



Georgian Triangle Humane Society

549 Tenth Line, Collingwood, ON L9Y 0W1
705-445-5204 | info@gths.ca | www.gths.ca

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 11, 2019

Contact: Stephen Donkers

Communications and Marketing Coordinator
(705) 445-5204 ext. 212 / stephen@gths.ca

\$298,000 OTF Grant Gives Youth & Animals a Lasting Bond through Education

COLLINGWOOD, ON – In 2019, the Georgian Triangle Humane Society (also known as the GTHS), in partnership with the Ontario SPCA, received a \$298,000 Grow Grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to continue growing a groundbreaking online Humane Education Program that launched in 2017 after the successful reward of a seed grant.

The GTHS Humane Education Program has continued to see success in helping to increase the social and emotional skills in youth facing barriers through strengthening the human-animal bond. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Humane Education shifted to an online platform to facilitate ease of access to youth programs. Three online courses were created for youth aged 10-17 and are the first of its kind in Canada, providing hours of learning about pet care, compassion and empathy for all living things and how to use that knowledge to improve the conditions of pets and people in our community.

Based on a successful pilot project of school-based classroom visits, group workshops/after school and summer programs at the GTHS and one-to-one mentorships, the online program consists of the Pet Sitter Certificate and Responsible Pet Ownership courses, and one course led by educators (the Junior Animal Wellness Certificate program).

After securing approval from surrounding school boards, hundreds of secondary school students have been able to complete these courses for community service hours. The Humane Education program aligns itself with countless academic studies across international boundaries that suggest developing empathy for animals will result in increased caring for all human beings because empathy is a building block for pro-social behaviour.

“Humane education can help create a better future for animals, which is why the programs offered by the Georgian Triangle Humane Society are so vitally important,” says Daryl Vaillancourt, Chief of Humane Programs & Community Outreach, Ontario SPCA and Humane Society. “Their approach makes learning about animal care, empathy and compassion a fun and engaging process that will benefit their entire community and this is why the impact of this Ontario Trillium Foundation Grow Grant cannot be underestimated.”

By the end of the grant period, the GTHS has impacted over 4000 youth in the Southern Georgian Bay area and are committed to continuing to grow this program by launching the next online course, *Vets of Tomorrow, Level I*, by the end of 2021, with *Level II* soon following in the new year.



Georgian Triangle Humane Society

549 Tenth Line, Collingwood, ON L9Y 0W1
705-445-5204 | info@gths.ca | www.gths.ca

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada's leading granting foundations. Last year, nearly \$112M was invested into 1,384 community projects and partnerships to build healthy and vibrant communities and strengthen the impact of Ontario's non-profit sector. In 2020/21, OTF 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.