FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Weston Foundation Pledges $360,000 to CityKidz and Invests in the Future of Hamilton's Youth.
Inclusive of $60,000 to the CityKidz Education Fund

Hamilton, ON – November 11, 2015

After more than 20 years of building relationships and inspiring Hamilton children to dream big, CityKidz is taking another monumental step towards helping their dreams come true. On November 19th, 2015, at their annual Big Dream Banquet Gala, thanks to a generous $60,000 donation by The W. Garfield Weston Foundation, CityKidz will be launching the first ever CityKidz Education Fund.

“For years we’ve been inspiring our children to dream big, and knowing the importance that education plays, it was a natural next step for us to develop The CityKidz Education Fund. Thanks to The Weston Foundation we are well on our way to helping to make their dreams a reality.” Rev. Todd Bender, Founder & E.D.

This year’s recipients to be announced at the 22nd Annual Big Dream Banquet.

This year’s banquet marks the 22nd year for the CityKidz fundraising and celebration gala, and it’s sure to make a few dreams come true for several youth who will become the first ever recipients of the new education fund. Candidates are chosen from amongst graduates of the CityKidz program, are nominated by volunteers, staff and community members, and must meet all the eligibility requirements. Once selected, recipients can receive up to 4 years of significant financial support to pursue their educational dreams.

“We are delighted to be supporting CityKidz graduates to further their education and career opportunities. We believe the Education Fund and the success and passion of each recipient will inspire CityKidz of all ages. As per my father Garfield’s favourite quote “Tis the set of the sails and not the gales that determines the way they go.” Wendy Rebanks, Director, The W. Garfield Weston Foundation.
Not only will some of the CityKidz graduates be recipients at this year's Big Dream Banquet, they will also be helping to run the show. If that isn't enough to inspire, Hamilton's own, 2015 Juno Award Winner, and Jazz Sensation, Diana Panton will be performing a duet with a very excited CityKidz graduate who dreams of singing professionally! The CityKidz Big Dream Banquet will be held November 19th at The Hamilton Convention Centre, Doors will open at 5:30pm for the Silent Auction and Dinner will commence at 6:00pm.

For tickets or for more information about the Big Dream Banquet, please contact us at 905-544-3996 or email micheline@citykidz.ca.

About CityKidz:

Each week over 2000 children in the Hamilton community are involved with the inspirational programming of CityKidz. Known for their personal touch and connection, every child receives a weekly home visit and free door to door transportation to all CityKidz programs. With faith, hope and love, CityKidz helps to increase resiliency and inspire big dreams for children living in Hamilton's low income communities.

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, his wife Reta and their children. In 1924 Garfield inherited his father's company and during his life established baking and retail businesses throughout Canada and in many parts of the world. 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 scientific research in Canada’s North. In addition, it provides funds to further Canada’s research in neuroscience.