



MEDIA RELEASE

October 6, 2022

OTF Provides \$60,200 to The Charles H. Best Diabetes Centre Mental Health Program

(Whitby, ON) – MPP Lorne Coe and Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) volunteer Yvonne Chornobay stopped by the Charles H. Best Diabetes Centre (Best Centre) to hear how a \$60,200 Resilient Community Fund grant is making an impact. Since receiving the OTF grant earlier this year, the Best Centre has hired an additional Registered Social Worker to help with the delivery of its Mental Health program.

“The Resilient Communities Fund assists non-profit organizations like the Charles H. Best Centre to continue to provide high quality programs and services to hard-working families in Whitby and other parts of the Durham Region,” said Lorne Coe, MPP for Whitby. “This investment will ensure that the Centre, a one-of-a-kind type 1 diabetes facility, is in a position coming out of the impacts of COVID-19 to continue to provide the care that families need when they need it.”

The Best Centre has responded to increasing demand for its services throughout the pandemic at a time when its ability to deliver this mental health program was impacted. Thanks to this OTF grant, the Best Centre is able to close this gap by increasing mental health counselling capacity this year.

“Research shows that individuals living with type 1 diabetes are at increased risk of developing or worsening depression or anxiety throughout their life,” said Lorrie Hagen, Executive Director at the Charles H. Best Diabetes Centre. “The Best Centre has seen a marked increase in the need for mental health support and the funds received from OTF will help to alleviate this need.”

The Best Centre’s mission is to keep children, youth and adults living with type 1 diabetes healthy until a cure is found. Healthcare educators provide an all-encompassing and lifelong approach driven by their vision and values.

“We are committed to treating the various needs of our Best Centre members,” said Serge Babin, Chairman of the Board of Directors at The Charles H. Best Diabetes Centre. “OTF’s funding will allow us to continue to make our important mental health services accessible to all patients and families.”

The Best Centre delivers one-of-a-kind patient centred healthcare exclusive to type 1 diabetes. As Canada’s only stand-alone centre and charitable organization specializing in type 1 diabetes, the staff provides highly responsive and individualized care. The interdisciplinary care team includes registered nurses, dietitians and social workers who provide frontline healthcare and education throughout patients’ lifetime.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) mission is to build healthy and vibrant communities across Ontario. As an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada’s leading granting foundations, last year, OTF invested nearly \$209M into 2,042 community projects and partnerships, which included funding for the Government of Ontario’s Community Building Fund. Since 2020, OTF has supported Ontario’s economic recovery by helping non-profit organizations rebuild and recover from the impacts of COVID-19. Visit otf.ca to learn more.

For more information or to coordinate media availability, please contact:

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Quick Facts

- Type 1 diabetes is an incurable, complex disease. It must be managed 24-hour a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Without insulin, death is certain.
- Type 1 diabetes is a disease in which the pancreas does not produce any insulin. Insulin is an essential hormone that is required to control the level of glucose (sugar) in the blood.
- The Charles H. Best Diabetes Centre sees almost 2,000 patients and conducts more than 20,000 healthcare interactions per year to support patients living with type 1 diabetes.
- Roughly 5-10 per cent of people living with diabetes have type 1 diabetes, insulin-dependent diabetes. Type 1 diabetes generally develops in childhood or adolescence but is also diagnosed in adulthood. People with type 1 need to inject insulin or use an insulin pump to ensure their bodies have the right amount of insulin to survive.

Associated Links

www.charleshbest.com

www.buildingonthebest.ca