



### MARIA AND LAURA MENECHELLA'S

support to the Niagara Community Foundation has come in a variety of ways. To celebrate special birthdays they have asked their friends to make a donation in support of our summer camp fund. Laura's son Nicholas made the same request to his friends for his 9th birthday party. Through their hotel properties in Niagara Falls, they have participated for the past 4 years in the Sleep Cheap Charities Reap fundraiser, allocating 50% of the proceeds in support of current projects in Niagara Falls and putting the balance raised into the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel Fund, one of the family of funds within the Niagara Falls Fund. The earnings on this fund are pooled with others to support charitable projects in Niagara Falls. Laura's understanding of the foundation has also been enhanced through Maria's involvement since 2006 as a board member. The Menechellas certainly exemplify how giving is a family affair.

## NIAGARA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION COMMUNIQUE

### FURNISHING HOPE IN NIAGARA

Hope Furniture Bank (HFB) in Niagara Falls was a recent recipient of the Niagara Community Foundation's mini-grant program. The Furniture Bank collects gently used home furnishings in order to provide individuals and families in need in the Niagara Region with the beds, tables, chairs and other furnishings that turn "shelter" into "homes".

The Community Foundation grant enabled the organization to purchase a small central vacuum and shop vac to clean donated furnishings before delivering them to clients. "We believe that no one deserves to sleep on the floor," says Janet Morettie, Volunteer Coordinator. "We are using these vacuums to ensure basic cleanliness, particularly for the mattresses and other soft furnishings that we gather. This ensures that we are distributing furnishings that help to bring the pride of home to our clients."

Currently HFB is delivering household furnishings, bedding, mattresses and basic household supplies to a minimum of 15 needy families/individuals per week who are referred for assistance by partnered social agencies throughout Niagara. Between January and August of this year HFB provided furnishings to 241 households, and there are consistently 40 - 50 referrals in queue waiting for deliveries.

HFB relies heavily on public donations of gently used home furnishings. Approximately 90 donors have participated in Neighbourhood Drop Off Days held over the summer months, and pick up service is available year round on a for-fee basis. These donations help both the community and the environment, as HFB diverts 6.58 tons of gently used furniture from landfills per month.

With the assistance of The Hope Furniture Bank, many clients are able to move into their own places and feel comfortable, sometimes for the first time in their lives - an important step in relieving poverty for persons with low incomes.

Photo credit: Kaesha Forand, The Tribune.





## A CREATIVE VOICE FOR YOUTH

The lack of recreational opportunities and exposure to the arts for youth in low income areas was the motivation behind the Fort Erie Arts Council's 'The Me You Can't See,' program. This program received a \$5,000 grant from the Niagara Community Foundation, giving the children of Bowden Street in Fort Erie the chance to work alongside a professional artist and to find their creative voice.

The grant covered expenses related to artist's fees and art materials. Canadian artist Shanna Hamilton engaged 15 young participants in an artistic experience that was uniquely their own. Over eight weeks, she worked with the children to encourage their creative expression through various mediums, from mask making to story writing. In doing so, the artist connected with individual participants to understand their stories, which touched on bullying, friendship, self image and wishes for the future.

Through the process, the artist gathered material and input to illustrate the children's messages in a collage style mural. The vibrant mural depicts sunflowers symbolizing the children of the community. Artist Shanna Hamilton explains, "A child is like a sunflower – the more nurturing you give them the brighter they get." The story behind the images found in the mural are all based on the information, actions and feelings of the children and is a concrete message of the youth of Bowden Street.

This mural is now being shown with pride around the community of Fort Erie and the region of Niagara, and taken to schools so that other children can see the artwork and hear the story behind it. Meanwhile, The Fort Erie Arts Council is further developing the program with the potential of providing it in other neighbourhoods in the community and in Niagara.

**WHEN BUSINESS PARTNERS** Jean Marchand and Christopher Kruczynski sought to give back to the community, they found an opportunity to involve their entire family in their philanthropic efforts.

The pair, principals of the Marchand Kruczynski Group at ScotiaMcLeod, wanted to do something to give back to the community which had helped their successful business grow. So in 2006 they established a donor-advised fund at the Foundation.

Marchand and Kruczynski also wanted to place a specific focus on cancer research and treatment in Niagara. They felt this area aligned well with the family's experience because one of their family members had fought breast cancer for the previous six years.

"Like all families where a member is struck by cancer, the disease touched the lives of other family members," said Marchand. "Cancer was truly a family affair, so we sought a philanthropic response involving the entire family."

"Undoubtedly, involving our children in the fund will create opportunities for important learnings," said Kruczynski. "We will be three generations strong with Jean and we're excited about the family legacy we are creating."

# GRANTS

## JANUARY TO JUNE 2010

The foundation board approved 56 discretionary grants totaling almost \$86,000 during the first half of 2010 from our Youth, Environment, Summer Camp and Mini granting programs. Major support for our camp and youth grants came from the Branscombe

Family Foundation. Thanks to all our donors and fund holders for their support to these programs. Details on how to apply to these programs are available on our website in the grants section.

ORGANIZATION	PROJECT TITLE	GRANT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
AIDS NIAGARA	Youth Grant	\$4,000	Fund the costs and resource materials for World AIDS Day dance and activities in Niagara with intent of engaging youth in the movement.
BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS - GRIMSBY LINCOLN, WEST LINCOLN	Youth Grant	\$3,452	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.
CAROUSEL PLAYERS	Mini-Grant	\$500	Purchase a sound mixer and amplifier to be used on the road at more than 100 performances.
CHILD ADVOCACY CENTRE NIAGARA	Mini-Grant	\$500	Train the 2 staff on the agency fundraising software with the intention of training volunteers.
COMMUNITY LIVING - FORT ERIE	Mini-Grant	\$500	Purchase 5 computer monitors for 5 residential locations to improve access to resources and the quality of life for those living in the residences.
COMMUNITY LIVING WELLAND PELHAM	Environment Grant	\$3,135	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.
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA	Mini-Grant	\$500	Purchase gravel for the Outdoor Learning Classroom created by the Eco Club at Parliament Oak School.
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA - SOUTH LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL	Youth Grant	\$3,000	Fund an adventure based program for at risk youth to promote interpersonal and intrapersonal growth.
EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF NIAGARA	Mini-Grant	\$458	Purchase a commercial conveyor toaster for Queen Mary Public School Breakfast program.
EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF NIAGARA	Youth Grant	\$3,014	Lincoln Centennial Public School - Purchase resources and cost of a guest speaker to celebrate and educate students and families about cultural diversity.
EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF NIAGARA	Environment Grant	\$2,420	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.
EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF NIAGARA	Environment Grant	\$2,420	Fund Project Butterfly Wishes for an outdoor classroom at Central Public School that will incorporate native trees, plants and shrubs that will attract butterflies.
FOUNDATION OF RESOURCES FOR TEENS (FORT)	Mini-Grant	\$500	Fund the purchase of music equipment to be used by youth at the FORT.
GATEWAY RESIDENTIAL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES OF NIAGARA	Mini-Grant	\$500	Fund the resources needed for a Food Preservation workshop for Gateway Women's Group.
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY NIAGARA	Mini-Grant	\$500	Fund the purchase of a portable projector screen for agency presentations.
HEAD INJURY ASSOCIATION OF FORT ERIE	Mini-Grant	\$500	Fund the resources to start up a one on one learning program for reading and writing for individuals with acquired brain injury.



## GIVING BACK TO CELEBRATE SIXTY YEARS



Val and Art Fleming at their anniversary celebration.

This August, Art and Val Fleming marked their 60th wedding anniversary with a once in a lifetime celebration in their home community of Beamsville. The 250 guests in attendance were given the opportunity to honour the special occasion with a gift to their family fund, which resulted in almost \$8,000 raised.

The celebration was not only an opportunity for their endowment fund to grow, but for friends and family members from as far afield as England, Texas and California to pay tribute to a remarkable couple. A 22 verse song performed by family told the life story of Art and Val to the tune of the “Beverly Hillbillies” television theme, referencing their successful chicken farming business and their many years of partnership:

*Art popped the question on Highway Number 5,  
Lucky that he did or we wouldn't be alive,  
Val said yes, she'd love to be his wife,  
And that's where it started, a whole new life.  
Marriage. Kids. Responsibility. More Chickens.*

Art and Val opened an endowment fund with the Niagara Community Foundation in November 2007 to support fifteen charities across the region. The Flemings also have a private family foundation that provides support to many groups each year. “We wanted to create a legacy in our names at the community foundation so that some of the charities important to us during our lifetimes will continue to receive support in perpetuity,” they said. Each year the fund provides support to organizations that make Niagara a happier and healthier place for all.

## BROCK STOCK MARKET COMPETITION NETS \$6,237



Left to right: Ryan Brunet, Lauri Brady and Marco Brunetti

A virtual stock market competition organized by Brock University business students is over, and local charities are the big winners.

From March 1 to April 16, competitors took part in the inaugural Investment Challenge for Charity. They vied for the title of best investor and the opportunity to win one of three cash prizes during the seven-week long contest organized by the Brock Finance and Investment Group.

But the real winners, says contest co-organizer Ryan Brunet, are local charities for whom \$6,237 was allocated for the funding of sports and recreation programs for disadvantaged children through the Prokids Program at the YMCA.

In all, more than 200 contestants registered for the competition, paying \$20 each for the chance to build online portfolios based on real-time stock prices. Sixty per cent of the collected money went toward the Group’s children’s fund, which will be allocated to various charities with the assistance of the Niagara Community Foundation.

“Many of the participants are going to be future leaders of business,” said Liz Palmieri, the Niagara Community Foundation’s Executive Director. “This was a wonderful way to get them involved in a socially responsible endeavour.”

Excerpts from an article written by Rahul Gupta, with permission from The St. Catharines Standard, [www.stcatharinesstandard.ca](http://www.stcatharinesstandard.ca).

## WELLAND FOUNDATION CREATES A NEW LEGACY

This spring, the Welland Hospital Foundation committed to open a \$10,000 endowment fund with the Niagara Community Foundation. Executive Director Heather J. Scott explains, “For donors who want to invest their donations for years to come, while still supporting the hospital foundation, an endowed fund is a convenient way to do so.”

“We also believe that our foundations are well aligned,” adds Foundation president Geri Morrone. “Both are donor focused, forward thinking and embrace change.”

Gifts made to the Welland Hospital Endowment Fund will be held in perpetuity with a portion of the annual earnings used to support the hospital foundation. “This fund is pooled with more than 130 other endowment funds held by the community foundation,” says Mel Groom, president of the Niagara Community Foundation. “The hospital’s commitment to partner with us reflects both organizations’ desire to provide a way in which donors can make a long-term commitment to support health care in Welland.”

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Our Cuvée Weekend Experience begins with the red-carpet black-tie optional Gala on Friday night where Niagara's culinary stars share the spotlight with our Ontario wine celebrities. This spectacular Gala is hosted by Fallsview Casino Resort, Niagara Falls, Ontario. Often called the 'Oscars' of the Ontario wine industry, the evening celebrates the Cuvée Award winners - exceptional wines selected by the winemakers themselves.

The celebration continues at the wineries during Cuvée en Route, with unique flights and individual tastings selected by the winemakers.

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Visit [cuvée.ca](http://cuvée.ca) for schedules, tickets and accommodation information or call 905.684.8688

## NIAGARA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

presents

9TH ANNUAL

### Canadian Business Leaders Breakfast

To recognize Canadian leaders in corporate social responsibility.

GUEST SPEAKER

**Kevin W. Williams**

President General Motors of Canada

**Tuesday, November 16th**

8:00am to 9:30am

Quality Hotel Parkway Convention Centre

Tickets - \$30 or \$240 for table of 8

To order tickets call **905-684-8688**

### CONTACT US


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