



## MEDIA RELEASE

# Mary Berglund Community Health Centre Hub Receives \$30,000 for Local Improvements!

*Another great day in Ignace for local charitable organization thanks to the Community Well Being Fund!*

**March 20, 2024 Ignace ON** This past week Mayor Kim Baigrie on behalf of the Council of the Township of Ignace presented a \$30,000 cheque to Heidi West, Executive Director of the Mary Berglund Community Health Centre Hub outside of Township Hall in front of the Mary Berglund tribute.

The Mary Berglund Community Health Centre Hub has a long proud history as a local community health and wellness hub. The Hub strongly embraces the mission of “Where Everyone Matters” and community wellbeing is at the heart of its programs and services. The food bank that the Mary Berglund Hub now operates, and supports is a vital program for our most vulnerable.

“We are proud as a community to support these types of vital local projects that assist our most vulnerable and as a Mayor and Council, we continue to thank NWMO for their partnership with us and their ongoing commitment to the Township of Ignace, as illustrated here. We are thrilled that Council is able to provide the Mary Berglund Community Health Centre Hub – Food Bank with a \$30,000 cheque towards the much-needed renovation project at their Beaver Street location,” stated Mayor Kim Baigrie.

People living on a limited budget, facing skyrocketing housing, hydro and transportation costs, and often find there isn’t much left for food. “While we are working hard to meet this growing demand, our resources are finite and completely donation based and there is concern that the need could outpace the capacity of our local food bank. We are committed to respond to our growing needs with innovative programming that not only increases access to healthy food but turns it into an opportunity to build community”, stated Heidi West, Executive Director of the Mary Berglund Community Health Hub.

With much help from supportive volunteers, the Food Bank has been able to relocate into a shared space with the Carousel, the clothing and household “thrift store” and the Hub has a vision to develop this site further. This site, located on Beaver Street in Ignace, is in dire need of renovation and expansion. The \$30,000 donated by the Mayor and Council through the Community Well Being Fund will assist in launching a community kitchen, with an aim to enhance healthy eating and local food knowledge, stretch food dollars, and build community. “We would like to create a warm and welcoming space where there is opportunity for our most vulnerable to have a safe space to gather,” West went on to say.

The planning of building upgrades to the Beaver Street building has been an ongoing project for several years. There has been a new roof, window, paint, and other smaller cosmetic upgrades with the plan to always look for potential grants or funding and provide opportunity for expansion. In addition to this, the Regional Food Distribution Association has committed to working with the community to create a Regional food packing and distribution center which will benefit the local food bank and community.

Although the Mary Berglund Community Health Centre is not obligated or funded to oversee a local food bank, it has made the decision to continue to do so in the best interests of the community of Ignace and for the many citizens that are not quite so fortunate as others. The food bank runs entirely on volunteers and donations to maintain the service to which the Hub is committed long term to.

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**PICTURE ATTACHMENT BELOW**

**Pictured below:** Mayor Kim Baigrie of the Township of Ignace hands over a \$30,000 cheque to Heidi West of the Mary Berglund Centre in Ignace for improvements to centre.

