

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Guelph Community Foundation announces over \$124,000 to grant recipients this morning at a Grant Celebration Breakfast

October 14, 2015 – At a community celebration held today at the River Run Centre, The Guelph Community Foundation announced **\$124,097** in grants to 39 organizations throughout Guelph and Wellington County. The grants (see attached for details), which were awarded this morning as part of The Foundation’s 2015 Fall Granting Program, will benefit a wide spectrum of community organizations in the fields of arts and culture, youth, education and social services.

“We received a larger than normal response to our call for applications this year. This implies that the needs in our community are greater than ever before. It also made it very challenging for us as a Committee to make decisions about how to allocate the available funds,” said The Foundation’s Grants Committee Chair, Susan Brown.

Grants were announced to community programs, from The Foundation’s Community Fund, in the amount of **\$74,597**. Grants were announced to music and cultural programs, from The Foundation’s Musagetes Fund, in the amount of **\$49,500** (total \$124,097). These grant programs are in addition to spring scholarship and summer camp grants, and various donor advised and flow through grants. “Today’s Fall Community and Musagetes Grants will bring the Foundation’s total number of dollars disbursed for this year alone to more than \$343,500,” explained Brown.

In addition to the grants announcement at the celebration breakfast this morning, guests were entertained by performers from The Guelph Youth Dance Company, and heard stories from Janet Johnson of Guelph Youth Dance, a graduate student from Portage Addiction & Recovery Centre, who described the impact of GCF grants in their organizations. Dr. Mary Peirson-Cabena also shared her story about why she started a fund with The Foundation, and how it has impacted her life.

Chris Willard, Executive Director at The Guelph Community Foundation also announced that the tally is in, following their 15th Anniversary Dine & Dance gala last week. “We are thrilled that together we raised **\$50,000** for the community. This means we can make an even greater impact throughout our community in the years to come”. The event was held within the transformed interior of Old Quebec Street mall where over 240 guests enjoyed live music and event festivities.

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 funds under administration are \$12.2 million with over \$8.7 million in permanent endowed assets. Since inception, over \$3.5 million has been distributed to over 800 charitable initiatives.

For more information visit www.guelphcf.ca or contact:

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Community Grant Summary – Fall 2015

Charitable Org & Project	Amount Granted	Project Summary
Action Read Community Literacy Centre of Guelph: The Action Read Financial Literacy Project	\$3,500.00	This project will increase financial literacy, cash handling, employability and cash register usage skills. It will empower learners with financial literacy, while building connections and relationships with supportive community resources. It will reduce anxiety and increase confidence for learners in managing their money.
Bereaved Families of Ontario - Midwestern Region: Volunteer Facilitator Training Program in Guelph	\$2,000.00	Funding from this proposal will help Bereaved Families - Midwestern Region identify and train new volunteer facilitators from our bereaved members within Guelph. These volunteers, once trained, will be viewed as self-help leaders, who were once in the same emotional place as the newest members who are currently suffering through the recent loss of a child, infant or grandchild.
Best Buddies Canada: Best Buddies Elementary and Middle School Program Expansion	\$3,500.00	Elementary and middle school are especially critical times for children with intellectual disabilities struggling to engage with their peers and who are overlooked for birthday parties, play dates, or part of the baseball team. Often, students with intellectual disabilities get left behind and lose the comfort of having their own niche of friends. Best Buddies elementary program helps students interact with their peers in and out of the classroom, and teaches at an early age that everyone deserves a friend.

<p>Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Wellington: One to One Match Program</p>	<p>\$1,500.00</p>	<p>The funds received from the Guelph Community Foundation would be allocated towards the One to One Match Program. Funds would be used to support the recruitment, screening and training of volunteers. Funds will be allocated to the process of matching children to the right volunteer with similar likes and dislikes, and to monitor these matches, ensuring children experience safe and fun activities.</p>
<p>Canadian Diabetes Association: Adult Sweet Start Diabetes Project</p>	<p>\$3,500.00</p>	<p>The Adult Sweet Start Diabetes Project is a pilot program where patients newly diagnosed with prediabetes and type 2 diabetes, will receive a CDA Diabetes Information Bag. The CDA will work in collaboration with local family health teams, community health centres and hospital based diabetes education programs (DEPs), who have agreed to handout the CDA packages to newly diagnosed patients coming to them for diabetes education after referral by their family physicians.</p>
<p>Chalmers Community Services Centre (CCSC): Monday Morning Café</p>	<p>\$1,377.00</p>	<p>Monday Morning Cafe from 10 am to 12 noon. This is a relatively simple program, with space and staff already provided.</p>
<p>Child Witness Centre: 2015 Guelph and Wellington County Youth Symposium</p>	<p>\$2,500.00</p>	<p>A one day Youth Symposium for 1,500 Grade Eight students from Guelph and Wellington County in April 2016 at Galaxy Cinemas, Guelph. Over 7,200 students from Guelph and Wellington County have benefited to date. Key messages include: You can be the change! It only takes ONE to make a difference! Step outside your comfort zone and try new things! Be an "energy giver", not "energy taker"! Students are given tools and strategies to help them face challenges and opportunities in their own lives as they enter high school, a key point in their development.</p>
<p>Community of Hearts Lifelong Learning Centre: Healthy Living Evening Program</p>	<p>\$2,000.00</p>	<p>Community of Hearts would like to start a 10-week evening program to teach healthy life skills including cooking, physical fitness, healthy relationships, internet safety and stress management. Includes inviting community partners to help plan the curriculum, teach seminars and evaluate the impact of the program. The program would be offered at the Community of Hearts Lifelong Learning Centre in downtown Guelph. Participants (ages 16 and up) would have the chance to learn healthy living skills in a fun environment with their peers.</p>
<p>Family & Children's Services of Guelph and Wellington County: Financial Literacy Education</p>	<p>\$5,000.00</p>	<p>The redesigned Financial Literacy Program focusing on a younger age group (15-18) in 2015-2016 and includes a component dedicated to life-skills preparation. The program aims to work with 25-30 youth with incentives offered to participants for successful completion of each phase of the program. The program also offers flexibility to adjust practical application activities to meet the particular needs of the participants.</p>

<p>Focus on Nature: Natural Wonders: Focus on Nature Student Photography Exhibit</p>	<p>\$2,500.00</p>	<p>Focus on Nature proposes to present the very best nature photographs selected from thousands of images created by students at our workshops and camps in 2015. This exhibit of 60 professionally-printed and mounted photographs, entitled "Natural Wonders", will be shown for two months at eMERGE Guelph, in Old Quebec Street Mall.</p>
<p>Guelph Dance: Workshops-in-Schools</p>	<p>\$2,500.00</p>	<p>Workshops-in-Schools is an integral stream of Guelph Dance, providing elementary students an opportunity to explore dance with professional artists. Dance exploration gives students an opportunity to self-reflect, gain self-knowledge, and interact in a meaningful, non-verbal way. It can be a positive healing experience.</p>
<p>Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition: Community Lemonade 2.0</p>	<p>\$1,710.00</p>	<p>Community Lemonade 2.0 will make available to youth and teens across the city, four easy-to-use, mobile platforms (a beautiful, sturdy hand cart on wheels!) that will showcase and/or ignite creative industry and entrepreneurial spirit directly in neighbourhoods. We will build four of these "Lemonade Stands"; stock them each with a tool kit of business examples and resources; spread the word that they can be booked through neighbourhood groups (like library loans); and then offer workshops to kids and youth about turning their arts and crafts into a business (artwork; jewellery; doll clothes; writing; puppet shows).</p>
<p>Guelph Public Library: Scientists in School Community Workshops at the Guelph Public Library</p>	<p>\$3,000.00</p>	<p>Guelph Public Library requests funds to implement Scientists in School (SiS) Community Workshop programming for children, youth, and families in our community. This partnership will help fulfill growing and changing education needs and reduce presently existing gaps in science-based learning. It will provide every child the opportunity to develop an interest and skills in science during their formative years, regardless of ability or socioeconomic status.</p>
<p>Guelph Wellington Chapter of Stroke Recovery Canada (SRC), a program of March of Dimes Canada (MODC): Community Support Services for Stroke Survivors & Families</p>	<p>\$2,000.00</p>	<p>Guelph Wellington Chapter of Stroke Recovery Canada (SRC) is a program of March of Dimes Canada (MODC). We are a peer support program providing hope and encouragement to stroke survivors and caregivers, from their hospital stay to re-integration into the community.</p>
<p>Guelph Youth Music Centre: KnightsFest - Medieval Festival</p>	<p>\$1,500.00</p>	<p>KnightsFest will offer family fun while learning about the Medieval and Renaissance eras through music, costumed demonstrations, interactive games and activities, armour workshops and brass rubbings.</p>

Habitat for Humanity Wellington Dufferin Guelph: Volunteer Skills Building Program	\$3,000.00	The Volunteer Skills Building Program will extend Habitat's core business model to provide youth, at-risk youth, new Canadians and the unemployed with a "hand up" by creating and delivering a unique, innovative volunteer program that provides skills training to enhance participants' capacity and employability.
Michael House Pregnancy Care Centre: Intentional Neighbours Program	\$2,000.00	The Michael House Supportive Housing Program will help address the socio-economic issues in the lives of young mothers and attempt to help mothers provide an environment that is conducive to breaking the cycle of poverty.
Onward Willow - Better Beginnings, Better Futures Community Centre Inc.: Connecting with South Asian Families	\$3,210.00	The program will offer family home visits to families that are sensitive to their unique cultural and language needs. These family home visits will work to develop a trust relationship so that we will be able to act as a referral service connecting people to other agencies (medical, social service, education, etc.), breaking down language barriers, encouraging families to participate in our proven prevention programming and to providing parenting support and socialization.
Portage Ontario: Portage Aftercare Group-Guelph	\$2,000.00	This program will support the continuation of the Portage Aftercare Group for youth in the Guelph Wellington area. Youth engaged in this program maintain regular one-to-one contact with counsellors who provide guidance, support, and encourage them to employ the competencies and tools they learned at Portage.
Start2Finish: Start2Finish Running and Reading Club	\$4,000.00	The funds will support the Start2Finish Running & Reading (R & R) Club at Brant Ave. School. R&R is an innovative, sustainable program that effectively addresses the need for enhanced physical activity, literacy and mentorship among economically challenged children. The club's running and literacy components and mentoring by consistent volunteers give children the tools and hope they need to achieve lifelong success. Targeted at children in grades 1 to 6, the Running & Reading Clubs operate after school and run for two hours one afternoon per week.
Strong Start Charitable Organization: Letters, Sounds and Words program in Wellington County	\$2,500.00	Our Letters, Sounds and Words program targets children in Senior Kindergarten and Grade One (ages 5-7) who need a literacy boost. They are selected by their classroom teacher at the first sign of them lagging behind in their early literacy skills. These children are paired with trained community volunteers who come into the school to work one-on-one with them, playing carefully designed games and activities.
Sunrise Therapeutic Riding & Learning Centre: Therapeutic Riding for Special Education Classes	\$4,200.00	This project would enable 46 Guelph children (five classes of students with special needs) to each participate in a set of 4 weekly therapeutic riding lessons. Many of these children are also from financially marginalized families.

<p>Tetra Society of North America: Guelph Device Booster Initiative</p>	<p>\$2,000.00</p>	<p>"Guelph Device Booster" - to increase the number of devices built next year by 25%. The funding will assist those marginalized individuals in the disabled community who cannot afford to cover the costs of materials, machining, welding, etc.</p>
<p>The Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington: St. Peter Student Nutrition Program</p>	<p>\$2,500.00</p>	<p>The St. Peter Catholic School Student Nutrition Program supported by Food and Friends provides a good start to the day by serving healthy food in a safe, convenient environment in order to maximize the students' potential to learn. The program also offers an atmosphere for social inclusion among students who may otherwise feel marginalized.</p>
<p>The Julien Project; Using Gardening to Enrich Lives: Developing Guelph LORE (Local Organic Resourceful Entrepreneurship) among marginalized and special needs youth with horticultural products</p>	<p>\$1,000.00</p>	<p>Developing Guelph LORE (local organic resourceful entrepreneurship) among marginalized youth populations with local horticultural products. This 10-week project will involve special needs, marginalized and regular-streamed high school youth collaborating together and with local businesses, to create and market local organic food and natural beauty products made from the produce the students have grown with the Julien Project. Concurrently, a high school media arts class will be documenting the process.</p>
<p>The YMCA-YWCA of Guelph: Safe, Healthy Aquatic Recreation for Kids Program (SHARKs)</p>	<p>\$5,000.00</p>	<p>The Guelph Y Safe, Healthy, Aquatic Recreation for Kids Program (SHARKs) is offered to all Grade 3 and Grade 5 students in the city of Guelph, free of charge. SHARKs addresses the issue of drownings in our community and works to decrease drowning rates by teaching the Lifesaving Societies' Swim to Survive Standards, instructing children how to surface after a fall into deep water and swim to safety. Funding is required in order to continue to offer this crucial program to youth in our community and help save lives.</p>
<p>Victim Services Wellington: Mobile Emergency Response System (MERS)</p>	<p>\$2,000.00</p>	<p>Mobile Emergency Response Program (MERS). This program has 30 personal tracking devices for our high risk victims. These are victims of domestic violence, criminal harassment or stalking and can be used by both males and females. The unit, when activated, sends out a signal and police are notified of the victim's location and high risk situation. Funds will pay for activation and monitoring fees for some of the devices.</p>
<p>Volunteer Centre of Guelph/Wellington: Volunteer WORKS</p>	<p>\$1,000.00</p>	<p>This is a pilot project called Volunteer WORKS. We will work with 5 companies in Guelph to help them engage their employees through volunteerism. Employers will work with our staff to create or revitalize their current employee volunteer engagement efforts. Whether a company is interested in providing education and awareness through a lunch and learn session, organizing a day of action or serving in a leadership capacity, we believe that every employee has something to offer and every employer something to gain.</p>

Wyndham House Inc.: Wyndham House Transportation Fund	\$2,100.00	Wyndham House hopes to ensure the continuation of a Transportation Fund. This vital fund ensures that youth have barrier free access to the transportation supports they need to get to medical/counselling appointments, job interviews, apartment viewings and to attend high school classes and recreational activities.
\$74,597.41 TOTAL GRANTED FROM COMMUNITY FUND, FALL 2015		

Musagetes Grant Summary – Fall 2015

Organization / Project	Summary of Project	Amount Approved
Art Gallery of Guelph: Cole Swanson: Out of the Strong, Something Sweet	The solo exhibition Out of the Strong, Something Sweet features the work of artist Cole Swanson, who through large scale installations of animal bodies, pre-modern art forms, sculptural media, and emergent technologies examines profoundly complex trans-species relations and the intersections between art and cultural histories, the modern and the primitive, together with human, bee, and bovine biology.	\$7,500
Ed Video Media Arts Centre: The Next Forty Years	"The Next Forty Years" is a celebration of future technology, new directions in media art, and the way Ed Video will grow. While our past provides the ground work for our experience, the changes in media and technology have dramatically impacted our entire culture over the last four decades. Where will the next 40 years take us?	\$4,000
Guelph Black Heritage Society: Refuge	Refuge is an opportunity for culturally diverse youth to participate in and create a live artistic production that uses improvisational elements of spoken word, music, and movement to re-imagine the underground railroad narrative and the significance of Heritage Hall as a place of refuge and safe haven both historically and contemporarily. Youth will work with multidisciplinary artist facilitators over three months, culminating in an event to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in March, 2016.	\$9,000
Guelph Concert Band: Sound System	The major part of the requested funds is for a sound system. To provide the top level experience for our audience we need professional quality equipment. We play one concert per year at the River Run Centre. All the other venues do not provide sound resources. The other part of the proposal is for a conductor stand and podium. This equipment is a standard part of the equipment of every large ensemble and enables the conductor to arrange the score properly and to see the entire band clearly.	\$1,000
Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition: Girl's Rock Camp	Girls Rock Camp will offer local cis- and trans- youth from priority neighbourhoods, aged 12-16, space to develop musical skills and confidence, work with experienced musicians, build towards a shared goal with a group of peers, and play in a rock band. The camp will address the gender disparity in our thriving but largely male music scene and positively impact the next generation of our creative community. In partnership with Kazoo! the GNSC, Ed Video, and Little Room Labs.	\$3,000

Guelph Youth Music Centre: Capital Investment	Funding will improve a community space (kitchen) within the GYMC. Since 2001, we have fulfilled our goal to enrich children's lives -- we are recognized as a vital community centre. 2014-2015 saw more than 12,000 children, youth, adults and seniors participate in programs and events. A modern community kitchen space will give us the ability to increase rental revenue, as well as being a welcome change for those using the building every day, making this a funding gift that will last for many years to come.	\$4,000
Guelph Youth Singers: GYS Gathering with Wiji Numgumook Kwe Drum Circle	A collaborative experience with Guelph Youth Singers and Wiji Numgumook Kwe Drum Circle includes a drumming experience, poetry and storytelling and a public gathering at the Frank Hasenfratz Centre of Excellence Tech Hall. Choristers, audience and drummers will celebrate authentic Canadian Aboriginal culture through this interdisciplinary approach. Funding from the Musagetes Fund will provide the resources needed to rent the space, purchase materials, pay conductor and workshop clinician fees, and market the event.	\$2,500
Hospice Wellington: Encounters Project 2 Multi-cultural exploration of loss and grief through collage	We want to build an engaged community through art encounters. In collaboration with Immigrant Services-Guelph Wellington (ISGW), Hospice Wellington proposes working with a group of Muslim seniors from our community to tell stories about loss and grief using Collage and other storytelling media. This would allow for a connection with young people who have also experienced grief.	\$6,000
Suzuki String School of Guelph: China Tour 2016	Students from the Suzuki String School of Guelph and the Guelph Youth Dance Company will join two other groups of Canadian Suzuki students in preparing for and participating in a 10-day tour of China. Preparations will be over 7 months and will include a fall retreat, weekly rehearsals, a winter workshop and 3 Canadian performances. The tour will be from March 10 to March 20th 2016 and will take the students to 5 different Chinese cities where they will perform in world-class, state-of-the-art performance venues.	\$10,000
The Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington: Free to Play Program	The Children's Foundation's Free to Play Program supports a child's inner artist by providing financial assistance for art based lessons and camps. Assistance is provided for the activity of the child's choice so that they can explore what they are most passionate about -- from pottery to street art, cultural dance to acting - the opportunities are endless. The lessons and inspiration by an instructor and other young artists will foster their creative potential and help build future artists in our community.	\$2,500
Total Granted from Musagetes Fund, Fall 2015		\$49,500.00