

**Free Little Pantries Goderich**  
**Avery Greaves**  
**August 15, 2022**

[Ontario Community Changemakers \(OCC\)](#) is a mini-grant program designed for Ontario residents aged 19-35 with innovative ideas to activate public space, enhance civic engagement, and/or foster social inclusion. The program runs with support from Balsam Foundation. Each year 20 Changemakers are selected from all across Ontario, receiving \$5000 in seed funding to implement one community project in one year.

Goderich resident [Avery Greaves](#) was selected as one of the 2022 recipients. Avery has worked in Goderich for close to a decade, most notably for the Goderich Library, where she carried out the Libraries Transforming Communities project (connecting with local businesses and organizations to establish partnerships, form programs, etc.), and for the Town of Goderich, as the Shop Goderich Coordinator and Tourism and Community Development Administrative Support (2021-2022). She was also a member of the Perth-Huron United Way Goderich Community Committee, which worked to resolve Goderich's unhoused and isolation-based issues.

Avery will be using the \$5,000 micro-grant to bring the [mini food pantry movement](#) to Goderich. These three pantries, spread out throughout the community, will help to lessen food insecurity (being open 24/7/365). The project will also allow community members the opportunity to become direct agents of change themselves, by donating to the pantries, spreading the word about them, volunteering and more. The project will also ensure that local makers and businesses are prioritized in the construction and maintenance of the pantries.

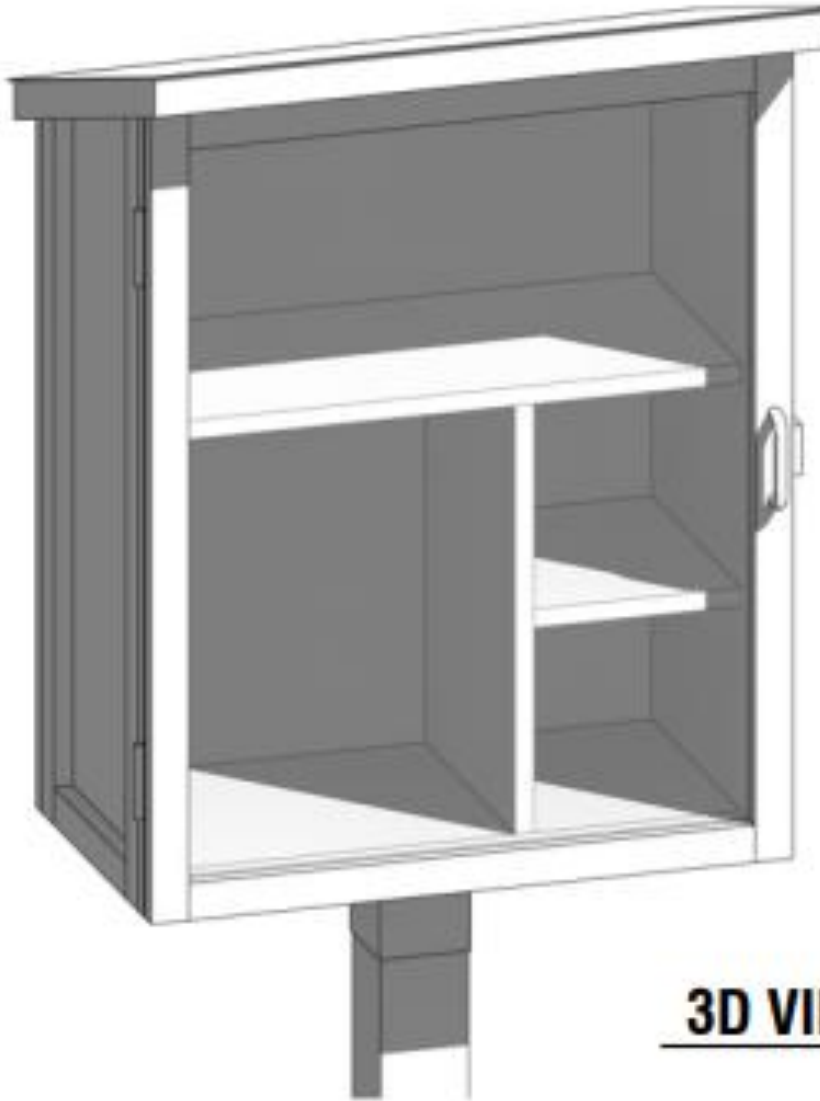
The grant money will cover for the building/ installation of the pantries, stocking the pantries, and creating promotional materials surrounding them (including a website). The pantries will be stocked with a [wide variety of items](#), from non-perishable food items, to hygiene products, to small clothing items (ie. hats and mitts), etc. The pantries are able to be accessed by anyone in need, whether it be an unhoused individual, a family needing help between paychecks, someone who needs something when the stores or food banks are closed, etc.

As studies about free little pantries have noted over time, in most communities, the pantries become self-sustaining, with people readily donating and taking as needed. There is also the opportunity to host food drives to gather supplies for the pantries (ie. a partnership with the Goderich Library) and to seek sponsorship from local businesses/ organizations (ie. a local business could donate \$500 to the project, which would sponsor enough items to fill the pantries for 1-2 months).

In her roles, Avery has had the opportunity to witness firsthand many community members wanting to support certain populations in the community, but being unsure of how to. These pantries will be an easy way that individuals will be able to do, with no commitment required. She has also had the opportunity to speak to some unhoused individuals about this project specifically, to gain insight about their needs, how they may use these pantries, etc. She was provided with a plethora of information which she has used to help direct her. She has also firsthand encountered some of these individuals who are unable to walk to our local food banks to pick up their lunches, as their feet have been too blistered, from their continuous walking.

A volunteer committee will be established over time (primarily run through a Facebook group), having volunteers check in on the pantries, to ensure that they are in good condition, need repairs, need to be refilled, etc. The pantries will also have a QR code on them, which users or those passing by could scan, to notify when a pantry is empty.

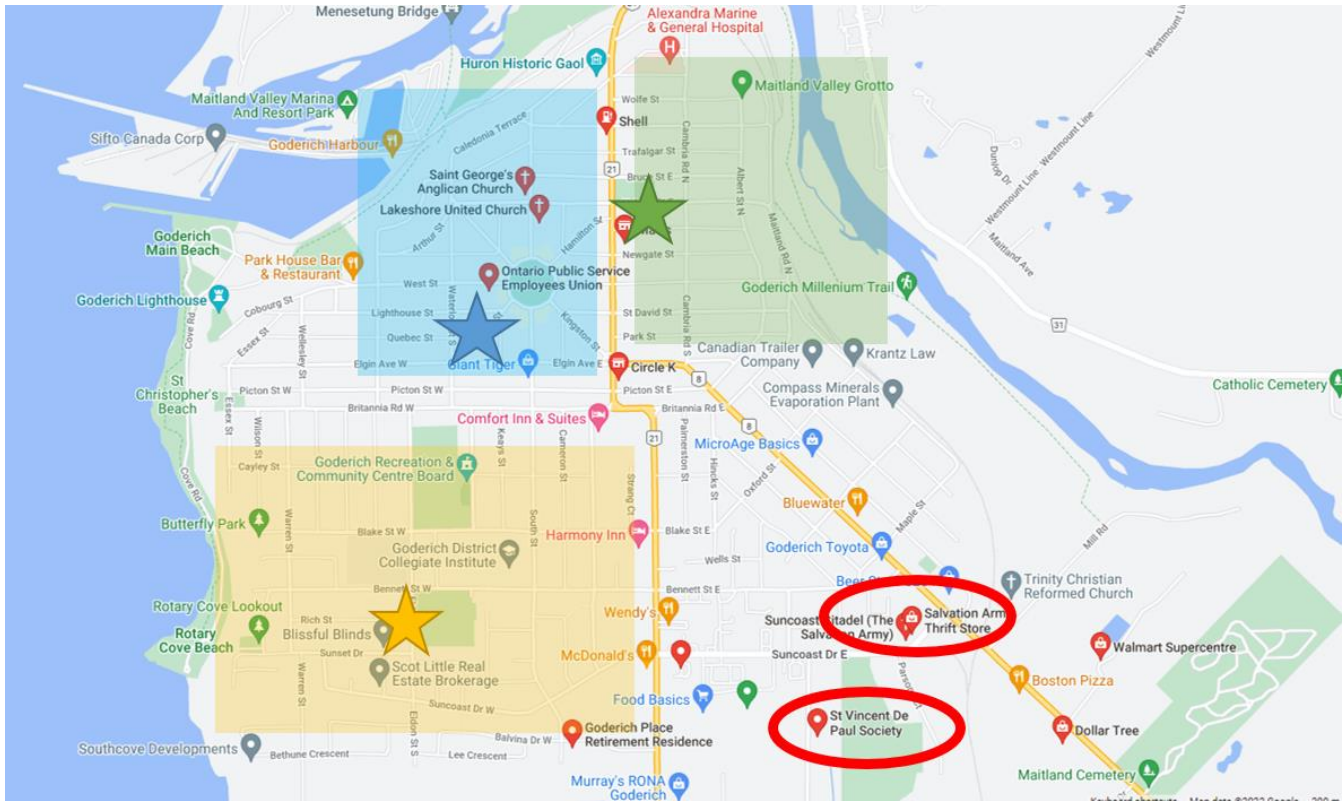
The pantries will be constructed of wood, with a glass (or acrylic) door. The pantries will be held up with a fence post. The pantries will be approximately 2' 3" wide and 2' 8" tall. A local fence post installer can be contracted (using the grant money) to install the support post.



Images from: <https://www.littlefreepantry.org/>



Because our local food banks are located in the southeast corner of Goderich, the pantries would be located in the other quarters of town, providing ample coverage throughout the community. These particular locations have been selected for their proximity to public places (ie. schools, the library, churches), their walkability and more.



Avery is seeking council support to install the pantries at the following locations (\*modifications welcome based on property lines, services, etc.):

- Eldon Street/ Bennett Street Park (along Eldon Street)
- Goderich Library (Lighthouse Street)
- Judith Goderman Park (along Eldon Street fence)





**Goderich Library  
(Lighthouse  
Street)**



**Judith  
Goderman Park  
(along Eldon  
Street fence)**