



June 24, 2015

MLSE FOUNDATION AWARDS TORONTO FC COMMUNITY ACTION GRANT PRESENTED BY JUST ENERGY FOUNDATION TO MALVERN FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

MLSE Foundation announced Malvern Family Resource Centre (MFRC) as the first recipient of the \$50,000 *Toronto FC Community Action Grant presented by the Just Energy Foundation* at BMO Field on Wednesday evening. MLSE Foundation Executive Director Michael Bartlett was joined by Toronto FC General Manager Tim Bezbatchenko, Toronto FC Community Ambassador Dwayne De Rosario, Just Energy Executive Chair Rebecca MacDonald and Just Energy Vice President of Marketing Alan Shulman for the announcement. As part of the celebration, Malvern Family Resource Centre Program Director Alex Dow and MFRC Soccer Drillz program youth were invited to the Toronto FC versus Montreal Impact game as guests of MLSE Foundation and to participate in the cheque presentation. The \$50,000 grant will directly support MFRC Soccer Drillz, which focuses on developing youth soccer skills through various activities.

"We are excited and proud to announce Malvern Family Resource Centre as the first recipient of the *Toronto FC Community Action Grant presented by the Just Energy Foundation*," said Michael Bartlett, Executive Director of MLSE Foundation. "Their Soccer Drillz program gives youth the opportunity to develop their soccer skills in a fun environment and we look forward to seeing the positive impact this program has on the Scarborough community."

The program is designed specifically for boys and girls ages 11-14 years old in the Malvern and Rouge River riding with little or no experience playing soccer as well as those who have limited exposure to recreation or team sports. Youth will be given access to a National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) qualified coach once per week to support the development of their technical and tactical skills through fun games, competitions and other activities including listening to guest speakers, participating in leadership activities to support developing self-esteem and future leaders.

"Malvern Family Resource Centre is excited by this opportunity to work with MLSE and Just Energy to deliver a new soccer skill building program to over 550 children and youth and their families in the north-east Scarborough community," said Alex Dow, Program Director of Malvern Family Resource Centre.

The Toronto FC Community Action Grant along with the *Toronto Maple Leafs and Toronto Raptors Community Action Grants* are three \$50,000 sport-specific prizes presented by the Just Energy Foundation that MLSE Foundation will award to non-profit organizations supporting youth sports programming in the city each year. Eligible non-profits can apply for all grants at mlsefoundation.org, where submissions are reviewed by a selection committee before a winner is chosen and announced at a special event in their community.

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“This award marks our third \$50,000 Community Action Grant this year and reinforces our commitment, through the Just Energy Foundation, to assist local organizations who work so hard to build stronger, more supportive and inclusive communities” said Deb Merrill, Just Energy's co-Chief Executive Officer. “Malvern Family Resource Centre is a brilliant example of this. We couldn't be more pleased to contribute to their mission to provide youth with opportunities, through sport, to build life-enriching skills, confidence and leadership qualities to better position them for future success.”

About Malvern Family Resource Centre

Malvern Family Resource Centre (MFRC) has been serving the community for over 30 years and continues to deliver programs and services to meet the changing needs of Malvern's diverse community. MFRC consists of seven centres which include: the Early Years Centre, Middle Years Centre, Youth Centre, Seniors Centre, Women's Place, Family Centre and Action for Neighbourhood Change. In addition, MFRC also offers a range of other services such as income tax clinics, health & recreation, parent relief, legal, housing help, and settlement supports. For more information visit mfrc.org, or visit Facebook at facebook.com/malvernfamilyresourcecentre.

About MLSE Foundation

MLSE Foundation believes all kids should have access to sport and the opportunity to develop lasting dreams on the playing field. With the support of all four MLSE teams - the Toronto Maple Leafs, Toronto Raptors, Toronto FC and Toronto Marlies - the Foundation funds the refurbishment of local athletic facilities and programs that support kids through sports and recreation. Since launching in December 2009, the MLSE Foundation has invested more than \$15 million into our community. For more information visit mlsefoundation.org, or follow @MLSEFoundation.

About Just Energy Foundation

The Just Energy Foundation was established in 2013 by Just Energy Group Inc. to help registered Canadian and U.S. charitable organizations secure the resources required to promote the health and well-being of communities in need. Funded entirely by Just Energy, the Foundation invests in local programs that work to enhance the quality of life in Just Energy's operating markets towards building stronger and supportive communities. Visit justenergyfoundation.com to learn more.

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