

# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
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## **GDCF Grant Applications Available**

*Community Foundation announces 3 streams of support*

(Golden, BC) The Golden & District Community Foundation is pleased to announce the twelfth annual round of grants through their Community Grants Program, as well as the regular intake of Whitetooth Affordable Ski Program and Mike McKnight Ski Industry Award.

The GDCF's Fall Grants Season is regularly anticipated by local charities as it provides an opportunity to apply for funds from a local funder. The granting funds are available from the interest earned at the Columbia Valley Credit Union on the 10 Community Grants Program permanent endowments held by the GDCF.

Last year 3 local applicant projects were granted awards between \$446 and \$6,920 each.

One year after the first *Golden & Area A's Vital Signs Report* project, which collected citizen grades for 12 issue areas that impact our community's quality of life, the Grants Advisory Committee has adjusted the grant program accordingly. The Committee intends to award approximately \$15,000 through project grants of \$5,000 or more, which address the findings from *Vital Signs*.

But the GDCF is not just supporting local charities at this time of year.

Created by the Whitetooth Ski Society, the Whitetooth Affordable Ski Program makes a limited number of skiing or snowboarding packages available to Golden and Area A children between the ages of 8 and 17, where family incomes are limited.

The ski and snowboard program is a cooperative effort between the Golden & District Community Foundation, Kicking Horse Mountain Resort, Golden Kicking Horse Alpine Team, and Golden Community Resources Society. In 2011, a total of 36 applications were supported, twice as many compared to 2008-9. The Community Foundation expects to see a similar request again this year.

"We are really excited to have all partners involved this year. In the past, we found that older Whitetooth participants didn't opt for lessons. It's hoped that by having the Golden Kicking Horse Alpine Team on board, their coaching programs can take the participants' skiing to the next level of proficiency and commitment. Over time, Whitetooth participants can earn their ski or snowboard instructor's certificate, gain an employable skill and be able to pass on their knowledge to the next generation of rippers."

The third program is supported by the Mike McKnight Ski Industry Award Fund, which was created in late 2009 to honour the memory of one of Golden's community builders, Mike McKnight.

The Award is granted to an institution or training organization for a nominated student, or students, of their choosing.

The recipient must be *“a Golden resident who has a history of community involvement and who is entering into or continuing in a training program for employment in the ski industry. Employment includes, without limiting employment only to, winter guides, ski patrol, higher level ski or boarding instructor, ski area management and search and rescue.”*

Information on the GDCF's Community Grants Programs, the Whitetooth Affordable Ski Program and the Mike McKnight Ski Industry Award are available on [www.goldencommunityfoundation.ca/grantapps.html](http://www.goldencommunityfoundation.ca/grantapps.html) beginning October 1st. It is highly recommended that applicants download and read the policy & guidelines before beginning the applications. All applications must be submitted by 12:00pm noon Monday October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

***About the Golden & District Community Foundation***

*The Golden & District Community Foundation's mission is to attract and effectively grow permanent funds; provide leadership and administration that helps in addressing significant community needs; and help donors fulfill their philanthropic interests.*

To learn more about your community foundation and *Golden & Area A's Vital Signs* project, please bookmark [www.goldencommunityfoundation.ca](http://www.goldencommunityfoundation.ca).

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