

MEDIA RELEASE: Hometown Heroes show their love and appreciation

- The doctors, nurses, and administrative staff of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Queen's University and Kingston Health Sciences Centre (KHSC) have pledged \$35,000 in a dollar-for-dollar matching campaign to support Lionhearts Inc.'s Covid-19 Street Project.
- The Springer Group of Companies has additionally pledged \$35,000 to this matching campaign, to create a total campaign goal of \$140,000 for this three-week Hometown Heroes fundraising campaign.
- Olympic hockey superstar and hometown hero Jayna Hefford and The Professional Women's Hockey Players Association have provided the lead gift to this campaign with a \$5,000 donation.
- Since launching its street project in mid-March, Lionhearts Inc. has served over 35,000 meal packages

(Thursday, June 3, 2020) In these trying times, Kingston's frontline medical workers are here to say thank you.

As our local emergency medicine doctors, nurses, and administrative staff do their part in the fight against a global pandemic, they are showing their appreciation for the way the community has supported them during a difficult time for many.

To that end, the members of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Queen's University and Kingston Health Sciences Centre (KHSC) have pledged \$35,000 to support a worthy cause.

After receiving feedback from colleagues and patients about how they could best help the community, the team selected the Lionhearts Inc. Covid-19 Street Project. Their donation will be used as part of a matching campaign to inspire additional local donations and help feed the marginalized population of Kingston and area during this pandemic.

"Our emergency healthcare teams are incredibly grateful for the tremendous community support they've received during the COVID-19 crisis," says Dr. David Messenger, Head of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Queen's University, KHSC and a SEAMO physician. "We want to express our thanks for the support we've received by helping to meet the needs of our vulnerable neighbours. We believe that as a community, we are stronger when we work together, and so we are encouraging others – individuals, businesses, and other groups – to consider contributing to Lionhearts' matching campaign for its COVID-19 Street Project."

Joining alongside the city's healthcare heroes is a long-time local family. The Springer Group of Companies have additionally pledged \$35,000 to the Hometown Heroes matching campaign.

"We are honoured to be able to join the Department of Emergency Medicine at Queen's University and KHSC in the support of Lionhearts Covid-19 Street Project," says Bryon and Doug Springer. "We tremendously appreciate and respect Kingston's ER doctors and front-line health care workers related to the incredible and selfless work that they have done in keeping our community safe during the Covid-19 outbreak."

"We feel that by joining this initiative not only conveys a much-deserved debt of gratitude to our medical community but also allows us to give back to vulnerable members of our community who are in need," add the Springers. "If you are able, please join us in donating to this incredible initiative by Lionhearts providing thousands of meals each week during the pandemic."

The Hometown Heroes matching campaign follows a recent, successful matching campaign which raised \$100,000 through the support of the United Way Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington, and the estate of Robert W. Clark.

Since launching its street project in mid-March, Lionhearts Inc., a registered not-for-profit, has served over 35,000 meal packages across three locations in Kingston and in partnership with Morningstar Mission in Napanee. The packages include a nutritious meal prepared by a team of local chefs led by Will Arnaud, and important supplies such as bottled water, hygiene products, and snacks to help recipients make it through the day.

“Some of the guests who visit our street project say it’s their only source of food all day, and sometimes the only smile they receive as well,” says Shawn Seargeant, Operations Manager of Lionhearts Inc. “On behalf of those who don’t have a voice, we are extremely grateful for the generosity of all of our partners and donors who are providing good food and real hope to the vulnerable in our community.”

Among the donors to this campaign is a local legend: four-time Olympic gold winner Jayna Hefford. Hefford and The Professional Women’s Hockey Players Association (PWHPA) have provided a \$5,000 gift to support the work of Lionhearts during Covid-19.

“The PWHPA is proud to be able to support the Kingston community through these incredibly challenging times,” says Hefford. “The community welcomed our members and supported the women's game this past season in an incredible way, so we believe it’s our chance to return the favour. We know that many people in the community are facing very difficult circumstances because of the current public health crisis, and we hope our contribution can help in this time of need. We will get through this together, and we are proud to play our small part in the Kingston community.”

Those wishing to join Hefford and the PWHPA through a donation to Lionhearts, and take advantage of the Hometown Heroes matching donation program, should donate at lionhearts.ca before Wed, Jun 24.

About Lionhearts Inc.: lionhearts.ca/donate-now

Driven by a deep desire to see all people living with human dignity, we at Lionhearts Inc. have been **uniting people with practical acts of love** since our founding in Kingston in 2014.

The cornerstone of our operation is to collect large donations of food from very generous businesses. We then deliver manageable quantities regularly to reinforce front-line organizations who are already doing amazing work in our cities.

Poverty knows no social boundaries. These organizations serve every demographic including senior citizens, families, single parents, children, and people living with mental illness. We simply connect those who want to help with those who already know how to do it.

We also host The Embassy Live Music Café, a space that provides “diplomatic immunity” from your worries and troubles for the night. We provide an intimate stage for live music and create community for every guest.

We are a registered charity and donations may be made via our website or through Canada Helps.