Lanark County Community Justice

1881 Rogers Road

Perth, Ontario

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1-613-264-1558

executivedirector@commjustice.org



October 20, 2021

Lanark County Clerk’s office

c/o Casey Whiticar, Deputy Clerk

cwhiticar@lanarkcounty.ca

99 Christie Lake Road

Perth, ON

K7H 3C6

Dear Ms. Whiticar,

Lanark County Community Justice (LCCJ) brings people together to repair the harm from conflict and crime and to promote the use of restorative practices. I write to thank you for our $6000 annual Program Grant for 2019, 2020, 2021 and to ask if Lanark County may again be able to provide financial support for our work within Lanark County. I also want to thank you for inviting us to present to the Community Committee on September 1st, 2021.

We seek $12,000 to allow us to provide our services to 7 Adult cases (accused, victims, support persons, other persons impacted and community members). Most of our adult cases are age 19-29 first time offenders. We would be especially grateful to receive a contribution from Lanark County at this time as COVID-19 restriction have made it very difficult to have fundraising events and individual donations are a challenge for people at this time of financial uncertainty. We do however have one big hope for fundraising this year: The Perth Polar Bear Plunge will take place on Jan 1, 2022, in the Tay (we were not able to run this event last year because of COVID-19 lockdown). We would very much appreciate you sharing the attached poster with your colleagues and for the community grants review team to consider getting a team together to plunge (or pledge).

As stated, we are requesting funding for 2020 from Lanark County for our adult (young adult) diversion program only. We currently receive some money from the Ministry of the Attorney General for our youth cases, who are 12-17 years old. However, over the past 20+ years of service we have never received any government funding for our Adult Diversion Program. Over the years we have gone to the municipalities, service clubs and United Way to fund this much needed program. Accordingly, as an agency we have been left to piece together little bits of funding from multiple sources to keep this program going. Our current strategy is to request funding from Lanark County, municipalities, and local service clubs to subsidize funding for our adult diversion program. In 2020, we were able to raise $9000 from service clubs and only $4000 in 2021. We expect that we will raise even less for 2022, as we have had no grants to date for next year. We will also continue with our current fundraising efforts to fund the remaining amount.

We have recently calculated (six-year average), the cost of providing one adult diversion is approximately $1,700. In an average year, we deliver 17 young adult/adult forums. Our Community Justice Forums involve extensive case management to bring the victims, accused, support persons and community members to have a restorative justice facilitated dialogue about what happened and how to make it right. Unfortunately, with escalating overhead costs and the fierce competition for funding and donations dollars amongst charities, our program has experienced significant funding shortages for our Young Adult/Adult Diversion Program.

Thank you for considering this request and please see our attached application. Please contact our Executive Director, Joellen McHard (613) 264-1558 or on my personal cell 1(613) 200-2072 executivedirector@commjustice.org should you require more information about our program.

Yours truly,



Joellen McHard, Executive Director



Aisha Toor, LCCJ Chair, Board of Director