

## **NEWS RELEASE**

## Partnering in Health Promotion: 2009 Community Development Fund Winners

*April 29, 2009, St. John's, NL:* Today in Clarenville, four community groups committed to health promotion were formally recognized and received a financial boost when they were selected for the 2009 Community Development Fund.

According to Board Chair Joan Dawe, "Eastern Health's vision of *Healthy People, Healthy Communities* is rooted in the recognition that it must focus on individual, community and collaborative approaches to health. There are many groups doing wonderful and innovative work in their home communities. And that's where the Community Development Fund can help."

Four community organizations were selected to receive grants from 26 applications. The successful applicants are:

- Roots of Empathy a classroom-based program (grades K-8), designed to promote development of empathy in children through interaction with the family, while learning to understand and respect others' feelings. This group currently has 63 programs in the province and with their grant will expand to four schools on the Burin and Bonavista Peninsulas.
- Seniors and Youth: Learning Together Intergenerational Support for One Another a project by the Trinity Historical Society. The Society believes in preserving the culture of their area and enhanced interaction between seniors and youth. The project includes a series of workshops for all ages in traditional crafts, recording the stories and traditions of seniors, as well as teaching computer skills to seniors by young people in the area.
- Community Garden Initiative a project by the Burin Peninsula Environmental Reform Committee. The
  Committee plans to develop six organic community gardens, with a focus on creating healthy habits,
  hobbies and leisure activities for all ages. These community interactions will result in improved health and
  increased activity level while fostering a sense of community spirit.
- Placentia & Area Community Garden a project by the Placentia and Area Community Food Bank. In partnership with other organizations and community groups in their area, the Placentia and Area Community Food Bank plans to create an organic community garden. The first opportunity to participate will be offered to clients of the Food Bank Program. Their goals include addressing poverty, building a healthier community and increasing community interaction.

The fund, which totaled \$50,000 dollars, was established by Eastern Health's Board of Directors to provide grants to community organizations or groups who identify and act on priority needs, and who build a sense of community by strengthening social networks and connections.

- 30 -

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