



NEWS RELEASE

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COMMUNITY FOUNDATION MARKS 35TH ANNIVERSARY AND \$5.4M IN GRANTS

The Greater Saint John Community Foundation is announcing details of its 35th Anniversary Celebration Thursday, June 9, 11:45am at the Marco Polo Cruise Terminal, 111 Water Street. It will award a special anniversary grant of \$30,000 to the Greater Saint John Teen Pregnancy Committee at that time. The public is invited to attend and to mark the cumulative distribution of \$5.4 Million to local charitable causes since the Foundation's inception in 1976.

The anniversary grant is being characterized as a way of supporting the community's interest in addressing multiple and longstanding issues relating to the high rate of teen pregnancy, the exceptionally large proportion of single parent families headed by teens and the profound negative impact on theirs and their children's long-term successes and achievements in life. The funds will be directed to an umbrella group comprised of several community not-for-profit agencies, business, related professionals and government, who have been collaborating on the issue since the mid-nineties. They plan an extensive multi-faceted public awareness campaign and represent a diverse group of concerned individuals with backgrounds including health, education and social development. The announcement will take place in conjunction with the presentation of grants to almost sixty Saint John area charities totaling over \$260,000. representing the Foundation's annual grants.

The Anniversary Grant was inaugurated in 2006 to mark the Community Foundation's thirtieth anniversary. The major award of \$30,000, or \$15,000 in two segments, goes to a community charitable group which best addresses clearly documented priorities in Greater Saint John annually. The Foundation's last five annual Report Card on Greater Saint John's quality of life, Vital Signs, has identified a number of community challenges such as the high rates of births to Saint John teens. It is almost double the provincial average, and has a correlation to poverty and not completing school. This has been confirmed in recent research undertaken by the Business Community Anti-Poverty Initiative. Vitals Signs is produced as a public service and used as a grant-making guide.

"Our Community Foundation was established in 1976 to improve the quality of life for our citizens" said Dr. Stephen Willis, Foundation Chairman, who will make the presentation. "Groups who operate on a shoestring will very seldom refuse a grant of any size, but occasionally, a more substantial sum can truly make a difference to a charitable group or coalition of groups such as the Greater Saint John Teen Pregnancy Committee. They may dream of a unique project but have few potential funding sources and struggle just to make ends meet. We congratulate them for taking the lead to solve this persistent social challenge in our community. We are grateful to community-minded foundation donors, who make the dozens of grants we provide annually possible." he concluded.

Anniversary grants can positively affect the arts, social services, health, education, the environment, heritage or recreation and have been awarded to First Steps, the Salvation Army, the Saint John YM-YWCA, the Crescent Valley Resource Centre, ACAP Saint John and "Marco Polo, The Musical" to date. Public spirited donors can continue to contribute to the Community Foundation's Anniversary Fund, which is permanently endowed and continues to provide funding for Anniversary Grants each year.

The Greater Saint John Community Foundation will present Franklin O. Leger, Q.C. with their 2011 Community Service Award at the Anniversary Celebration as well as recognize his significant contributions, community leadership and service for almost six decades. A new bursary fund in memory of Gregory J. Bangay and a fund for the Jewish Historical Society and Museum, as well as an inaugural grant from the Carleton Kirk Lodge Fund will be announced.

The Greater Saint John Community Foundation serves as a trustee for charitable, educational and cultural purposes. It administers funds, large and small, donated by public-spirited citizens for the benefit of the people of Greater Saint John. Earnings from permanent endowment funds are donated to local charities for many worthy causes - youth, seniors, health & medicine, education, the arts, environment and social services. It is a member of Community Foundations of Canada, over 160 independent Community Foundations working together to help improve the quality of life in communities across Canada. Since 1976, the foundation's assets have grown to approximately \$8.6 M. In 2010, it donated in excess of \$233,000.00 to over 50 local charities. (see attached for 2011 grants)

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