

Foundation reports over 400% increase in grants to community groups

Groups from across Niagara are benefiting from the increased dollars awarded last month from the Niagara Community Foundation. Over \$80,000 is going to 27 organizations this year. This is an increase over last year's awards of \$17,450 to just twelve charities.

Liz Palmieri, the foundation's executive director notes "the increase in funds available is due to a number of factors – better investment returns on our endowments, special one time donations targeting specific issues and the continued support of the Regional Chair's Charity Golf Tournament." This year the community is also starting to reap the benefit of the Casino Niagara Cares Fund. Of the total grants awarded, \$12,100 has come from this fund. "We're thrilled to see that our investment in the Casino Niagara Cares Fund is now beginning to make a difference in the community," said Larry L. Lewin, President, Niagara Casinos. "It is particularly gratifying to know that it will continue to have a positive impact on the community for many years to come."

"This year the volunteers assessing the grants were faced with some tough choices," noted Grants Committee Chair Betty-Lou Souter. "There are so many worthwhile organizations doing amazing work across Niagara." The committee reviewed over \$340,000 in requests for 57 projects. Grants were awarded to both regional and local organizations. The smallest grant of \$1,000 went to the St. Catharines Blind Bowlers for portable railings while the largest grant of \$7,500 is for the Children's Discovery Centre of Niagara towards the construction of a demonstration wetland and pond environment to be used for educational purposes.

Established in November 2000, the Niagara Community Foundation is a collection of endowed funds held in perpetuity given by caring citizens who have chosen to make their community a better place to live and work. To date almost \$2.5 million has been raised in permanently endowed funds.

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For further information contact: Liz Palmieri, Executive Director, 905-684-8688

See attached for details on grants

Organization	Information on Grant	Grant
Autism Society of Ontario - Niagara Region Chapter	Awesome Allies/Awesome Connections: Social skills programs for children with Asperger's Syndrome, Verbal ASD or non-verbal children with ASD.	\$2,760.00
Canadian Academy of Travel & Tourism	Beyond the Boundaries of Travel & Tourism: A National student conference taking place in Niagara promoting career opportunities in this field	\$2,000.00
Canadian Red Cross	Beyond the Hurt Peer Facilitation Pilot: Program to teach anti-bullying strategies to secondary school trainers and educators	\$5,000.00
Carousel Players	Human Resources Review: To make recommendations reflecting previous and future growth and changes within this organization.	\$1,800.00
Children's Discovery Centre of Niagara	Wetland Pond: Construction of a demonstration wetland and pond environment to be used for educational purposes	\$7,500.00
Community Living Port Colborne - Wainfleet	"Leadership Training for Youth" project, specifically towards the Leadership Certification Program	\$5,200.00
Folk Arts Council of St. Catharines Multicultural Centre	Immigrant Youth Connection of Niagara: A community based network and central information space where immigrant youth can meet, access information and formulate a voice through seminars, workshops and activities.	\$4,200.00
Horse Alternative Therapeutic Services (H.A.T.S.)	It Makes Good Horse Sense: Professional development for program staff in Equine Assisted Personal Development training. H.A.T.S. works with special needs children and youth.	\$2,250.00
Information Niagara	Building Organizational Capacity Through Evaluation: Development of a program evaluation process	\$3,600.00
Le Centre Polyvalent des aines francophones de Port Colborne	Projet inter generation avec l'ecole St-Joseph: Mentoring program with seniors from the centre and children from St. Joseph's Elementary School	\$2,500.00
Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region	Introduction to Technology: A program offered both in-school and at its centre providing computer skills to children with learning disabilities	\$4,000.00
Niagara Foundation for Family and Children's Services	Youth in Care Liaison: Part time youth position to liaise between youth in care and FACS	\$3,000.00

Niagara Performing Arts Centre	Artscape Creative Clusters: A series of workshops to build the capacity of Canadian communities to develop and manage micro-clusters or multi-tenant centers that serve the arts and creative sector	\$2,200.00
Niagara Pride Support Services	Peer Mentoring Program for clients experiencing challenges in dealing with their sexual orientation.	\$3,360.00
Non-Profit Fort Erie Mobile Service	Install and Route Internet Service:	\$2,160.00
Pelham Public Library	Pelham Public Library Youth Services: Materials and equipment to upgrade resources for youth	\$4,000.00
Peterson Community Workshop	Teen Art Club: Launch of the first Niagara Falls Teen Art Show. This organization works with youth in the school system as well as marginalized youth not currently in the school system	\$3,000.00
Rotary Club of Fonthill	Bucks for the Band: Supporting the E. L. Crossley Marching Band	\$5,000.00
St. Catharines Blind Bowlers	Straight Shooters: To purchase portable railings	\$1,000.00
St. Catharines Resource Service for Youth (The RAFT)	Youth GAIN (Youth Getting Around in Niagara): Project to assist at risk youth with transportation needs.	\$2,500.00
St. John Ambulance Niagara Falls Branch	Building a Stronger Youth Program: Resources and training targeted to their youth volunteers	\$2,000.00
The Foundation of Resources for Teens (FORT)	FORT Female Outreach Project: A series of workshops and seminars to help female youth in Niagara West	\$2,000.00
The Niagara Foundation	Tombstone Repair Initiative: Commence a programme of restoration and repair and documenting process to share with other related organizations	\$1,500.00
The Showboat Festival Theatre of Port Colborne, Inc.	Workplace Health and Safety Upgrade: Purchase of a powered elevating work platform	\$3,000.00
Welland Historical Museum	Training for Arts Volunteers: Customized training program for volunteers working on the Kids Art Day event	\$1,350.00
Welland Public Library Board	Equipment and Furnishings: Towards fixtures to be used in new library	\$2,000.00
YWCA of St. Catharines	Niagara Falls Giving Circle for Emergency Shelter: A community outreach and public education program	\$2,000.00