

Community Care St. Catharines & Thorold

2022 PARTNERSHIP UPDATE



- ▲ *Micah Stewart, a second-year Sport Management student, helping collect food donations on behalf of Brock Sports for Community Care of St. Catharines & Thorold during home games the weekend of November 11, 2022.*

On May 28, 2019, Community Care St. Catharines & Thorold and Brock University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to solidify their collaborative efforts to produce mutually beneficial outcomes for the community. Through student service and experiential learning opportunities and placements they are supporting vulnerable populations and helping address issues related to poverty. The partnership reflects Brock's commitments to community engagement, knowledge mobilization and experiential learning. Together they are working towards their shared priority for mutually beneficial partnerships that enhance the life and vitality of our local Niagara community.

Projects and Initiatives in 2022

This past year, Community Care and Brock University worked together in several ways that address the immediate impacts of poverty while also working to address the systemic barriers to poverty reduction. Strengthening this partnership has greatly enhanced the services and supports to the agency, not only through experiential learning, but also through exploring research collaborations which will inform future program delivery.

Service

Community Care and Brock supported one another through several acts of service in 2022.

Initiatives included:

- With the support of the Brock community, the Ontario Secondary School Teacher's Foundation, which represents support staff from across the University, held an extremely successful food drive for Community Care of St. Catharines and Thorold in June 2022.
- As a part of Brock's Homecoming Grape Stomp Alumni and Student Life & Success collaborated with Community Care to hold a food drive. Two bins of non-perishable food items were collected in support of Community Care.
- Meaghan Rusnell, Associate Vice-President, Government, Community, and International Relations served as a Director on Community Care's Board of Directors in 2022.
- Brock's Annual Trick or Eat Campaign occurred in partnership with Community Care on October 31st, 2022, led by Brock's Student Life & Success. 17 student volunteers participated, going door-to-door in the local neighbourhood collecting canned food donations for Community Care.
- An initiative was led by the Student Athlete Leadership Council through Brock Athletics, to collect non-perishable food items in support of Community Care in time for the holiday season. This initiative ran the weekend of November 11, 2022 at all Brock Badger home games.
- Brock Government, Community and International Relations held a Holiday Food Drive from November 14 to December 19, 2022, in support of Community Care.
- Karrie Porter, the Housing Manager for Community Care was a guest speaker at Brock's 8th Annual AAA event.

Student Experiential Learning

The partnership between Community Care and Brock provided experiential learning opportunities to student throughout 2022.

These included:

- Students participated in Career Education, by volunteering at Community Care of West Niagara from September 1 to November 30, 2022.

Other

Community Care and Brock University continue to look for ways to advance collaborations for mutually beneficial outcomes. In 2022, initiatives outside of the service and student experiential learning realms included Brock's Social Justice Research Institute (SJRI) Director and Project Facilitator attending meetings with Community Care to learn more about their research needs and wants, to explore meaningful ways to support Community Care's future program delivery.