

The Guelph Community Foundation is Accepting Grant Applications for a Variety of Projects

May 11, 2011 (Guelph) – Soon your garden will be growing just like the pool of available grants from The Guelph Community Foundation! The Foundation announced that \$91,000 is available for community organizations that have projects in the areas of *Building Vital Communities* and *Arts & Culture* as part of its overall 2011 Community Grants Program.

“The Guelph Community Foundation primarily provides grants generated by investment income on endowments. Growth in our assets in 2010 and improvements in financial market performance mean we have more resources available for granting”, explains Executive Director, Andrea Olson. “That’s very different from other charitable models because gifts to the Foundation are invested to create a stream of revenue that can fund community initiatives forever.”

In 2010, the Guelph Community Foundation and its donors directed over \$325,000 to charitable organisations in two ways: through Community Grants programs and as donor advised, designated and flow-through funds.

The Foundation’s *Building Vital Communities* allocations addressed needs identified in 2009 Vital Signs Report. In particular, issues related to poverty. For example, an 8-week Healthy Living Learning Group at Action Read tailored information on nutrition, eating well on a budget, cooking, fitness, and creating community connections for people with low literacy levels. Give Yourself Credit, a multi-agency program, supported 16 homeless and “at-risk” youth in the “Youth Run 2 Fit” pilot project. With a trained running coach, the youth trained for months for an upcoming 5K run. They developed physical fitness, increased their self-esteem, and made better choices for overall health and well-being.

“We grant to a broad range of programs,” says Susan Brown, Chair of The Guelph Community Foundation Grants Committee. “Our Unrestricted Community Fund allocates based on needs identified in Vital Signs. In addition, our fund holders can recommend the grants stemming from their gift to a sector that is near to their hearts like the environment, literacy, the arts, etc... We address everything from poverty to performing arts!”

Indeed, thanks to the Musagetes Fund, Arts and Culture grants figure prominently in the list of past grants. In 2010, it funded the Suzuki String School of Guelph’s Music Therapy Project where a group of volunteer teenage musicians performed on a bi-weekly basis for Homewood Health Centre clients. It sought to boost mental health, overcome isolation, and offer opportunities for music participation. The Musagetes Fund also supported the Anishnabeg Outreach’s “2011 Youth and Elders Conference” - a day of traditional teachings, drumming and dance that brought elders and youths together to build leadership skills and to increase self-esteem & self-identity. The Musagetes Fund also funded very practical items such as an on-line gallery at Ed Video, Performance Hall blinds for the Guelph Youth Music Centre and supported the Guelph Youth Singers, Guelph Contemporary Dance Festival, Macdonald Stewart Art Centre and three pilot programs under the Guelph Arts Council.

Applications for Spring Grants are available at www.guelphcf.ca or by contacting the Guelph Community Foundation. **Deadline for organisations to apply for program funding is JULY 13th.**

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 Million in capital assets and has disbursed over \$1.9 Million in grants to over 500 community initiatives since its inception in 2000.

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

Andrea Olson, Executive Director
The Guelph Community Foundation
(519) 821-9216
andrea@guelphcf.ca

Jay Elinesky, Chair
The Guelph Community Foundation
(519) 822-2024