



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Children today are tomorrow's leaders**

The Education Foundation of Niagara (EFN) is seeing progress with new projects and initiatives developed to increase public awareness of its activities and the people it serves. With over 42,000 students with the District School Board of Niagara (DSBN), EFN has a real life challenge of building a successful fundraising system that will allow for disbursements of financial support to the 98 elementary schools and 22 secondary schools and to ensure the operational and the visionary needs are met. *A healthy, vibrant and educated Niagara Region is the vision and providing funding for programs and initiatives designed to enhance the learning opportunities for students served by the District School Board of Niagara is the mission.*

Shonda Smith, Principal of Pine Grove captured the essence of what EFN does when she said: "The funding doesn't always go far and if we want our children to be tomorrow's leaders we need to ensure they are equipped with all they need for life and learning". The Education Foundation of Niagara does that. "Many community and corporate leaders are seeing this already and have stepped up to the plate", informs Julie Densham, Executive Director. At a recent Wine & Cheese information night at the DSBN Ed Centre, EFN provided an opportunity for Niagara organizations to meet the EFN Board of Directors, obtain knowledge in EFN's mission and activities, and to find out how they can partner up with EFN initiatives or assist financially. A variety of donations have been recently accepted, for example, the Business Education Council and the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO)-Occasional Teachers, to name a few, have become the newest members of the EFN family, organizations such as the United Steelworkers of Fonthill have are dedicating partial proceeds from their upcoming golf tournament and over \$7000 in securities have been accepted and allocated to Grimsby Secondary School and Stamford Collegiate in hopes of assisting with project needs. The membership drive has proven popular in the community of Niagara and by the DSBN; individuals find the \$30 membership donation not only helps build the fund, but benefits from such support also include the knowledge that a little goes a long way. The new website at [www.efnonline.ca](http://www.efnonline.ca) lists donors and also gives those interested the facts about the Education Foundation of Niagara and all it does to serve the community.