



Wim & Nancy Pauw Foundation
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Wim & Nancy Pauw Foundation Commits \$100,000 to COVID-19 Response Efforts

BANFF FOUNDATION JOINS FORCES WITH LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY

April 29, 2020 – Banff, Alberta, Canada

The Wim & Nancy Pauw Foundation has partnered with local Banff businesses and organizations to respond to the COVID-19 crisis in the iconic mountain resort community. With a \$100,000 commitment in direct response funding, the Foundation has created a food security program with local hospitality provider, Banff Lodging Company, and has partnered with the Banff Canmore Community Foundation to provide emergency grants to front-line agencies offering COVID-19 critical response.

As restaurants and hoteliers struggled to stay open and mass layoffs swept the community throughout March, the Foundation allocated \$50,000 and created the *What's for Dinner* food security program. Partnering with local Chef Jesse Beal from Banff Lodging Company's Meatball Restaurant, *What's for Dinner* provides healthy, subsidized food hampers and healthy, no-cost, prepared meals to Banff residents. Additionally, food inventory is purchased and donated to Banff Food Rescue, to bolster a dwindling food supply for the local grassroots food rescue program. Food supply partner Sysco Canada jumped in to support the program with abundant deliveries of produce, all used in the *What's for Dinner* meals or passed on for distribution through Banff Food Rescue.

“When crisis hits, Banff is known to rally together in support of each other,” says Cathy Geisler, Executive Director of the Foundation. “While this is definitely the most devastating challenge in Banff’s recent history, we knew we wanted to respond with solutions to address essential needs for our community. Working together with community partners, *What's for Dinner* helps alleviate immediate financial stress to those experiencing distressing times.”

With its first delivery on April 2nd, up to 200 food hampers are prepared for weekly delivery, each providing three meals to feed four using simple-to-follow, homemade recipes. These are available on a pay-as-you-can basis and most weeks orders sell out within two days. Additionally, working with the Town of Banff Emergency Resource Centre, between 150 and 300 prepared meals are delivered throughout the community to those experiencing the most vulnerable financial or self-isolation situations. More than 30 volunteers work together under Chef Jesse’s direction to prepare, package, and deliver the meals, helping

The Wim & Nancy Pauw Foundation is a private foundation in Banff, Alberta, Canada, funded by the founding shareholder of Banff Caribou Properties, Ltd and Banff Lodging Company. The goal of the Wim & Nancy Pauw Foundation is to reinvest in Banff, supporting projects that contribute to a more active, vibrant and happy community of Banff.



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ensure that nobody goes hungry during trying times. Volunteers are employees and friends of the Banff Lodging Company employee initiative group, Caribou Cares.

Complimenting the food security program, the Wim & Nancy Pauw Foundation allocated \$15,000 in a partnership with Banff Canmore Community Foundation and Canmore Rotary Foundation to create the Bow Valley Emergency Response Fund. Working together, this fund centralizes the review of grant requests and corresponding fund disbursement to local agencies across the Bow Valley that are providing immediate, critical response to emerging needs as the community adjusts to a rapidly changing environment with an estimated 85% unemployment rate. To date, the Emergency Fund has funded scrubs for the local hospital, and regional food security initiatives.

The Foundation encourages people who are looking for ways to support local COVID-19 response initiatives to consider a donation to the Bow Valley Emergency Fund.

Other initiatives that have been supported by the Banff Lodging Company and the Wim & Nancy Pauw Foundation include \$10.00 nightly hotel rates for health care workers requiring extended stays for self-isolation or quarantine, and offering Yoga & Meditation courses uniquely tailored for health care workers experiencing new and challenging expectations in their work environment due to covid-19.

While the community begins preparations to welcome visitors back to our world-famous destination in Banff National Park as soon as the province lifts physical gathering and travel restrictions, the Wim & Nancy Pauw Foundation and the Banff Lodging Company continue to provide support towards the eventual return to our typical active, vibrant and happy norm.

View *What's for Dinner* footage <https://vimeo.com/410704087>

About the Bow Valley Emergency Fund <https://www.banffcanmorecf.org/in-this-together/>

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