

MEDIA RELEASE

Girls Empowerment Program expands this fall with help from Surrey Firefighters Charitable Society

For immediate release: September 18, 2018

Surrey, BC – The Surrey Firefighters Charitable Society has donated \$20,000 to support the ongoing operation and expansion of the Girls Empowerment Program, which this year will serve more than 100 participants at nine local secondary schools.

Established in 2009, the program is a partnership between Surrey Schools, City of Surrey, and Surrey Firefighters Association. It provides opportunities for girls in grades eight through 10 to participate in healthy recreation and social activities, build self-confidence, and engage with positive adult role models.

“On behalf of Surrey City Council, I would like to thank Surrey Firefighters Charitable Society for this generous donation and ongoing support of this important program,” said Mayor Linda Hepner. “This year more young women in our community will be able to access enriching and engaging opportunities that support personal development—ultimately leading to a bright future for themselves and our community as a whole.”

In addition to Kwantlen Park, Johnston Heights, North Surrey, Guildford Park, and Tamanawis secondary schools, starting this fall and winter the program will be offered at Fraser Heights, Salish, Fleetwood Park and Clayton Heights. Typical activities include: cooking, fitness, nature activities, self-empowerment speaker events, summer break out trips, and arts and crafts.

“Our board is very appreciative of caring community partners like the Surrey Firefighters Charitable Society who understand the importance and value of supporting our young people and providing them every opportunity to reach their potential,” says Surrey Board of Education chairperson Laurie Larsen. “We are grateful for the donation and look forward to extending the program to more girls this year.”

“On behalf of the 400 members of the Surrey Fire Fighters Charitable society, we are extremely proud of the work being done and success the program has had,” said Dylan Van Rooyen, director, Surrey Fire Fighters Charitable Society. “As the program is expanded, positively impacting more young women, the girls empowerment group can continue to count on our support.”

-30-

Photo caption: The Surrey Firefighters Charitable Society presents a \$20,000 cheque, at the Monday, September 17 Surrey City Council meeting, in support of the Girls Empowerment Program.

For program information:

Mandy Jones
Youth Engagement Manager
Parks, Recreation and Culture
MLJones@surrey.ca
604-591-4236

For media interviews:

Oliver Lum
Communications Manager
Office of the Mayor, City of Surrey
OWLum@surrey.ca
604-591-4519