

December 2021

For Immediate Release

Kiwaniis Club Sponsorship to Provide Innovative Infant and Toddler Resources for Niagara's Licensed Child Care Centres

Approximately 172 licensed child care centres in Niagara will receive unique infant and toddler materials and complimentary training thanks to a generous contribution of more than \$20,000 from the Kiwanis Clubs of Niagara. The infant and toddler materials are called "treasure baskets" and they provide sensory-rich play experiences for pre-verbal children and support the development of play schemas. The innovative resources will be sourced by the Early Childhood Community Development Centre, a longstanding charity offering resources, training and organizational supports to early learning programs within Niagara and across Ontario for close to 30 years.

Research has shown treasure baskets provide infants and toddlers with valuable learning opportunities to support their fine motor skill development, mathematical skills, sensory development, and problem-solving skills. The rich materials also support children's innate desire to investigate and make sense of the world around them. In addition to receiving the treasure basket, Educator Teams will receive a workshop facilitated by the ECCDC's training team to explore strategies for offering meaningful experiences within early years programs.

Lorrey Arial Bonilla, Executive Director of the ECCDC, extends deepest appreciation to the Kiwanis Clubs of Niagara for continuing to support Niagara's licensed child care programs over so many years through subsidizing costs associated with resources and cutting edge training. "The donation will be very much appreciated, especially given the challenging year child care programs have faced in ensuring engaging materials are readily available for children.". The ECCDC also thanks their primary funder, Niagara Region Children's Services for their ongoing support of these exciting projects.

Dave Pelette, Lieutenant Governor of the Kiwanis Clubs in the Golden Horseshoe, including Niagara Falls, Welland, and St. Catharines, shares their delight in partnering with the ECCDC once again to support Niagara's licensed child care programs. "We are pleased to participate in a project that will support local child care programs, children and families. We look forward to learning how the treasure basket project will contribute to quality programming".

Kiwaniis International is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time. The Kiwanis Clubs of Niagara contributing to this project include the St. Catharines Kiwanis Club, The Stamford Kiwanis Club, and the Welland Kiwanis Club. To learn more about how to become a Kiwanis Club Member, please visit www.kiwaniis.org to find your local club.

The ECCDC is a charitable organization inspiring excellence in early learning and child care through thought leadership, cutting edge training, innovative resources and coaching services highlighting best practices and emerging trends. The ECCDC exists so that early learning professionals are supported in offering exceptional opportunities to grow, learn and develop. In the 25 years since its creation by local volunteers, the ECCDC has become a leading early learning training, resource and referral organization.

For further information, please contact Executive Director Lorrey Arial Bonilla at 905.646.7311 ext.321 or larial@eccdc.org.