Happy Holidays from The Guelph Community Foundation

thank you

From our staff and Board of Directors, we would like to extend a heartfelt **thank you** to each and every one of our donors, volunteers, community organizations and supporters.

Thank you for changing the lives of so many by bringing peace-of-mind with access to food, a future filled with music and dance, hope in the form of employment, opportunity disguised as a scholarship, and an environment that breathes sustainability ... just to name a few. So far, in 2012, we have granted $265,000 to 67 organizations. Read more to view projects we have funded and how your support is helping.

Community Foundations not only address the *needs and dreams* of our citizens, but support the health of our community as a whole. **Thank you** for allowing us to do our good work, not just now, but forever. Building endowment funds couldn't be more powerful.

(photo above right: GCF Board members - Dominique O'Rourke, Jay Elinesky, Ella Pauls and Susan Brown)

last minute giving

Statistics Canada recently revealed that financial donations *remained the same* in 2010 as they did in 2007. We see a **greater need** now more than ever. The report also states that the average annual contribution of Canadians stands at $446 per donor.

If you are topping up your **annual charitable giving**, please consider supporting our GCF Community Fund. It allows us the greatest flexibility to respond to the ever changing needs in our community. You have until **December 31, 2012** to donate to receive a 2012 charitable tax receipt.

Giving options:
-If mailed, donations postmarked by Canada Post **after** December 31, 2012 will receive a 2013 charitable tax receipt;

-For convenience, we have partnered with CanadaHelps, they make donating on-line easy and secure;

-To deliver your gift in person, our **holiday hours** are Monday to Friday 9:00-4:00 pm and we are closed December 24th, 25th, 26th and open December 27, 28 and 31st.

the gift that keeps on giving

Our 3rd annual Random Act of Kindness Day grew with over 60,000 RAK cards in circulation - imagine how many **acts of kindness** happened when everyone paid it forward! From elementary schools to the University of Guelph, acts of kindness flourished everywhere.

Some of the kindness included FREE lunches, candy, and lots of coffee. There was a free pancake breakfast in St. George's Square *(The Letter M)*; muffins and coffee for the folks at the Carden Street bus stop *(RLB)*; raking leaves in the neighbourhood *(students at L'École L'Odysée)*; and a food drive, candy floss and flowers *(U of G)* ... stories continue to flow into our office.

Based on the success of our RAK Day, Guelph continues to be a very strong community minded city. Visit our RAK web page to view fantastic photos and read about the kind and caring acts of so many people enjoying the RAK experience.

Remember, you don't have to wait until November 2013 to get involved, you can celebrate RAK the entire year.

Thank you to the Guelph Review for capturing Random Act of Kindness Day with a video.

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