario has made a significant investment in The Centre. The Regional Municipality of York has also made a major contribution to its creation.

\$2.5 million is needed to ensure this space goes beyond the ordinary.

Only through the leadership of generous donors like you can we build a recovery-focused, welcoming and dignified environment that offers truly life-changing experiences. With your support, we can make this the largest and most impactful project Canadian Mental Health Association has ever undertaken, shaping the future of mental health care in our community for generations to come.

Together, we can create a future where mental health is prioritized, stigma is erased, and every individual receives personalized, compassionate treatment, ensuring someone's first crisis is their last.

Join us at www.cmha-yr.on.ca/centre-project

Your gift isn't just support, it's a powerful statement of your commitment to changing lives. It ensures The Centre will become a beacon of hope, providing vital mental health and addiction services to one of the fastest-growing communities.

The Centre requires extraordinary generosity, above and beyond annual contributions, to bring the Centre to life and create a legacy of healing. Gifts can be pledged over five years in many forms, including cash, securities, real property, or trusts, as we aim to meet our goal by 2026.



Believe you can, indeed, lead the way.



Lead the Way with Campaign Leadership



Paul Bailey



Eric Jolliffe



Lina Bigioni



MPP, Dawn Gallagher Murphy



Cherry Rose Tan



Marla Traves

Our campaign is led by a dedicated team of community leaders who are committed to making this vision a reality. These individuals bring their expertise, passion, and commitment to ensuring that The Centre has the resources it needs to provide the highest level of care.

The members of the Campaign Cabinet, in partnership with CMHA York Region South Simcoe's leadership, are focused on inspiring transformative gifts during this multi-year campaign.

"This passionate team of mental health champions are leading the way for Canadian Mental Health Association York Region South Simcoe's first capital campaign inspiring transformative donations that will change the face of mental health care in our community and beyond."

Rebecca Shields
CEO, Canadian Mental Health Association York Region South Simcoe





**Canadian Mental
Health Association**
York and South Simcoe

Lead the Way

Catherine Matzig, CFRE
Senior Director, Philanthropy

289-879-2450
cmatzig@cmha-yr.on.ca

Canadian Mental Health Association York Region South Simcoe
1101 Nicholson Road, Unit 5
Newmarket, Ontario, L3Y 9C3

Charitable business number: 123635534 RR0001



York Region Mental Health Community Care Centre: Lead the Way

A Community Solution to Crisis Care



Community Care Centre Mission & Goals

Mission

Ensure an individual's first mental health and/or addictions crisis is their last

Goals

Support and de-escalate clients in a mental health and/or addictions crisis

Develop, with clients and their caregivers, a plan to address the underlying issues that precipitated the crisis



Canadian Mental
Health Association
York and South Simcoe

Project Timeline

Aug-Oct 2024	Aug-Dec 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2026	Apr 2026-Apr 2027	June 2027
Zoning Approved	Detailed Design	MOH Capital & Costing	Construction Submission	Tender Doc/Permits	Construction	Soft Opening



Located at 17255 Yonge Street, Newmarket

Although based in Newmarket, this is a Regional effort—one that will benefit and impact every municipality in York Region.

This is illustrated in Regional Council's approval in December 2024 of a one-time capital contribution of \$5million as a grant to support the construction of the Mental Health Community Care Centre.

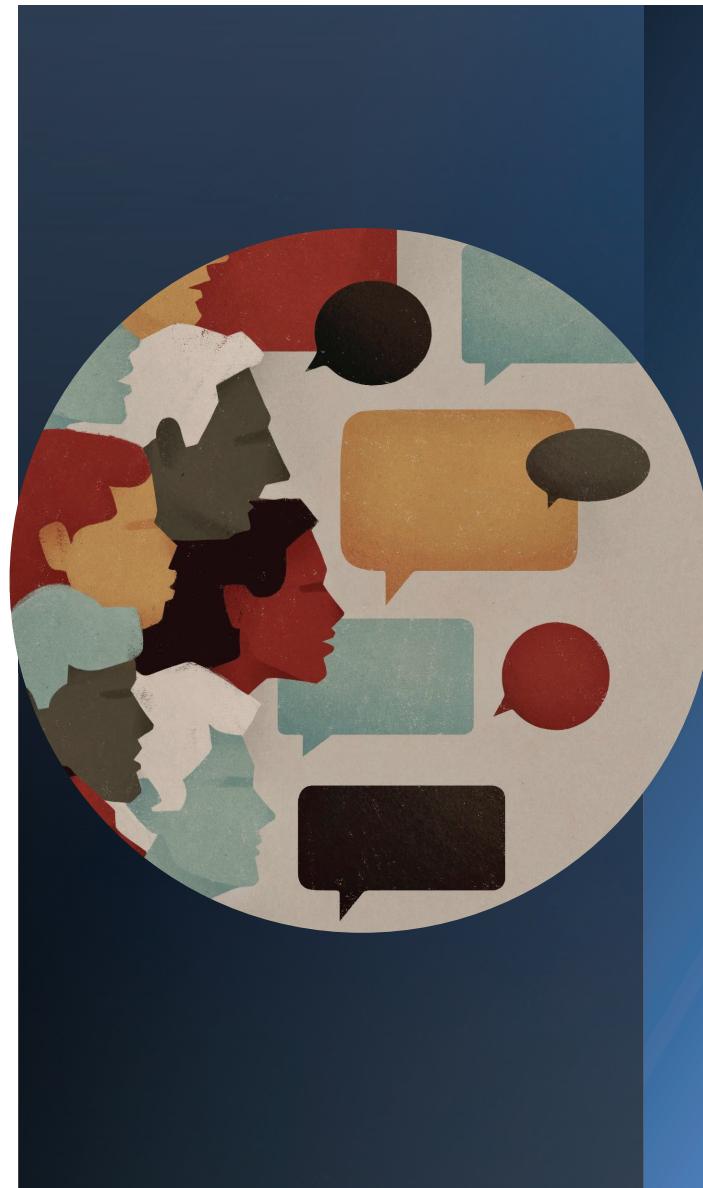
Key Partners



Canadian Mental
Health Association
York and South Simcoe
Mental health for all



YSSN
YOUR SUPPORT
SERVICES NETWORK





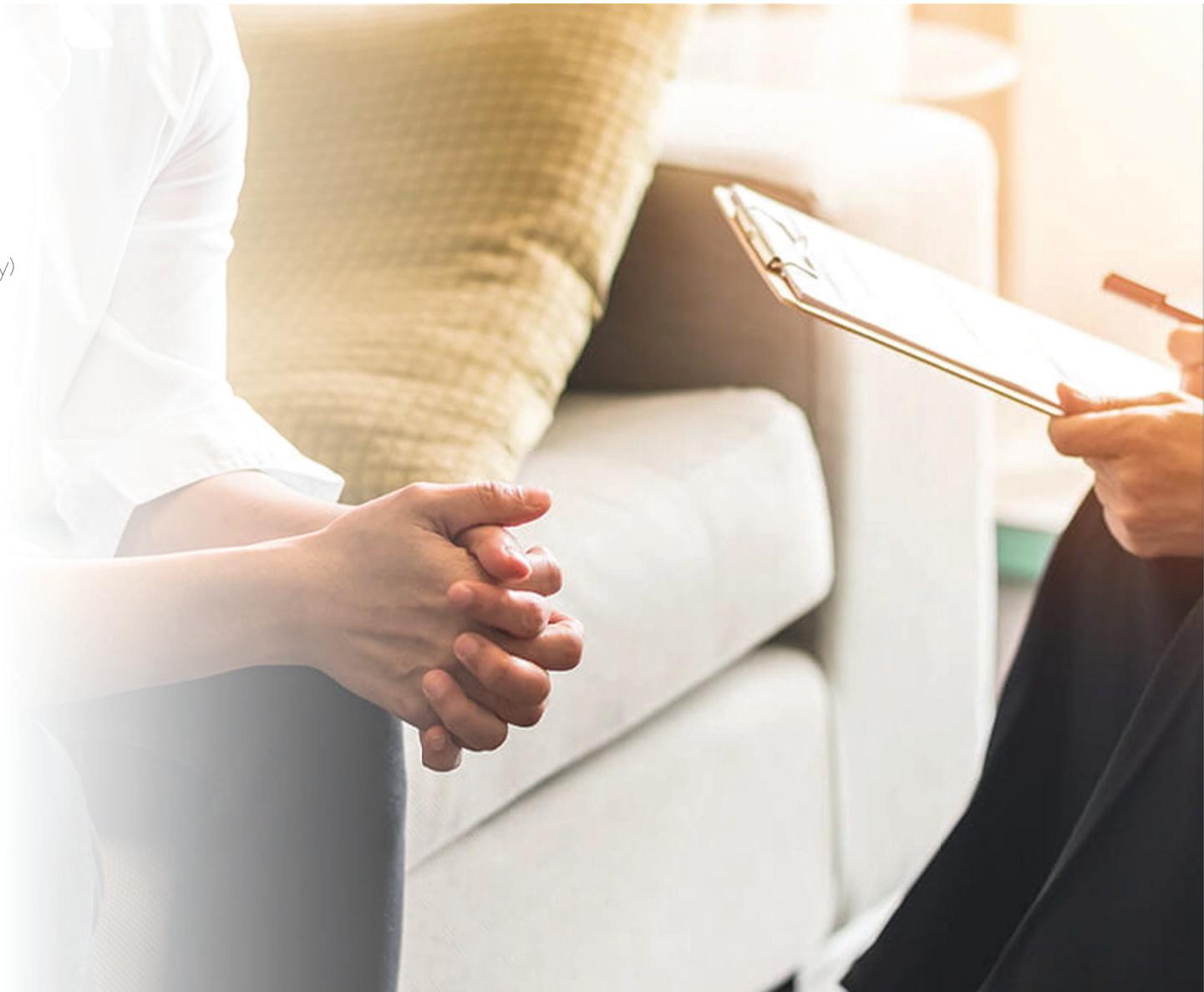
Operational Review

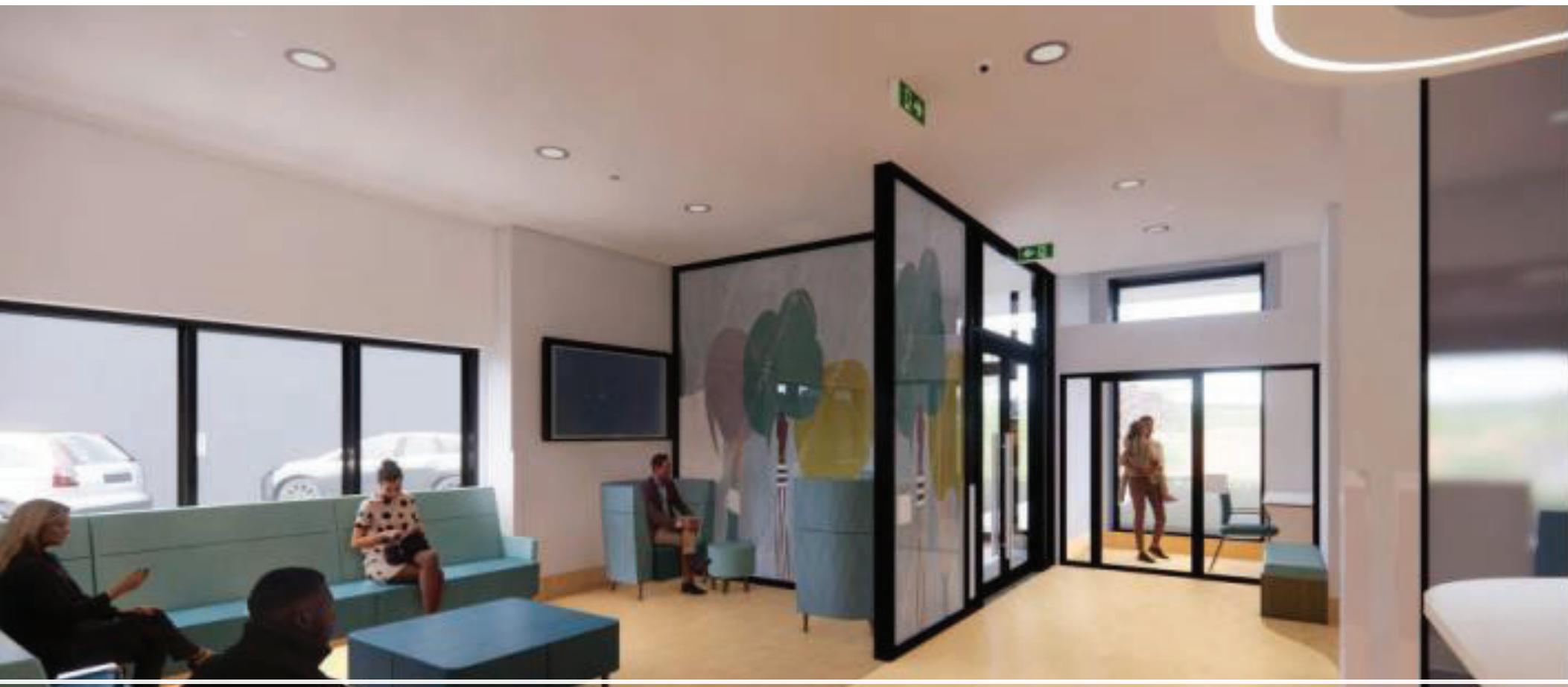
- 10 crisis beds and 10 withdrawal management beds for individuals aged 16+ requiring short term stabilization and de-escalation
- Voluntary treatment—no individuals will be held under Form 1
- Integrated and person-focused care from a multidisciplinary team including psychiatrists, nurses, peer supporters, youth specialists, and care navigators
- Culturally responsive services, including Indigenous traditional health and multilingual care
- Trauma-informed practices designed to support individuals and families in distress
- Immediate access to mental health services, reducing reliance on emergency departments and police interventions

York Region has a population of 1.2 million yet lacks a centralized mental health crisis care facility. The Centre will provide low-barrier access to mental health care and serve 11,000+ individuals annually.

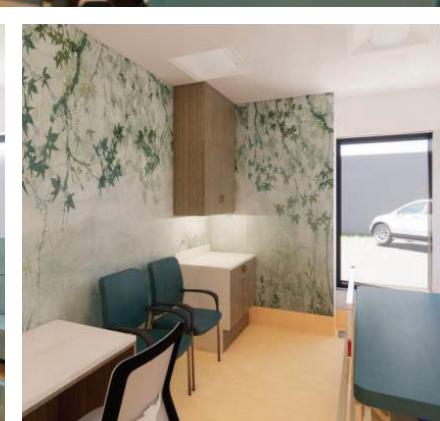
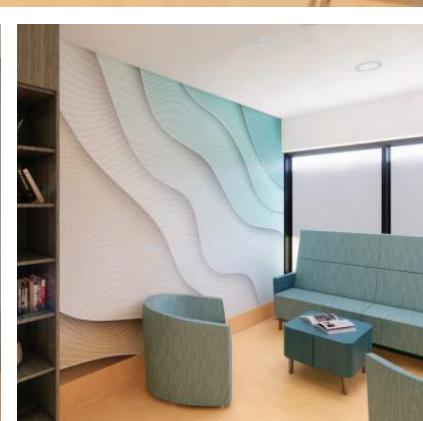
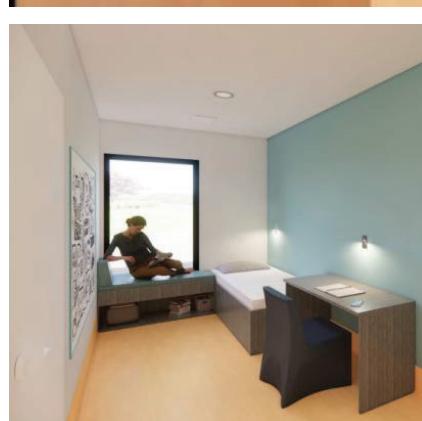
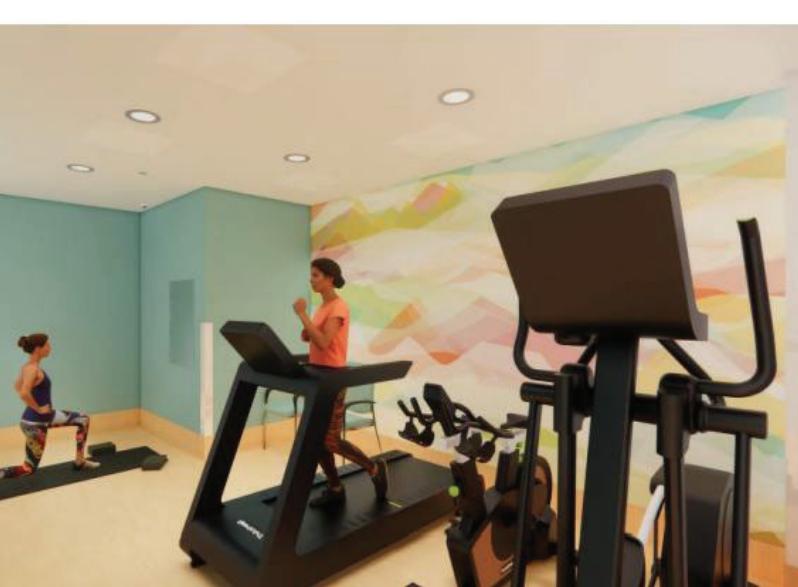
Staffing

- Physicians (primary care & psychiatry)
- Nurse Practitioners
- Nurses (RNs & RPNS)
- Child Mental Health Specialists
- Social Workers
- Counsellors
- Care Navigator/Case Coordinators
- Peer Support
- Aboriginal Traditional Healer
- Administrative & Other Supports:
 - Reception/Clerical
 - Security
 - Housekeeping
 - Maintenance
 - Leadership





Interior Inspiration





Lead the Way Together

Emergency department visits for mental health and addiction in York Region have increased by 27%, with a projected 63% rise. The Centre is a bold, community-driven solution to this urgent need. Your support will help bring this vision to life and ensure that someone's first crisis is their last.

\$2.5 million is needed to ensure this space goes beyond the ordinary

We know the best outcomes arise from collaboration.

Help us create a legacy of healing. Believe you can, indeed, lead the way.



Canadian Mental
Health Association
York and South Simcoe

Application to Receive Funds

The Aurora Mayor's Charity Golf Classic has raised over \$1 million to date and has financially assisted several community organizations to provide much needed services to residents living in the Town of Aurora. Recipient selection is conducted annually by the application review and disbursement committee of the Town of Aurora Mayor's Charity Golf Classic and is based on the information provided in this application.

Funding Criteria and guidelines;

- Individual applicants and community groups must demonstrate financial hardship or a limited means to retain funds in another manner. Individual applications demonstrating financial hardship will be kept confidential.
- Individuals and organizations may not receive funding for more than two consecutive years.
- Funding requests for more than \$5,000 in a calendar year will not be accepted.
- Funding requests for more than 50% of an initiative will not be considered and applicants must demonstrate how the remaining funds will be or have been obtained
- Applications should demonstrate a benefit to the residents of the Town of Aurora that receiving the funding will provide
- Successful applicants will be required to report back in any way they deem appropriate regarding the utilization of funds within six (6) months of receiving funds

Name of Individual or Community Group *

A WWB Production, Inc.

What percentage of your organization's clients reside in Aurora? *

75%

Address

Street Number and Name *

175 Delayne Drive

City/ Town *

Toronto

Page 41 of 71

Province *

Ontario

Postal Code *

L4G 5B2

Contact Information

Email Address *

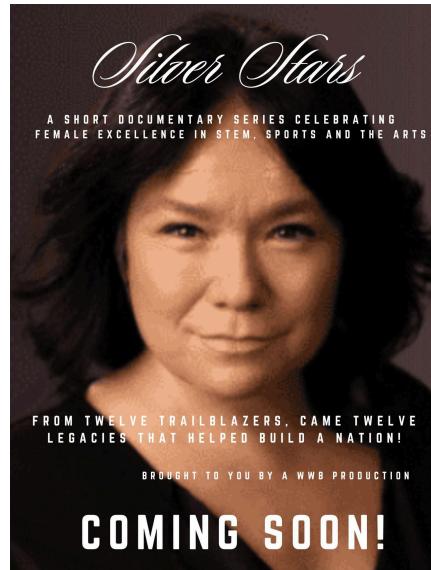
info@awwbproduction.ca

Phone Number *

(647) 224-6917

On a separate document, please outline your initiative and any supporting documentation you have. The information being provided should align with the funding criteria guidelines found above. Please attach your documentation with this this form.

Town of Aurora Community Grant Application: Charity Golf Classic



Lanette Ware-Bushfield, Founder & CEO
A WWB Production, Inc.
Aurora, Ontario

January 6, 2026

Town of Aurora – Community Grants Committee
100 John West Way
Aurora, Ontario

Re: Community Grant Application – Silver Stars (Request: \$5,000)

Dear Members of the Community Grants Committee,

I am writing to share a project that is very close to my heart and deeply connected to the young people who call Aurora home. *Silver Stars* is the next chapter of a docuseries and youth-empowerment initiative that celebrates the strength, courage, and leadership of girls and young women across Ontario. This year, we have the opportunity to bring Aurora's girls into the centre of the story, not as background participants, but as leaders whose voices deserve to be heard.

We have already begun building meaningful conversations as a way to launch partnerships and participation with Girls Inc. of York Region, local units of the Girl Guides of Canada, and the Central York Girls Hockey Association. These organizations nurture confidence, resilience, and community spirit in girls ages 5 to

18. *Silver Stars* aims to honour their work by giving Aurora's youth a platform to express themselves, explore their creativity, and see their contributions reflected on screen.

Although our overall docuseries budget of \$50,000 is supported through grants and post-production partnerships with the National Film Board of Canada and Oya Black Arts Coalition, these funds do not cover the additional costs required to film on location in Aurora or to deliver the specialized programming we have designed for local youth. A WWB Production is not in a position to absorb these additional expenses on our own.

This is why we are respectfully requesting a \$5,000 Community Grant from the Town of Aurora. Your support will allow us to film in the places where Aurora's girls learn, grow, and lead. It will help us offer workshops, storytelling sessions, and leadership experiences at no cost to participants. And it will make it possible for us to host a community showcase where families, volunteers, and residents can come together to celebrate the achievements of Aurora's young people with a local screening!

Silver Stars aligns naturally with the Town's commitment to youth engagement, inclusive recreation, community partnerships, and arts and culture. More than that, it reflects the heart of Aurora, a community we at A WWB call home that believes in its young people and invests in their futures.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our application. It would be an honour to partner with the Town of Aurora to bring this vision to life and to give Aurora's girls the chance to shine in a way that is meaningful, lasting, and deeply deserved.

Warm regards,



Lanette Ware-Bushfield, Founder & CEO
A WWB Production, Inc.

www.awwbproduction.com / info@awwbproduction.ca

Silver Stars – Town of Aurora Community Grant Application

Funding Request: \$5,000

Applicant: A WWB Production, Inc.

Project Lead: Lanette Ware-Bushfield, Founder and CEO

Project: Silver Stars – Female Leadership and Youth Empowerment Initiative

Executive Summary

Silver Stars is an intergenerational docuseries and youth-empowerment initiative created to honour the strength, resilience, and brilliance of girls and young women across Ontario. For the 2026 edition, we are expanding the project to include a dedicated Aurora component that brings local girls into the heart of the series. We intend for this work to be carried out in collaboration with Girls Inc. of York Region, local units of the Girl Guides of Canada, and the Central York Girls Hockey Association. Each of these organizations plays a vital role in shaping the confidence, leadership, and well-being of Aurora's youth, and *Silver Stars* aims to amplify their impact by giving their stories a platform.

Although our overall docuseries budget is \$50,000, supported through grants and post-production partnerships with the National Film Board of Canada and Oya Black Arts Coalition, these funds do not cover the additional costs required to film on location in Aurora or to deliver the specialized programming we have designed for local youth. A WWB Production is not in a position to absorb these additional expenses. A \$5,000 investment from the Town of Aurora will ensure that Aurora's young leaders are represented, celebrated, and supported through meaningful, community-building experiences that reflect the Town's values and long-term vision for youth engagement.

Project Description

Silver Stars will bring Aurora's youth into the centre of the series through on-site filming, leadership workshops, and community-building experiences. We anticipate that Girls Inc. of York Region will host empowerment and storytelling sessions for girls ages, giving them the chance to explore their voices, build confidence, and learn how to express themselves through media. Local Girl Guides units will participate in leadership and community-service activities that align with their badge work, while also gaining behind-the-scenes exposure to the filmmaking process. The Central York Girls Hockey Association will be featured through segments that highlight teamwork, resilience, and the importance of girls' sports in shaping strong leaders.

Each of these experiences will be offered at no cost to participants. The intention is to create a safe, inspiring space where Aurora's girls can see themselves as leaders, creators, and contributors to their community. The Aurora-focused portion of the series will also include a community showcase, giving families, volunteers, and residents the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of local youth together.

Alignment With the Town of Aurora's Priorities

This project aligns closely with the Town of Aurora's commitment to youth empowerment, inclusive recreation, community partnerships, and arts and culture. *Silver Stars* strengthens the Town's existing youth-focused ecosystem by bringing together organizations that already serve Aurora's young people in meaningful ways. It also creates new opportunities for leadership development, civic engagement, and creative expression.

By filming in Aurora and featuring local girls, the project will highlight the Town's dedication to nurturing confident, capable, community-minded young people. The series will also contribute to Aurora's cultural landscape by producing a lasting record of the community's youth leadership. It will showcase Aurora's diversity, its commitment to girls' sports, and its investment in programs that help young people grow into strong, engaged citizens.

Community Impact

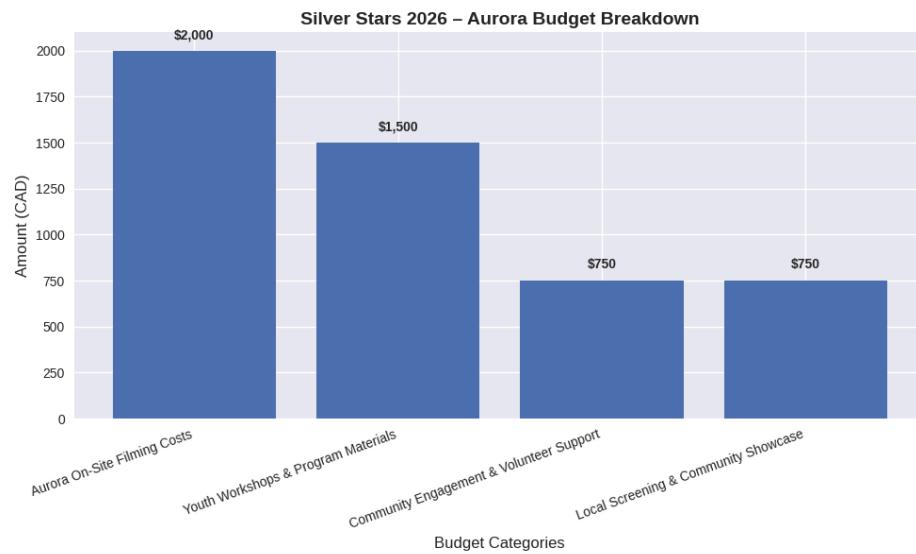
The impact of this project will be both immediate and long-lasting. We anticipate that a significant number of Aurora girls will participate directly in workshops, leadership circles, and filming opportunities. Youth volunteers will gain hands-on experience supporting events, production days, and community engagement activities. Families, educators, and community members will also benefit from the sense of pride and connection that comes from seeing Aurora's young people celebrated on screen.

Beyond participation, the heart of this project lies in the stories themselves. When a young girl sees her strength reflected back at her in the stories and faces of our twelve Silver Stars, whether she is a hockey player, a Guide, a budding leader, or a quiet storyteller, something shifts. She begins to understand that her voice matters. That her community sees her. That she belongs. *Silver Stars* is designed to create those moments for Aurora's youth.

Budget Overview

Our overall docuseries budget of \$50,000 is supported through grants and post-production partnerships with the National Film Board of Canada and Oya Black Arts Coalition. These funds cover the core filming and editing of the series but do

not extend to the Aurora-specific programming or the additional costs required to film on location in Aurora. The Town's support is essential to ensuring that Aurora's young leaders are included in the 2026 series.



Organizational Capacity

A WWB Production, Inc. is a multi-award-winning creative and social-impact company with deep experience working with youth, schools, nonprofits, and community partners. As Founder and CEO, I bring decades of experience as a producer, educator, empowerment coach, and advocate for underrepresented voices. Our team is committed to delivering programming that is thoughtful, inclusive, and rooted in community values. We approach every project with care, integrity, and a belief in the transformative power of storytelling.

Conclusion

Silver Stars offers a chance for Aurora's girls to see themselves as leaders, creators, and contributors to their community. It is an opportunity to strengthen partnerships, celebrate youth, and build a sense of pride that extends far beyond the screen. With the Town's support, we can ensure that Aurora's young people are not only included but truly seen.

We are grateful for your consideration and would be honoured to partner with the Town of Aurora to bring this vision to life.

--

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

Warm regards,



Lanette Ware-Bushfield, Founder & CEO
A WWB Production, Inc. / <https://bio.site/lanettewarebushfield>

www.awwbproduction.com / info@awwbproduction.ca

Silver Stars Articles:

[Community Angel Lanette Ware-Bushfield Spearheads Bold Cultural Project](#)
[Silver Stars Gala Shines Bright in Aurora, Celebrating Women Who Paved the Way](#)
[York Region Filmmaker Hosts Gala for Docuseries Celebrating Women Leaders](#)
[Dreams Truly Matter: Aurora Docuseries Producer Celebrating 12 Women Trailblazers](#)

2025 RBC Women of Influence Nominee /TIFF Share Her Journey Fellow/Series Accelerator/NSI/EAVE/CMF/OYA Media /Anthony Q. Farrell Showrunner Bootcamp Alumni

Lanette Ware-Bushfield Featured Articles:

[ROOM Magazine – Rewriting the Script: Lanette Ware-Bushfield \(September 2025\)](#)
[Screenfish – Curious, Confident, Intentional: The Many Hats of Lanette Ware-Bushfield \(June 2025\)](#)
[The Toronto Star – Why the Movie Nonnas Filled Me with White-Hot Fury \(May 2025\)](#)



Silver Stars!



*November 8th, 2025
Gala and Calendar Reveal!*

“Twelve images. Twelve legacies.

One calendar that turns the beautiful

passage of time into testimony.”

Featuring

Dr. Nyasha Gondora



Field of Focus: STEM / Pharmacy

A 2024 One to Watch University of Waterloo pharmacy leader and advocate for equity in STEM, Dr. Gondora is a passionate mentor working to empower underrepresented voices in healthcare and science.

Jennifer Podemski



Field of Focus: The Creative Arts / Film & TV Production

An acclaimed Indigenous filmmaker, actress, and producer, Jennifer uses storytelling to advocate for justice, inclusion, and cultural truth in film and television.



So What's The Story?



Silver Stars is a bold, heart-driven docuseries that celebrates twelve extraordinary women from across Ontario—each preparing for a 2026 /2027 calendar photo shoot that captures their brilliance, spirit, and impact. Through intimate day-in-the-life moments and candid sit down conversations, the series offers a rare chance to truly know these women, not just for what they've accomplished, but for how they've shaped the cultural heartbeat of our nation. Weaving present-day preparations for the shoot and flashbacks that delve into their personal journeys, showcasing their struggles, triumphs, and the relationships that have shaped them, these are the women who lead with love, challenge convention, and inspire change.

Silver Stars connects generations, giving young people—especially girls in STEM, sports, and the arts, living proof that their dreams are valid and their voices powerful. The calendar, to be included in graduation packages, becomes a lasting symbol of pride and possibility. A series and celebration of legacy, resilience, and the women whose stories continue to strengthen the fabric of our communities.

Our Director: Kwame Pipim



Kwame is a director and cinematographer from Ghana. He studied Video Design and Production at George Brown College, graduating in 2021.

During his time at George Brown, he worked on numerous projects, including the short film *The Elevator*, which went on to win awards at festivals around the world.

Now based in Toronto, Kwame works as a director and cinematographer on short films, documentaries, music videos, and commercials.

*“The calendar shoot may be the thread
—but the tapestry is woven from decades
of defiance, creativity, and love.”*

Featuring

Ninette Longsworth



Field of Focus: Health & Wellness / Fitness Training

A Canadian powerlifter and strength trainer, Ninette inspires through her dedication to health, wellness, and empowering women through fitness.

Rosa Calabrese-Teal



Field of Focus: Owner at Royal Rose Gallery

As an accomplished curator and founder of the Royal Rose Gallery located in the heart of downtown Aurora ON, Rosa Calabrese has dedicated her career to celebrating artistic excellence and nurturing cultural dialogue within her community.

What's the Problem **Silver Stars** is Most Trying to Solve?



At its heart, Silver Stars is a call to shift the mindset of young men and women to help them see, understand, and celebrate the profound ways women contribute to the fabric of society. Too often, women's achievements especially those of mature women, are sidelined or erased from mainstream narratives. This project confronts that imbalance head-on by spotlighting twelve extraordinary women whose lives reflect resilience, innovation, and deep community impact.

Through their stories, we challenge the stereotypes and biases that have long marginalized women's voices. As we present tonight's celebratory calendar reveal, we're capturing legacy with each image and each story, is a reminder to the next generation that women's contributions are not secondary but foundational.

Our Photographers:

Dana Leigh Korba:
Portrait Photographer



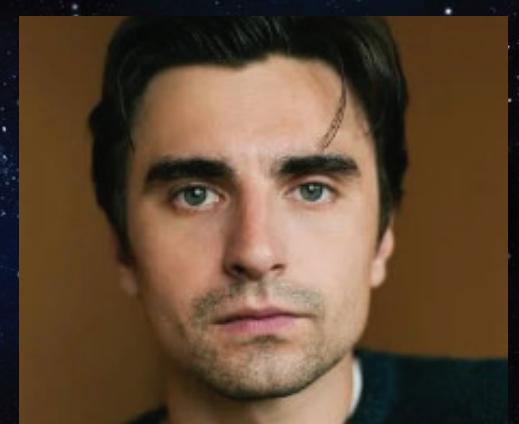
Dana Leigh Korba is a multi-award-winning portrait photographer based in York Region, Ontario. A former educator, she is passionate about empowering children, teens and women. Her recent project celebrates mature women, building a powerful, passionate community that uplifts, inspires and redefines beauty through connection, confidence and authentic storytelling.

Carel Kabamba:
On Set Still Photographer



Carel is a Congolese creative director, photographer, and fashion designer based in Toronto, Ontario. Whether behind the seams or behind the scenes, Carel continues to shape bold narratives through every project she touches.

Alex Ozerov-Meyer:
Gala Photographer



Alex Ozerov-Meyer is a photographer specializing in unit stills and behind-the-scenes coverage, capturing the authentic spirit of a production. With his background as an experienced screen actor, he brings a unique sensitivity to storytelling, creating images that highlight both the artistry of the crew and the performances in front of the camera.

*“Each calendar photo image has
become a climax of personal reinvention,
where past scars meet present strength.”*

Featuring

Ngardy Conteh George



Field of Focus: Film & video production

Ngardy is an award-winning Sierra Leonean-Canadian filmmaker and co-founder of OYA Media Group, known for amplifying underrepresented voices through culturally grounded storytelling. Her acclaimed work includes *Black Community Mixtapes*, *Bam Bam: The Sister Nancy Story*, *A Mother Apart*, and *Mr. Jane and Finch* earning multiple Canadian Screen Awards and the CMPA Kevin Tierney Emerging Producer Award.

Angelina Braithwaite



Field of Focus: Life Sciences

Angelina is Director of Life Sciences and DIB Leader for North America at Brunel Canada, where she's led transformative growth over 18 years. She founded and expanded Brunel's Life Sciences vertical, now spanning pharma, biotech, medtech, food, and agriculture. A passionate advocate for inclusion and community leadership, she serves on multiple industry boards and champions talent development across the sector.

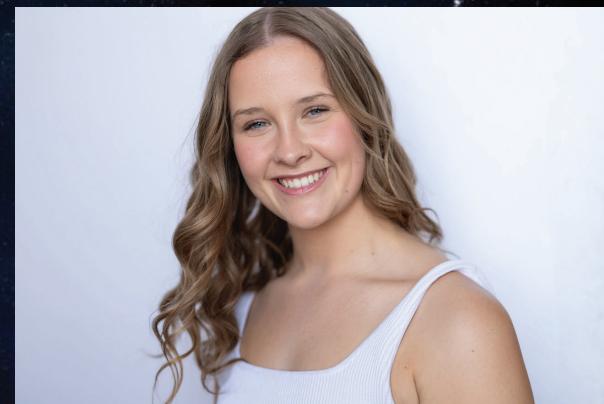
Meet Our Fabulous Young Hostesses!

Bettina Oghinan



Bettina is a MASC student in mechanical engineering at the University of Toronto. Her undergraduate experience involved contribution to the launch of a satellite, internships in the biomedical and space robotics industry, and mentorship roles as an engineering ambassador. Her MASC focuses on environmentally sustainable innovations to improve transportation in Ontario.

Sarah Herriot



Sarah has over 15 years of experience in cheerleading and continues to compete while coaching athletes at multiple levels. She is committed to fostering discipline, teamwork, and resilience in the athletes she mentors. In addition to her athletic career, Sarah pursues acting, applying her dedication and creativity to the performing arts.

Storm Clarke



Storm is a Toronto-based Canadian actress and dancer whose passion for performance and storytelling is rooted in her Jane and Finch upbringing and driven by a commitment to represent and uplift marginalized voices through the arts.

*"For every girl who's ever wondered if she
belongs in the room ~ these women say:
Yes you do. You always have!"*

Featuring

Rosey Edéh



Field of Focus: Sports Broadcasting / Athletics

A celebrated Canadian 23 year Olympic record holder and veteran sports broadcaster, Rosey brings decades of experience in athletics and media representation.

Janet Castillo-Gerongco



Field of Focus: Performing Arts

A spirited Filipina-Canadian creative leader, Certified Wisdom Kids Coach, and women's leadership advocate, draws on over two decades of professional dance and performance experience to empower the next generation of girls through confidence-boosting programs that blend movement, mindset, and mentorship.

How Does *Silver Stars* Serve Community?



As a tribute to the women who shape the soul of our country, this intergenerational docuseries will capture the essence of twelve remarkable women from across Ontario who are moving our culture forward. They lead in boardrooms, classrooms, studios, and fields. They challenge norms, lift others, and redefine what it means to lead with heart. Silver Stars doesn't just document their lives, it amplifies their legacy, connecting young women, especially those in STEM, sports, and the arts, to role models who reflect their dreams and expand their sense of possibility.

The calendar, set to be included in graduation packages in 2026, is set to become a symbol of pride and promise, a daily reminder that brilliance comes in many forms and that every generation stands on the shoulders of those who came before. Silver Stars is not just a series. It's a celebration of the women who shape our zeitgeist and a call to honor their place in our national story.

Partial Proceeds: Dare to Rise Foundation



Absane Ibrahim
Founder & Chief Executive Officer

It Takes a Village—We Are That Village
Field of Focus: Artistic Beauty Entrepreneur and
Women's Empowerment Advocate
Link: <https://www.jamafacebeauty.com/>

A passionate entrepreneur and founder of JamaFaceBeauty, Abbie promotes diversity and self-expression. A member of Immigrant Women in Business, her mission centers on helping women build confidence and pursue their dreams through storytelling, beauty, and personal transformation.

*"Silver Stars is a love letter to the women
who show us that legacy isn't what you leave
behind – it's what you live out loud."*

Featuring

Andrea Donais



Field of Focus: Performing Arts, Education

Artistic Director and Founder of The Artist Within Academy and RISE Children's Choir, Andrea is an arts educator, conductor, and performer with over 20 years of experience who is passionate about inspiring confidence, creativity, and lifelong connection to the arts through her signature Artist Within Method.

Beverly M. Francis, PhD



Field of Focus: Neuroscience

Dr. Beverly M. Francis, PhD, is a seasoned scientific leader with a rich background in medical affairs and research. Her career spans multiple roles in both academia and the pharmaceutical industry, reflecting a strong commitment to advancing healthcare through science.

Why A WWB Production?

This project is a love letter from CEO Lanette Ware-Bushfield to her teenage daughter, and to every young woman like her who dreams of breaking barriers in male-dominated fields. It also honors women like Lanette's grandmother, who devoted over fifty years to the local education system in New York City, quietly shaping generations without ever seeking the spotlight.

At its core, Silver Stars is a celebration in honour of the unsung female heroes in our own backyards who have dedicated their lives to meaningful, often overlooked societal contributions, and a challenge to the outdated stereotypes surrounding the capabilities of mature women in every profession.

In a time when some of our freedoms are under attack, it is more vital than ever to do our part to level the playing field in young hearts and minds. By showcasing powerful women who are just as essential to the fabric of a nation as their fathers, this series offers monthly reminders of what's possible when you believe in your dreams.

Lanette's vision is that every little girl and boy sitting at home, whether at the dinner table or curled up in the living room, can look up and see themselves reflected in stories of courage, brilliance, and purpose. This is more than a series, it's a movement to inspire, uplift, and remind us all of the extraordinary power of representation.



"When women rise, communities rise.

*And when important stories are
shared, generations come together to*

listen."

Featuring

Mesrak Lissanu



Berhan TV Toronto

Field of Focus: Pharmaceutical, Life Sciences and Nonprofit

Mesrak Lissanu is a purpose-driven leader with over two decades in pharma and community development, dedicated to empowering others. As President of P2P Canada and Co-Founder of ABTiP, she champions inclusion, equity, and leadership that uplifts.

Elaine Chan-Dow



Field of Focus: Artist, photographer & eductor

A Chinese-Canadian award-winning photographer and cross-disciplinary artist specializing in digital and analogue modalities of photography and research-based creation exploring the themes of behavioural science, botany, and art.

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**Lanette Ware-Bushfield, CEO
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