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KW Legacy

2014 – 2024 Celebrating 10 Years of Good Friends and
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2024
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Feb. 14, 2025

KW Legacy Hosts Annual Top Home Chef Fundraiser

KW Legacy's annual Top Home Chef fundraiser returns on April 26, 2025, at St. George's Hall, bringing together 50 local home chefs and celebrity judges to support men's mental health and homelessness initiatives in the Waterloo Region.

This year's event will feature a tasting competition where attendees sample dishes prepared by talented local chefs, with proceeds supporting the Men's Suicide Prevention Council and KW Legacy's new affordable housing initiative. Organizers anticipate 450 attendees, with tickets priced at \$150 per person, \$250 per couple, or \$1,250 per table of ten.

"This event is about more than just great food—it's about coming together as a community to make a difference," said a KW Legacy representative. "With rising homelessness and ongoing mental health struggles, we are committed to expanding our impact and supporting those in need."

Founded in 2014, KW Legacy has raised over \$1.3 million through charity initiatives like Top Home Chef and its annual golf tournament, which funds scholarships for deserving local students. The organization has awarded over 100 scholarships to students with financial need who demonstrate leadership and community service.

The Top Home Chef competition will be judged by renowned local chefs, including Chef D, Dana Short, Nick Benninger, and Chef Scotty. Attendees can enjoy a silent auction, raffles, and door prizes, all contributing to KW Legacy's fundraising goals. The winner will be crowned Top Home Chef, receiving a championship belt and chef's hat.

With over 5,000 people experiencing homelessness in the Waterloo Region, KW Legacy is taking steps to develop transitional and affordable housing. A portion of this year's fundraiser will go toward this new initiative, making the event an even greater force for change.

For tickets, donations, or more information, visit www.kwlegacy.ca.

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For more information contact media relations specialist Neha Mishra at 647-718-4199 or nehamishra89818@gmail.com

Fact Sheet



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We seek to provide meaningful financial support to other charitable organizations within our community whose aim is to improve the lives of those in need.

Who is the media contact?

Neha Mishra (Media specialist, 647-718-4199 or nehamishra89818@gmail.com) you can contact her to arrange interviews or to hear more about the event.

What is KW Legacy?

KW Legacy is a Waterloo-based charity dedicated to supporting local scholarships, mental health initiatives, and social causes like homelessness and housing. Since 2014, it has raised over \$1.3 million for community projects.

What is the Top Home Chef event?

It's an annual fundraiser where 50 home chefs showcase their best dishes, competing for the title of Top Home Chef while raising funds for men's mental health and housing initiatives.

When and where is the event?

The event takes place on April 26, 2025, at St. George's Hall in Waterloo, starting at 4 p.m.

How does the fundraiser work?

Attendees purchase tickets to taste and vote on the best dishes. A panel of celebrity chefs also judges the competition. There will be raffles, silent auctions, and door prizes to help raise additional funds.

Who benefits from the event?

Proceeds support the Men's Suicide Prevention Council and KW Legacy's new affordable housing initiative to combat homelessness in Waterloo Region.

How much are tickets, and where can they be purchased?

Tickets cost \$150 per person, \$250 per couple, or \$1,250 for a table of ten. They can be purchased at www.kwlegacy.ca.

Who are the judges?

This year's judges include Chef D, Dana Shortt, Nick Benninger, and Chef Scotty, who will select the Top Home Chef winner.

What other initiatives does KW Legacy support?

Beyond Top Home Chef, KW Legacy hosts an annual golf tournament funding scholarships for local students. To date, over 100 scholarships have been awarded to deserving youth.

How can I support KW Legacy if I can't attend?

Donations are welcome at www.kwlegacy.ca, and sponsorship opportunities are available for businesses looking to contribute.

For further details, please visit www.kwlegacy.ca or contact Neha Mishra at 647-718-4199 or nehamishra89818@gmail.com

Background



Celebrating Another Phenomenal Top Home Chef Event! 2024 Top Home Chef raised \$47,000 for Waterloo Region Suicide Prevention Council.

History: KW Legacy was founded in 2014 with a simple yet powerful mission: to use the networks and skills of its founders to launch meaningful charitable initiatives that leave a lasting impact in the Waterloo Region. What started as a small initiative has now grown into a community-driven movement that supports scholarships, mental health, and housing initiatives.

The journey began with Golf for Scholarships, an annual fundraising event that has raised over \$1,000,000 to date, providing more than 100 scholarships to deserving students in Waterloo Region. These scholarships recognize students who not only demonstrate financial need but also show exceptional leadership and a passion for community service.



Milestone: Building on this success, KW Legacy introduced Top Home Chefs, an annual gala dinner and cooking competition that has quickly become a must-attend event in the community. Hosted at St. George's Hall in Waterloo, this exciting evening sees 50 talented home chefs showcasing their best dishes to a panel of celebrity judges and 450 enthusiastic attendees. More than just a night of culinary excellence, the event has raised \$200,000 in four years, with proceeds going to the Waterloo Region Suicide Prevention Council to support men's mental health initiatives. The event has been a sell-out success, bringing people together for an evening of fun, food, and philanthropy.

KW Legacy's commitment to making a difference doesn't stop at scholarships and mental health. The organization has expanded its focus to address housing challenges in the region, working towards increasing affordable and transitional housing for those in need. By leveraging community connections and engaging with local real estate developers, KW Legacy is determined to tackle this pressing issue head-on.

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Story Pitch: KW Legacy's Top Home Chefs – A Night of Food, Fun & Giving Back

Date: February 28, 2025

To: CTV News Channel (Michelle McQuaid, michelle.mcquaid@ctvnews.ca)

I'd love to share a community-driven story that blends food, philanthropy, and mental health advocacy. KW Legacy's Top Home Chefs is an annual gala where 50 home cooks showcase their best dishes to 450 guests and celebrity judges—all to support men's mental health through the Waterloo Region Suicide Prevention Council. Over four years, this high-energy event has raised \$200,000, proving that great food can truly make a difference.

Event Details:

- Date: Late April 2024
- Time: Evening gala
- Location: St. George's Hall, Waterloo
- Purpose: Fundraising for men's mental health initiatives

The evening will feature:

- Celebrity judges like Chef D & Dana Shortt
- A live auction with exclusive prizes
- A keynote speaker & live entertainment

Would CTV be interested in covering the event or speaking with organizers and past beneficiaries? Happy to provide more details!

Looking forward to your thoughts.

Best,

Neha Mishra

647-718-4199 or nehamishra89818@gmail.com

www.kwlegacy.ca

Story Pitch: A Local Legacy: Waterloo's Community-Driven Gala Supporting Mental Health

Date: February 28, 2025

To: The Globe and Mail Channel (Colleen Schmidt, Senior Producer)

In a time when communities are looking for ways to support mental health, KW Legacy is doing it through something we all love—food.

Top Home Chefs is not just another gala—it's a celebration of community, generosity, and great cooking. Every year, 50 home chefs prepare their best dishes for 450 attendees, including celebrity judges like Chef D and Dana Shortt. While guests indulge in an evening of good food and entertainment, the heart of the event is its purpose: raising funds for the Waterloo Region Suicide Prevention Council and supporting men's mental health initiatives.

In just four years, this event has raised \$200,000, showing how a simple idea—bringing people together over food—can drive real impact. KW Legacy, founded in 2014, has already raised over \$1M for student scholarships, and this gala is another way they're building a legacy of giving back.

Event at a Glance:

- Date: Late April 2024
- Time: Evening gala (exact time TBD)
- Location: St. George's Hall, Waterloo
- Purpose: Fundraising for men's mental health initiatives

Would you be interested in featuring this inspiring story? I'd be happy to arrange interviews with organizers, past beneficiaries, or even some of the competing home chefs.

Looking forward to your thoughts!

Best,

Neha Mishra

647-718-4199 or nehamishra89818@gmail.com

www.kwlegacy.ca



Story Pitch: Bringing Community and Cuisine Together for Mental Health – KW Legacy's Top Home Chefs

Date: February 28, 2025

To: Toronto Star (Jordan Bitove, starad@thestar.ca)

What happens when 50 home chefs come together to serve their best dishes to a room of 450 food lovers, local celebrities, and community leaders? You get an unforgettable night of food, fun, and fundraising — all for a vital cause.

KW Legacy's Top Home Chefs is more than just a gala; it's a community-driven movement. In just four years, this event has raised \$200,000 for the Waterloo Region Suicide Prevention Council, supporting men's mental health initiatives. Attendees savor mouthwatering dishes, cheer on their favorite chefs, and take part in live auctions and dancing — all while making a real difference.

KW Legacy, founded in 2014, has already made waves with its Golf for Scholarships initiative, raising over \$1 million to support local students. Now, with Top Home Chefs, they're tackling mental health — showing that good food and good company can help build a stronger community.

Event Details:

- Date: Late April 2024
- Time: Evening gala (exact time TBD)
- Location: St. George's Hall, Waterloo
- Purpose: Raising funds for men's mental health initiatives

Would you be interested in covering this unique event? I can help arrange interviews with organizers, home chefs, or past beneficiaries to give you a behind-the-scenes look.

Looking forward to your thoughts!

Best,

Neha Mishra

647-718-4199 or nehamishra89818@gmail.com

www.kwlegacy.ca

Photo GALLERY

Good friends, greater deeds



Link to our photo gallery: <https://kwlegacy.ca/top-home-chefs/top-home-chefs-2024/>

Contact LIST



Lisa Ball
Mentor

WLU Psychology grad turned ERP Manager for Mitchell Plastics. 20+ years of automotive manufacturing business experience in between. Past Director at Kitchener-Waterloo Humane Society, current proud member of KW Legacy.

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Dr. Sean Doherty is professor of Geography & Environmental Studies at WLU, amateur chef and brewer, and founder/chair of an award-winning local charity (kwlegacy.ca). He grew up in Kitchener, is a graduate of St. Jerome's high school and the universities of Waterloo and Toronto, and been a visiting researcher in Quebec, Australia, England, Israel and at U. Western.

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Sean Doherty
Chair



Derek Hamilton
Director

A high energy Sales Executive with a proven track record of identifying and capitalizing on business opportunities. Creative, highly motivated, and focused, delivering results with strategic and tactical acumen.

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