

NEWS RELEASE

Guelph Community Foundation Announces Fall Grants & Celebrates High Honour for Founding Chair

October 4, 2012 – It was an air of celebration that greeted the crowd of over 100 at the River Run Centre for The Guelph Community Foundation's Fall grants announcement.

Before the event's two big announcements, donors, grant recipients, community leaders and friends of The Foundation mingled, made Random Act of Kindness Day pledges and were entertained by a trio formed by former grant recipients of the recently launched Guelph Youth Symphony Orchestra.

The crowd was moved by stories recounting the impact of past grants. First, Ann Caine, Executive Director of Sunrise Therapeutic Riding and Learning Centre described how a Special Education class at Willow Road experienced the magic that happens at Sunrise. The stories of empowerment continued as Roya Rabani, Executive Director of Immigrant Services, shared how Youthopia helped young new immigrants integrate into the community through spoken word poetry. Participants were shown a video of Spoken Word along with a video segment of Roots in Stone.

“That's what The Guelph Community Foundation does: builds endowments to create an income stream that makes these types of grants and these types of personal stories possible, *forever*,” said Andrea Olson, Executive Director. “It was the vision of a small group of Guelphites just over ten years ago, including that of our founding Chair Ken Hammill.”

For his role as founding GCF chair, his vision and enduring commitment to the community through entrepreneurship, civic service, volunteerism and philanthropy in many organizations, Hammill – an undisputed community leader – received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal from Guelph MPP, Liz Sandals, to a standing ovation during the event's first big announcement.

“Ken has generously shared his leadership with so many organizations and causes in the City, the community foundation being one of them. His vision of a foundation that would help build a stronger Guelph for everyone has inspired many and this recognition is just one reminder of this legacy that he has built,” said Cindy Lindsay, the Foundation's first Executive Director and now Director of Member Services, Community Foundations of Canada.

That legacy saw the GCF grow from one fund in 2000 to over 100 funds today, from which the following grants (**Attached**) were announced by Foundation Vice-Chair and Grants Committee Chair, Susan Brown.

“We are all feeling the effects of weak financial markets but prudent stewardship on our part coupled with generous flow through donations from fund holders, means we are in a position to allocate \$50,000 to 16 local organizations this Fall in the fields of arts and culture, children and youth, education, environment, community and social services,” commented Brown.

The Fall Community Grants are in addition to Spring scholarship and summer camp grants, various donor advised, and flow through grants, bringing the GCF's total number of grants to date in 2012 to well over 90 and totaling over \$170,000.00.

However, the work of the Foundation is not nearly done. "Given mounting community issues and opportunities – including new youth issues raised in Community Foundations of Canada's Vital Youth Report on Tuesday – you won't be surprised to hear that one of our future goals is to increase our Community Fund and generate more sustainable community investments year after year," Brown said.

Last year, donors contributed more than \$1.3 million. "Donors appreciate the flexibility that we offer in terms of identifying causes that matter to them personally as well as new pressing community issues and the range of giving options. They also trust our long-term vision and impact, our very careful approach to investing and stewardship," said Jay Elinesky, Board Chair. "We are very conscientious of the legacy that is entrusted to us. It's our donors' commitment and generosity that make this all possible."

Of course, philanthropy and community building are not all about donations, the GCF reminded attendees as it invited everyone – seniors, school kids and CEOs alike, to participate in its upcoming Random Act of Kindness Day on November 9th.

About The Guelph Community Foundation

The Guelph Community Foundation is a charitable public foundation whose purpose is to provide leadership in promoting community philanthropy and enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Guelph and surrounding communities. The Foundation pools the charitable gifts of many donors into permanent, income-earning endowments. Income from the endowments supports a wide range of charitable programs and activities. Total assets under administration are over \$9.7 million with almost \$7 million in permanent endowed assets. Since inception, over \$2 million has been distributed to 723 charitable initiatives.

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For more information visit www.guelphcf.ca or contact

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BACKGROUND

October 4, 2012

SIXTEEN COMMUNITY GRANTS WERE APPROVED AS FOLLOWS:

Career Education Council

Build Your Community, Build Your Resume **\$5,000**

This grant supports a series of interactive assemblies demonstrating how youth can make a difference in their community while gaining valuable workplace experiences.

Chalmers Community Services

Evening Pantry Service Continuation **\$4,000**

The Evening Pantry Service is offered one evening per week and while there are numerous food donations, additional funding ensures items can be purchased to provide balanced nutrition from fresh fruit and vegetables, eggs, milk, etc. and addresses special dietary requirements.

Child Witness Centre

Guelph, Wellington County Youth Symposium **\$1,000**

A grant to support a one day youth symposium designed to challenge, educate and motivate students at a critical time in their life.

Children's Foundation of GW

St. John Bosco Lunch Program **\$2,000**

St John Bosco High School provides vulnerable, at-risk youth with an opportunity to obtain high school credits in a community setting. The lunch program is a catalyst designed to help students and teachers connect.

Guelph Contemporary Dance Festival

Community Based Initiative for New Festival Program **\$3,000**

The Dance Festival will offer a new community based initiative to dream, scheme, and create new ways to present dance in Guelph.

Everdale Environmental Learning Centre

Discovery Farm: Educational items and learning support materials **\$4,000**

Funding will provide greenhouse and farmer trainees workstations, tables, shelving, and other materials to help upgrade items required for growing and to offer educational and employment opportunities that extend beyond a traditional growing season.

Guelph Youth Music Centre

School of Rock After School Program **\$3,000**

The School of Rock was a new initiative introduced in 2011 as an afterschool outreach program. Students are given the opportunity to play rock band instruments, for example, guitar,

percussion, bass guitar, as well as learn voice under the guidance of professional musicians and artists.

Julien Project

Harvesting Program for Marginalized Youth

\$3,000

This program will assist marginalized youth, and youth at risk, from various high schools and neighbourhood groups to develop horticultural, harvesting, and food preservation skills. The program will also help youth acquire credits in science and health.

Pollination Guelph

Hospice Wellington Pollinator Garden

\$2,750

This grant is for a second phase of a collaborative project with Hospice Wellington to design and install a pollinator habitat on the Hospice property. The pollinator habitat will attract and sustain pollinating insects and birds.

Scientists in School

Guelph Capacity Building Project (Engineer Focus)

\$2,677

To support the development of *Systems at Work*, an engineering workshop for Grade 8 classrooms and not previously offered in Guelph.

Guelph Symphony Orchestra

GSO Kids – Season Launch

\$5,000

The Guelph Symphony Orchestra is launching GSO Kids, a program for children between 6-12 years of age. Members of GSO Kids will receive a close up opportunity to learn how an orchestra works through workshops and special rehearsals.

United Way/Poverty Elimination Task Force

Advance Your Voice

\$3,500

The Poverty Elimination Task Force, through the United Way, will develop a 12 week community training program called Advance Your Voice. This project will empower community members to share their stories and experiences of poverty.

Upper Grand Learning Foundation: Laurine Avenue School (@ King George)

Music Program

\$3023

This grant will be used to purchase instruments to begin an instrumental music program for the Grade 7 & 8 student level.

Volunteer Centre of Guelph Wellington

Handbook for Recreation and Sports

\$3,300

The handbook will make information gathered about sports and recreation groups available through the Community Information Guelph database and through other formats.

Upper Grand Learning Foundation: Westwood Public School

Primary Reading Buddies Program

\$2,750

Support for a program that matches children from the school community, who are below grade level reading and need positive experiences, with volunteer led one-on-one support. The school is located in the West Willow Woods area of the City, a very socially, culturally and economic diverse area.

Wyndham House

Client Transportation Program

\$2,000

Through a transportation program, Wyndham House provides youth with supports needed to get to medical/counselling appointments, job interviews, apartment viewings, and high school classes. Many of the youth live in poverty and have limited funds for transportation.