

2023-2024 Harry E. Foster Foundation Grant



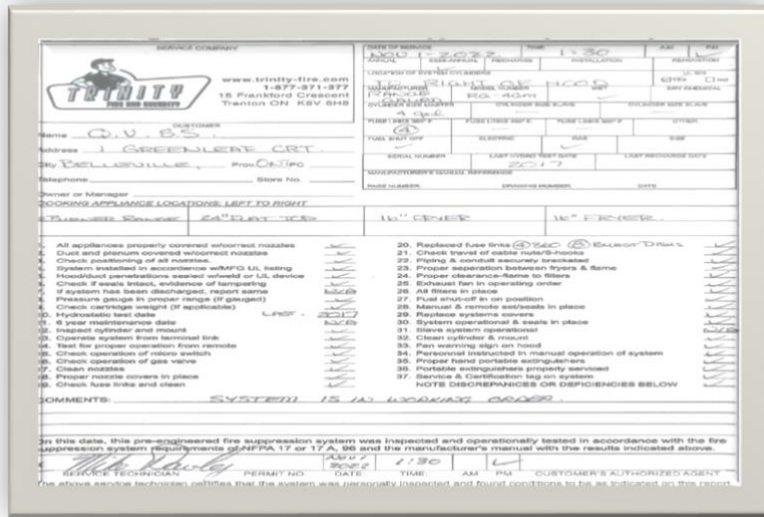
The Harry E Foster Foundation



**Item #1- Red's Place Diner Lunch Subsidy Program \$2000**



**At Red's Place Diner, we strive to create a welcoming and inclusive environment where individuals can gather to enjoy delicious meals at a reduced cost, and to enjoy the company of others. Our diner serves as the heart of our agency, providing our participants with a sense of community and belonging. Thank you!**



**Item #2- Red's Place Diner  
Annual  
Maintenance/Inspections-  
\$2000**

**We are committed to following strict guidelines and regularly inspecting equipment. Our top priorities are the participants' safety and to continue to provide our highest standards to ensure a safe dining experience. Thank you!**

**Item #3- Freezer \$1700**

**By ensuring the availability of buying in bulk, having fresh ingredients, and reducing food waste, we can create a sustainable and inclusive dining experience for the participants.**

**Thank you!**



**Item #4- Red's Place  
Diner Assistant \$4000**

**By supporting Brandon's employment at Red's Place, is helping an individual with developmental disabilities achieve financial independence and promote inclusivity and diversity within our society.**

**Thank you!**

**Item #5- Industrial Dishwasher \$5000**

With a functioning industrial dishwasher, we can continue providing affordable meals and remain open according to the health unit's requirements. This appliance is vital for ensuring the safe preparation and cleaning of dishes, ultimately contributing to the overall well-being of our community participants.



**Item #6- All Departments-Program Cost Assistance \$2300**



Working together, we can help break down the barriers that hinder people with disabilities from fully participating in their community. Our programs strive to make recreational activities accessible and affordable for all, ensuring that nobody is left behind. Thank you for your help!

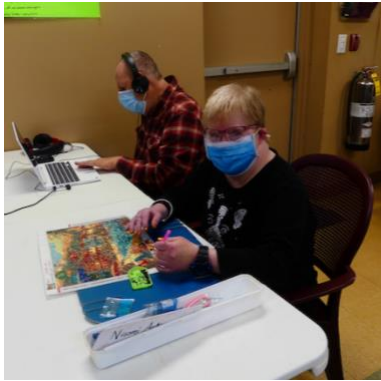


**Item #7- All Departments- Laptops and Tablets \$3000**

Your generous support will bridge the digital divide and empower the participants to harness the power of technology for personal growth and social integration. With access to laptops and tablets, they can participate in virtual programs, educational courses, and recreational activities tailored to their interests and abilities. Thank you!



**Item #8 Program Supplies \$1000**



**Investing in recreational program supplies for QVSS is an investment in the well-being and happiness of the individuals we support. Our product supplies are both high quality and affordable, ensuring we can provide a fulfilling recreational experience. Thank you!**



**Item #9- All Departments- Social Scene \$2000**



**By giving the participants something to look forward to each month, we aim to enhance their overall well-being and sense of belonging. These events allow them to socialize, make new friends, and create lasting memories at the agency and in the community. Thank you!**



February 21, 2023

Dear Foster Foundation;

We are very grateful for your generous contribution to QVSS. Your donation is significant to us. It helps the continuity of our commitment to serving people with developmental disabilities in many ways: physically, emotionally, and financially. But more importantly, you can visibly witness their absolute pleasure.

Red's Place Diner, for example, does not profit in any way other than offering cost-reduced food prices to offset the disproportionate levels of poverty experienced by those living day-to-day on their low disability allowance. The large replacement display fridge benefits 100 participants by keeping the items cool and fresh. The items are visible to people, making deciding what they want to eat easier.

We must follow strict guidelines while having regular equipment inspections like servicing the exhaust hoods, grease traps, suppression inspections and pest control since many people depend on Red's Place Diner to be efficient and safe. Everyone at QVSS benefits and congregates at break times and lunch to eat, drink, and socialize with their friends and guests, so it is more than just a place to enjoy good food.

As well, QVSS provides another food-related program called Soups On. Soups On is a program where participants learn to make soup they can take home. We also offer the Internet Café program at Red's Place Diner, where participants enjoy social media entertainment and learn new technological skills at the heart of the agency.

Brandon is very grateful, and so are we, for your help with his wage assistance. He is a quick study and a real asset to QVSS. Brandon likes his job at Red's Place Diner, and we are pleased with how well he manages his new career as he helps sell drinks and snacks, serves the pre-made sandwiches he makes with soup, and does it all confidently and easily. He cleans tables, restocks inventory like cream and sugars after breaks and lunches, and then sweeps the floor to prepare for the next break time. He is very proud of his new responsibilities, and we are proud of him too, and value him as a potential fellow employee.

The brand-new Point of Sale Display Cash Register helps everyone. This cash register helps QVSS with invoicing and logging items used or items needing purchasing for Red's Place. It does all tax calculations and recognizes all products for sale.

A bonus to that, the new cash register reveals the amount due and the correct change. Brandon will now not have to do math in his head since he can see it on the cash register making him more efficient at his job. The participants can see the amount of their purchase and the change

due back to them. Everyone benefits from the efficiency since the line-ups are minimal, allowing people the opportunity to enjoy a leisurely break.

There have been many changes over recent years. We were taken aback by the number of younger people attending our agency and those waiting to come to our agency, requesting computer programs for various reasons. People have become accustomed to using computers for connectivity to others and entertainment purposes since COVID. Especially the young. Now we can accommodate anyone interested in using a computer since we can provide them for their enjoyment.

QVSS provides support and services to people with varying disabilities, health issues and exceptionalities. The agency requested a replacement defibrillator, unaware of a company that makes replacement parts since ours was passed the expiration date. Since your help, we have purchased a new defibrillator and replaced the expired parts of the old one, and now we have a defibrillator for each floor of the agency.

During COVID-19, QVSS modified the entire building. We reassessed all recreational day support services and how we could provide them to be safe in every way. We closed all small program areas. We reconstructed our most popular programs for the people who come to the agency delivered in accommodated, supervised, small cohorts, in large rooms, respecting social distancing and hygiene.

The Hepa Filters we have for the people in the large rooms run during program hours, protecting participants from environmental risks of infections like bacteria, dust, pollen, pet dander, mould spores and volatile organic compounds, etc. Now that QVSS has reopened, more people are in the building, and we are using the smaller rooms for the first time in over two years since we have new Hepa Filters for each room. Now, every room is safer.

Your donation helps us to provide excellent, healthy, practical gifts that help to empower all participants who utilize and enjoy our programs and services.

We are incredibly grateful for the Harry E. Foster Foundation and your many years of support. On behalf of QVSS and myself, thank you!

Mike Vajda  
Executive Director