



# Media Release

*For Immediate Release*

December 11, 2014

## **Grace Balnar Donation Puts Vulnerable Children First**

Thanks to the generosity of Grace Balnar, more families in vulnerable situations will receive support through Family & Children's Services' collaborative activity in the community.

A former Family and Children's Services staff member, Grace has made a significant gift in cooperation with her family company Balnar Management Ltd, to the Children First Fund; a gift that will continue her lifelong commitment to children and youth, and support a long-time family tradition of assisting vulnerable children in the community.

"Grace has spent a significant part of her life working for and supporting young people", said her son Michael Balnar. "This gift is a wonderful way for Grace to "give back to her roots", reconnect with the agency where she worked for many years and support its outstanding work on behalf of children in the community".

Mr. Balnar indicated that his mother hoped her gift would inspire others to contribute to the Fund. "Grace has always been ahead of her time in many ways. I think this gift reflects her hope that others will follow her lead and give what they can."

The Children First Fund has been established by Family & Children's Services to provide financial assistance to much needed programs such as the Prevention and Early Help Program, which are not currently funded through the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.

"Family and Children's Services is committed to having services available to families when they are in need of help. We believe that this approach is the best way to reduce concerns about child safety and to avoid more expensive long-term and intensive services ", says Family & Children's Services' Executive Director, Daniel Moore.

He adds: "Our Agency's strategic plan highlights Prevention and Early Help as key priorities for Family & Children's Services. We actively pursue fund development opportunities so that these services are available to families, children and youth in the community who are experiencing significant stress. This generous gift from Grace Balnar will allow many families to receive critical and timely assistance through supportive neighbourhoods with caring professionals working alongside our most vulnerable citizens."

"We join the Balnar family in their hope that Grace Balnar's gift will inspire others in our community to contribute to the Children's Fund at Family and Children's Services."

For more information:

**Daniel Moore**, Executive Director  
Family & Children's Services of  
Guelph and Wellington County  
Tel: 519-824-2410  
Email: [colleen.reardon@fcsgw.org](mailto:colleen.reardon@fcsgw.org)

**Mike Balnar**, Vice President  
Balnar Management Ltd.  
Tel: 519-836-0223  
Email: [mbalnar@balnar.com](mailto:mbalnar@balnar.com)



Michael Balnar at Room Dedication



Katie Balnar, Kristi Pollard, Ryan Pollard  
On phone: Alison Balnar  
Absent: Eric Balnar



Back Row: Michael Balnar, Laura Greenway-Balnar, Scott Pollard, Kristi Pollard, Chris  
Middle Row: Ryan Pollard  
Front Row: Grace Balnar, Katie Balnar