

Media Release

MEDIA PLEASE NOTE: EMBARGOED UNTIL 6:30 p.m. NOV. 15TH

Foundation announces first grants

The day before its first anniversary, the Niagara Community Foundation is already announcing its first set of grants. Six groups from around Niagara were successful in this initial round. “It is unprecedented that a new community foundation is able to have a grants program up and operational so quickly. It really is a testament to the expertise of the volunteers, who put in many hours during the year, drafting the grant criteria and review process”, said Betty-Lou Souter, Board member and Chair of the Foundation’s Grant Making Advisory Committee.

Applications were received from 17 charities from across Niagara requesting over \$47,000 in support. Commenting on the proposals, Souter said “Our community is very fortunate to have such a wealth of caring, creative organizations that are striving to make Niagara better.”

Six charities were selected to receive a total of \$9,500 in grants, which range from \$1,000 to \$3,000 per group. The successful applicants included: The Canadian Hearing Society, Hospice Niagara, Niagara Action for Animals, Niagara Artists’ Company, Niagara Region Children’s Safety Village and the Niagara Symphony Association. “The grants will enable these organizations to do some very creative things that they wouldn’t have been able to do otherwise,” said Souter.

The funds for the grants were generated from the earnings on the foundation’s endowed Community Fund. At the launch last year, two gifts of \$100,000 each were donated to the fund from both the Niagara Credit Union and members of the Branscombe family. Sean Jackson, CEO of the credit union was on hand at the grant announcement. “I think you will agree with me that this new foundation is going to touch everyone in Niagara, and by working collectively, do more good than any of us could do individuals.”

Established last November, the Niagara Community Foundation is a collection of endowed funds and resources given by caring citizens who have chosen to make their community a better place to live and work. To date \$600,000 has been raised in permanently endowed funds.

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