

Foundation Highlights

Bangladeshis in Kitchener-Waterloo Welfare Foundation (BDKWWF)



Volume 5, Issue 1, January 2025

Happy New Year everyone!

As we welcome 2025 with open arms, it's an ideal time to reflect on the past year while looking forward to the opportunities ahead. January, a month often filled with resolutions and fresh beginnings, presents a perfect chance to reconnect with our community values, embrace new goals, and continue fostering the sense of extending our hands and hearts to those who need us no matter what.

We are happy to share the news of the Consular Camp in Waterloo of Toronto Consular Office on January 25, 2025. It's a result of the wonderful collaboration of some community members starting from contacting the consular office to securing the venue, logistics, and communicating at every level. Please see page 2 for details.

Looking Back: 2024 was no exception for us to spreading love and relief to the people back home and abroad. We witnessed an unprecedented political upheaval that brought a government change in Bangladesh with the sacrifice of many precious lives and damage to many. A devastating flood that followed immediately put the new interim government in a challenging position. With many others, BDKWWF also responded to the appeal of the Chief Advisor of the Interim Govt., Bangladesh. And as the war continued in the Gaza Strip, we collected money earlier this year to help the relief works over there too.

Nothing of these could be possible without the kind hearts like you whom we have by our side in every effort we make. So a heartfelt Thank You to all!

Looking Ahead: New Year, New Possibilities. Look forward to continue our works in the new year. Ramadan is around the corner, so lookout for the Ramadan Food Drive in March 2025.

Remember, every small action contributes to the bigger picture — whether it's taking time to chat with a neighbor, offering a helping hand, or participating in community projects.

All stay well.



Congratulations!

Dayem Khan Majlis

Ontario Highschool Graduate, 2024.

He is pursuing Supply Chain Management Program at Ontario Tech University, Oshawa, ON.

Correction to the Graduation News in the Summer Issue (July 2024)

In addition to her other awards, **Ameena Nizam** also achieved the KPMG Foundations Award, Top Student and for pursuing the CPA designation.

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Friendly Reminder!

It's the time of the year when we pay our annual membership fee. It's \$120/year or \$10/month.

And don't forget to send your article, grad photos, news or anything that is suitable for this newsletter!



Consular Camp in Waterloo

The Consulate General of Bangladesh is hosting a Consular Camp in Waterloo

Location: Rim Park, 2001 University Ave E, Waterloo, ON N2K 4K4

Date: Saturday, January 25th, 2025

Service Time: 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Please note that this is not a walk-in service. Pre-registration is required through a link that was sent earlier via email to all community members. We are happy to share that all time slots are full now with around 130 appointments. Please check your email to know your appointment status.

The organizers humbly request that all attendees who are receiving services share the costs by making a small contribution towards the organization of this camp in order to cover other costs (such as venue rental, volunteer appreciation, light refreshments, scanning and printing, and miscellaneous). The Consulate covers only a part of the cost of the camp outside of their office.

The amount will be calculated by dividing the total cost by the number of services provided. Once the number of attendees is confirmed, we will send details of the contribution amount via email or phone. For transparency, a detailed breakdown of the budget will be published after the event. This contribution is solely for organizing the event and is **not a government fee** nor associated with the Consulate General of Bangladesh. For more information please contact:

Dr. Rubayet Al Maruf
226-978-8443
rubayet.maruf@gmail.com and

Shawon Arefin (Shimon)
647-928-8680



The consular camp will be providing the following Services:

- No Visa Required (NVR),
- E-Passport (new/re-issue),
- Birth Registration,
- Dual Nationality Certificate,
- Attestation of Documents,
- Machine Readable Passport (MRP, re-issue)
- Driver's License Authentication Certificate,
- Power of Attorney and Visa



Beat The Winter Blues

Here we have gathered two articles on how to be more productive, energetic and supportive in the cold wintery days:

Seven Ways to Cope with the Winter Blues by Yvette Murray

It was published in a blog post on Mental Health Commission of Canada's website on March 16, 2022.

Source: <https://mentalhealthcommission.ca/blog-posts/34590-seven-ways-to-cope-with-the-winter-blues>

Winter blues are more common than you might think. Seasonal affective disorder (SAD) is a form of depression that people in northern climates usually experience during the fall and winter months, when there's less sunlight. [Read the full blog post.](#)

The second article is:

10 Cool Ways to Beat the Winter Blues By Elizabeth Shein

MSW, RSW – Trainer, Crisis & Trauma Resource Institute

Source: <https://ctrinstitute.com/blog/10-cool-ways-beat-winter-blues/>

The author talked about how embracing the winter can change the impact, then she listed some very useful tips in her article to beat the winter blues such as:

- take it outside,
- listen to your favorite music,
- get the sunshine,
- make comfortable food,
- get social etc.

[Read the full article.](#)



Did you know?
In the last 5 years,
together we have donated:


A Total of \$12,4768.00CAD
to various humanitarian
causes all over the world.

- Year 2020 - \$14,602,
- Year 2021 - 40,304,
- Year 2022 - 21,240,
- Year 2023 - 19,750, and
- Year 2024 - \$28,872

**Please take a moment to
celebrate this success!**



At A Glance: BDKWWF's Monetary Contributions from July to December 2024

Date	Project	Amount	Comment
September, 2024	Donation collected for the flood victims of Bangladesh and for the welfare of the victims of Student Movement, July-Aug 2024	\$6250.00 Tk562,500	50% = Tk.281251.00 to the Chief Advisor's (Interim Govt of Bangladesh) Relief and Welfare Fund 50% = Tk..281251.00 to the July Shaheed Smrity Foundation of the Chief Advisor (Interim Govt of Bangladesh)
October 2024	7th installment of Omar Faruque's scholarship. Chandpur, Bangladesh.	\$750.00 BDT 66,000.00	Receipt of money by the Student received in October, 2024 He is in the final year (5th year) and expected to write the final exam in April/May 2025
December 2024	Holiday Food Drive	\$1000	Cheque (061, dated Dec 26, 2024) handed over to the Food Bank of Waterloo Region
Total (Jul - Dec 2024)	-	\$8000	Total (Jan - Jun 2024) \$20,872
Total (Jan - Dec 2024)	-	\$28,872	

Community Resources

Muslim Social Services of Waterloo Region

Muslim Social Services of Waterloo Region is a nonprofit that provides culturally and spiritually sensitive humanitarian and social services to both Muslim and non-Muslim communities in the area.

Programs can be viewed and registered for at www.msswr.org/ourprograms, with more information available on their website: www.msswr.org.

Winterloo

Winterloo is a free, annual cold weather festival in Waterloo, scheduled for January 25, 2025, from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. It features indoor and outdoor winter-themed activities for all ages, primarily at Waterloo Public Square and the Visitor Information Centre, organized by Create Waterloo.

For more information visit www.waterloo.ca/en/things-to-do/all-city-events.aspx

Community Resources

Waterloo Public Library: Cool Things to Borrow

Who said the library was just about books? Check out the link to learn about the cool things you can borrow with your library card from Digital Microscopes to Ice Skates to Museum passes.

Waterloo Region Small Business Centre Hosts Business Webinars

The information in these webinars is focused on starting a business in Waterloo Region and will be covering provincial and municipal regulations.

January 21, 10 - 11:30 AM, Online | Free

Business Plan 101

Learn why a business plan is important for your business success and the steps to complete your own!

[Register now](#)

January 28, 10 - 11:30 AM, Online | Free

Startup Business Basics

Starting a new business venture? Learn the necessary steps to start your business!

[Register now](#)

About Us



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 bondages 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

Becoming a member is easy, just email bdkwwf-info@googlegroups.com to get started today.

Membership fee is \$120 /annually or \$10/per month per family.

Newsletter

Our Newsletter aims to publish two times in a year, January and July.

If you like to subscribe to the newsletter please email

bdkwwfinfo@googlegroups.com or by visiting our website: www.bdkwwf.org.ca

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

We are always interested in new voices and ideas for any of these or outside of these fields.