

NEWS RELEASE

Guelph Community Foundation Announces Fall Grant Recipients

October 5, 2011 – With the harmonious support of the Brant Community Choir, the Guelph Community Foundation today announced \$86,650 in grants to 24 organizations throughout Guelph and Wellington.

The grants, which were awarded as part of the foundation's 2011 Fall Granting Program, will benefit a wide spectrum of community organizations in the fields of arts and culture, youth, education and social services. The Brant Community Choir was a 2010 grant recipient.

In announcing the recipients, Foundation Vice-Chair Susan Brown, noted the volunteer grants committee "had to make some real tough decisions about how best to allocate available funds" under the Building Vital Communities program which is supported by several unrestricted funds, including the Foundation's Community Fund.

"Given mounting community issues and opportunities, you won't be surprised to hear one of our future goals is to increase our Community Fund and generate more sustainable community investments year after year," Brown said.

The Foundation has distributed 81 grants this year so far, totaling over \$356,000 from endowed and flow through funds. Last year, donors contributed more than \$ 1.5 million, growing funds by an impressive 27% per cent.

"Despite challenges in the financial markets, with the Foundation's prudent and careful approach to investing, we continue to surpass investment benchmarks," said Jay Elinesky, Board Chair. "We're proud of our accomplishments over the past 11 years and I know the board of directors look forward to continue growing the Guelph Community Foundation."

The final grants announcement was the Jane Graham award, named in honour of the local artist. This year's recipient is Roxann Blaztich-Ozols to support her learning in combining beadwork and the fibre arts.

About The Guelph Community Foundation

The Guelph Community Foundation is an independent, volunteer-driven charitable foundation whose purpose is to provide leadership in promoting community philanthropy and enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Guelph and of Wellington County. 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. The Foundation manages over \$8.5 million in assets and has disbursed over \$1.9 million in grants to almost 500 community initiatives since its inception in 2000.

For more information about the Guelph Community Foundation, please contact:

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BACKGROUND

October 5, 2011

FOURTEEN BVC GRANTS WERE APPROVED AS FOLLOWS:

Action Read Community Centre - \$3000

Healthy Living Learning Project, Phase 2 – an 8-10 wk learning group including cooking classes, special guests and general wellness and nutrition principles. The target population is low level literacy learners.

Beginnings Family Services - \$ 2800

Education; Parenting and Pre-natal Programs - funds to provide more programming to women, partners, and family members who request help with an unplanned pregnancy.

Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Guelph - \$3,800

Quality Programs for Guelph Youth: Improving Standards of Prevention and Healthy Living for Group Program Children - site based program for at-risk children waiting to be matched with the group. Currently approximately 50 children on the waiting list, agency hopes to reduce and eventually diminish this number.

Canadian Organic Growers, Perth Waterloo Wellington Chapter - \$2,700

Help Yourself to Local Organic Food: A Food Skills Building Event Series - funds provided for an Organic Stone Soup event with demonstrations on how to grow, source, cook and preserve local organic food for any income level; and also to conduct 2 Organic Backyard workshops.

Chalmers Community Service Centre - \$3000

Evening Service Continuation – support to continue evening service an extra evening a week and provide 2-3 days of food to guests unable to access the food pantry during daytime hours.

Child Witness Centre - \$1,000

2012 Wellington County Youth Symposium - funds requested for 1 day Youth Symposium for up to 1800 grade 8 students from Wellington County, to be held at Galaxy Cinemas in Guelph. A distinguished line up of 10 guest speakers will challenge, educate and motivate students.

Children's Foundations of Guelph \$2,000

St. John Bosco Snack Program – an alternative school that provides vulnerable youth with opportunity to obtain high school credits. This project is an additional program to current breakfast and lunch program, reaching 50 more students with a healthy meal to help sustain them through the day.

Church St. James Apostle \$1,500

Living With Less – Through an eight week workshop series participants will be provided with resources, knowledge and practical skills during times of increased financial and environmental stress

Give Yourself Credit Program, (Family and Children Services) \$2,720

Kicks for Youth - youth who are considered at risk will learn the basics of karate, kickboxing and self defence as part of a ten week martial arts program. Training at the local dojo twice a week, the youth will gain confidence and self discipline as they see their skills and fitness levels increase.

Habitat for Humanity, Wellington County - \$4,475

Reflecting our Community: Working with the Differently-Abled –

This partnership project with Community Living will set up processes, procedures, training, recruitment and specialized communication strategies to enable those who have mental or physical disabilities to experience a Habitat Build.

Immigrant Services Guelph Wellington \$4,450

Youthopia - Youth for Inclusion

This project is designed to build the capacity of newcomer youth enabling them to engage with their cohort to find solutions to barriers faced by newcomers. Engagement strategies will empower youth through drama and the arts.

Rockwood Centennial Public School - \$1,250

Snuggle Up and Read, Home Reading Program – a project to foster children's literacy in a large school community, raise reading achievement scores among students, and offer a relevant book collection to primary students.

SunriseTherapeutic Riding and Learning Centre \$1,950

Embracing Inclusion – a project for youth with special needs from socially/financially marginalized families. Proposing two, 6 week sessions for youth to participate in recreation, horse riding and farm related activities.

Volunteer Centre of Guelph Wellington \$3,005

Online Seniors' Services Directory – a public online directory that provides information for seniors about locally available services, throughout Guelph and Wellington County, that support their daily living.

TEN MUSAGETES FUND GRANTS WERE ANNOUNCED AS FOLLOWS:

The Musagetes Fund, a donor advised fund, provides arts and culture grants for our community. Since its establishment, the Musagetes Fund has granted more than \$220,000 towards the enrichment of local arts and culture.

Abbeyfield Guelph \$5,000

Our Place, Our Music - to invest in quality musical instruments and to hire a part time music instructor/facilitator who can work with youth to improve their abilities.

Ed Video Media Art Centre \$4,000

60 Seconds of Beauty - community based production project allowing participants to share moments of beauty. Participants will receive basic instruction, video equipment, and a supportive artistic forum to create and present 60 second video.

Elora Centre of the Arts - \$3,200

Arts Education - funds to support and enhance current endeavors. This includes youth programming, Exhibitions, "Art in the Yard" and lecture series.

Guelph Contemporary Dance Festival \$2,500

Karen Kaeja Residency - inviting Toronto based dance artist Karen Kaeja to Guelph during February and March, 2012 to work with the community and youth. This would include teaching camps, workshops and lead to 2 final performances.

Guelph Symphony Orchestra \$6,000

Guelph Youth Symphony Orchestra partnership – to continue attracting young people by maintaining and further developing current initiatives such as the annual concerto competition, school choir and other outreach programs.

Guelph Youth Music Centre \$5,000

School of Rock Outreach Program – establishment of a new 9 week program. Students will learn to play guitar, percussions, bass or vocals under the talented direction of local musical artists.

Kiwanis Music Festival of Guelph \$1,000

New Laptop Computer and Colour Printer – capital grant for laptop and printer in order to develop and plan the Festival easily and efficiently.

Macdonald Stewart Art Centre \$7,500

Major Solo Exhibit – To promote and exhibit “LUMEN” featuring Pedie Wolfond, a visual artist who began her career in Guelph

School of Fine Art & Music, University of Guelph \$10,000

Artist in Residence Program: To offer an artist in residence program in the upcoming 2012 semester that also enhances relationships between students and professional artists, community residents, and other members of Guelph's vibrant cultural mosaic.

Trellis Mental Health and Developmental Services, Spark of Brilliance Program \$4,800

KidZCreate- offers hands on horticulture, arts and environmental experiences to children living with autism, developmental, mental health and physical challenges. Funds provided for more programming, specifically for "Farmer Fern Puppet Program".