



Quick Facts

Who are we?

The Character Community Foundation of York Region represents a group of committed volunteers and leaders from the community, government, education and business sectors who support our ongoing **Mission to engage organizations in positive character development** and to work toward our **Vision of having York Region lead in community character development.**

What do we do?

The mandate of the Character Community Foundation is to raise awareness and educate the public, private and non-profit sector on character development. The Character Community Foundation practices and promotes a simple, but important philosophy... that when people and communities embrace living with character, we can change the world we live in for the better.

Recognizing Character Excellence

The Character Community Foundation's signature event is the annual **Character Community Awards** event which recognizes individuals, schools, groups and businesses for demonstrating exemplary Character. The Character Community Foundation also organizes public outreach activities throughout the year.

What is a Character Community?

A Character Community is one in which members of the community work together to nurture positive character attributes. It requires a shift in thinking and a focus on attitudes and behaviours that lead to achievement and success. The Character Community Foundation of York Region recognizes 11 character attributes – collaboration, compassion, courage, fairness, honesty, inclusiveness, initiative, integrity, optimism, perseverance, respect and responsibility.

Character is important

Good character makes a positive difference in our families, schools, businesses and neighbourhoods by acting as a catalyst for positive change and citizen engagement. A Character Community attracts people and businesses of character and acts as a driver for economic growth and prosperity. The character message speaks to everyone – all faiths and cultures.

Our organization

The Character Community Foundation of York Region is comprised of a Character Community Council led by a Board of Directors. We also have an advisory and fundraising Board of Governors. The Character Community Council meets on a regular basis. The Character Community Foundation of York Region holds an Annual General Meeting.

A registered charity

The Character Community Foundation is a registered charitable organization. Donors are encouraged to give to the Character Community Foundation of York Region by visiting charactercommunity.com

Join us!

The Character Community Foundation is always looking for committed volunteers and community leaders. To receive information on our ongoing activities, please visit our website and go to the Contact US page to be added to our electronic mailing list.

Our Community Partners

- The Regional Municipality of York
- The Towns of Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Georgina, Newmarket, Richmond Hill, Whitchurch-Stouffville, the Township of King and the Cities of Markham and Vaughan
- Metroland Media Group - York Region
- Neighbourhood Network - Magna for Community
- Rogers TV
- YMCA - GTA
- York Region District School Board
- York Catholic District School Board
- York Regional Police

Our History

April 2001 – The idea that York Region could become a Character Community was born at an international Quest for Character Symposium hosted in April 2001 by the York Region District School Board. At that symposium, Town of Markham Mayor Don Cousens took on the challenge to host a forum about building cities of character.

June 7, 2001 – York Regional Council approved the establishment of a Steering Committee to develop a proposal for a Character Community in York Region. Enthusiastic support from a wide spectrum of area municipalities, businesses, educators, community organizations, and residents convinced the Steering Committee that a region-wide character community initiative would be welcome in the Region.

January 24, 2002 – York Regional Council approved a resolution declaring York Region to be a Character Community... the first regional municipality to do so in Canada.

February 12, 2002 – The official launch of the York Region Character Community initiative took place with the unveiling of a logo, mission statement, vision statement and website. Within a few months, the 11 attributes were decided upon.

April 30, 2007 – The Character Community initiative was granted charitable status as the first registered Character Community charity in Canada.

April 2011 - The Character Community Foundation of York Region proudly celebrated their 10th anniversary.

November 2011 – The Character Community Council received the YMCA Richmond Hill Peace Medallion Award.

April 2016 - The Character Community Foundation of York Region proudly celebrates their 15th anniversary.

April 27, 2016 - The Character Community Foundation of York Region proudly celebrates their 10th York Region Character Community Awards Event.

Contact our Executive Director

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