

Foundation Highlights

New Year, New Hope!

The year 2020 was not like any other year before. The global pandemic of Covid-19 affected all human beings around the world. That has affected people's life socially, financially, emotionally, physically and in many other ways we cannot even imagine. We have lost many lives globally and within the families in this very community. Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers go towards them.

The province Ontario was in lockdown since early March, and is still in some forms of restrictions with another lockdown currently. In order to feel some form of connectivity in the community, the Welfare Foundation have been doing regular zoom meetings and virtual chats, and we also came forward to raise funds to provide and support the local community, as well as for the distressed people back home in Bangladesh.

With the arrival of vaccine we can hope that there will be an end to the several hardships the world has been facing soon. Until then we should do what we best can do, maintain physical distancing, abide by the health officials rules as per location where we live in, be compassionate for each others and stay safe. In this issue we have put some online resources that includes activities for all ages, some links helpful for the mental wellbeing and links to many Covid-19 related govt. funded initiatives.

COVID-19 Relief Works of BDKWWF

The foundation did couple of fund raise and relief works during the pandemic to help those in need in the Region of Waterloo and Bangladesh. A part (\$7120) of the fund was distributed in Rangpur, Chandpur and Kushtia. You can see all these details in Page 3. We are so thankful to all who handled the relief works at all levels, specially Md. Abdul Matin in Rangpur, Md. Abdul Mannan in Chandpur and Nazim Ahmed in Kushtia.

In the year 2020 we have been able to donate almost 1745 lbs. of various food items to the Food Bank of Waterloo Region. This has been possible only by the help of the very generous and kind donors who donated almost \$2500 only for this cause. Our heartiest thanks to you!

Goal for the Year 2021

The same generous donors of the community have donated \$14,800 towards various initiatives taken by the BDKWWF in the year 2020. Thank You for this and your support for us!

The Fundraise goal for the year 2020 has set as \$20,000. We firmly believe that is very much achievable with your kind help again. We have some very inspiring and interesting incoming projects/initiatives, this fund will help make those come into effect. Please stay tuned on our website www.bdkwwf.org and facebook page www.facebook.com/bdkwwf to know more about these.

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Special points of interest

- One of our beloved member passed away last year. You can read a memoir of him in page 3.
- Pictures from some past activities Page 5.
- Pictures of the Graduates in page 6

Thank You to our frontline and essential Services workers in the Region of Waterloo and beyond. Your hardship all through the pandemic will always be remembered with much appreciation!



The Welfare Foundation welcomed some new members who joined during the Annual General Meeting on November 2019. They are:

Enam and Shirin Hoque, Farha Naz, Sabiha Yusuf, Dhimir Khan Majlish and Tasneem Zakaria Teena, Sharif Faisal and Shaira Wahid. Our heartiest congratulations and thanks to them for joining and ever supporting our activities since then.

President's Message

I feel profoundly honored and privileged while writing this message on this occasion of publication of the first issue of the Newsletter of BDKW Welfare Foundation. Together we have come a long way since formally launching our Welfare Foundation back in 2012. We have a successful track record of a number of humanitarian works throughout the world, accomplished a number of success stories with our sincere efforts and limited capacity a brief account of which is highlighted in the Foundation's webpage. This Newsletter will focus on the members wellbeing, community activities and involvement in various activities with a hope of creating

a sustainable bondage among our members and families. Taking this opportunity, I along with all our members sincerely appreciate editor and creator of this newsletter Rehana Khanam for her relentless effort to make BD-KW Welfare Foundation more effective in delivering its messages to its fellow members, well wishers and above all, to the outside world through our web page.

I hope and pray for the lasting impact of this Newsletter and its continuous success.

Omar Faruk, President

"Together we have come a long way since formally launching our Welfare Foundation back in 2012".

The Foundation recognizes the individuals who are no longer residing in this region but still continuing their support and subscription to the foundation. They are: Shadid-Nazia, Morsalin, Shaon, Rony-Bonny and Touhid, Today the main funding source of the foundation is the monthly membership fee of the existing members and time to time donations by the community people. BDKWWF humbly recognizes their generosity as well.

The Background of Creating BDKWWF

When a very close person in your family gets terminally ill you want to leave no stones unturned to help them. That is what happened for Omar Faruk when his sister was diagnosed with cancer in 2006. He single handedly provided for her entire treatment cost until the last day of her life. The reality of that condition inspired him to collaborate with fellow community members to create a fundraiser. Their goal was to secure a fund enabling them to provide financial supports for any community member, especially for those who had any critical need in back home. By doing so, the membership and fund both grew which led them to register as a voluntary organization (approved as Charity) under the Ontario Provincial government in 2012. Except that it has expanded beyond the Bangladeshi community and to the global as it is reflected in the vision:

The BD-KW Welfare Foundation will be a fully humanitarian organization through which Bangladeshi community in Kitchener-Waterloo voluntarily demonstrate their effort and caring for others in need.

The BDKWWF sincerely and gratefully recognizes the valuable and endless effort of the individuals to give the foundation a structure upon which it is standing today. They are:

Dr. Abul Hossain, (Bangladesh), Tarek Ibne Mizan (BC), and Dr. Nurul Huda Khan (SK) and Dr. Hasib (KSA).

In Memory of Monzurul Kabir

Monzur Kabir passed away in Kitchener on Saturday, July 11, 2020. Monzur will be remembered by his two sons, Tanzim and Tahamid, and his loving wife, Munira. He will also be greatly missed by his three brothers, three sisters, extended family, friends, and colleagues.

Monzur was born in a small village near Naogaon, Bangladesh. He went to KD Govt. High School and Naogaon High School. He got his bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from BUET in Dhaka and M. Eng and Ph.D. in Telecommunications Engineering from Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Thailand. He was highly educated and one of the best values he passed on to us was the importance of education and being a lifelong learner.



From left: Tanzim, Tahamid, Munira and Monzur

Monzur first came to Canada in 2001 to provide a better life for his family. He worked hard his entire life and provided a good home and a great life for his family full of rich experience. Monzur began teaching at Conestoga College in 2003. That's when our family moved to Kitchener and started to get to know the KW Bengali community. Over the years, our bond with the community grew stronger. We know he really enjoyed and valued this bond and would've wanted to grow it even stronger.

Monzur cared deeply about his students and colleagues. He devoted his life to educate and enrich everyone's life to the best of his ability. He touched people's hearts through his kindness, selfless behavior, and wealth of knowledge. There was overwhelming support provided by the Bengali community and all his friends to help celebrate his life and honor his memory.

We want to thank the KW Bengali Community for all their supports and prayers. We feel truly blessed to be a part of this wonderful community.

- Kabir Family

At A Glance: The Fundraise and Distribution in 2020

Account	Total	Comments
Donation to Grand River Hospital	\$2000.00	The donation was made to help the front line hospital staffs.
Donation to Waterloo Region Food Bank	\$2482.83	Phase 1 worth of: \$500.00, Phase 2: \$774.15. Phase 3: \$1208.68 (A total of 1745lbs. of food stuff).
Monica Place of Pregnant and Parenting Youth	\$500.00	Along with many hygiene products for mothers and infants.
COVID 19 Free Bangladesh		
4.a. Rangpur Area, Bangladesh	\$3500.00	142 families (88 and 54) in three batches
4.b. Kachua, Chandpur Area, Bangladesh	\$1500.00	120 families. Tk. 3,600.00 cash given to a very poor young paralysis patient for his treatment.
4.c. Kushtia Area, Bangladesh	\$2120.00	51 families
Save Kohinur Akhtar (a Cancer Patient in Bangladesh)	\$500.00	Raised: \$380.00 From Fund \$120.00
Help for Sufya Khanam (a distressed woman in Dhaka)	\$500.00	From Fund
Help for Joshua Curtis (a cancer patient in Cambridge, ON)	\$1500.00	Raised \$1255 From Fund \$245
Total:	\$14,602.83	Money raised and distributed as of Dec 31/20

Online Resources

Here are some online resources that may be helpful to keep us busy in this time:

[scholastic.com/learnathome](https://www.scholastic.com/learnathome)

blog.learningresources.com/category/learning-at-home

squigglepark.com/dreamscape-timeforkids.com

www.kids.nationalgeographic.com

www.starfall.com

www.ABCmouse.com

www.highlightskids.com

www.pbskids.org

abcya.com

mathplayground.com

mathies.ca

mysteryscience.com

mysterydoug.com

reading.ecb.org

funbrain.com

seussville.com

storylineonline.net

wonderopolis.org

gonoodle.com

online.kidsdiscover.com

raisingwonder.com/

kidsactivitiesblog.com/135609/list-of-education-companies-offering-free-subscriptions/

www.commonensemedia.org

Resources

Despite the arrival of vaccine we do not know how long it will take to go back to the real normal again. Specially in this Winter and flu season we are pretty much stuck inside for another period of time. The pandemic has a long lasting effect on all of us. Here are some resources that are helpful for wellbeing of the people living in Waterloo Region and beyond.

- [Psychosocial-and-Spiritual-Supports-during-COVID-19-short-version.pdf](#)
- [Immigrationwaterlooregion.ca](https://immigrationwaterlooregion.ca) : You can subscribe to **the Immigration Waterloo Region Weekly** for many helpful news and resources about community, businesses, local, provincial and federal updates.
- [City of Waterloo Program and Activities Guide](#)
- [City of Cambridge Activity Guide](#)
- [City of Kitchener Active Kitchener](#)
- [City of Guelph Programs and Activities](#)

Helpful Links to Community Events and Activity Guide

Regional Libraries also offers various programming you can find on their website

- [Waterloo Public Library Events Calendar](#)
- [Cambridge Idea Exchange Events Calendar](#)
- [Kitchener Public Library Events Calendar](#)
- [Waterloo Public Library](#) is offering many **free online courses** at this link: www.wpl.ca/digital-library

Support for Learners: You can get financial support to help with additional costs during the 2020-2021 school year due to COVID-19. Eligible parents or guardians will receive a one-time payment of:

- \$200 for each child up to grade 12
- \$250 for each child or youth up to age 21 with special needs

The deadline to apply is February 21, 2021. For details please check at this link on their website: www.ontario.ca/page/get-support-learners

Guide for Parents from WRDSB

The Psychological Services Team of WRDSB has created this resource that could be helpful for anyone looking for support around executive functioning. It contains guides on Stopping, Starting, Managing Emotions, Self Monitoring, Sustaining Effort, Planning and Flexibility. It is available at this link: schools.wrdsb.ca/-Guide-for-Families-WRDSB.pdf

COVID-19: A Guide for International Students in Canada Arriving from Abroad

The federal government has released a guide for international students who are coming to Canada, and navigating travel restrictions. It outlines the roles and responsibilities of Designated Learning Institutions, Provinces and Territories, and the Government of Canada. It is available at this link: [link](#).

The Immigration Waterloo Region calendar has information about local programs and events for newcomers. Subscribe for **a digest of events coming up in the next week** or **add your own events to share** or check **Calendar - Immigration Waterloo Region**

National Newcomer Navigation Network (N4) is a national network for the diversity of providers who assist newcomers in navigating the complex Canadian healthcare and social service systems. You can find more information on their website www.newcomernavigation.ca

Working from home? Government making it easier to claim expenses
Kitchener Today, Dec 16, 2020

Ontario Expands COVID-19 Vaccine Locations

Canadian Govt. Website for all of your Information on Covid-19 and Supports:

www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services

Some Milestones of the Welfare Foundation

Logo Design

Our youth are a great talent and source of inspiration! Few years back an invitation was sent out to all youth to design the logo of the foundation. It was hard to pick just one among all those very creative and meaningful designs. But by a pool of judges the logo created by Raisa Nasir was selected as the 1st winner and the logo by Maisha Adil was the 2nd winner. The current logo was designed by combining these two artworks.



From left: Raisa and Omar holding the two winning logo designs

Registration and Bank Account

The Welfare Foundation was registered as a voluntary organization under the Provincial Govt of Ontario in 2012. Another member of the foundation Nayef Khan completed the task of registration where as the initial paper works were done by

Dr. Abul Hossain before he left for Bangladesh.

Website Launching

The official website was launched in the Annual General Meeting of November 2019. Shadid Haque one of our own member completed the full website in 2017 by wrapping up all loose corners. In the initial years another member did the primary layout of the website and helped composing the logo digitally. We are ever grateful to them!



From left: Omar, Asharf and Shadid in the ribbon cutting ceremony of the Website launching

We are thankful all these people who have stepped in from time to time and laid out the milestones including at the beginning who helped drafting the constitution.

There are always some opportunities for the youth in the community to be involved with interesting works the Foundation does. Interested? Please contact: bdkwwf@gmail.com

Some pictures of our very recent activities



Two women receiving the relief in Kushtia, June/20



Relief bags prepared in Chandpur, May/20



Sadi, Nasir and Atiq purchasing food items for the food drive, Dec/20



Left: Asif, Omar, Rengina, Ayaad, Fahim and Ishtiaq at the Group Blood Donation, Oct/19



Left: Members and families at the AGM, Nov/19

Subcommittees

There are many ways one can be actively involved with the Welfare Foundation. Some of these are to include yourself in one of the subcommittees:

- Food Drive Subcommittee
- Wellness Subcommittee
- Student Scholarship Subcommittee

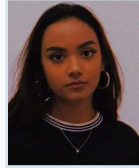
Please bring your inputs and ideas for any these or outside of these fields.

bdkwwf-
info@googlegroups.com

Congratulations to the Graduates of 2020



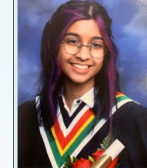
Tamim
Faruk



Rasha
Hussain



Sowad
Samin Khan



Ariya
Mamun



Ayyad Wadud
Moksud

Our heartiest congratulations to the High School Graduates of the Year 2020 - Rasha, Sowad, Ariya, Ayyad, Ameena, Parisha, Jannatul, Fariza and Nashita. Tamim completed his undergrad from University of Waterloo this year. Due to the pandemic we could not celebrate this in a regular gathering but we wish them all the best and success in their new step of life.



Ameena
Nizam



Parisha
Nizam



Jannatul
Nizam



Fariza
Sattar



Nashita
Sattar

Upcoming Events

First quarterly Meeting of 2021

January 30, 2021, Virtual

A zoom joining link will be emailed to the members closer to the date.

BDKWWF

E-mail: bdkwwf-info@googlegroups.com

Like us on facebook



Follow us on Twitter

Website: bdkwwf.org



**BANGLADESHIS IN KITCHENER-WATERLOO
WELFARE FOUNDATION**

Bangladeshis in Kitchener-Waterloo Welfare Foundation (BDKWWF) is a voluntary organization registered and approved as a charity organization under the Provincial Government of Ontario.

Our Mission

Improve life of the vulnerable people in Bangladesh and all over the world by extending humanitarian support through our concerted efforts and promote friendship and bondage around the world among people of all origin.

Our Vision

The BD-KW Welfare Foundation will be a fully humanitarian organization through which Bangladeshi community in Kitchener-Waterloo voluntarily demonstrate their effort and caring for others in need.

Membership

Become a member is easy, Just email bdkwwf-info@googlegroups.com. Membership fee is \$120 per year or \$10/per month per family.

Newsletter

This Newsletter Foundational Highlights aims to publish two times in a year January and June. If you like to subscribe to the newsletter please email bdkwwf-info@googlegroups.com or do it online by visiting our website: www.bdkwwf.org.ca