

From: Service, Colin
Sent: June 23, 2020 8:29 AM
Subject: Lunch and Food Distribution Program Update

Hello Mayor Taylor and Members of Council:

Council provided staff with an initial sum of \$25,000 and an additional sum of up to \$25,000 to ensure that we could provide support to those most vulnerable in our community. As we transition into reopening, the various agencies who normally perform these important functions are able to get volunteers and are able to start to provide some of these services again. So, I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on what has transpired and how those funds were used.

An operating grant of \$5,000 was provided to the Newmarket Food Pantry to help with purchase of food. The Food Pantry switched to a hamper program where hampers of food and essential items were assembled and delivered to families in need. Three to four times a week, a staff member from the Recreation & Culture Department utilized our Community Cruiser to deliver these hampers – over 400 hampers have been delivered by Town staff.

The Newmarket Co-Op Housing was in dire need of baby supplies and essential items. Recreation & Culture staff went and purchased the necessary supplies (totalling \$1,000) and delivered them to their doors (again using the Community Cruiser).

Since late March we have been serving a daily lunch program at the front of the Town Office. Over 4,250 meals were served to those most vulnerable within our community. The lunches were provided daily by The Pickle Barrel at a significantly reduced cost. Just over \$25,000 was spent on providing these lunches. We will be wrapping up the lunch distribution program on Friday, June 26th. A meal is now available daily in Newmarket. Staff have been distributing information about where food is available all week.

A grant of \$2,000 will be provided to the Rose of Sharon to help them provide essential items to young mothers.

At this point, approximately \$33,000 has been spent or committed. More importantly, hundreds of members of our community who are most vulnerable have had access to food and essential items during very difficult times.

Staff will continue to monitor the situation and will continue dialogue with the various agencies to ensure that services continue to be available within the community.

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to give me an email or phone call.

Take care,



Colin Service

Director, Recreation and Culture

905-953-5300, ext. 2601

905-953-5113 (fax)

cservice@newmarket.ca

www.newmarket.ca

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