

# Media Release



Manitoba Children's Museum - Kinsmen Building - 45 Forks Market Road - Winnipeg, MB R3C 4T6  
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## For Immediate Release

May 25, 2010



Great Friend to Kids  
AWARDS  
Manitoba  
Children's Museum

## Children's Museum to honour local heroes for kids

Winnipeg, MB – The **Manitoba Children's Museum** will present its first ever **Great Friend to Kids Awards** on Thursday, June 3, 2010 from 11:00AM - 1:00PM at the Canwest Centre for Theatre & Film (University of Winnipeg, 400 Colony Street).

This inaugural event will honour one individual, one organization and one youth (from 6-17 years old) for their efforts in championing the lives and dreams of children in our community. Awards just like these have been presented to individuals, organizations and youth on behalf of children's museums all over North America for years. Additionally, the Association of Children's Museums annually presents their own *International Great Friend to Kids Award*.

The public is invited to attend this inspiring awards ceremony that rewards and celebrates the incredible achievements of the 2010 awards recipients (biographic sketches attached):

Great Friend to Kids Award (Individual Category):	Rick Frost (CEO, The Winnipeg Foundation)
Great Friend to Kids Award (Organization Category):	Rossbrook House
Great Friend to Kids Award (Youth Category):	Montana Lehmann

The Nominating Committee and hosts for the event include Marcy Markusa (CBC), Laurie Mustard (Winnipeg Sun), Aileen Najdich (Assistant Deputy Minister, Manitoba Education), and Gordon Sinclair Jr (Winnipeg Free Press).

Media are welcome to attend the presentation – please see event schedule (attached) for agenda/timeline. For more information, please contact the number below.

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A respect for and belief in the potential of all children is the vision of the Manitoba Children's Museum. As a registered children's charity, the Museum provides an environment which nurtures the power of the imagination and the spirit of exploration and self-discovery.

## **ABOUT THE GREAT FRIEND TO KIDS AWARD RECIPIENTS:**



### **Great Friend to Kids Award (Individual Category)**

#### ***Rick Frost (CEO, The Winnipeg Foundation)***

Richard L. Frost has served as CEO of The Winnipeg Foundation since 1997, a period that has seen the organization's assets almost quadruple, from \$118 million to more than \$440 million today.

While at the helm of the foundation, Rick has championed a number of youth-related initiatives, including Youth in Philanthropy, a program that introduces high school students to philanthropy and community service. Since it was launched in 1999, hundreds of Winnipeg youth have gained first-hand experience in the non-profit sector, while charitable organizations have benefited from nearly \$1 million in grants. Rick's keen interest in providing career opportunities for young people has led to the development of the foundation's Summer Internship Program, as well as other internships at the foundation.

Rick also spearheaded the creation and growth of the Literacy for Life Fund, an endowment that supports literacy programming for children and families across the province. He is currently developing a program that will address child and youth nutrition needs.

In addition to his professional commitment, Rick and his family have shown personal support for our community's children. The Matthew Frost Sports Fund, created by Rick's family in memory of his son, enables young patients at the Children's Hospital to attend professional sporting events and helps disadvantaged children and youth access sports camps.

### **Great Friend to Kids Award (Organization Category)**

#### ***Rossbrook House***

Rossbrook House is a neighbourhood centre for children and youth in Winnipeg's inner-city. It offers a constant alternative to the destructive environment of the streets. Rossbrook is open 365 days of the year, 24 hours on weekends or any school holidays. Beyond the 'drop-in,' a variety of recreational, arts, cultural, women's and employment development programs are offered. Rossbrook House is celebrating its 34th anniversary this year.

Accepting the award on behalf of Rossbrook House is Dale Goulet, Program Manager. At her investiture into the Order of Canada in 1983, founder Sister Geraldine MacNamara captured the essence of Rossbrook House's mission: *No child who does not want to be alone, should ever have to be.*

### **Great Friend to Kids Award (Youth Category)**

#### ***Montana Lehmann***

Montana Lehmann is truly a great friend to kids. For years she has been growing her hair long to make wigs for children with cancer. She has also donated her birthday gifts to the Children's Hospital. Her genuine goodwill resulted in her being chosen to be youth ambassador for the 2009 Mexican Folklorama Pavilion, a role in which she wrote and presented a speech on "Celebrating diversity and promoting cultural understanding." Her participation with greening projects in two local schools led Montana to her present role as youth representative for the eco-friendly charity event Run with Porter. Montana can also be found using her skills to benefit others such as by performing for various fundraising and awareness events including the Children's Hospital Television Station and the Winnipeg Jewish Child & Family Services Stars of Tomorrow Gala. What motivates Montana most is her own determination to make the world a better place. In a society where youth are faced with great complexity, Montana demonstrates that small choices of love and kindness can create a world of difference.

**EVENT TIMELINE:**



**11:00AM** Opening presentations by local child performers, including:

- Vocal Performance - Alanna McPherson & Jane Petroff
- Musical Theatre Excerpt - Montana Lehmann
- Piano Performance - Alyssa Houde
- Violin Performance - Chloe Cates & Lena Cates

**11:30AM** Great Friend to Kids Awards presented

**12:00PM** Reception and lunch