



Empowered Women. Transformed Communities
2020 Spring Edition

MY FRIEND'S HOUSE Quarterly Update

On behalf of the team at My Friend's House we want to thank all of you for your amazing support. Welcome to our **Spring Quarterly Update** which includes a celebration of our volunteers & donors along with how your donations are put into action. Please check out what is happening in our community and come out to support My Friend's House events.

YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK



This short article captures the current state of women's shelters during COVID-19 and the challenges that 1 and 5 women face in our community. We encourage you to read the article written by Cindy Chen. It truly reflects why your support is so critical. Thank you for making a difference.

[Shut in Shut out: Domestic Violence During Lockdown](#)

artwork © Marianna Giuliana
(@marianna.disegniecosebelle on Instagram)

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

Lydia Abel and Shane Cloutier

Singer Shane Cloutier and his partner Lydia Abel share their personal motivation to support My Friend's House to ensure that there is a safe haven for women and children. Their advocacy for the shelter has taught them a lot about the strength of our community.



Welcome Peter Seligman to the *NEW* role Development Chair

I am very pleased to announce **Peter Seligman** in the *NEW* role of **Development Chair**.

Given the current landscape of lessened government funding and increased demands for services amidst COVID, My Friend's House has recognized the need to create a more formalized structure to seek opportunities that are long term and sustainable with a greater degree of reliability. As a result, we are pleased to announce a *new* role of Development Chair. The intent of this new role is to implement a balanced philanthropy program that places greater emphasis on relationship-based programs, like major gifts.



As Development Chair, Peter will take on a leadership role in achieving the goals of the fund development plan by identifying, researching, cultivating and stewarding current and potential sources of individual and corporate giving. He will work directly with Judith Hartley Development Manager.

Peter became a key supporter of My Friend's House in 2017 when he participated in the Collingwood Tour of Life Bike Ride. Peter was inspired by the evening speaker and the work being done at My Friend's House. Since this first introduction Peter has subsequently initiated and supported fundraising events, annually contributes a major gift and shared his pool/backyard to launch our summer 2019 Nature program with the women and children we serve.

Philanthropy is an integral part of Peter's life. Through direct service since and continuously from his teenage years, as a young adult leading major functions and ultimately chairing significant fundraising campaigns, he has made "giving back" a significant part of his life. One of Peter's personal mottos is *"to move forward you must give back"*

Peter has been an Estate and Insurance Advisor since 1982 while leading Seligman Insurance. As he moves into semi-retirement he is spending more time in Collingwood, in fact it has become his primary residence. Over the past three years Peter has opened up his network while sharing his passion for My Friend's House resulting in several new supporters.

Peter believes an individual can only bring three things to their philanthropy; **TIME, TALENT or TREASURE!** Depending where you are in your lives you may only be able to give one or two of these. "However I believe I can bring all three to my efforts on behalf of My Friend's House."

We are very fortunate to have Peter leading the Development Committee. He brings

both a wealth of fundraising experience and a solid personal philosophy towards giving.

Please join me in welcoming Peter in his new role as Development Chair.

Alison FitzGerald
Executive Director
My Friend's House

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Upcoming Events

Hope in the Valley - Virtual Gala



Hope in the Valley June 6th, from 7:00 to 8:30pm is being hosted by the Thornbury / Clarksburg Rotary Club as a fundraiser to support local families during our Covid 10.

My Friend's House has been selected as one of the recipients.

You will be entertained by local musicians and order your meal prepared by local chefs while in the comfort of your own home! [For more information and/or buy tickets](#)

Golf Ball Lady

Mary Lou Gollert is again collecting used golf balls and refurbishing them for resale. Over the past, MaryLou has raised approximately \$30,000 for My Friend's House This year our amazing friends at *Play It Again Sports* have become partners in selling the golf balls which are now available at more golf clubs than in previous years. What a wonderful community! Check out her seriously cool website to order or donate balls. [Golf Ball Lady](#)



Gordon Lightfoot Tribute - June 13th 8:00pm Facebook Live Event

Jason Redman's online studio session Gordon Lightfoot Tribute-a Fundraiser for My Friend's House". If you're a Lightfoot fan, you'll love this show! Check our Facebook page for details.

Thank You to our recent community event hosts!



During the Victoria Day Weekend, Derek Mclean (local teacher and popular local musician) raised \$3500.00 during his 90 minute impressively played all request studio session.



A big shout out to Elvira Kirk for entertaining us while raising over \$5000+ in support of My Friend's House.

[Click here if you missed the show](#)



A wonderful musical talent, Jamie Ciotka, dedicated his online gig to MFH. Thank you so much for generously sharing your talents in support of My Friend's House

Another successful Galentines event

galentine's
day

The wonderful team of Lauren and Alix were busy once again organizing another amazing fundraising event in support of My Friend's House . ***Fork it, i'll buy that!*** event. To date they have raised over \$3400 in support of My Friend's House Follow them on Instagram at [Galentines](#)

100+ Women who Care: South Georgian Triangle

A global pandemic did not stop them from continuing their collective efforts as 100+ Women Who Care South Georgian Triangle, supporting the important work of local charities. They held their meeting May 27 online with three charities nominated to receive their donation. **My Friend's House was chosen to be the recipients** for this donation from 100 Women (which actually has become 180 women as of late!) This is a much needed blessing and we are grateful to the wonderful women that chose to support us at this important time!

[100+ Women who Care](#)



REFLECTIONS OF DONORS

On behalf of the staff, board and women we serve: Thank you for all of your wonderful words of encouragement we have received from our supporters since COVID-19

- Keep up the great work! - Eric S
- Thank you for your support to all the women and children that you serve - Susan K
- Thinking of you in this difficult time - Suzanne D
- Stay Safe! - Mary Anne C
- Thank you so much for all that you do to support those in need of a safe shelter in Collingwood - Kathleen W
- You are doing such wonderful work in our community, keep it up, it makes such a difference! - Patti M
- Thank you for all you do especially during these unprecedented times. - Joan S
- Thank you for all of your work. My mother asked me to make a donation on her behalf for Mother's Day and we chose your charity - Michael N
- Keep up the good work - Sandra A

- My mother, Ingrid [72yr] dusted off her sewing machine and sold cloth masks through the Be Well Collingwood social media community in support of My Friend's House. We hope that this small effort will make a difference. I'm honoured to work with my mom on something so dear to her heart as your charity. She's an inspiring mother - Lia S
- Thank you for providing care when it's most needed - Gretchen S
- Good luck with your fundraising efforts for this worthwhile cause, Karin and I are happy to help! - Linda & Karin
- I hear things are tougher during the stay at home response to the pandemic. Please stay safe - Mark M
- This is in honour of the woman who cleans our house -- each time we would have paid her to clean our house (during COVID-19) -- we are donating to support a local charity. Thank you for your work! - Susan W
- We are all in this together - Donna L
- Great cause! Please follow my lead and donate - Phil L
- Thanks Derek McLean for promoting your wonderful organization! - Lori L
- Hugs to all at My Friend's House - Mirella A
- Making this donation as I watch my friend Derek performing on FB live. Happy to support such an important cause! - Tory G
- Thank you for the music Derek McLean! Happy to support such an awesome cause! - Karen K
- Supporting positivity is among the most admirable actions an individual or community can do. My friend's house does both, cheers! - Alan P
- In Honour of to those who need it - April MacLean
- For all the good you do! - Kathi L
- Derek McLean played a virtual show in support of your organization last night which reminded me to donate. You do great work. Thank you. David R
- Women need to be surrounded by love.... Thank you, Julie for introducing us to "My Friend's House"! Nanci - Nanci A
- The Team at Bluerock Wealth is cheering on all your good work! - Neil O
- As a school project, we made and sold dried soup in a jar to raise funds for My Friend's House. We know how important your charity is in our community. Hopefully we can help make a difference. Makaela & Eva Gr 7
- Thank you for what you continue to do for the vulnerable women of our community - Susan M
- I am donating after hearing Linda Murphy's inspirational talk at the Pretty River Probus meeting. A good cause to support. - Cathy B
- With best wishes that everyone might safely survive the current public health crisis. - Bruce P
- In honour of the staff and volunteers at MFH. Hang in there. Debra F
- Keep up the good work and stay safe - Vidas A
- Please stay healthy + love yourselves more than ever. - Patricia H
- Thanks for the great work you do - Karyn F
- Thank you, Elvira Kurt and My Friend's House for all that you do! - Sierra H
- Keep up the good work - Donna L
- We support you Dan and Tessa - Daniel W
- Inspired by Marcia Alderson, extending my love to you all at this exceptional time. - Gina S
- Thinking of all of those who need My Friend's House. - Marilynne DL
- Thanks Elvira for doing your comedy to help showcase this amazing organization I would not have known about otherwise! Katherine Ayers
- Thanks for the good work you do and thanks for the show Elvira - Natalie M
- Especially at this difficult time, we are hoping this will help even a little! Loreen D
- We just were watching the benefit with Elvira Kurt, whom we've loved for years. So we wanted to send you a donation. Thank you for the wonderful work you do! Trish S
- Keep up the good work! - Kathleen H
- Thanks for being there. - Clive VB
- Thank you for continuing to serve all the women and children in need during this very tough time. Jordon Swartz
- Just a little help in unusual tough times. H Gruber
- We had a sale on our website in March and are donating 50% of sales to My Friend's House. Thank you for all you do! Thought Sanctuary

- With understanding that COVID-19 has created additional challenges for your work and those you help. Jennifer B
- The work you are doing to help women and children in our community is more important than ever. Stay safe. Laurel LM
- Thank you for your valuable services to women & children in need! Cathy H
- My neighbour told me about My Friend's House and I wanted to help support you during these challenging times. Dean B
- Thinking of you at this difficult time! - Jane W
- It's my 59th Birthday and all women and children should be able to enjoy their birthdays without fear - Tracey B
- Thinking of all those women who may be isolated in an abusive situation. Hoping they can reach a place of safety. This is what I would have spent on gas commuting this month. Patricia E
- Thinking about you in time of need - your friends at TD Bank Collingwood
- Keep up the good work. Stay safe - Nada L
- Stay well, thank you for all you do. Kristina S
- Thank you in this even more difficult time- Susan V
- Thank you from the bottom of my heart - Amber L
- Thinking of you at this time. Stay strong! - Brenda and Mike W
- Thank you for helping the community Jan H
- Thank you for all you do. It is definitely a time to help where we can- Annie N
- Thank you for providing such a vital service to our community. Gordon C
- Let's support - Derek
- Thankful for your support of those in these circumstances. God bless
- Thank you for sharing your story. Proud to continue donating to MFH as I have been for 5 years now.

Thank you for helping to empower the women in the Georgian Triangle area and transforming our community

MY FRIEND'S HOUSE | 705-999-2504 | [E-mail](#) | [website](#)

Connect with us

