



## Media Release

### Volunteer Winners Abound at the Guelph Community Foundation

May 13, 2015 – For Immediate Release

The Guelph Community Foundation (GCF) has always been proud and appreciative of their talented volunteers. But the secret is out – two GCF volunteers have been selected and awarded the distinction from the Guelph community that they whole-heartedly deserve. Gary Christie, (volunteer) GCF Board Member and one of the original (volunteer) GCF Founders has just won the *Volunteer of the Year Award* from *The Downtown Guelph Business Association*. The Downtown Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes outstanding volunteers in Downtown Guelph who portray the spirit of volunteerism through their enthusiasm, commitment, knowledge, loyalty and passion for the projects they are involved in. The award will officially be presented to Gary on June 25<sup>th</sup> at the Guelph Awards of Excellence.

Susan Brown, GCF (volunteer) Past Chair and (volunteer) Chair of the Grants Committee & Gala Committee Board Member has just won the *YMCA Women of Distinction Award* for Voluntary Community Services. The 20th Annual Women of Distinction™ Recipients were announced on Thursday May 7th at the River Run Centre. The awards recognize outstanding women who contribute to the well-being of our community and make a difference through their volunteer activities.

“We couldn’t be more proud of Gary and Susan”, said Chris Willard, Executive Director at GCF. “Both of these individuals have been the core of our work here at the Foundation”. But it’s not just The Foundation that benefits from their service. “Both Gary and Susan support and give their time to the community in various ways. Volunteering and making a difference is in their DNA” says Willard.

The Guelph Community Foundation also announced this week that they have added three new (volunteer) Board Members. Joel Porter from *Big Brothers, Big Sisters*, Julia Toth from *The Co-operators* and Cyndy Moffat-Forsythe from *Huntington Society of Canada* will join the knowledgeable group of dedicated professionals who make up the Foundation’s Board. “We are privileged to have a cross section of business leaders on our board. The addition of these three members will help align us to achieve our growth goals for the upcoming year” concludes Willard.

### **About the Guelph Community Foundation:**

Fifteen years ago, a handful of people had a vision to build endowments that could be transformed into a perpetual stream of grants for a broad range of local causes and organizations – essentially it's an investment of giving that would last forever. What started with one \$13,000 fund has grown to over 100 funds that have given more than \$3 million in grants to over 800 local organizations. Arts, environment, children & youth, health, animal welfare – no sector has been untouched by the work of the Guelph Community Foundation.

The Guelph Community Foundation's new office is located at 46 Cork Street East. For more information about the Foundation, and how we reach and impact our community please visit our website at [www.guelphcf.ca](http://www.guelphcf.ca)

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