

MEDIA RELEASE

November 30, 2020

\$149,400 OTF Grant Supports Counselling Services at Yellow Brick House

Richmond Hill – This fall, Yellow Brick House completed a series of renovations designed to create a more comfortable and accessible space for children, youth and women at its community counselling and support services facilities. The upgrades were made possible thanks to a \$149,400 Capital grant awarded in 2019 by the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF).

“These well-deserved funds made it possible for Yellow Brick House to upgrade and renovate the building,” said Daisy Wai, MPP for Richmond Hill. “It helped to add new features to create a brighter, more welcoming space for young people which will support the positive development of children and youth. The funding is expected to impact 2,000 lives in the community. Our Government was happy to support their efforts.”

Yellow Brick House believes that its child and eco-friendly changes create a different atmosphere for women and children effected by domestic violence. Funds were used to replace fluorescent lighting with modern LED fixtures, enabling staff to adjust a room’s lighting colour and brightness depending on a child’s individual situation and sensitivities. In addition, the flooring was also replaced, and non-slip, easy-to-clean vinyl tiles were installed, creating a more hygienic and user-friendly space to maximize therapy-related movement. In addition, the reception area was also upgraded to provide more privacy.

The renovation of the reception area creates an inviting first point of entry while respecting client privacy and ensuring their security. All of these renovations were completed with the needs of the differently-abled community in mind and move Yellow Brick House towards meeting AODA standards for 2025.

“The impact of this Ontario Trillium Foundation grant cannot be underestimated,” said Lorrish Herenda, Executive Director of Yellow Brick House. “This grant has allowed needed renovations to be made. Our Community Counselling and Support Services facilities are more accessible and accommodate a wide variety of environmental needs of clients to enable them to receive the most benefit from their interactions with Yellow Brick House.”

This project indirectly impacts the thousands of women who receive personal and group counselling at our facility. The result of this grant is a more inviting, non-institutional and calming environment for the children and youth who are engaged in Yellow Brick House programs.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation is an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada’s leading granting foundations. OTF awarded \$115 million to 644 projects last year to build healthy and vibrant communities in Ontario.

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