

NIAGARA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION INCREASES SUPPORT ACROSS NIAGARA

MAY 7, 2010

Communities across Niagara benefitted from more than \$61,000 in grants awarded by the Niagara Community Foundation. “We increased our grants by 30% over this time last year,” said Mel Groom, board chair of the foundation. “We’re supporting school-based initiatives as well as community and region-wide projects in a variety of sectors – from the environment to culture, health, social services and education.”

The Eco Club at Parliament Oak School in Niagara on the Lake is creating an outdoor learning centre with their \$500 grant. Community Living Welland Pelham, in partnership with Land Care Niagara is planting 150 large caliper urban trees across their community with its \$3,135 grant. Big Brother Big Sisters Grimsby Lincoln West Lincoln is using its \$3,453 grant to expand the Go Girls program into College Street and Central Public School. The Head Injury Association of Fort Erie’s \$500 grant will help start a one on one literacy program for their clients. The largest grant awarded so far this year is \$13,650 to Rose City Kids and it will assist with equipment for their new facility in downtown Welland. Regional theatre company Carousel Players will be purchasing a sound mixer and amplifier to be used on the road at more than 100 performances.

Celebrating its 10th anniversary year, the Niagara Community Foundation has raised \$10 million in income earning endowment funds, which are held in perpetuity. Almost \$3 million in grants have been awarded by the foundation to charitable projects.

-30-

Complete list of grants awarded is attached to this release (2 pages)

Contact: Liz Palmieri, Executive Director, Niagara Community Foundation 905-684-8688

**Niagara Community Foundation
Youth and Mini Grants - February to April 2010**

Organization	Grant	Project Description	Municipalities Impacted
AIDS Niagara	\$4,000.00	Fund the costs and resource materials for World AIDS Day dance and activities in Niagara with intent of engaging youth in the movement.	Niagara Region
Big Brothers Big Sisters - Grimsby Lincoln, West Lincoln	\$3,452.28	Fund the expansion of the Go Girls Program at College Street Public School and Central Public School, both at risk according to neighbourhood mapping tool provided by Niagara Region.	Grimsby, West Lincoln
Carousel Players	\$500.00	Purchase a sound mixer and amplifier to be used on the road at more than 100 performances.	Niagara Region
Child Advocacy Centre Niagara	\$500.00	Train the 2 staff on the agency fundraising software with the intention of training volunteers.	Niagara Region
Community Living - Fort Erie	\$500.00	Purchase 5 computer monitors for 5 residential locations to improve access to resources and the quality of life for those living in the residences.	Fort Erie
Community Living Welland Pelham	\$3,135.00	In partnership with Land Care, fund the planting of 125 large caliper urban trees and maintenance of 15 large caliper native potted trees grown from local seed in areas of schools and other non-profit community organizations that have land management support.	Welland, Pelham
District School Board of Niagara	\$500.00	Purchase gravel for the Outdoor Learning Classroom created by the Eco Club at Parliament Oak School.	Niagara-on-the-Lake
DSBN - South Lincoln High School	\$3,000.00	Fund an adventure based program for at risk youth to promote interpersonal and intrapersonal growth.	West Lincoln
Education Foundation of Niagara	\$458.00	Purchase a commercial conveyor toaster for Queen Mary Public School Breakfast program.	St. Catharines
Education Foundation of Niagara	\$3,013.86	LINCOLN CENTENNIAL PUBLIC SCHOOL - Purchase resources and guest speaker to celebrate and educate students and families about cultural diversity.	St. Catharines
Education Foundation of Niagara	\$2,420.00	Fund Project Butterfly Wishes for an outdoor classroom at Prince of Wales North School that will incorporate native trees, plants and shrubs that will attract butterflies.	St. Catharines
Education Foundation of Niagara	\$2,420.00	Fund Project Butterfly Wishes for an outdoor classroom at Central Public School that will incorporate native trees, plants and shrubs that will attract butterflies.	Grimsby
Head Injury Association of Fort Erie	\$500.00	Fund the resources to start up a one on one learning program for reading and writing for individuals with acquired brain injury.	Fort Erie
Hope Furniture Bank	\$500.00	Purchase a vacuum cleaner and shop vac for cleaning furniture donations.	Niagara Region
Hospice Niagara	\$3,000.00	Fund a one day retreat for teens who have experienced a significant death in their lives.	Niagara Region
Lincoln Community Against Violence - Women's Resource Centre	\$500.00	Purchase a laptop computer for Community Support Worker program to be used with clients.	Grimsby
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation	\$4,202.00	Fund Niagara Envirothon Kits to better prepare students for the Niagara Envirothon 2010.	Niagara Region
Niagara Region Public Health - REACT	\$500.00	Fund resources for the one day Amazing Race event hosted by REACT (Regional Peer Lead Action Group) for the families of Rykert Street.	St. Catharines
Niagara Research and Niagara50Plus	\$500.00	Fund website for Niagara50Plus to promote knowledge and skills of that demographic.	Niagara Region
Pelham Cares	\$500.00	Purchase an agency safe for donations, gift vouchers and agency documents.	Pelham

**Niagara Community Foundation
Youth and Mini Grants - February to April 2010**

Organization	Grant	Project Description	Municipalities Impacted
Red Roof Retreat	\$5,000.00	A Path with Meaning - fund the construction of an accessible walkway to access all parts of "Green Space".	Niagara on the Lake
Regional Niagara Firefighters Volunteer Buffs Association	\$500.00	Purchase a weather resistant tent to be used at the emergency scene to shelter emergency personnel and victims of the disaster.	Niagara Region
Rose City Kids	\$13,650.00	Fund equipment for the Rose City Kids program for at risk children aged 5-12 years old.	Welland
St. Catharines & Area Arts Council	\$500.00	Purchase a laser printer/copier to reduce costs and to be shared with other sharing the office space.	St. Catharines
St. John Ambulance, Lincoln County Branch, St. Catharines	\$500.00	Fund the resources to start up the Therapy Dog and Sit-Stay-Read program to Fort Erie.	Fort Erie
The Hope Centre	\$400.00	Purchase a weigh scale for the Food Bank to accurately track food donations.	Welland
Thorold Community Activities Group	\$500.00	Purchase equipment for Karate Program for kids ages 7 to 12.	Thorold
Town of Pelham	\$3,115.00	Fund the Summer Camp Program.	Pelham
Wellspring Niagara Cancer Support Foundation	\$500.00	Purchase an agency display and travel bag to be used at community events to create agency awareness.	Niagara Region
Young Carers Initiative - Powerhouse Project	\$2,500.00	Fund 3 day youth retreat for young carers, aged 14 to 18, to build resiliency and positive youth development.	Fort Erie, Niagara Falls, Port Colborne, St. Catharines, Thorold, Welland
TOTAL	\$55,151.14		