

For Immediate Release: September 2022

Kiwaniis Sponsorship Will Support Niagara's Early Learning Programs in Having Greater Access to Curriculum Resources, Classroom Equipment, and Organizational Supports

The Early Childhood Community Development (ECCDC) is grateful to be the recipient of a four-year financial commitment of close to \$50,000 from the Kiwanis Clubs of Niagara. The sponsorship will increase the ECCDC's ability to support Niagara's early learning programs in having greater access to pedagogical materials, classroom equipment, and organizational supports through the availability of a community outreach van.

The community outreach van will be utilized to deliver resources and organizational supports from the ECCDC's Resource Lending Library, located in Thorold, to over 170 licensed child care programs throughout the Niagara Region. The delivery service will make it easier and more affordable for child care centres to gain access to these unique materials for the thousands of children enrolled in their programs and will reduce mileage costs for programs, while saving staff time. With less time spent trying to access and purchase materials, educators will have more time to do the most important work of setting up nurturing and supportive environments and experiences to support the children enrolled in their programs.

Lorrey Ariel Bonilla, Executive Director of the ECCDC, extends sincere gratitude to the Stamford Kiwanis Club, Kiwanis Club of St. Catharines, and the Welland Kiwanis Club for their support of this project, as well as for their ongoing partnership and commitment to enriching the lives of children and families in Niagara for the last two decades. "This generous, four-year financial commitment made by the Kiwanis Clubs of Niagara will have a significant impact on how the ECCDC is able to expand our service delivery to early learning programs in Niagara. We are deeply appreciative for the sponsorship of this community outreach van, and look forward to utilizing it to support children, educators, and programs in each of Niagara's 12 municipalities."

Kiwanis 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.kiwanis.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 children exceptional opportunities to grow, learn and develop. In the 28 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 ECCDC Executive Director Lorrey Ariel Bonilla at 905.646.7311 ext.321 or larial@eccdc.org.