

Turning COVID-Response into COVID-Resiliency

Supporting Young Families when they need us most

Everyone has been affected by COVID-19. With all the issues we are all personally facing, imagine a young woman, pregnant and about to deliver her baby. Or a teen parent, trying your best to provide a healthy and safe home for your toddler. Taking care of a small child can be difficult enough as a young parent during 'normal' circumstances, but now you are dealing with being laid off or you are worried about leaving the house for groceries or diapers possibly exposing your little one to this virus. Imagine the anxiety, stress, isolation and fear the young mothers we support must be feeling.

This is why Rose of Sharon has not let COVID-19 stop us from connecting with pregnant and parenting youth. When our facility closed to the public in mid-March affecting on-site programs and services, we immediately pivoted our free services. Counsellors are staying connected to clients through telephone and text messaging, averaging 100 hours of support per month.

Online programs cover all the topics that onsite programs did; prenatal care, health, parenting and child development, personal wellness, nutrition and cooking. High school went virtual and students successfully continued their studies online.

We have rallied our community supporters and funding partners to launch a new Emergency Family Care Package program that delivers packages of diapers, wipes, baby formula/food and fresh produce to 158 young families. Since the onset of the pandemic in mid-March, we have delivered 710 packages and the need for this support continues. We are committed to finding the money needed to fund this service so we can continue to provide care packages to young families for as long as they need a helping hand. Thanks to the support of our donors and community partners, young families know they are not going through this alone.



710
Pandemic Care
Packages
delivered to York Region
Families
March - August 2020

350
Young Moms
& Children
receive a helping
hand during
COVID-19

550 Hours
Telephone
Counselling
for
Pregnant &
Parenting
Youth
during these
stressful times

Hosting a safe get together? Bring us along!

Celebrating with family and friends? Welcoming back customers?


We would love to come along!

Make your event even more meaningful by helping to raise money and awareness for the support young moms and their children need most during COVID-19. Chat with Karen at: 905.716.3953 about ways we can help.



Spread the Love

Join our 'Notes 4 Moms' - Sticky Notes Challenge!

In a random act of kindness, someone left a sticky note with a lovely message on our 361 Eagle St. front window. It inspired us to dream of how wonderful it would be to collect and share positive notes with all of our young moms & kids! So we want to **CHALLENGE YOU** to fill our outside windows with hundreds of sticky notes filled with encouragement and support. Help us show our families that they are not alone. 



Best Wishes to Anna Pavan & Welcome to Deanne Kukulewich

In June 2020, we wished Anna Pavan all the best in her retirement after 18 years of service at Rose of Sharon. We are grateful for Anna's leadership over the past 12 years as Executive Director where she demonstrated commitment, compassion and a forward-thinking approach to supporting our young families. Anna built a strong foundation for the charity to develop from and led us through the uncertain initial months of COVID-19, successfully pivoting our programs and services so young mothers would continue to have free access to the support they need.

We are very pleased to welcome Deanne Kukulewich as our new Executive Director. Deanne brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience working in social services and newcomer experiences. Combine that with Deanne's collaborative management approach and her energetic 'can do' spirit, we are confident that Rose of Sharon will continue to adapt, grow and support the ever-changing needs faced by our young parents and their children.

Celebrating our 2020 Graduates

Not even a pandemic could stop our students from continuing their studies and graduating from high school! Melene, Rose of Sharon's dedicated YCDSB teacher immediately shifted from teaching on-site classes to teaching online. Within days, every student had the technology needed to participate and complete their courses. Front yard graduation ceremonies were held for each grad - complete with cap and gown, photos, flowers and best wishes. A virtual Celebration Night honouring the accomplishments of our students was a big hit and may be the start of a new tradition! Rose of Sharon is proud to celebrate the hard work of every student mother. We respect the strength and courage it takes to continue with education especially while caring for a young child.

Scholarships are generously provided by community partners:

Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) * Sisters of the Good Shepherd
Rotary Club Newmarket * Colleen Kelly Memorial * CWL Our Lady of Grace Parish Aurora



Special thanks to our Graduation Sponsors:



Prestige Granite Design Inc.

Volunteers Keep our Gardens Growing



Special thanks to the hardworking volunteers from Knights of Columbus: Sir Knights Assembly 2654, Counsel 14411 Richmond Hill, and Council 11535 Maple for planting our garden plot with plants generously donated from their personal gardens and from Wonderland Garden Centre and 19th Avenue Farmer's Market. We are harvesting an amazing variety of fresh herbs and vegetables which are being delivered to our young families to enjoy. Nothing tastes better than locally grown produce in the summertime!



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER!

Yes, I would would like to help Rose of Sharon's young families by providing:

- 1 month of counselling, programs & care packages for 1 youth parent & their family - **\$415**
- 1 month of online parent & child development programs for 1 young mom - **\$135**
- 1 family care package, delivered to 1 vulnerable family - **\$90**
- 1 personal counselling session for 1 pregnant/parenting youth - **\$50**
- A one-time donation of \$
- A recurring Monthly Donation of \$



Please make cheques payable to **Rose of Sharon Services for Young Mothers**. Donations of \$20 or more are eligible for a tax receipt.
Your privacy is important to us. We do not rent, trade or sell our donor lists.