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Community Foundation of Southeastern Alberta Celebrates it's 20th Year with a new image and grant program

Medicine Hat, Alberta (May 15, 2012) – The Community Foundation of Medicine Hat and Southeastern Alberta was officially established with an Act of the Legislature of Alberta on June 26th, 1992 with the assistance of well known, local philanthropist, John Ignatius (1918 – 2000).



It was John's belief that the people of Southeastern Alberta would come to the Community Foundation of Medicine Hat & Southeastern Alberta with charitable and philanthropic gifts and bequests to be managed by the Foundation for the betterment of the region. Today, these gifts total over \$7.4 million!

John was raised in rural Southeastern Alberta. It amazed him how people would come together to help their neighbours. This strength of character allowed John to recognize that he could help make a lasting difference for his family, friends and neighbors!

For the last 20 years, the Foundation has been doing just that – helping create a lasting legacy for our community. This has resulted in over 800 grants totalling in excess of \$3 million, the Foundation has supported 159 local charitable organizations.

As the Foundation enters its 20th year, it will do so with a new image and a slight change to its name. The Board felt that the organization needed to reflect to the public its innovation and progressive values, as

well as its commitment to the region as a whole. “The new branding and website (www.cfsea.ca) is a reflection of where we have been and our path forward, we have taken a name to stress our commitment to the entire region.” said Mike Christie, the executive director. “The sun shape in our logo represents more than just the climate we live in. The nine rays represent each of the municipalities we consider our community and if you look closely the sun forms a ‘C’ and an ‘F’ for the initials of Community Foundation.”

Along with a new image, website and name the Foundation has also introduced a new grant program, ‘Vital Impact Grant’. The program is a proactive program created by the Board to address community projects and initiatives that address specific issues identified in the annual Vital Signs® report. The program is intended to continue annually.

For the first year of the ‘Vital Impact Grant’ Program \$10,000 has been awarded to two organizations, however the \$10,000 in funds from the Community Foundation has resulted in a total impact of \$43,000 in grants to the community.

The Medicine Hat Public Library Youth program will receive \$1500 from the Foundation and Criterion Catalyst will further match \$1500, bringing the total to \$3000.

A new group in Medicine Hat has formed to address the growing concern about poverty. The Poverty Reduction Community Roundtable has formed and will initiate a preliminary study to determine the living wage in Medicine Hat. The Foundation has provided \$8,500 towards this project and will partner with the United Way who are making a grant of \$8,500 and the Medicine Hat Housing Society providing a substantial investment of \$23,000 for a total combined grant of \$40,000.

The Community Foundation of Southeastern Alberta made its first grant in 1995 for ‘Flood Relief’ and continues to be leaders in the community by developing permanent endowments, making responsible grants and inspiring community leadership.

On June 22nd, 2012, the Board of Directors, Chair, staff, volunteers, donors and grant recipients will celebrate with pride, 20 years of improving the quality of life for the people of Southeastern Alberta at the annual Founder’s Day Celebration.

For more information on the Community Foundation contact:

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Or visit our website www.cfsea.ca