



## MEDIA RELEASE

February 10, 2020

### **\$97,400 OTF Grant Creates Community Hub**

**Peterborough** - On Monday, Alternatives hosted a recognition event at 270 Braidwood Avenue to thank the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) for the \$97,400 Capital grant that it received in 2018 to create a community hub in the south end of Peterborough.

Local MPP Dave Smith, Peterborough-Kawartha and OTF volunteer Stephen Burman were on hand to congratulate Alternatives and congratulate them on creating a space that will reduce social isolation and assist people living with disabilities to connect to their community in meaningful ways.

“Investing in supports for people with disabilities is something I am proud to endorse. Alternatives Community Program Services performs incredible and life-changing work to improve the lives of those who need it most. This funding is another important step forward,” said MPP Dave Smith.

Great effort has been taken to ensure that the space is completely accessible and welcoming to all. In addition to programming and coordinating services for people living with disabilities the space will be available for community celebrations and other activities that connect individuals to the greater community. Alternatives welcomes other groups and clubs to access the space for their special events.

"Alternatives' had a vision to transform this chapel into a safe, welcoming and accessible space for our clients, their families and our community," said Vikki Etchells, Executive Director of Alternatives. "We wanted a space where people can come together, to share their gifts, spend time becoming good neighbors, making new friends and together, breaking down barriers that cause social isolation."

"Our intent was to create a community hub that would bring services and supports to those in need. Some of these services could be in partnership with our local health care professionals, recreational and cultural organizations, our theater community and local businesses. These are only a few possibilities where we believe the possibilities are endless," added Etchells.

Alternatives' mission is, "Building Community for Belonging, Acceptance and Growth", inspiring and exciting people of all abilities to enrich their skills, celebrate their lives and have fun with their families, friends and neighbours! An Open House is planned for May 7, 2020 from 4 pm to 6 pm. Friends, families and neighbours are invited to visit, introduce yourself and have a tour of the facility.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada's leading granting foundations. OTF awarded \$108 million to 629 projects last year to build healthy and vibrant communities in Ontario. [www.otf.ca](http://www.otf.ca)

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