

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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Community Foundation celebrates 10th anniversary with party and Vital Signs report

Entire community is invited to October 5th event

(Golden, BC) – Back in 2001, few people in Golden had heard of a community foundation. Luckily for the community, local volunteer Jeff Dolinsky did.

Back then Dr. Dolinsky and a group of concerned citizens turned a temporary steering committee into a registered charity and began collecting donations and making grants to local projects. Ten years later the Golden & District Community Foundation (GDCF) is celebrating a significant anniversary of fund development, charitable giving and community leadership and everyone is invited.

While the GDCF was officially registered on July 16, 2001, Golden's philanthropic organization decided to celebrate ten years of hard work on October 5th – the day after the national and local release date of the Vital Signs reports. The public celebration will be hosted by the *Rock Water Grill and Bar* and everyone, especially past volunteers and donors, are encouraged to reconnect and learn what the charity has been up to over the years and what it has in mind for the future.

In the fall of 2009, the GDCF's Grants Committee realized that there was very little information available to help direct funding towards community needs. Their community needs survey was almost five years old and other publicly created documents did not speak to the charity sector and improving all residents' quality of life. After much thought and discussion, the 10th anniversary of the GDCF seemed to be the best time to spearhead this nationally-supported indicator report.

"The local Vital Signs project has been a huge undertaking by the Community Foundation and a group of concerned volunteers, who have become local experts in each one of the twelve issue areas," explained Denise English, Vital Signs Steering Committee Chairperson. "We are one of smallest communities and community foundations to ever attempt this report. We saw a huge amount of public engagement at meetings and through our online survey and this feedback will be integrated back into how we raise and grant money to local projects."

Nola Milum, Chairperson of the GDCF, noted that the integration of the Vital Signs work has just begun. "We are entering our fall granting cycle with applications available in October for our Community Grants Program and Whitetooth Affordable Ski Program. Citizen feedback and statistical research from *Golden & Area A's Vital Signs* report will provide guidance to our Grants Committee and we hope it helps other local funders, too."

For the founding Board Chairman, Jeff Dolinsky, this celebration is "a great opportunity to reflect on how a few concerned citizens took an idea and built it into a community leadership organization, where

locals can give to a local charitable foundation and donors can see and touch the impact that their giving has had on this community forever.”

The event starts at 7:30pm and will recap the milestones of the GDCF, provide details on the Vital Signs research and grading and outline how these findings can build better projects and a better community. All are welcome.

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.

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