



Waterloo

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SOCIAL VENTURE PARTNERS WATERLOO REGION ANNOUNCES MULTI-YEAR PARTNERSHIP WITH OAK BRIDGE ACADEMY AND VOLUNTEER WATERLOO REGION

Agencies to Receive Annual Unrestricted Grants and Pro-Bono Professional Consulting

WATERLOO REGION – For the first time in its history, Social Venture Partners Waterloo Region (SVPWR) will partner with two local charities for the upcoming year. Oak Bridge Academy and Volunteer Waterloo Region will be SVPWR’s eleventh and twelfth investees.

Oak Bridge Academy

Oak Bridge Academy is a registered charitable elementary school for children with special needs that believe access to high-quality specialized education is a right, not a privilege, and that a love for learning is the most precious gift a child with special needs can receive.

Kathie Shaw, Executive Director and Principal at Oak Bridge stated, “We are beyond thrilled to be the recipient of this partnership opportunity through SVP Waterloo Region. Oak Bridge Academy's overall goal is to ensure we have a solid, strategic plan that fits within our mandate of providing highly specialized education to students with exceptional learning and behavioural needs. Finding a balance with our strategic growth while not diminishing the quality of our product is our goal. As a grass-roots charity, we simply could not access this level of expertise without the mentorship from SVPWR. SVPWR’s guidance will be immeasurable and will solidify the foundation of the sustainable, long-term school we have been planning for.”

Volunteer Waterloo Region

Since 1984, Volunteer Waterloo Region (VWR) has provided connections and leadership in our communities to support the development of individuals and organizations through volunteerism.

Today, VWR serves over 160 charities and non-profit organizations that span the full range of service to the community from arts and culture to healthcare, social services to the environment, and so much more.

“Volunteer Waterloo Region is thrilled to be the newest Investee of the SVPWR. The Board and Staff are looking forward to partnering with the SVPWR team to advance our mission.” Heather Rennie Chair of the Board of Directors.

Jane Hennig, Executive Director at VWR adds, “The changes that the pandemic has brought make this an opportune time for Volunteer Waterloo Region to build forward to strengthen volunteerism in our community. We are grateful for this opportunity.”

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Rose Greensides, SVPWR's Executive Director said, " SVPWR cannot be more thrilled as we double our impact in 2022 by Investing in two charities. Our network of 90+ Partners are ready to roll up our sleeves and help both Volunteer Waterloo Region and Oak Bridge Academy achieve their vision.

SVPWR provides a different kind of relationship with the charitable sector by providing unrestricted grant dollars coupled with the pro bono professional expertise of over 90 SVPWR Partners. Our goal is to leverage our Partner's and community resources to amplify social impact. We can't wait to get started!"

SVPWR is a registered charity that connects a network of community builders with charities by providing unrestricted grants, time and talent in order to make a significant impact in Waterloo Region's charitable sector. Since 2011, SVPWR has turned \$630,000+ of grant funding into \$3.7M+ of support for ten local charities, working with each charity for up to three years and connecting them with hundreds of skilled volunteers through projects and events.

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