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December 3, 2011

Dear Editor:

As Chair of the Creston – Kootenay Foundation I am in awe of People Who Care, their effort making Dreams That Matter, and the contributors who give life and blood to that Dream.

Two years ago, the Salviulo family undertook to establish a scholarship fund. The scholarship is for any male or female of the East or West Kootenay enrolled in the College of the Rockies Fire Certificate Training course. Their son Brandon was a volunteer with the Riondel Fire Department. His aspiration to be a firefighter was terminated when he was killed in an ATV rollover while working on a fundraiser for his fire department.

Brandon's parents knew the expense involved for any person attending the Fire Certificate Course. If their son could not participate, they wanted in their modest way to assist the participation of someone else's child. They established an in-perpetuity fund providing a \$1,000 annual scholarship.

Imagine if you will the sheer hard work done by a small family to organize friends, relatives, a community and willing businesses and staff for a weekend of fun activities - bingo, the silent auction, mixed slow pitch, 18 hole scramble golf tournament, and 4 on 4 shinny hockey tournament - as well as a children's playground. This fall they raised \$11,000 from these events for the Brandon Salviulo Memorial Scholarship. Now, the Nelson and District Credit Union has come forward with a further \$15,000 contribution to the scholarship fund – because the generosity of this scholarship covers all youth throughout the entire Kootenay region.

Each of these contributors, with thought only of benefiting others, has made us proud, solidified our belief in humanity, and reinforced the benefits to others of our “hand-up.”

Thank you to the Nelson & District Credit Union for their support in our community and throughout the Kootenays,

Larry Brierley
Chair,
Creston – Kootenay Foundation