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Flood Relief Funds Disbursed

Community Foundation announces completed disbursement of Immediate Assistance Fund for Flood Relief

Medicine Hat, Alberta (March 30, 2011) – Sixteen years ago, the Community Foundation of Medicine Hat and Southeastern Alberta proudly made its inaugural grant, one of assistance to the City of Medicine Hat after 1995’s devastating flooding.

Last summer the Community Foundation started accepting donations for the Flood Relief 2010 Fund, in support of those affected by the devastating flooding in Medicine Hat, Irvine, Cypress County and surrounding areas. Since then the steady stream of community support from individuals, families and businesses has been tremendous. Total donations received to date are \$82,559.00. Among the first to donate were the Medicine Hat Realtors Charitable Foundation. Very generous donations followed from local businesses, service clubs, churches and caring local citizens. For a list of all generous donations please visit our website at www.mhcf.ca.

Mike Christie, Executive Director of the Community Foundation, stated “it was amazing to watch citizens band together and pool their many resources to assist those so desperately in need after the June flooding.”

The Community Foundation today announced its final distributions. While several organizations took care of flood victims’ immediate needs, the board of directors of the Community Foundation decided to focus assistance on the mid-to long-term needs of flood victims.

A utility rebate program was created in partnership with the Cypress County and the City of Medicine Hat. The \$61,385 received assisted 43 County residents while the City of Medicine Hat received \$9,100 for 7 Medicine Hat residents who were heavily impacted by the flood. The intention was to help them get through the coldest part of the winter.

In addition local community group Kidsport received \$2,500 to provide 5 children the opportunity to participate in sports programs. Twenty Mile Post Historical Society accepted \$ 6,000 to go towards uninsured restoration costs which helped to keep the museum open. The Irvine Ag Society received \$ 3,574 for their generous support to Irvine during the worst part of the flood.

“We are very proud of the work we have done in Southeastern Alberta, beginning with that very first grant to the City of Medicine Hat for flood relief. This is why we are here” said Les Erikson, Community Foundation Board Chair.

For more information, please contact the office at (403) 527-9038.