

**Name of Charity:**

Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Foundation

**Website:**

<https://www.khcas.on.ca/foundation/>

**Mission Statement:**

The Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Foundation is dedicated to raising and disbursing funds used to enrich the quality of life of children found in need of protection by Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society.

**Population and Geographic Area:**

The Foundation benefits children and youth aged 0 - 21 that are supported by the Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society in the City of Kawartha Lakes, Peterborough County, and Haliburton.

**What the Donated Funds will be used for:**

The COVID-19 pandemic has created an unprecedented crisis. Those particularly at risk are the vulnerable children and youth involved with the Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society.

Previously the Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Foundation has been committed to several funds:

1. A \$120,000 Summer Camp Program
2. The Child Development Fund for extra-curricular activities
3. Our Bursary Fund which provides over \$110,000 in bursaries yearly to former Crown Wards attending post-secondary institutions.
4. We also made available \$14,000 worth of gift cards for former in-care youths transitioning from foster care to independent living.

Then in March of 2020, everything changed.

We all know what kind of year it has been: wearing masks, working from home, and social distancing. This has been incredibly isolating for us all. Now imagine the impact on our most vulnerable kids. Sadly, fear and uncertainty affect children of abuse and neglect at an intensified level. They understand all too well that when things are not right in the world, they will experience more trauma, both physically and mentally.

Our request is simple. Would you help us to support both former in-care youth living independently with no parental support, and families with children deeply affected by the

COVID-19 pandemic who are involved with the Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society but do receive government support from the agency.

Over the past 8 months, the Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Foundation has distributed over \$95,000 worth of COVID-19 emergency grocery gift cards to assist former in-care youth, and children with their most basic and urgent necessities such as food and other supports! Yet still, there is so much more we are being asked to do.

A few weeks ago, a KHCAS worker contacted us about a family who opened their home to offer a stable environment for their 2 nieces, aged 6 and 9. Unlike paid foster parents, kinship families receive minimal government support which can only be accessed months after children have taken up residence. This urgent, but simple request was for a set of bunk beds and bedding so the girls wouldn't have to sleep on air mattresses on the floor.

We have quickly realized that 2020 is not just about our commitment to continue offering life changing opportunities, but we also needed to rapidly position ourselves to assist with some of the most basic needs such as food, beds, formula, clothing, personal items and more.

Without a doubt, this year has been the greatest challenge we have ever faced. But you can help! Your members will touch the lives of so many deserving local children and bridge the gaps that exist between government and other community supports. You can send your message to a child that not only our community cares, but more importantly, you care in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Other sources of income:**

Arm's Length of the Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society, our Foundation does not receive any Ontario ministry funding. We are 100% supported through individual donations, local organizations, granting foundations, and through income raised at special events.