



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ottawa Community Housing thanks Tony Greco for his investment in children's health

(Ottawa) February 1, 2012 – Renowned Ottawa fitness guru Tony Greco will announce a commitment of up to \$25,000 on February 2nd, towards the construction of a new fitness playground, in Overbrook's Carson's Road community, at the Greco Gives Back Gala held at the Chateau Laurier.

Through his network of Lean & Fit locations, Greco has made it his mission to combat obesity by promoting healthy lifestyles and investing in community infrastructure. The gala, now in its fourth year, raises money in conjunction with other Greco-driven fundraisers to support community initiatives geared towards recreation. Thanks to this donation, the Carson's Road community, where Ottawa Community Housing (OCH) is currently adding another 26 homes, will benefit from a specialized playground installation designed to encourage physical fitness in children.

"Keeping children active can often be a challenge, especially if their recreation choices are limited," said Steve Desroches, Deputy Mayor of Ottawa and OCH Board Chair. "That is why this playground is so important to OCH, as it will provide an on-site opportunity for recreation and social interaction for children living in the Carson's Road community. Our thanks go out to Tony and the Greco Foundation for this generous contribution to our children's futures. "

This major contribution, drawn from Greco 's Foundation to Fight Obesity in Children, will allow OCH and its partners to move forward with the remaining design work and fundraising for the project.

"Getting outdoors and engaging in healthy play and recreation is essential to the physical and social growth of all children," commented Greco, noting his foundation is approached regularly to assist in addressing the city's recreation deficits. "All too often, we hear of communities losing their recreation facilities due to lack of funding, which translates into a loss of opportunity for kids to make new friends and stay active. Once built, this new structure will allow children and adults alike to interact and come together as a community."

The Greco Gives Back Gala will kick off with cocktails at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. A number of guest speakers will be on hand to address the attendees, with speeches likely to begin between 8:30 and 9 p.m.

Among the confirmed speakers will be:

Tony Greco, Founder, Greco Lean & Fit
Steve Desroches, Deputy Mayor and OCH Board Chair
Dr. Kristy Adamo, research scientist with CHEO's Healthy Active Living and Obesity Research Group
Pierre Poilievre, Member of Parliament, Nepean-Carleton

Ottawa Community Housing Corporation is the largest social housing provider in Ottawa, and the second largest in Ontario. It provides almost 15,000 units to over 32,000, seniors, parents, children, singles and persons with special needs.

For additional information, please contact:

Susan Therien
Manager, Corporate Communications
Ottawa Community Housing Corporation
39 Auriga Dr.
Ottawa, ON K2E 7Y8
T: 613-520-2277
C: 613-296-2651
susan_therien@och.ca
www.och.ca

Michael Qaquish
Executive Assistant
Office of Deputy Mayor Steve Desroches
Councillor Ward 22- Gloucester-South Nepean
City of Ottawa
T 613 580 2424 Extension 13164
F 613 580 2761
Michael.qaquish@ottawa.ca
www.stevedesroches.ca