



Inspiring Hope + Wellness in Our Community

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## THE COWAN FOUNDATION SUPPORTS HIGH-RISK COMMUNITY MEMBERS THROUGH ITS COMMITMENT TO CONNECTIVITY KW4

Kitchener, ON: Connectivity KW4, a ground-breaking program of Carizon Family and Community Services, brings 30 health and social service agencies together, to collaboratively and proactively address situations of acutely elevated risk and support individuals to access the services they need. Carizon is pleased to announce that the Cowan Foundation is investing \$60,000 over 3 years in this model to ensure the sustainability and continuity of this impactful program in Kitchener, Waterloo and the townships of Wellesley, Woolwich and Wilmot.

Originally, Connectivity KW4 received implementation funding from the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services and a Community Grant from the Kitchener and Waterloo Community Foundation. Connectivity Situation Tables in Waterloo Region (Connectivity KW4, led by Carizon, and Connectivity Cambridge North Dumfries, led by Langs) have been internationally recognized for their innovative approach. Connectivity Waterloo Region received the IAPC/Motorola Seavey Award for excellence in law enforcement and community wellness and was featured in Alternatives Journal for building stronger communities. A Waterloo evaluation of the model by Taylor-Newberry Consulting supported by the Waterloo Wellington LHIN demonstrated significant impact on our most vulnerable client populations and systemic improvements in service delivery. It also found that the work of Connectivity Waterloo Region resulted in 1342 fewer calls to police and 126 fewer emergency department visits, diverting approximately \$139,000 from these systems. Connectivity KW4 has helped 416 individuals and mitigated an additional 149 situations, thanks to the enhanced collaboration of partner agencies.

“Connectivity aligns with The Cowan Foundation’s priority of improving the health and wellness of individuals, and of paramount significance, reaching our most vulnerable community members,” says Terry Reidel, Executive Director of The Cowan Foundation. “This program helps those in the greatest need of intervention and has a plan in place within 24 – 48 hours reducing emergency room visits, child protection cases, violent crime and youth victimization.”

“Two things impressed us about Connectivity - the proactive nature of Connectivity and the demonstrated collaborative impact,” adds David Outa, Commercial Account Executive, Cowan Insurance Group. “It’s not about ‘if you need help, give us a call’ - it’s about community partners bringing situations forward, taking people by the hand and putting a plan in place that doesn’t allow them to fall through the cracks.”

“We are truly grateful to The Cowan Foundation whose investment in Connectivity KW4 means that this proven partnership can continue to come together on a weekly basis and respond to the needs of youth, adults and families facing critical circumstances, including mental health, criminal involvement, drugs, housing, and public health and safety,” says Carizon CEO Tracy Elop.

The \$60,000 investment over 3 years will provide for the ongoing coordination of Connectivity KW4 in Kitchener-Waterloo and the surrounding townships and the establishment of a partnership model sustainability plan.

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If you would like more information, please contact Tracy Elop, CEO at telop@carizon.ca, 519-743-6333.

*ABOUT CARIZON:*

**Carizon** helps families when life is tough. Specializing in children’s mental health, counselling, and community services, Carizon’s mental health and wellbeing programs range from early intervention and prevention to intensive trauma treatment services. We believe that when we help families manage life’s challenges, we create a healthy and vibrant community for all. For more information, visit: [www.carizon.ca](http://www.carizon.ca).

*ABOUT THE COWAN FOUNDATION:*

**The Cowan Foundation** was started in 1995 in honour of Frank Cowan, the founder of Frank Cowan. The Foundation is sustained by the ongoing success of the Princeton Holdings group of companies including Cowan Insurance Group (and its subsidiaries: The Williamson Group, Millennium CreditRisk Management, Wentworth Financial Services and Cowan Financial Solutions), Frank Cowan Company, The Guarantee Company of North America and Cowan Asset Management. Together they provide insurance, wealth management and risk management products and services for individuals, businesses, organizations and public entities as well as assist employers with their group benefits, retirement and health and disability management plans. The goal of The Cowan Foundation is to make a positive difference in the lives of Canadians and the broader well-being of our communities. Learn more at [cowanfoundation.ca](http://cowanfoundation.ca).