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July 13, 2017

Mr. Christopher Raynor, Regional Clerk
Office of the Regional Clerk
The Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1

Re: 'Character Community Week' – Declaration - October 23-28, 2017

Character Community Foundation of York Region is asking Regional Council to proclaim the week of **October 23-28, 2017** '**Character Community Week**'.

During this week, a number of events will be held in partnership with our supporters including York Regional Police, YRDSB, YCDSB, Metroland Media and Neighbourhood Network. These events will take place across York Region to raise awareness about the Character Community initiative and the benefits of living with positive character.

The Character Community Foundation of York Region is a group of committed leaders and volunteers from our community, government, education and business sectors. ***Our mission is to engage individuals and organizations in positive character development and our vision is to have York Region be a leader in community character development.***

The Character Community Foundation of York Region provides children, youth and adult character development programs and initiatives that focus on positive character attributes and behaviours that leads to caring, safe and inclusive communities.

HIGHLIGHTS OF Major Activities:

- **Annual York Region Character Community Awards evening**
In 2017, we showcased 140 nominees and 16 award winners and this inspiring evening was attended by over 565 guests from across York Region. As well we awarded the Donald Cousens Community Impact Award in former Mayor Cousens' memory as well as the Community Hero Award.
- **Slap Shot Newcomer/Low income Hockey Program in York Region schools**

Over 280 children in ten schools will take part in 2017. The impact of this program includes:

- increased levels of social inclusion within schools and peer groups,
- development of valuable leadership skills,
- healthier and more active lives
- participants and their families feel welcome and connected in their community

This program is partially funded by Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities.





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- **Music Alive Festival for York Region schools and community groups**

In 2017, approximately 18,000 students participated in this Region wide music festival for youth that is open to all types of musical ensembles, soloists, choirs, bands, orchestras and classroom groups. Music Alive provides an opportunity for young people to collaborate and work as a team to showcase their musical talent and celebrate character in the arts.

- **Network North Collaborative in East Gwillimbury – a United Way Strength Investments initiative**

Network North Collaborative brings together residents, businesses, organizations, and government to examine efficient and effective ways to work together and to plan for the future growth in East Gwillimbury.

This initiative is a partnership with Neighbourhood Network- a Magna for Community Initiative.

- **Character 4 Organizations (C4O) workshops and training**

Businesses, organizations and municipalities who have participated in our Character 4 Organizations character development programs and initiatives find that their employees and members are more engaged, positive and productive in the workplace and in the community. This initiative is done in partnership with Kathleen Redmond - the Centre for Character Leadership.

We are committed to building York Region communities as places where families are strong, neighbourhoods are safe, schools are bully free, businesses are customer service oriented and people embrace our core values of collaboration, inclusiveness, integrity and responsibility. By working together and emphasizing the need for good character, we will ensure that York Region continues to be a healthy and prosperous community.

We ask York Region Council to pledge its support to the Character Community Foundation of York Region and declare the week of October 23-28 'CHARACTER COMMUNITY WEEK' in York Region.

We further ask that each of the nine municipalities of York Region do the same.

For further information, please contact Karen Addison at Karen@charactercommunity.com

With best regards,

Karen Addison

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