



# GRAVENHURST AGAINST POVERTY GAP



## 2021 IMPACT REPORT



With the arrival of Covid, Gravenhurst Against Poverty (G.A.P.) opened up in unprecedented ways to reach many more neighbours in its community and beyond.

As you will see throughout this report, G.A.P. has been creative in responding to this cultural moment.

I want to thank the hundreds of volunteers who power G.A.P.'s achievements and who continued their work in the face of a pandemic. They include members of the local community from all walks of life with various backgrounds and experiences including people living in poverty.

Our generous donor community is made up of local business owners and members of the local community who donate money and/or 'gifts in kind' to support the work of G.A.P.

Federal, provincial, and regional funding bodies have also greatly contributed to G.A.P. initiatives.

We are very grateful for everyone who has invested in Gravenhurst Against Poverty and in its vision for community wholeness.

We hope this report gives you a glimpse of how lives are being impacted because of you.

*Bonnie Dart*  
Bonnie Dart



## Overview

- G.A.P. is a community of volunteers committed to helping their neighbours who are experiencing difficulty; it was created in December 2017 to fill gaps that existed in social service support
- It is very important to G.A.P. that our neighbours with lived experience are encouraged to be part of the conversation - they are consulted, members of the active volunteer team, and represented both on our Steering Committee and the Advisory Council
- G.A.P.'s pillars of community support include: food, transportation, and wellness programs



**“ As a newcomer to Gravenhurst, I had lived in the community a few years and was still longing to belong. I went in search of that place, a place that welcomed people with whom I could share hopes, dreams, values and friendship. After a time I was introduced to Gravenhurst Against Poverty. With G.A.P. it didn't take long to know I had found a place to call home, a place that valued every neighbour, a place to find new friends who held the same values I did. It felt like I had come home. For me G.A.P. is my place of joy, friendship and community. G.A.P. became my community anchor, it is where I found the Gravenhurst I am proud to call home. ”**

- Peggyann



**“ I love working with G.A.P. both in the kitchen and on my garden team. It's great camaraderie. Volunteering helps other people as well as helping the volunteers themselves. ”**

- Elaine

### WHERE DO WE GET IT?

Sobeys, Terry's Independent, Giant Tiger, Swiss Chalet, Field of Greens, Don's Bakery, Feed It Forward, Red Cross, Britt Community Church

### WHERE DOES IT GO?

Gravenhurst, Ryde, and Kilworthy communities, Port Severn and Salvation Army Food Banks, Free Stuff 4 Daily Needs, GPS, K.P. Manson, Beechgrove and GHS

## PROVIDING FOOD TO THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST!

Due to the global pandemic, G.A.P. evolved the Supper Program into a Food Program that is delivered to members within the community every Thursday! Additionally, a weekly Meal and Food Pick-Up program launched that runs every Monday 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM.

## WEEKLY DELIVERIES MADE



**260**  
HOUSEHOLDS



**650**  
FOOD PACKAGES

## G.A.P. On The Move



The G.A.P. Needs Assessment identified the transportation barriers experienced by many of our neighbours. Gas cards were distributed so people could ask for rides and offer to help with gas costs or put some gas in their own vehicles. Through a grant from the Muskoka Community Foundation, G.A.P. set up a no-cost, in-town taxi program to assist with essentials like groceries, medical appointments, work and laundry. Additionally, we're in the process of developing a Volunteer Ride program!

Total Number of Neighbours in 2020

**145**

Total Number of Neighbours in 2021

**635**

Year over year increase

**438%**



**MEALS DISTRIBUTED**

**“** I have run into tough times and G.A.P. has been a big help. When I was living in a motel, I could microwave the dinner from the Thursday food delivery. Right now I appreciate the G.A.P. transportation program that I use for doing laundry, getting groceries, and going to the food bank. **”**

- Rick



Food is delivered every Thursday to over 600 individuals experiencing food scarcity in Gravenhurst including Ryde & Kilworthy (211 children & youth 0-18 yrs old). Boxes are filled with fresh frozen Red Cross meals, fresh fruit and vegetables, bread, and baked goods.



Every Monday, additional meals are prepared at the Trinity United Church kitchen and are available along with rescue food for pick up. This further assists families to meet their weekly food needs.



Our Food Program operates 5 days a week from our local grocery stores. Food that is still good to eat is distributed to our neighbours not landfills. A local pig farmer picks up what's not usable to feed his animals.

**“ If it wasn't for G.A.P., I would not have enough food; I would not be able to feed my kids. That's why I like to give back by volunteering in the garden and the kitchen. ”**  
- Denise

**“ It's nice to know that if someone has a need that I am helping to meet that need. I'm just following the golden rule principle. When I see others helping too, it gives me pride in my community knowing that so many others are working together for the same purpose. ”**

- Bruce



The G.A.P. Garden project includes 36 garden boxes located at various sites: 2 public schools, 1 high school, 2 churches, Bethune Memorial House, Centennial Centre, Taylor Chiropractic, The Oar Restaurant and several home gardeners who contribute some of their harvest. 40 harvest bags are generated and distributed weekly from July to October.

**Total Amount Spent On Food Cards, Gift Cards, and Gas Cards FYE 2021**

**\$152,425**



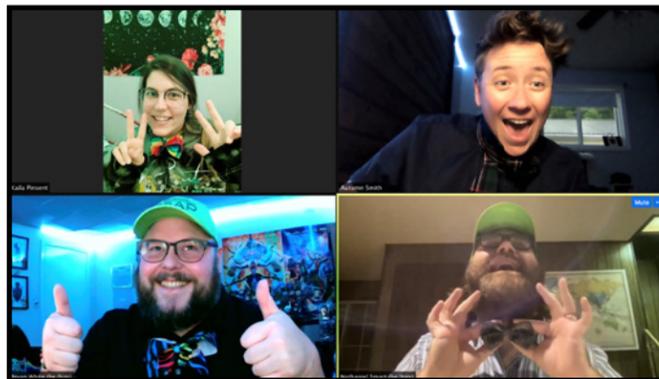
**“ I think it's important to support my community. I enjoy the interaction with the people I'm helping. They are good people; life just hasn't gone well for some of them. Anything I can do for them I'm happy to do. ”**

- Doug

# The Dream... A Young Adult Centre - Y.A.C.!

In 2020, G.A.P. engaged young people in conversations about the unique challenges they faced. They consistently responded with a longing for a space to call their own, a place with opportunities to hang out; a place to learn new skills like cooking and expressive arts within a safe circle of their peers.

**100 young people responded to G.A.P. Youth Survey!**



## YAC VIRTUAL HANGOUTS

G.A.P. is working on a physical home but meanwhile young people “meet” virtually. Fun activities have included bingo, trivia, scavenger hunts, a pet fashion show and more!

“The YAC group momentum is building with wonderful relationships being formed.” Bryan

# Wellness Program

## COMMUNITY HUB VISION

A no-cost family-style environment that includes community user groups, community kitchen focus and opportunities for learning to make economical, healthy snacks and meals. Picture muffins baking and soup simmering, creating a home away from home atmosphere.

The vision includes social chat groups, peer to peer support, inter-generational mentoring programs, quiet meeting spaces, volunteer greeters, various workshops.



## BUILDING COMPASSION

Topics for this online Speaker Series include Poverty, Addiction, Inclusion and Diversity, Building Resiliency, and Human Trafficking with an Indigenous Lens.



## G.A.P. PARTNERSHIP WITH MiND-AID

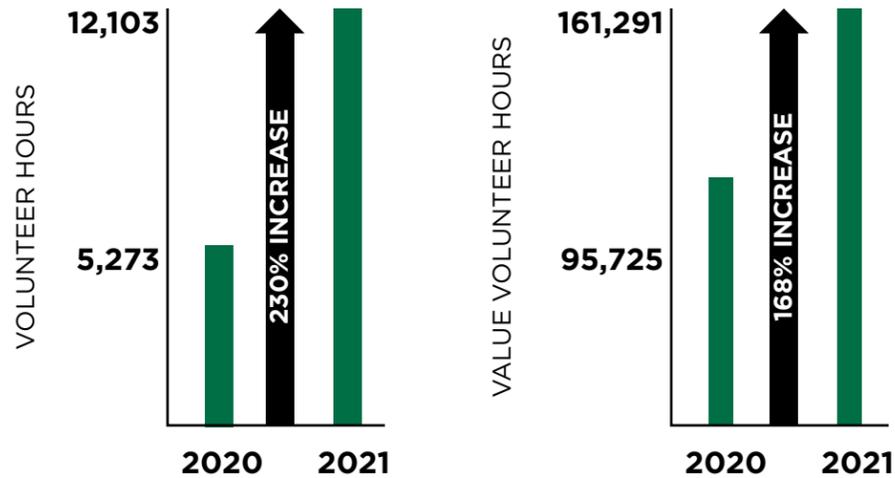
Through MiND-AID, young people will be provided safe and skilled companionship by trained volunteers, as well as a link to resources or supports needed.



**286**  
SIGNED  
VOLUNTEERS

**230%**  
MORE  
VOLUNTEER  
HOURS

**153**  
ACTIVE  
THROUGH  
THE PANDEMIC



**Volunteer Value - \$161,291**



**“ I have never volunteered before. This is a new experience for my husband and I. Knowing that you are helping the community makes you feel good. The little that we contribute is nothing compared to what others do. ”**

- Liz

# Fun Facts

Total Families Fed	'20	'21	Increase
Families Fed	73	236	323%
Seniors Fed	31	94	303%
Children Fed	30	211	703%

The logo for 'coldest \*night OF THE YEAR' is shown next to a vertical arrow labeled '80% INCREASE'. To the right of the arrow is the text 'Coldest Night of the Year Fundraiser'.

2020	\$50,566
2021	\$90,932

**f** Facebook  
Followers 865

**i** Instagram  
Followers 588

**635**  
Mailing List Subscribers





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