



DONORS' ADVANTAGE

A semi-annual newsletter produced by the
Community Foundation of Ottawa for its donors



For good...forever Le bien...toujours

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"I take a very Gandhian approach to life – I believe in stewardship and taking care of those we are entrusted with. This was also the type of spirit I felt was at work when I came to the Community Foundation of Ottawa.

I feel confident that my family's legacy and my life's work are in good hands."

Dr. Anant Anantaraman,
Bhawani Anantaraman
Memorial Foundation

Summer 2011

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Community Foundation Update

Welcome to the summer edition of Donors' Advantage, a newsletter to keep you in touch with the Community Foundation of Ottawa.

We hope you enjoy this issue's stories featuring some of the organizations doing great work with Foundation grants, as well as a family whose generosity typifies the spirit that makes it possible for us to provide this kind of critical support to the community. We'll also shine the spotlight on Anita James, our Director of Grants and Community Initiatives, in our staff member profile.

We hope you had a chance to read through our 2010 Annual Report and to view our new video welcome message featuring some wonderful photos of grantees, donors and staff members at work.

Another highlight of the spring was our participation in Community Foundations of Canada's (CFC) international conference in Vancouver. Aptly titled "A World of Opportunity," it was attended by representatives of 24 countries and featured such keynote speakers as former U.S. president Bill Clinton, Governor General

David Johnston, and Naomi Tutu, daughter of South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu.



David Sweanor, Bibi Patel, Lucy Hensel, Cornelia Duck

Roundly regarded as one of the high points of the conference was the "Direct from Donors" session that gave a first-hand account of how we've taken donor engagement to the next level.

Led by Vice-President Bibi Patel, the session provided rare insight into the perspectives of three long-standing donors (pictured above) who each shared their personal philanthropic journeys with a riveted audience.

Three of our highly-respected board members were also featured as conference presenters, including Chair Scott Wilson, who led a session on the Community Foundation Business Model.

Vice-Chair Brian Toller played a key role in a workshop exploring the

potential of mission-related investing in future financial portfolios of community foundations across the country. Stay tuned for more information on our plans in that area later in the year.

In their session on "The Road to Resilience," renowned policy expert Judith Maxwell and CFO President Barbara McInnes explored ways foundations and other non-profits can work smarter by forging collaborations and bringing more people and resources to the table.

This year's conference also marked the passing of the CFC torch as founding President Monica Patten stepped down after 18 years. Her formidable shoes were stepped into by Ian Bird, a former Olympian. We join with the other 177 community foundations across the country in bidding Monica a fond farewell and welcoming Ian to his leadership post.



Barbara McInnes and Monica Patten

Recent Grants

FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF THE GRANTS MADE IN SPRING 2011

The Inside Out Lesbian and Gay Film Festival is a celebration of Canadian and international films for and about lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and trans communities. Providing a forum for the LGBT and mainstream communities to exchange ideas, organizers are expanding the programming of the four-day festival to include artist talks/panel discussions, and increase the number of films to be screened.

Citizen Advocacy of Ottawa will be offering a one-day workshop to young people with physical and intellectual disabilities and their supporters to begin making a transition plan for life after high school. The *Beyond Graduation* program will help them identify resources, set life goals, and prepare to take the next steps towards independence.

Centre espoir Sophie (CeS) provides support to marginalized francophone women in Ottawa. Over the summer, the centre will organize five outings and social activities for the women in order to reduce their social isolation and allow them to discover new areas in the region and explore their heritage.

The **Ottawa Food Bank** will be purchasing farm equipment to harvest fresh food from local farms to provide to their clientele, as part of Community Harvest Ontario (CHO). CHO is a province-wide program that engages farms, volunteers and food banks in innovative projects to work towards a hunger-free Ontario.

EcoEquitable will be offering a sewing training program to unemployed/underemployed immigrant women to improve their skills and work experience, as well as networking and mentoring support to help them advance in both their personal and professional lives.

Grants in Action

The **Spectrum Intervention Group** is an Ottawa-based centre that provides therapy to young people between the ages of 2-18 who are coping with autism spectrum disorder.

Providing both home- and centre-based services for over eight years, Spectrum uses the principles of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) in its approach, combining intensive behavior intervention (IBI) with natural environmental teaching (NET) methods.

In 2010, the Community Foundation of Ottawa provided Spectrum with a grant to run a five-week summer program for children aged 5-16 that included both recreational and therapeutic activities. In order to meet the needs of the different age groups, Spectrum organized two separate camp initiatives, including two weeks of therapeutic horseback riding and farm activities at Happy Trails Farm, and a three-week day camp at the centre for younger children.

In total, 30 children and youth participated in the camps. The goal of the program was to meet the needs of the participants in a fun learning environment, while providing a unique opportunity to work on their individual social and communication goals.

“There are very few programs in our community specifically geared towards children with Autism – let alone teens on the autism spectrum,” said Lynne

Thibodeau, Executive Director and Clinical Supervisor of Spectrum Intervention Group. “Even rarer are programs that can accommodate learners requiring 1:1 support. Thanks to the help of organizations like the Community Foundation, our centre is one of very few equipped to offer quality programs with dedicated, trained staff, at an affordable price for these families.”

The riding camp proved to be an especially popular and successful experience for the participants, most of whom had never been on a horse before. Not only did Happy Trails’ staff have experience providing personalized services to children with Autism and other special needs, but they were able to work with Spectrum to accommodate its 1:1 ratio requirement.



“Another great attraction with this camp is that it is not primarily language-based,” said Lynne. “This allows for learners of all communication styles and levels to participate. In fact, many staff reported an increase in the amount of vocalizations from the children, as well as conversational exchanges about their horses with the staff. To hear these kids spontaneously talking about their

experiences was an unexpected and very rewarding outcome of the camp.”

The Spectrum Day Camp provided a fun and educational atmosphere that fostered language development to better prepare children with ASD for transitions into mainstream community and educational settings. With the grant it received, Spectrum was able to offer extended care to many families who otherwise could not afford to have their children in the camp throughout the summer.

“Parents reported that as a result of the consistent and more structured setting, their children were better able to respond to instructions at the end of their day,” said Lynne. “The kids were eager to attend and their play skills and participation improved. As a result, many parents are planning to send their children throughout the fall because of the outcomes they have seen so far.”

Spectrum has recently received another Foundation grant to run an After-School Learning Program for Children and Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Participants will engage in one-on-one and group activities with trained instructors/therapists to work towards individual goals related to social skills, self-help techniques, academics, language and communication.

Featured Donors

When Jill Vaughan and her parents Percy and Teresa decided it was time to figure out what to do with the family estate, they approached their lawyer Paul Hewitt. Understanding the Vaughan's concern for having their savings used wisely over the long-term, and their wish to support a variety of charitable causes, Paul recommended the Community Foundation of Ottawa as a possible solution to fulfilling their collective interests.

"We particularly liked the idea that the Foundation preserved the endowment so that your gift keeps on giving," says Jill, "and we were really looking for something that would best serve the value of the estate while preserving the legacy of all my parents' hard work over the years. It immediately struck all three of us that the Community Foundation provided the perfect solution to all of our objectives."

So, in 2007, the family established the Percy, Teresa and Jill Vaughan Family Foundation, an advised fund that includes a bequest. While they ultimately wish to support education, medical research and poverty reduction, the family initially left granting to the Community Foundation's discretion through an unrestricted fund.

"We really appreciate the flexibility that our fund allows in being able to support any registered charitable organization," says Jill, "and that the staff has the community knowledge and experience to identify and respond to immediate needs, many of which may not qualify for support from other funders."

So convinced of the merits of establishing a fund with the Foundation, Jill once wrote to the Globe and Mail to recommend it as a solution for other people looking for ways to donate their estates to charity. In her letter, Jill said: "I would strongly urge anyone considering a bequest to any charitable purpose to consider working with their local community foundation. Easy, professionally managed, access to in-depth community knowledge, no start-up costs ... what more could you ask for?"

Since her own retirement in 2008, Jill and her parents have been enjoying quality family time over summers at the cottage they built 40 years ago near Gananoque. "It was really a labour of love for my father at the time, and a way to maintain close ties to our extended family," says Jill. "It all comes down to values. My parents' deep belief in living within one's means while maintaining a savings goal, coupled with the wish to support those who are less fortunate, has made us all a little richer and more grateful in the end."



Jill, Teresa and Percy Vaughan signing the paperwork to establish their family fund in 2007.

Gifts of Appreciated Stock

Everybody wins when you make a **gift of appreciated stock** to the Community Foundation. Your gains are put to good use. Your gift of stock is reinvested in your community, and it qualifies for an immediate tax credit.

How it Works

- You make a gift of eligible securities directly to the Community Foundation of Ottawa.
- Your gift can be placed into any of our charitable funds in your name, in the name of your family or business, or in honour of any person or organization you choose. For example, you can use your gift to create a Designated Fund or a Donor-Advised Fund. Or you can establish an Unrestricted Fund so your gift can respond to the most pressing community needs.
- Your gift qualifies for a tax credit and you avoid the capital gains tax that would otherwise arise from the sale of this stock.
- We handle all the administrative details.
- Your gift can be placed into an endowment that is invested over time. Earnings from your fund are used to make grants addressing community needs. Your gift – and all future earnings from your gift – is a permanent source of community capital, helping to do good work forever.

More Benefits

Giving eligible appreciated stocks, mutual funds or employee options through the Community Foundation is beneficial for a range of givers – individual investors, families, entrepreneurs, and even groups of friends who have formed investment clubs.

By giving stock through the Foundation, you can avoid capital gains taxes that would be due as a result of the sale of the stock, and establish a charitable fund that benefits the local causes and organizations you care about most. With gifts of appreciated stock, your stock market earnings translate into community impact, so you get a more rewarding return on your portfolio. You can support anything from special programs for at-risk youth, senior citizens, or other people in need; environmental concerns; animal welfare; or the arts.

Community Foundation of Ottawa

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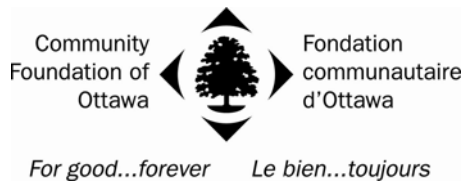
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Staff Member Profile

A familiar name to many in the community is Anita James, the Foundation's Director of Grants and Community Initiatives.

A veteran of frontline community work, Anita came to the Foundation in 2008 and, at the time, was chiefly responsible for the annual publication of the Ottawa's Vital Signs report.

Quickly becoming an invaluable member of the Community Foundation team, Anita now regularly represents us at community meetings and events, where she often delivers presentations and workshops.

With a graduate degree in Social Work and over ten years of experience with the Coalition of Community



Anita James

Health and Resource Centres, Anita brings a breadth of knowledge and experience to all her work at CFO.

Also an active volunteer, Anita has coordinated programs and advocacy campaigns, and delivered workshops in the areas of community development, anti-racism and violence against women at the grassroots level, as well

as at city-wide conferences and local educational institutions.

Since joining the Foundation, Anita has been working on overhauling our community grant-making program, updating the entire application process and working closely with our Donor Services team to further enhance the donor engagement program.

"Working with the Foundation has provided me with a rare opportunity to work directly with donors, community experts and grantee organizations to find long-term solutions to some of our community's most pressing needs," says Anita. "It's certainly been one of the most rewarding aspects of my work here so far."