

## Nanaimo Youth's Community Picnic to Take a Bite out of Hunger

**Nanaimo, BC - Tuesday, August 13, 2013:** Kennedy Baker's ongoing quest to stomp out hunger will hit another milestone this Saturday. That's when her community picnic for Nanaimo's disadvantaged takes place.

Baker is using funds awarded to her through Coastal Community Credit Union's Scholarship Program to provide a home-cooked meal, entertainment and a gift bag of essentials to those in Nanaimo struggling with poverty, hunger, mental illness and homelessness. She hopes to help 150 individuals through her Stomp Out Hunger picnic, happening this Saturday at Bowen Park.

"I have been focused on paying it forward and giving back to my community," says Baker in a letter to Coastal Community. "I truly believe what goes around comes around."

Baker was selected by Coastal Community to implement her community improvement idea, a part of the application process for the Credit Union's scholarship program. In addition to receiving a \$1,500 scholarship and up to \$1,000 to implement her community picnic, the Nanaimo student will also receive an additional \$500 scholarship upon project completion.

"We're so proud to be supporting incredible local youth like Kennedy," says Allyson Prescesky, Manager of Community Experience & Communications at Coastal Community. "It's inspiring to see her dedication to our community come alive through her hard work and committed efforts. Coastal Community is honoured to lend her a helping hand."

A graduate of Dover Bay Secondary, Baker plans to study Psychology at Vancouver Island University in the fall. "My long-term goal is to become a psychologist and continue to touch the lives of those in need within my community," she adds. Baker also hopes to grow her non-profit organization, STAND, which focuses on supporting Canadians living below the poverty line.

Since its launch in 2005, Coastal Community's popular Scholarship Program has awarded almost \$200,000 in educational dollars to students across Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. It's also enabled over a dozen students to make a meaningful and lasting difference in their communities through the implementation of their community projects. Info on the 2014 Program will be available at [cccu.ca](http://cccu.ca) in January, 2014. And stay tuned to Coastal Community's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages to see photos and updates on Kennedy's Stomp Out Hunger picnic.

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### **MEDIA CONTACT**

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### **ABOUT COASTAL COMMUNITY**

For over 60 years, the satisfaction and happiness of Coastal Community's members and clients have been our bottom line. That's why we've grown to be the largest financial services organization based on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. With 80,000 members, 625-plus employees and over \$2.1 billion in assets under administration, Coastal Community offers caring and helpful service integrated across an extensive network of personal banking, insurance\*, investment and business services centres. Our members also have access to The Exchange® Network, with more than 2,300 no-fee ATMs in Canada. We've been named one of Canada's Top 50 Best Employers three years in a row, and we're passionate about building stronger relationships to improve financial health, enrich people's lives and build healthier communities.

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