



HELPING LOCAL KIDS IN NEED – NOW AND FOREVER

August 2, 2016 – After spending over 40 years in real estate finance, local philanthropist Alric (Ric) McGratten is making his retirement all about helping children and youth.

Recently Ric set up the *McGratten Children's Fund* at the [Stratford Perth Community Foundation](#) (SPCF) to assist children and youth in need. As an endowment fund, Ric's initial contribution is never spent, but is pooled and invested. The earned income is used to make grants to local children's charities year after year.

"During my career I had lots of opportunities to volunteer with organizations that involved children – minor sports, community associations and charities such as Habitat for Humanity," notes Ric McGratten. "From this experience I was able to appreciate that a simple act to help a child can have such a positive impact on their life – children are our future."

Ric continues to be motivated by his volunteer work. He's been able to witness a child's delight when they first learn to stand up and glide on skates, score their first goal in soccer and get their first hit in T-ball. Participating at Habitat for Humanity allowed Ric to take families on a visit to their Habitat house while under construction and let children see their bedrooms and choose their paint colours. "A child's reaction is sincere, honest and is the true definition of joy – that's my inspiration," adds Ric.

Being able to support children in all of Stratford, St. Marys and Perth County is something that Ric appreciates being able to do through the Community Foundation. Before establishing his endowment fund, Ric flowed donations through the SPCF to projects like the [YMCA's](#) West Perth Youth Drop-In Centre in Mitchell and Youth Centre in Stratford. Earlier this year he also provided support to [Big Brothers Big Sisters](#) for a school mentoring program in Listowel.

Ric chose the SPCF because it is a small, efficient operation housed within his own community. "We can all attend their AGM to get full reports on the organization's activities," says Ric. "Financial statements are available and clearly show revenues and expenses – the Foundation believes in the application of governance and transparency and that's a key element for me."

"We are so pleased to work alongside Ric and help him keep his giving local – something important to him in this day and age where charities operate programs at a provincial and national level," shares Tracy Van Kalsbeek, Executive Director of the SPCF. "Ric's devotion to this community is inspiring and will continue to act as a legacy – making a lasting difference for local children and youth."

Donations can be made to the McGratten Children's Fund by visiting www.spccf.ca and clicking on [Donate Now](#).

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About the [Stratford Perth Community Foundation](#)

The Stratford Perth Community Foundation (SPCF) is an organization for everyone and unique because donations – large or small – are never spent but are combined and invested. The earned income is used to make grants to local charities year after year to build a vibrant not-for-profit sector in Stratford, St. Marys and Perth County. To make all this work, we share our unique understanding of community needs and help mobilize and guide donors to specific community initiatives. For more information about SPCF please visit www.spccf.ca

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StratfordPerthCommFdn>

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