



NEWS RELEASE

IC Savings announces funding commitment to unique West Neighbourhood House programs benefiting older Portuguese adults

Toronto, ON, July 23, 2019 –Frank Alvarez, chair of the IC Savings Community Advisory Board, announced today a donation of \$20,000 to West Neighbourhood House through *Fundo de Apoio IC Savings*, the credit union’s community support fund.

The United Way social services agency will use these funds to continue offering Portuguese-language workshops on retirement and advanced care planning through the successful *Universidade da Vida* (Life University) and to launch *Banco de Tempo*, a community time bank. Both programs will operate out of the Older Adult Centre located at the agency’s Ossington Avenue location beginning in the fall of 2019.

“Fundo de Apoio IC Savings focuses on creating lasting value for the benefit of the Portuguese- Canadian community in the GTA by investing in community-based programs,” said Mr. Alvarez. *“Our support, made on behalf of the members of IC Savings, is about strengthening the neighbourhoods where we live and work. This can be achieved through essential programs such as those that are delivered by organizations like West Neighbourhood House.”*

From increased self-esteem and empowerment to greater cultural sensitivity, the positive social, cultural and economic impacts of each program are many. Through the exciting learning environment of the “university” and its instructors, as well as the community time bank, meaningful connections can be created that will lessen the impact of language and

literacy barriers that might otherwise lead to social isolation for at-risk older Portuguese adults and seniors. The time bank, in particular, will see seniors paired with Portuguese-speaking professionals who will volunteer their time for this experience exchange.

Launched by IC Savings in September 2017, *Fundo de Apoio IC Savings* prioritizes investing in direct-impact and community-based services and programs in the Portuguese-Canadian community. Grants are awarded annually to registered charities and community groups that are focused on enhancing the Portuguese-Canadian footprint in the Greater Toronto Area.

About IC Savings

IC Savings is a member-owned credit union that aims to deliver a better banking experience to its more than 18,200 personal and business members, whether online, by mobile or in-branch at its soon-to-be eight locations in the Greater Toronto Area. To learn more, visit www.icsavings.ca.

About West Neighbourhood House

West Neighbourhood House, formerly known as St. Christopher House, is a multi-service neighbourhood centre with a range of programs for all age groups. The 107-year-old agency has a longstanding commitment to integrating community development approaches with direct service delivery. The central purpose of West Neighbourhood House is to enable less advantaged individuals, families and groups in the community to gain greater control over their lives and within their community. West Neighbourhood House works with its resources and in partnership with the community to promote personal and social change in order to achieve a safe, healthy and accepting society for all. Visit www.westnh.org to learn more.

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For media enquiries, please contact:
Susana Petti
Manager, Marketing and Communications
IC Savings
T: 416.780.4547
C: 647.468.4376
spetti@icsavings.ca

Isabel Palmar
Unit Director, Older Adult Centre
West Neighbourhood House
T: 416.532.7586, ext. 116
isabelpa@westnh.org