



# *NEWS RELEASE*

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For Immediate Release

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## **DSBN Schools Get Early Christmas Presents**

The Education Foundation of Niagara President Bill Mozina and Executive Director Julie Densham won't be landing on rooftops and slipping down chimneys but the two can be spotted visiting area schools this month with early Christmas gifts. "We are very excited to be donating \$27,000 to area schools and we are visiting all the recipients with a special cheque presentation", Densham says.

The Education Foundation of Niagara raises money in the community and disburses it back into DSBN schools to support and assist programs and initiatives like healthy lifestyle, innovative practices and literacy to name a few.

EFN disburses in May and November. "November's recipients include \$12,000 that goes towards nutrition and breakfast clubs at all Niagara schools; \$10,000 towards the construction and operational needs for fitness centre projects at Niagara Fall's Westlane and Stamford Secondary Schools; \$4,000 that will go towards the "Lighthouse Project", where part of the goal is to improve student success by providing an opportunity for students to experience co-op placement in rural areas of our region, which is normally impossible for them due to transportation issues.

EFN will also give \$1,000 to the "Adopt-a-Family For Christmas" initiative that is spearheaded by staff from the DSBN Education Centre. They assist regional families who may be struggling to meet financial obligations and who may not have a very Merry Christmas. These funds will provide a food basket for the family and presents under the tree for the children. "This service gives a child hope during a special time of year", says Anna Balenovich, DSBN staff member.

"While our mandate is not to replace traditional funding, it is to supplement and compliment it where we can. We need all the help we can get, so we can, in turn, support all the wonderful programs and initiatives we see at our schools throughout the year", Julie Densham further states. EFN is located at the Education Centre in St. Catharines, and donations to the Foundation can be made by calling 905-641-2929, ext 4104, emailing [efn@dsbn.edu.on.ca](mailto:efn@dsbn.edu.on.ca) or logging on to [www.efnonline.ca](http://www.efnonline.ca).