

Report to Council

Report Title:	G.R.O.W. Rooted in Love Maternity Home One Year Update		
Prepared By:	Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer		
Department:	Administration		
Date:	April 28, 2020		
Report Number:	CAO2020-04	File Number:	C11AD, L04GR
Attachments:	None		

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number CAO2020-04 - G.R.O.W. Rooted in Love Maternity Home One Year Update, prepared by Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer for information purposes.

Report:

Background:

At the meeting on April 23, 2019, Council approved a By-law entering into a Lease Agreement with G.R.O.W. Rooted in Love Maternity Home (GROW) for the Armoury Building in Walkerton. The Lease Agreement includes a provision that GROW would provide an update in the first six months of occupying the premise as per Report Number CAO2019-31 – G.R.O.W. Rooted in Love Maternity Home Six Month Update and at the end of the first year of occupancy about the amount fundraised and the services provided to mothers and infants at the resource centre.

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer, contacted Bobbi-Jo Moran, the Executive Director of GROW to obtain the information described in the lease agreement.

Analysis:

According to Ms. Moran, the opening of the building was days away from being confirmed when the COVID-19 restrictions were announced.

At the six month update, GROW had made significant progress in operations including cleaning up the armoury yard and organizing garden beds. For the one year update, they have added 5 more gardens to the yard and have plans to increase the number of gardens again prior to planting. Planting will commence in late May / early June and the plan is to have all extra produce be added to the give and take stand for community use.

GROW has demonstrated a solid fundraising effort, having received \$5,000 from residents, \$6,000 from Service / Church Groups, \$16,000 in additional monthly or one-time donations, and \$2,000 from a fundraiser for a total of \$29,000. During their Christmas fundraiser they were hoping to sponsor ten families but were able to sponsor 15.

GROW partnered with Laurentian University to host a midwife student placement of which \$500 was given for hosting. Additional partnerships include the Kidney Foundation who is paying \$0.13/lb of clothing that isn't being used at the MommaB's Consignment. They have also accessed a public health approved kitchen in Hanover three days per week through a catering company to prepare and provide single serve home cooked meals for the community through donated goods and partnerships with various local farmers who have been donating food for the home cooked meals. This donation service is taken advantage of by a number of locals during the pandemic.

Their home (not the Armoury property) is currently running at capacity with mother's and requests to be accommodated are still coming in.

As noted above, GROW has made steady progress in both fundraising and operational goals. They continue to work through aesthetic improvements and program delivery services. The Armoury building is being developed to serve a need in the community of Brockton. G.R.O.W. is stepping up with the assistance of the mother's to support the vulnerable populations in the community during this pandemic through food donations.

Sustainability Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Sustainable Strategic Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

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| • Do the recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision? | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Cultural Vibrancy? | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Prosperity? | N/A |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to Environmental Integrity? | N/A |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to the Social Equity? | Yes |

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes

G.R.O.W is responsible for all on-going costs of the Armoury building as the tenant. Capital costs for building maintenance are a municipal expense.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer