



Chocolate River Wellness started with the vision to remove blockages that affect the flow of life.

In the spring of 2023 it became evident to me that the awards given to graduating seniors in high school are normally given based on gender and academic achievement, which leaves out a great segment of our grade 12 youth.

As a proud ally and mom of 2 out of the box homeschooled youth this seemed slightly unfair.

Thinking about all the neurodivergent youth and, especially, members and allies of the LGBTQIA2S+ community, I decided it was time to make a change.

So, I am happy to announce that, in June, Chocolate River Wellness will be granting the Bella Rose Award to a Kindness Ambassador, a senior student who can show how, in their everyday life, they act with respect, compassion, encouragement, inclusivity, and positivity to make the world a brighter, more accepting place.

To be able to fund the award, we are organizing the Lavender Rose Winter Gala, a safe place, formal dance for people in the equivalent of grades 11 and 12 (17-18 years old).

The Lavender Rose is the flower of the transgender community, a group very close to my heart, and the perfect symbol to represent healing.

This flower became the inspiration to create an event for youth who may not normally feel comfortable attending prom or winter formal. So everyone can participate in a gala; to show up as they are without fear of judgment, celebrating that our differences are what make us stronger as a community.

The event will take place at the Coverdale Rec Centre during the second weekend of the Town of Riverview's Winter Carnival, on Saturday February 10th, 2024.

We expect to provide access to formal wear, for teens who may need it, as well as discounted aesthetic services. The price of the ticket will include catering, mocktail, live band, prizes and activities during the event. There will be tickets available for youth who may require financial assistance.

Thanks to our volunteers and chaperones we will provide the best evening for our youth.

This event will only take place with the help of people like you. Whether you contribute with in-kind donations such as items for the gift bags (150), auction items, or with financial or marketing donations, your business will be recognized in all our promotional materials.

For more information or to make a donation please respond to this email or email [jess@chocolateriverwellness.com](mailto:jess@chocolateriverwellness.com)

On behalf of the graduating class of 2024, we thank you for your support.

With kindest regards,

Lavender Rose Gala Team

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