



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **West Island Community comes together to support the most vulnerable in an unprecedented act of kindness**

**In less than three weeks, more than \$150,000 raised for the West Island Solidarity Fund**

**Pointe-Claire, April 8, 2020:** Knowing that all local community organizations will be financially impacted by COVID-19 and the demand for their services will increase significantly in the coming days, weeks and months, West Island Community Shares set up a **West Island Solidarity Fund**. In less than three weeks, the Solidarity Fund raised over \$150,000 thanks to the generosity of West Islanders, as well as major donors including the **Trottier Family Foundation, Pfizer Canada, Centraide of Greater Montreal, Caisse Desjardins de l'Ouest-de-l'Île, and Merck Canada**.

The West Island Solidarity Fund has been set up not only to provide financial support to meet immediate needs of the community, but it will also give community organizations the possibility to plan ahead and get their teams ready to provide adequate support during the difficult months ahead.

Most of the 41 community organizations supported by Community Shares have very little resources to fundraise, and even less to fundraise during these difficult times. The Fund will help support organisations whose expenses may not be covered by the different government programs announced in the past weeks. The goal is to ensure that crucial services are available for West Islanders who need them during these difficult times.

But the fight isn't over...

### **QUOTES**

"We are amazed by the community support. We are so grateful to all individuals who donated to the Fund as well as to our partners for helping our community in such difficult times. Although we are beyond touched by the response so far, we need the public to continue supporting the West Island Solidarity Fund."

**Sophie McCann**, Executive Director of Community Shares

"Our community organizations must be able to plan for the expected surge in demand for their services in the coming months. Providing them with mid to long-term funding, would provide them the financial support they need to better prepare for what is about to come. The Fund will help them ensure that crucial services are available for West Islanders who need them.

**Chantal Carrier**, President of the Fund Distribution Committee

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

West Island Solidarity Fund was set up to provide financial support to local community organisations during the COVID-19 crisis.

West Island Solidarity Fund raised over \$150,000 in three weeks but needs more donations to support the expected surge in demand for services in the coming months.

Most of the 41 community organizations supported by Community Shares have very little resources to fundraise, and even less to fundraise during these difficult times.

Anyone who would like to contribute to the West Island Solidarity Fund and help us ensure that crucial services are available for West Islanders who will ask for help during these difficult times, can make an online donation at [CommunityShares.ca](https://CommunityShares.ca).

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### **About West Island Community Shares**

West Island Community Shares is a unique charitable organization dedicated to building a strong, inclusive, peaceful and healthy community. We do this by raising crucial funds for 41 local community groups which focus on developing strong and resilient children, creating bridges to support vulnerable populations, empowering women to reach their full potential for themselves and their families, and providing basic necessities to West Islanders in need.

#### **For more information:**

Albena Petkova  
Development & Communications Manager  
West Island Community Shares  
C: 514.570.5395  
[albena@partageaction.ca](mailto:albena@partageaction.ca)  
[communityshares.ca](https://communityshares.ca)  
[Facebook/WICSPartage](https://Facebook/WICSPartage)  
[LinkedIn/WestIslandCommunity](https://LinkedIn/WestIslandCommunity)