



**Town of Aurora  
Mayor's Golf Classic Funds Committee  
Meeting Agenda**

**Date:** Wednesday, June 4, 2025  
**Time:** 10 a.m.  
**Location:** Video Conference

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	<b>Pages</b>
<b>1. Call to Order</b>	
<b>2. Land Acknowledgement</b>	
<b>3. Approval of the Agenda</b>	
<b>4. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof</b>	
<b>5. Receipt of the Minutes</b>	
<b>5.1 Mayor's Golf Classic Funds Committee Meeting Minutes of April 2, 2025</b>	<b>1</b>
1. That the Mayor's Golf Classic Funds Committee meeting minutes of April 2, 2025, be received for information.	
<b>6. Delegations</b>	
<b>7. Matters for Consideration</b>	
<b>7.1 Application from The Lighthouse Learning and Development Centre; Re: Funding for Programs</b>	<b>5</b>
1. That the Application from The Lighthouse Learning and Development Centre; Re: Funding for Programs be received; and	
2. That the Committee provide direction to:	
a. Grant the funding request; or	
b. Deny the funding request; or	
c. Defer consideration of the funding request to a future meeting.	
<b>7.2 Application from CAYR Community Connections; Re: Funding for 'A Taste for Life' Annual Campaign</b>	<b>12</b>

1. That the Application from CAYR Community Connections; Re: Funding for 'A Taste for Life' Annual Campaign be received; and
2. That the Committee provide direction to:
  1. Grant the funding request; or
  2. Deny the funding request; or
  3. Defer consideration of the funding request to a future meeting.

**7.3 Application from Aurora Cares Community Action Team; Re: Funding for Ongoing Initiatives**

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1. That the Application from Aurora Cares Community Action Team; Re: Funding for Ongoing Initiatives be received; and
2. That the Committee provide direction to:
  1. Grant the funding request; or
  2. Deny the funding request; or
  3. Defer consideration of the funding request to a future meeting.

**8. Informational Items**

**9. New Business**

**10. Adjournment**



**Town of Aurora  
Mayor's Golf Classic Funds Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Wednesday, April 2, 2025

**Time:** 10 a.m.

**Location:** Video Conference

**Committee Members:** Angela Covert (Chair)  
Robert Gaby  
Manuel Veloso

**Members Absent:** Elia Elliott  
Ping Zhang

**Other Attendees:** Jason Gaertner, Manager, Financial Planning  
Michael de Rond, Town Clerk

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**1. Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

**2. Land Acknowledgement**

The Committee acknowledged that the meeting took place on Anishinaabe lands, the traditional and treaty territory of the Chippewas of Georgina Island, recognizing the many other Nations whose presence here continues to this day, the special relationship the Chippewas have with the lands and waters of this territory, and that Aurora has shared responsibility for the stewardship of these lands and waters. It was noted that Aurora is part of the treaty lands of the Mississaugas and Chippewas, recognized through Treaty #13 and the Williams Treaties of 1923.

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

Mayor's Golf Classic Funds Committee Meeting Minutes  
April 2, 2025

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**Moved by** Robert Gaby  
**Seconded by** Manuel Veloso

That the agenda as circulated by Legislative Services be approved.

**Carried**

**4. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50*.

**5. Receipt of the Minutes**

**5.1 Mayor's Golf Classic Funds Committee Meeting Minutes of February 26, 2025**

**Moved by** Manuel Veloso  
**Seconded by** Robert Gaby

1. That the Mayor's Golf Classic Funds Committee meeting minutes of February 26, 2025, be received for information.

**Carried**

**6. Delegations**

None

**7. Matters for Consideration**

**7.1 Application from Starlight Children's Foundation Canada; Re: Funding Request for 2025 Trick or Suite Event**

**Moved by** Manuel Veloso  
**Seconded by** Robert Gaby

1. That the Application from Starlight Children's Foundation Canada; Re: Funding Request for 2025 Trick or Suite Event be received; and
2. That the Committee grant the funding request in the amount of \$2,000.00.

**Carried**

**7.2 Application from Easter Seals Ontario; Re: Funding for Programs**

**Moved by** Manuel Veloso

**Seconded by** Robert Gaby

1. That the Application from Easter Seals Ontario; Re: Funding for Programs be received; and
2. That the Committee grant the funding request in the amount of \$5,000.00.

**Carried**

**7.3 Application from The ABLE Network; Re: Funding for Programs**

**Moved by** Robert Gaby

**Seconded by** Manuel Veloso

1. That the Application from The ABLE Network; Re: Funding for Programs be received; and
2. That the Committee grant the funding request in the amount of \$5,000.00.

**Carried**

**7.4 Application from Big Brothers Big Sisters Peel York; Re: Funding for Mentoring Programs**

**Moved by** Manuel Veloso

**Seconded by** Robert Gaby

1. That the Application from Big Brothers Big Sisters Peel York; Re: Funding for Mentoring Programs be received; and
2. That the Committee grant the funding request in the amount of \$5,000.00.

**Carried**

**7.5 Application from Omar's Fashion Thru the Ages in Support of Southlake Health Men's Health; Re Funding for Fundraising Event**

**Moved by** Robert Gaby

**Seconded by** Manuel Veloso

Mayor's Golf Classic Funds Committee Meeting Minutes  
April 2, 2025

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1. That the Application from Omar's Fashion Thru the Ages in Support of Southlake Health Men's Health; Re: Funding for Fundraising Event be received; and
2. That the Committee grant the funding request in the amount of \$5,000.00.

**Carried**

**7.6 Application from Marquee Theatrical Productions; Re: Funding for Programs**

**Moved by** Robert Gaby

**Seconded by** Manuel Veloso

1. That the Application from Marquee Theatrical Productions; Re: Funding for Programs be received; and
2. That the Committee grant the funding request in the amount of \$5,000.00.

**Carried**

**8. Informational Items**

None

**9. New Business**

There was brief discussion regarding the funding criteria and guidelines.

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

# Application to Receive Funds

The Aurora Mayor's Charity Golf Classic has raised over \$1 million to date and has financially assisted several community organizations to provide much needed services to residents living in the Town of Aurora. Recipient selection is conducted annually by the application review and disbursement committee of the Town of Aurora Mayor's Charity Golf Classic and is based on the information provided in this application.

## Funding Criteria and guidelines;

- Individual applicants and community groups must demonstrate financial hardship or a limited means to retain funds in another manner. Individual applications demonstrating financial hardship will be kept confidential.
- Individuals and organizations may not receive funding for more than two consecutive years.
- Funding requests for more than \$5,000 in a calendar year will not be accepted.
- Funding requests for more than 50% of an initiative will not be considered and applicants must demonstrate how the remaining funds will be or have been obtained
- Applications should demonstrate a benefit to the residents of the Town of Aurora that receiving the funding will provide
- Successful applicants will be required to report back in any way they deem appropriate regarding the utilization of funds within six (6) months of receiving funds

## Name of Individual or Community Group \*

The Lighthouse Learning and Development Centre

## Address

### Street Number and Name \*

222 Edward Street

### City/ Town \*

Aurora

Province \*

Ontario

Postal Code \*

L4G 1W6

# Contact Information

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Email Address \*

laura.m@lhldc.com

Phone Number \*

(416) 894-4248

On a separate document, please outline your initiative and any supporting documentation you have. The information being provided should align with the funding criteria guidelines found above. Please attach your documentation with this this form.





"If they can't learn the way we teach,  
we teach the way they learn."  
- O. Ivar Lovaas -



April 3, 2025

Dear Town of Aurora/Application to Receive Funds,

I am writing on behalf of The Lighthouse Learning and Development Centre, a proud member of the Aurora community for the last 10 years. As a non-profit, female-run organization, we have built a reputation as a vital resource for families and individuals affected by autism, offering behavioral interventions, educational support, and more. As an integral part of the Aurora community, we strive to provide a safe, nurturing environment for children and adults with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Over the years, we have expanded our services to meet the growing needs of the community, including offering adult programs. Our Career Connections Program, which partners with local corporations in Aurora, has been an incredible success, providing meaningful employment opportunities and professional development for neurodiverse adults. However, one challenge that remains is the lack of funding options to support these adult programs.

This is where we are seeking your support. The adult programs at The Lighthouse offer a crucial service to individuals who would otherwise be left without the necessary resources to build and maintain careers. Unfortunately, the lack of funding for adults with ASD has made it difficult for many families to afford this invaluable service. We are reaching out to request financial assistance to help subsidize the cost of these programs and ensure they are accessible to families in need.

Our funding request aligns with the guidelines for the following reasons:

- **Financial Hardship:** The families we serve often face financial hardship due to the unique challenges associated with raising neurodiverse children and adults. By offering subsidies for our adult programs, we can reduce the financial burden on these families and make our services more accessible.
- **Community Benefit:** The Lighthouse is deeply embedded in the Aurora community, and our programs directly benefit local residents. By supporting our adult programs, we are not only enhancing the lives of individuals with ASD but also



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contributing to the broader social and economic fabric of Aurora. Our Career Connections Program, in particular, fosters collaboration between local businesses and neurodiverse adults, providing valuable workforce development.

- **Sustainability:** The requested funding will allow us to continue to offer these critical services while we work on securing additional long-term funding sources. We are committed to ensuring that no individual is excluded due to financial barriers, and this funding will play a pivotal role in making that happen.
- **Adherence to Funding Guidelines:** We are requesting a subsidy of \$5000.00 to help reduce the financial burden on families. This amount does not exceed the \$5,000 funding limit set by the criteria, and it will be used exclusively for the direct support of our adult program participants. We are committed to ensuring that this funding will be utilized in a transparent and responsible manner, and we will provide a report on the use of the funds within six months of receiving the funding.

We are grateful for the opportunity to apply for this funding and are confident that with your support, we will be able to continue to serve the Aurora community in a meaningful way. We look forward to the possibility of partnering with you to make these vital programs more accessible to the families who need them most.

Thank you for considering our request. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Many thanks,

Laura McLennan  
Director of Development  
[Laura.m@lhldc.com](mailto:Laura.m@lhldc.com)  
416-894-4248



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- O. Ivar Lovaas -



## The Beginning

On **November 24, 2014**, I was told that if I **punished** my son, I could **fix** him. Fix him—like there was something wrong with him.

That moment came **8 years and 2 months to the day** after I first sat in a doctor's office and heard the words: "**Your son has autism.**" And now, here I was again, listening to someone tell me that my beautiful, incredible boy was somehow **broken**—that I needed to fix him.

## The Journey

For **8 years and 2 months**, I had fought endlessly—trying to convince the world that my son was **worthy**, that he deserved **not the world, not the impossible—just basic respect**. That night, I had enough. **The Lighthouse was born.**

Six months later, we registered our **first student**. My son's world **changed**, and with it, I hoped that so many other families would finally get what they had always deserved—a **chance**.

Over the last **10 years**, The Lighthouse has grown, breaking down barriers while providing **world-class intervention** at the most **affordable** cost possible. The Lighthouse has partnered with the Els for Autism Foundation® to bring their acclaimed adult services to Ontario — a program unlike any other in Canada! Els for Autism® was established in 2009 by Liezl and Ernie Els, and Marvin R. Shanken. The Els Center of Excellence® campus is located in Jupiter, Florida and serves as a hub for disseminating innovative, evidence-based programs for families and individuals impacted by autism spectrum disorder (ASD) across the lifespan. Ernie Els has more than 70 career victories; four major championships: the U.S. Open in 1994 at Oakmont and in 1997 at Congressional, and The Open Championship in 2002 at Muirfield and in 2012 at Royal Lytham & St Annes. He is one of six golfers to twice win both the U.S. Open and The Open Championship.

But here's the truth: **our fight has never stopped.**

Despite our dedication, our relentless efforts to **secure grants** have been **shut down time and time again—without explanation, without transparency**. Instead of wasting energy battling a broken system, we are putting our energy into making these programs happen **on our own terms**.

This **September** marks our **10th anniversary**.



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## The Fundraising Campaign

And in honour of that milestone—and the fact that it only took 6 months to turn The Lighthouse from an idea into reality—we are launching our **first-ever fundraising campaign: 6 Months** [www.6months.ca](http://www.6months.ca)

From **World Autism Awareness Day (April 2nd)** to our **10th Anniversary in September**, we will host **6 months of events, activities, and fundraising**—to make up for every grant that has been denied and to show the world what **6 months can do**.

## The First Event

Our **first in-person event** will be:

### All In for Autism

- Date: **Wednesday, April 30th** (the last day of World Autism Awareness Month)
- What: A **fun casino night**
- Where: hosted at our **centre in Aurora** (222 Edward Street, Aurora, ON)

## The Request

To make this event a success, we need **you**.

We are reaching out to our **valued partners, friends, and families** to help us bring this incredible night to life.

There are so many meaningful ways you can help make a difference, and we are truly grateful for your support.

- Purchase a Table – \$1,000.00: We'll place your ad on the table during our event and share your business information on our social media every day throughout April, in honor of World Autism Awareness Month.
- Donate a Prize: Big or small, every prize makes an impact — whether it's a single item, a collection of gifts, or a grand prize, your contribution adds excitement to the event and helps us raise even more for our cause.



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- O. Ivar Lovaas -



- Make a Cash Donation: Every dollar counts, and we'll show our appreciation by listing and sharing our donors weekly throughout April to celebrate their generosity.

Your kindness and support remind us why we do what we do. Thank you for being part of this incredible journey and showing us that truly, ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE IN 6 MONTHS.

**Help us show the world what 6 months can do.**

If you can contribute or would like to get involved, please reach out. Let's make this a night to remember.

With gratitude and determination,

*Serena Thompson*

Serena Thompson  
Executive Director

# Application to Receive Funds

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## Name of Individual or Community Group \*

CAYR Community Connections

## Address

### Street Number and Name \*

17665 Leslie Street, Unit 12.

### City/ Town \*

Newmarket

Province \*

Ontario

Postal Code \*

L3Y 3E3

## Contact Information

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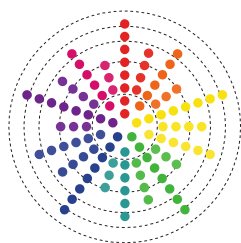
Email Address \*

mkoning@cayrcc.org

Phone Number \*

(416) 553-5650

On a separate document, please outline your initiative and any supporting documentation you have. The information being provided should align with the funding criteria guidelines found above. Please attach your documentation with this this form.



**CAYR**  
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS  
People Supporting People



*April 24, 2025*

*To The Aurora Mayor's Charity Golf Classic*

Subject: Request for Support

I think we can all agree that the cost of living has increased.

Food insecurity is a real thing; homelessness is a real thing; the stats are there.

How can you help? By helping us offer folks in this community, a Taste for Life.

***“My quality of life has improved as result of the financial, emotional, physical and social services provided by the staff and well wishers of CAYR.”***

Words like this, from our service users and clients, are the reasons why we need your help to keep pressing on even when the challenges and hurdles seem insurmountable.

***“This money (gift card) will help me buy my mental health back.”***

I am writing to ask for your support toward our annual campaign, A Taste for Life. As a York Region registered non-profit organization that provides essential supports and services to our communities that include people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS, people at risk of Hep C, people who use drugs and substances, and people of the 2SLGBTQ+ community, receiving donations during these challenging times is so very important. We respectfully request your consideration and financial support in the amount of \$5,000.00.

While our office may be located in Newmarket, (as stated above), we serve all residents of York Region, including Aurora.

**Our Vision:** We envision stigma-free, inclusive and informed communities, fostering an environment where individuals thrive.

**Our Mission:** CAYR creates welcoming, confidential, and inclusive environments for dignified support and education, empowering a diverse population.

17665 Leslie Street, Unit 12, Newmarket, ON L3Y 3E3

T: 905-884-0613

F: 905-884-7215

Toll free: 1-800-243-7717

Charitable Registration No.: 890484769RR0001

E: [info@cayrcc.org](mailto:info@cayrcc.org)

W: [www.cayrcc.org](http://www.cayrcc.org)

  /cayrcommunityconnections

 /cayrcc



The people who seek support and services through CAYR face some serious life challenging barriers that include poverty, compromised immune systems, homelessness, and struggles with mental health.

We have seen an increase in the number of people seeking our services and support, and the demand is continuing to grow. Over the years we have fought hard in continuing to offer basic “quality of life” needs. This, together with our programming, provide some vital services to some of York Regions most vulnerable.

A donation or sponsorship can help establish food security, access to needed health care, shelter, clothing, safety, and transportation. Help us give those in need ***“a taste for life”***. A taste for well being, dignity and self esteem.

So, I urge you to please consider making a financial donation to support our organization and this campaign during these difficult times.

**Together we can make a difference.**

Together we can help make ‘A Taste for Life’ so much more meaningful for so many.

Please feel free to contact me at 416.553.5650 or [mkoning@cayrcc.org](mailto:mkoning@cayrcc.org) if you have any questions or require any additional information. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mark Koning

Manager, Communications and Operations



# Application to Receive Funds

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The Aurora Mayor's Charity Golf Classic has raised over \$1 million to date and has financially assisted several community organizations to provide much needed services to residents living in the Town of Aurora. Recipient selection is conducted annually by the application review and disbursement committee of the Town of Aurora Mayor's Charity Golf Classic and is based on the information provided in this application.

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## Name of Individual or Community Group \*

Aurora Cares Community Action Team

## Address

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### Street Number and Name \*

75 Deerhorn Crescent

### City/ Town \*

Aurora

Province \*

Ontario

Postal Code \*

L4G6S3

# Contact Information

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Email Address \*

Phone Number \*

On a separate document, please outline your initiative and any supporting documentation you have. The information being provided should align with the funding criteria guidelines found above. Please attach your documentation with this this form.

May 23, 2025

Mayor's Golf Classic Fund Committee  
c/o Aurora Town Clerk  
100 John West Way  
Aurora, ON L4G 6J1

To Whom It May Concern,

The Aurora Community Action Team is planning to support youth in need in Aurora by liaising with both School Boards to coordinate the distribution of backpacks and assorted school supplies for students identified by their school administrators as being in need of support. We are currently organizing the support for the YRDSB (estimated 160 students) to be distributed in June. We have some committed donations from local organizations but will be needing to purchase the majority of the items required. We will also be working with the YCDSB in the fall (their timing) to accomplish the same goal. We will only be offering this to publicly funded Schools in Aurora.

We are working to secure donations from local groups (Salvation army, Welcoming Arms, Rotary, Optimist, etc) but will definitely require extra funding to execute this. We assume that the YCDSB numbers will be similar to the YRDSB so we will require funding apart from any from the Mayors Golf Classic Funds as well. The extra funding will be solicited from local businesses and individuals.

In order to be prepared for any costs associated with providing these supports we are seeking \$5,000 from the Mayor's Golf Classic Funds Committee to assist with initiatives of the Aurora Cares Community Action Team.

I thank you for your consideration and look forward to your response.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doug Steele', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Doug Steele  
Chair, Aurora Cares Community Action Team

# Aurora Community Cares

## Back Pack Program Requirements

All items were identified by the York Region District School Board Staff

<u>Item Needed</u>	<u>Estimated Qty Requested</u>	<u>5/22/2025 Qty On Hand</u>	<u>Estimated Qty Needed</u>	<u>Current Identified Breakdown</u>
<b>Backpacks</b>				
Primary/Junior Backpack	100		100	30 male, 36 female, 31 neutral
Intermediate Backpack	40		40	6 male, 19 neutral
Secondary Backpack	20		20	all neutral
<b>Content Items</b>				
Pencils	160	11	149	
Pencil Crayons	160	2	158	
Pencil Case	140		140	
Pens	86	3	83	
Markers	140	10	130	
Highlighters	86	2	84	
Books for drawing	140	1	139	
Waterbottle	140		140	
Binders	106		106	
Paper	106	1	105	
Lunch bag	140	3	137	
Math Set (compass, protractor, etc.)	60		60	
Scientific Calculator	60	1	59	
Organisers	60		60	
Hand Sanitiser	84		84	