

Stampede float celebrates education

Ismaili Muslim Community Stampede float recognizes the value of early education

July 5, 2011 – Calgary, AB – For the past 15 years, the Calgary Ismaili Muslim Community has celebrated the diversity and heritage of our city with their award winning Stampede float and pancake breakfast.

Built completely by volunteers, this year's design was inspired by the shared values of the Ismaili Community and United Way of Calgary and Area to promote awareness that early childhood education starts before birth and is rooted in positive interaction. The float features multiple animation components, moving parts and special effects.

"The Ismaili community is passionate about all youth realizing their potential and the volunteers, young and old, have poured their passion and craftsmanship into building this float," President Mohamud Zaver of the Calgary Ismaili Muslim Community says. "The design has been inspired by the work we are doing with United Way of Calgary to strengthen the youth of Calgary."

In the second year of a multi-year agreement with United Way of Calgary and Area, this year's Stampede float and breakfast theme, "Imagine my Potential," celebrates and recognizes the powerful role early childhood education plays in building the foundation necessary for youth to succeed.

"This event is not only a celebration of our city, it encourages every Calgarian to learn about the issues and needs that exist in their communities and become more involved," adds Zaver. "This is our second year working together with United Way and we have already seen the impact that we have made in the community."

United Way President Ruth Ramsden-Wood highlighted the pivotal role youth play in our city. "Youth must be encouraged to stay in school and as a community, we need to be doing more to support them," she says.

"How youth navigate the transition from youth to adult has lasting effects on who they become in the future, as well as the well-being of the community," adds Ramsden-Wood. "This partnership is a step in the right direction. It truly is inspirational to see so many Ismaili community volunteers dedicate themselves to this cause and enhance our capacity to create change in our community"

The event also gave Zaver an opportunity to thank the many generous supporters, including the Stampede breakfast gold sponsor Parlee McLaws LLP, and thank the volunteers who went above and beyond to make this year's float a success.

Funds raised from the event and throughout the year will go towards two program areas, the High School Bursary Fund and the On-Line Back to School Navigator program; both intended to help youth stay in school and complete their education.

For more information on United Way's work in the community log onto www.calgaryunitedway.org



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