



Grand Bend Community Foundation

MEDIA RELEASE

Community Foundation invests \$800,000 in Grand Bend and Area. \$2 million endowment continues to grow

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A decade ago, the leaders of the Village of Grand Bend made a wise and far-sighted decision. They chose to use the proceeds of the sale of the Public Utilities Commission to set up the Grand Bend Community Foundation. That investment, combined with many new donations, has yielded benefits to the community beyond anyone's expectations.

The Community Foundation has dispensed dozens of grants totaling **almost \$800,000**. The grants have been made to organizations that cover the whole spectrum of the community's life including health care, youth activities, senior citizens, the environment, the arts, education, and more. Most of the Foundation's support has gone to projects and organizations within the village of Grand Bend, such as the Community Health Centre and the Beach Enhancement project. The Foundation has also been able to assist facilities which are used by Grand Bend residents in neighboring communities, such as the Lambton Shores Recreational Complex in Forest, and South Huron Hospital Association in Exeter.

The Community Foundation was originally established to serve as a 'centre of philanthropy' for people living in and around the community of Grand Bend. The vision, revised in 2010, is "*A healthy, vital Grand Bend community where people work together to make great things happen.*"

"The Foundation exists to connect people who have a desire to give something back to their community, with organizations who need their help," says Chair Pat Morden. "We also provide leadership within Grand Bend, bringing groups and individuals together to work toward shared community goals."

Morden says the Foundation is a model of good financial management, with a professionally managed investment portfolio and very low administrative costs. "We understand the importance of maintaining and growing this endowment from the Village of Grand Bend, so that it can continue to benefit our community for many years to come."

Through the generosity of new donors and careful management of its assets, the Community Foundation's invested capital has grown to almost \$2 million at the end of 2010.

There are several ways that individuals or families who want to give back to Grand Bend can do so through the Community Foundation, including:

- One-time cash gift
- Annual cash gift

- Gift of securities
- Gift of life insurance
- A charitable bequest in favor of the Foundation (and other charities if desired)

Information about each of these giving options is available from the Foundation.

The Community Foundation offers a unique opportunity for donors to remain part of the community forever. When an individual or family makes a contribution of \$5,000 or more, they can create a named Family Fund. A named fund can begin with a relatively small initial investment, and be added to over the years.

As it begins its second decade, the board of directors and advisors has set ambitious goals. The Foundation will be reaching out to new donors, and hopes to provide support for many groups and new projects that are working to improve the quality of life in Grand Bend and surrounding area. “We’re taking this opportunity to celebrate our past successes,” says Morden. “But our real focus is on growing the endowment, so that we can do even more for our community in the future.”

For further information about the Grand Bend Community Foundation, visit our website at www.grandbendcommunityfoundation.ca, or contact Frieda Dobson at 519-238-2190