



**YMCA of  
Hamilton/Burlington/Brantford**

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**The W. Garfield Weston Foundation to give \$25,000 to YMCA Beyond the Bell program**

**(Jan. 20, 2015) Hamilton, ON** – A YMCA program that helps children succeed in school is receiving a \$25,000 donation from The W. Garfield Weston Foundation. This generous gift will support 25 children participating in the YMCA Beyond the Bell program based at Cathy Wever School in downtown Hamilton.

YMCA Beyond the Bell is a year-round program offered in high-needs neighbourhoods in Hamilton, Burlington, Brantford and Ohsweken. It runs as an after-school program during the school year and as a full-day program in summer months. YMCA Beyond the Bell gives children in Grades 1 to 8 the important academic support needed to succeed in school, and helps close the achievement gap that can exist for children in lower-income circumstances.

The cheque presentation will take place on Monday, Jan. 26 during a Family Literacy Day Celebration at the YMCA Beyond the Bell program at Cathy Wever School. Children in this YMCA Beyond the Bell program and their families are invited to help celebrate. Todd Gault, Senior Director and District Manager of No Frills Operations, is pleased to present the donation on behalf of The W. Garfield Weston Foundation. The Foundation has a history of supporting education and youth and puts great value on the experiences that the YMCA programs bring to children.

“We’re thrilled to have The W. Garfield Weston Foundation support YMCA Beyond the Bell,” said Bryan Webber, Vice President of Financial Development for the YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington/Brantford. “This generous donation helps ensure that every child has a chance to succeed in school.”

YMCA Beyond the Bell is offered at no charge to participants. There are currently 12 YMCA Beyond the Bell programs operating in Hamilton, Burlington, Brantford and Ohsweken.

**Family Literacy Day Celebration and Donation:**

**When:** Monday, Jan. 26, 3:30 to 4:30 pm

**Where:** YMCA Beyond the Bell, Cathy Wever School, 160 Wentworth St. North, Hamilton.

**Highlights include:**

- A \$25,000 donation from The W. Garfield Weston Foundation (3:45 p.m.)
- Games and crafts promoting literacy
- Free books for families to take home
- Pizza, fruit and veggie trays

**About The W. Garfield Weston Foundation:**

The W. Garfield Weston Foundation is a private Canadian family foundation, established in the 1950's by Willard Garfield Weston and his wife Reta. In 1924 Garfield inherited his father's company and during his life established bakeries and other successful enterprises throughout Canada and in many parts of the world. Today, these businesses include the George Weston Limited and Loblaw Companies Limited, companies in food retailing, processing and distribution. The founders believed that as the funds are generated through the hard work and success of these Canadian companies, grants should be given in Canada for the benefit of Canadians. For three generations, The W. Garfield Weston Foundation has maintained a family tradition of supporting charitable organizations across Canada. Today the Foundation directs the majority of its funds to projects in the fields of land conservation, education, and science in Canada's North. In addition, it provides funds to further Canada's research in neuroscience.

**About the YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington/Brantford:**

As a charitable organization, the YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington/Brantford serves over 190,000 men, women and children living in Hamilton, Burlington, Flamborough, Brantford and Brant County. The YMCA nurtures people's potential and helps build healthy communities through programming that includes: health, fitness and recreation, child care, day and residential camping, outdoor education, employment training, newcomer services, academic assistance, community outreach, leadership development and volunteerism.

For more information please contact:

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