

# Funding awarded to local non-profits

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THE PACKET & TIMES

For charities to keep giving, they must keep receiving.

Eighteen local non-profits and community groups were given a total of \$22,137.13 from the Community Foundation of Orillia and Area (CFOA) Friday at its annual general meeting and spring grants event at the Orillia Museum of Art and History.

"We're using the money to build a greenhouse as well as a garden on our property," said Lisa Ligers, a teacher at Regent Park Public School, who was one of the recipients. "We will be using the money to buy all the supplies, seeds, buckets, shovels, hoses and things that we need to get the greenhouse up and running."

The plants out of the greenhouse will supply food for student nutrition baskets for the school's breakfast club program, she said.

As well, families in the community will have access to the food grown in the garden and greenhouse, said Ligers, adding excess produce will be sent to local food banks.

"Students and families in the community will also be able to help maintain the facility," she said. "And Andy Robbins, who is a volunteer with the Orillia Community Gardens, will be offering some workshops for families so they know how to maintain the greenhouse and gardens."

A second recipient was the Orillia Youth Centre.

"We're going to be doing a fundraising event on Sept. 23 at Burl's Creek," said youth centre director Kevin Gangloff. "The grant we received today is going to support that endeavour. We're going to use the money to leverage it if we have any expenses."

And even though he said he could not reveal any details about the fall fundraiser, Gangloff said music would be one feature of the event.

Another non-profit that received a grant was Rainbows for All Children Orillia, part of Rainbows Canada.

"It's for families who are going through loss, whether it's separation, divorce or death," said Mary McTavish, talking about the 14-week program that runs at St. Paul's Centre from mid-September until mid-December. "It's a peer-support group. So, as they're going through it, the facilitators (volunteers) aren't teaching; they're setting an environment for the children and the adults in the group to become self helpers."

Years ago, she said, the organization was able to run two programs a year, but despite the demand, it was rolled back to once a year due to a lack of facilitators.

See **FUNDING** | A2

# Demand increasing: CFOA



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Lisa Ligers, a teacher at Regent Park Public School, is pictured with Lily Kent, 7, a student at the school. Regent Park received money for a greenhouse and garden from the Community Foundation of Orillia and Area.

## FUNDING from A1

"This money will help facilitators and help to continue that one program, and if possible we can find enough facilitators, we hope to offer another season," said McTavish, adding more information is available through Bernadette Copeland at 705-326-9941 or via email at bmlcopeland@hotmail.com.

With all the money given out, Michael Gordon, president and chair of the CFOA board of directors, told those attending the event grant applications received for the spring awards amounted to nearly \$100,000, but the CFOA was only able to hand out about one-third of that. To Gordon, that means the demand is increasing and more can be done to collect money and invest it.