

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **2015 Stock the Lockers campaign raises \$32,000 to support students**

**Nanaimo, 24 September 2015** – Thanks to generous donors, many local school children were able to start the year with the required school supplies.

The sixth annual Stock the Lockers campaign raised \$32,000 to help support vulnerable students.

The Stock the Lockers campaign of Nanaimo-Ladysmith School Foundation raises funds to provide school supplies for students whose families are affected by financial hardship. Some of the money is used to assist vulnerable students with items such as food, clothing, shoes, glasses, dental visits, fees for field trips and grad, and other needs as identified by teachers and principals.

Staples collected \$15,000 in donations at the checkouts. Coastal Community Credit Union branches raised \$5,000, and Woodgrove Centre donated \$5,000 through their Perfect Score promotion. In addition, Runners of Compassion, local service clubs, private donors and School District 68 employees contributed more than \$7,000 to the campaign. Costco, Long Lake Chateau and Curves donated supplies.

Media sponsors 102.3 The Wave & 106.9 The Wolf, Nanaimo Daily News, and Nanaimo News Bulletin helped spread the word about the campaign.

NLSF executive director Crystal Dennison says that in the past six years, local donors have helped raise over \$260,000 for the Stock the Lockers campaign.

“We’re thankful for the generosity of our donors; they’re making an investment in local students’ futures,” says Dennison. “Starting the school year off with the right supplies can mean the difference between success or failure for many students. Our Stock the Lockers campaign helps ensure that all students are able to come to school ready to learn.”

She says that poverty is very real among many students in the Nanaimo-Ladysmith School District that historically has a high child poverty rate.

“Despite issues of poverty, many students are successful in their academic achievements. Giving them a helping hand in the form of school supplies, adequate footwear for PE, clean clothes, breakfast, lunch, and other basic needs allows them to focus on their education and helps support them on the road to making a better future for themselves,” says Dennison.

The needs are great, and Dennison works closely with principals, teachers and school staff who know which children require help. She says that the Schools Foundation will continue to fundraise until the \$50,000 goal is met.

For more information about Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation, please visit the website [www.NLSF.ca](http://www.NLSF.ca).

## CUTLINES



[CCCU]

NLSF executive director Crystal Dennison was on hand to receive a \$5,000 cheque raised by Coastal Community Credit Union branches. Left to right: CCCU employees Mark Jones, Shawna McPhillips, Ena Allen, Bonnie Bolen; NLSF's Dennison; and CCCU's Victoria Hardy.



[Woodgrove Centre]

Left to right, Nola Dunn, marketing director, Woodgrove Centre & Mayfair Shopping Centre, hand a \$5,000 cheque to Crystal Dennison, executive director, Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation.

**For more information**

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**On local Poverty Issues:**

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