



BACKGROUND

Supportive Statements

“The Community Benefits Plan continues to deliver meaningful programs for the residents and businesses of Sandwich Town. This \$2.6 million investment will enhance local food security, celebrate the history of this area and engage community members in recreational activities. I look forward to seeing these projects move forward over the next two years and hope residents will take advantage of these unique opportunities.”

- *Fabio Costante, Ward 2, City of Windsor Council Member*

“I am grateful for the ongoing investments made by Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority and Bridging North America on both sides of the border. Community benefits such as these – that center frontline residents – help mitigate impact and provide opportunity. I look forward to seeing the roll out and implementation of these initiatives and am grateful for the continued engagement of our Delray and southwest Detroit residents throughout this project.”

- *Gabriela Santiago-Romero, District 6, Detroit City Council Member*

“At AWE, part of our mission is to harness the power of art to connect, inspire and transform. Through our new program, Sandwich Visionaries, we will offer free arts-based programming dedicated to engaging and inspiring the young minds of Sandwich Town and West Windsor. Thanks to the generous support of the Gordie Howe International Bridge Community Benefits Plan, we can bring this series of captivating workshops outside of the gallery directly to children and youth in our city’s west end where participants can explore local history and culture through art. It’s through programs like these that AWE is afforded the opportunity to empower youth to grow and feel a sense of belonging.”

- *Jennifer Matotek, Executive Director, Art Windsor-Essex (AWE)*

“Our Lady of the Assumption Parish was founded first as a Mission Church in 1728 and became a parish in 1767. For just under 300 years, Assumption has been actively involved in at the very heart of the community. We, at Assumption and Assumption Cares, are excited at the opportunities that are being made available through this generous grant. It will result in emergency food supplies for hundreds of families, a free weekly community meal, equipment to enhance the services we provide, and programs for seniors, young adults, and children.”

- *Laura Soulliere, Assumption Parish*

“Funding from the Community Benefits Plan will enable Les Amis Duff-Bâby to bring historical interpretation of the Mansion to an exciting and engaging level and make the house and site a preferred historical destination for miles around. It will offer experiential learning to all visitors. This type of immersive experience would never be realized without this funding. Not only will this project imbue residents of Sandwich with pride of place, it will also increase tourism to the area. Education, tourism and the local economy are all winners with this project.”

- *Don Wilson, President, Les Amis Duff-Bâby*

“We are honoured to be a recipient of Community Benefits Plan funding and look forward to working with the project team. It’s exciting to have the opportunity to develop an engaging outdoor space, for our clients and those on Maryvale’s campus. The site will open up unique learning possibilities for this area.”

- *Hellena E. Hebert, Executive Director, The Summit Centre for Preschool Children with Autism*

“This groundbreaking school lunch program will be one of the first of its kind in Windsor-Essex and will have an incredibly positive impact on students and their families. We are thankful to the Gordie Howe International Bridge Community Benefits Plan for providing the funding needed to deliver this healthy investment in two Sandwich area schools.”

- *Lorraine Goddard, United Way/Centraide Windsor-Essex County*

“The goal of the AmeriCorps Urban Safety Program is to engage youth outreach to neighborhood residents and local businesses to identify local public safety needs and implement events and activities to meet those needs. The program helps to build youth skills and capacity for civic engagement, organizing and problem-solving and prepares them to participate in our next generation of community leaders. The program service of our youth members helps to ensure that public safety is enhanced by sustainable, effective, community-driven solutions. We are thankful for the support of the Gordie Howe International Bridge Community Benefits Plan for their support of this work in the Southwest Detroit and Delray communities.”

- *Ramona Washington, Program Director, AmeriCorps Urban Safety Program*

“The Community Benefits Plan funding supports our organization's efforts to bridge the digital divide in the Southwest Detroit community. The charging stations and Wi-Fi access funded by this plan will be a great addition to the community where internet access is often unaffordable for older adults and low-income families. We are grateful for this opportunity and support.”

- *Darchelle Strickland Love, Executive Director, Bridging Communities, Inc. (BCI)*

"Thanks to the support from the Community Benefits Plan funding, our Center's Healthy Habits programming is advancing with a focus on addressing food security and promoting wellness in the community. This funding will specifically enhance CHASS' Mercado, allowing us to provide fresh produce, offer nutrition and healthy eating programs and facilitate wellness activities for local youth and families. These additions not only strengthen our commitment to community health but also empower individuals with valuable resources for lasting well-being."

- *Dolores Perales, Community Health and Social Services (CHASS) Center*

"This partnership with the Gordie Howe International Bridge has opened the door for us to deliver on beautiful collective visions. In the heart of a Springwells neighborhood, Chavez Community Garden will soon open the doors to Unity House community center, a locally scaled platform for connection & creativity, built hand-in-hand as a community. In parallel and upon completion, funds will also be used to grow our programs, including micro-apprenticeship, STEM classes, workshops, vendor nights, & more. As intergenerational, interdisciplinary, and even inter-species life pass through our space and programs, we know we are taking a huge step toward our mission to reconnect with humanity & nature. We thank the Gordie Howe International Bridge for allowing us to bring our best to serve our community."

- *Alex Kwon, Executive Director, Graft Living*

"The Detroit River Project wishes to thank the Gordie Howe International Bridge Community Benefits Plan for the tremendous investment they have made in the organization's upcoming children's camp, "Camp Freedom at Midnight" as we extend our reach across the international border with this educational initiative. Camp Freedom at Midnight is intended for children between the ages of 10-14 in Southwest Detroit/ Delray and Windsor/Sandwich in a heritage camp that will be conducted across borders and at the river's edge."

- *Kimberly Simmons, Executive Director & President, The Detroit River Project*

"The Greening of Detroit is pleased to be a partner of the Gordie Howe International Bridge Community Benefits Plan, continuing to work with Southwest Detroit residents creating a greener community. The Greening of Detroit is excited to implement a comprehensive initiative that will engage youth and adults from Southwest Detroit and Delray in a continuum of activities that are designed to promote their knowledge and environmental awareness and increase their capacity to become environmental stewards in their neighborhood."

- *Lionel Bradford, President & CEO, The Greening of Detroit*