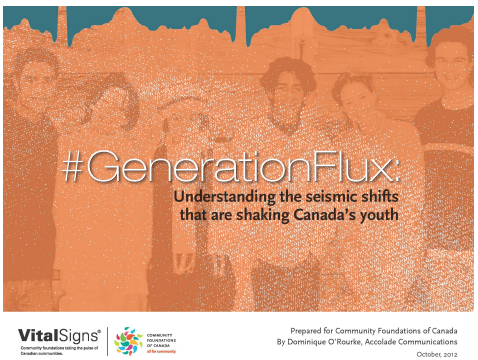
October 2012 Guelph Community Foundation Update

Vital Youth – #Generation Flux

Every year, Community Foundations of Canada releases Vital Signs, a national report that provides a snapshot of quality of life in Canadian communities. This year, Community Foundations of Canada took a deeper dive and produced a report devoted to youth issues: #GenerationFlux: Understanding the seismic shifts shaking Canada's youth.



The data tells a story of a generation on shifting ground – and even with an *impressive skill set* and *solid education*, they'll face unprecedented economic, demographic and social challenges. *Vital Youth* examines a number of factors affecting today's youth that include:

-Postponing post secondary education
-Carrying a crippling debt load
-Inability to find work and facing stiff competition
-Youth poverty
-Speed of life and related health problems
-Inactivity and the obesity epidemic

The report concludes that smart and caring communities must rise to the challenge and support our youth. Suggestions range from helping to create employment opportunities and ensuring good health and well being, to increasing young people's sense of community and civic engagement. You can access the full report by visiting the Vital Youth website.

youth focussed grants ...

Providing support for youth has been a focus of The Foundation since its beginning. In 2000, the *GCF Children and Youth Fund* was created with a special one-time match grant from the provincial government. Today, this fund has grown to $176,000 thanks to ongoing community contributions. It's just one of several funds that grant for children and

youth programs, and anyone can contribute any amount to this fund.

Fall 2012 youth specific grants ...

Against the backdrop of the Vital Youth report, The Foundation recently awarded 16 community grants with several focused on youth programs:

Career Education Council - *Build Your Community, Build Your Resume:* $5,000
A series of interactive assemblies demonstrating how youth can make a difference in their community while gaining valuable workplace experiences.

Children's Foundation of GW - *St. John Bosco Lunch Program:* $2,000
St. John Bosco High School provides vulnerable, at-risk youth the opportunity to obtain high school credits in a community setting. The lunch program is a catalyst designed to help students and teachers connect.

Julien Project - *Harvesting Program for Marginalized Youth:* $3,000
Develop horticultural, harvesting and food preservation skills for marginalized/at-risk youth. The program will also help youth acquire credits in science and health.

Volunteer Centre of Guelph Wellington - *Handbook for Recreation and Sports:* $3,300
Information will be gathered listing sports and recreation groups through the *Community Information* database and other formats.

Wyndham House - *Client Transportation Program:* $2,000
Transportation support to ensure Wyndham House youth *(many who live in poverty and have limited funds)* can access medical/counselling appointments, job interviews, apartment viewings and high school classes.

To view all of the grants awarded earlier this month, visit the October 4th media release on our website.

community pulse...

Random Act of Kindness Day - November 9th
Simple acts of kindness are endless! Buy someone a coffee, congratulate a co-worker on a job well done, offer to drive a friend to an appointment, hold open a door, or help carry your neighbours' groceries. Use your imagination and follow your heart. Need ideas: visit our RAK page or get social with us on Twitter or Facebook.

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