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New \$32,000 Kiwanis Club Sponsorship Supports Community Outreach Van for Niagara's Early Learning and Child Care Sector for Four Years

The Kiwanis Clubs of Niagara have renewed a second financial commitment to the Early Childhood Community Development Centre (ECCDC) for four years to subsidize the cost of a community outreach van. The ECCDC is so grateful to receive this second financial commitment to be able to continue offering a delivery service to increase Educators' access to play-based materials, equipment, and mentoring supports. The new four-year financial commitment brings the total investment of the Kiwanis Clubs donation to over \$70,000.

The Early Childhood Community Development Centre (ECCDC), a charity in its 32nd year and located in Thorold, currently offers services and support to more than 200 child care programs and dozens of early learning classrooms. These services include a resource lending library of play-based learning materials, professional learning and training opportunities, and mentoring supports. The Community Outreach Van will continue to serve early learning programs to increase access to unique learning materials for children, and supports a more affordable means of acquiring new curriculum resources. Through the last 4-year commitment of the Community Outreach Van from May 2022 to April 2026, more than 1,000 visits were made to licensed child care programs which saw more than 3,500 resources delivered.



The renewed four-year financial commitment now includes the new Thorold Kiwanis Club, alongside the Stamford-Niagara Falls Kiwanis Club, St. Catharines Kiwanis Club and Welland Kiwanis Club. Lorrey Ariel Bonilla, Executive Director of the ECCDC, extends deep gratitude to each of the participating Kiwanis Clubs for their commitment to supporting ECCDC's partners through the renewal of funding for the Community Outreach Van. "We are very grateful to the Kiwanis Clubs of Niagara for their generous financial contribution and longstanding partnership with the ECCDC. We look forward to having continued opportunities to utilize the van to support children, educators and programs with unique curriculum materials that create enriching environments which support growth and development. This four-year financial commitment from Niagara's Kiwanis Clubs will significantly impact the way that ECCDC is able to serve our community partners and positively impacts the early learning experience of thousands of children within Niagara.

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 exceptional opportunities for children to grow, learn and develop. In the more than 30 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.