



September 25, 2019 - Community Living Chatham-Kent is proud to be a part of the Community Cares Christmas Dinner this year by donating \$500.00 from the proceeds of the 2019 Food Crawl. For thirteen years, this free dinner has been an annual tradition for local business owners Brent and Tammy Ripley.

“This donation will help pay for the turkeys we’ll need. We have grown to serving over 600 people in our community with a hot Christmas dinner, at no charge,” states Brent Ripley.

According to Tammy Chouinard, the Manager of Community Relations, Community Living Chatham-Kent, this cause is something the agency feels is important to the community as it is more than just a free meal.

“A few soup kitchens volunteer to help out with this dinner. Then, at the end of the night, they take anything that is left over to share at their shelters. Many who come for the free meal also lend a helping hand too. Brent and Tammy have put their hearts into this event and have done an incredible job with growing it into a place where everyone feels welcome,” says Chouinard.

The Community Cares Christmas Dinner will take place on Sunday, December 1st at the W.I.S.H. Centre.

Shown in photo: Brent and Tammy Ripley (owners of Betty Brite), Tammy Chouinard (Manager of Community Relations, Community Living Chatham-Kent)

Community Living Chatham-Kent has also selected Olivia Formosa to receive a donation of \$1,000 from the proceeds of the 2019 Food Crawl. The money will go towards Olivia’s medical costs. Many may already know this special little girl’s story but for those who do not, at age two, a large mass was found around her cerebellum, around her brain stem and down her spinal cord. This area is critical for movement, swallowing, etc. The tumour was found to be cancerous. She was taken into surgery immediately and has since been through many more procedures. While getting back on



her feet, it was discovered that Olivia's tumour had returned. She had another surgery and, sadly, woke up paralyzed on her left side. She is a fighter and spent some time in Toronto at a children's rehabilitation facility.

Olivia, now four-years-old, is finally back at home where she has physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy regularly. Her mom, Brooke, had to find an accessible home and is now living at an apartment back in Wallaceburg. Brooke continues to travel back and forth to the hospital in London. She will need to purchase medical equipment for their new home. Also, her expenses are ongoing as she now also has to purchase appliances and other furniture.

“We heard about the struggles this family is still going through, and our hearts go out to Olivia and her family. We hope these funds will help to ease some of the stress they might be feeling, and hopefully allow them to focus more of their attention on supporting her recovery,” says Tammy Chouinard, Manager of Community Relations.

Olivia is a strong little girl who has overcome many barriers and she is an inspiration to her community.



Community Living Chatham-Kent received a generous donation from Ursuline College Chatham's Student Council initiative 'UCC Dress Down Days'.

The UCC Dress Down Days collect funds from the students and allocate the money raised to various local non-profit organizations in Chatham-Kent. Community Living Chatham-Kent is thrilled to be one of the chosen recipients. We are truly grateful for UCC's kindness and dedication.

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Community Living Chatham-Kent provides support and services for more than 550 people who have an intellectual disability and reside in Chatham-Kent.

To learn more about Community Living Chatham-Kent please contact Tammy Chouinard, Manager of Community Relations, at tchouinard@clc-k.ca or 519-352-1174, extension 232.