

Media Release

\$34,100 OTF Grant from the Province Will Launch Volunteer-Driven Program Supporting Abrigo Centre Clients at Tax Time

TORONTO, ON (April 7, 2026) – The Abrigo Centre was proud to announce that a \$34,100 Seed grant it received late last year from the provincial government’s Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) has helped to launch an innovative, volunteer-driven initiative. Ashley Da Silva from the office of Davenport MPP Marit Stiles was there to learn more about the program, that was designed to strengthen the financial stability of economically vulnerable individuals and families in the Davenport community and beyond.

“I am thrilled to hear that Abrigo has received the Seed grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation,” said Marit Stiles, MPP for Davenport. “The Pathway to Income Empowerment program has helped many people gain financial literacy and build confidence to navigate available resources and benefits that increase their financial stability. With key OTF funding, Abrigo can continue this amazing work to serve vulnerable people in the community.”

This project will deliver income tax filing support, personalized resource navigation, financial literacy education and the removal of barriers to essential services for Abrigo clients in its Pathway to Income Empowerment program. Funds from the OTF grant were used to help with costs for two staffing roles, helping with some training day costs, as well as some TTC costs for volunteers. Since January, Abrigo has been hard at work to recruit and train volunteers with a highlight taking place on March 3rd when 10 volunteers were trained for the agency’s annual community income Tax Clinic.

“We are delighted to receive the financial support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation on this wonderful project,” said Gila Raposo, Co-Executive Director, Community Engagement and Resource Development, Abrigo Centre. “This initiative directly aligns with the OTF’s priority to enable economically vulnerable people to meet their basic needs and improve financial stability,”

The hands-on education expanded their knowledge of tax credits, government benefits, CRA-related programs and community income tax support services. This training is an important step in strengthening Abrigo’s capacity to better support individuals and families in accessing the financial stability they need to improve their lives.

Abrigo is a multi-service organization designed to support members of the Portuguese language community across the Greater Toronto Area and all local residents living in west-end Toronto throughout their lifespan.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is an agency of the Ontario government with a mission to build healthy and vibrant communities across the province. In 2025-26, OTF invested nearly \$107M into 746 community projects. Projects aim to enhance economic well-being, foster more active lifestyles, support child and youth development, provide spaces for people to come together and connect, and create a more sustainable environment. Visit otf.ca to learn more.

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