

## REGINA AND DISTRICT FOOD BANK

# Capital campaign nears goal

By **KERRY BENJOE**  
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The Regina and District Food Bank is one step closer to realizing its goal.

On Thursday it received a \$25,000 donation for the Community Services Village Capital Campaign from Greystone Managed Investments.

Greystone CEO Rob Vanderhooft said his organization has been involved with the Regina and District Food Bank before in terms of food drives, but this is the first major donation to the capital campaign.

"It fit really well with our values and contributing to the community," said Vanderhooft.

The Regina-based company is one of Canada's largest institutional money managers with offices in Toronto and Winnipeg.

He explained that typically the organization is not very vocal about contributions that it makes.

"But in this case it is a very good cause and certainly we would like to see other

organizations step up," said Vanderhooft.

Wayne Hellquist, the CEO of the Regina and District Food Bank, is also hoping the donation will trigger other organizations to support the capital campaign.

The campaign was launched last February with the target goal of reaching \$3.5 million — \$2.5 million for renovations and \$1 million for a legacy fund.

The concept of a community services village is the first of its kind in Canada.

"Certainly, there are other food banks that are doing training and development activities, but in terms of bringing the community together into one site under the auspices of a food bank it's pretty unique," explained Hellquist.

He said the community services village idea was the brainchild of Ed Bloos, the former director of the food bank.

"When the opportunity presented itself to acquire the new location, which is much larger and provides more space to grow, that was the right opportunity. That was the right time to take that dream and make it a reality," said Hellquist.

The goal of the village is to house a

number of organizations under one roof, making it easier for people to access the different programs.

The village already houses a number of agencies including the food bank, Adult Centre for Employment Readiness and Training, Kids First Daycare, Regina Education Against Child Hunger (REACH), Second Glance Magazine Reuse Project, Community Action Co-op Regina Ltd., Wish Shelter, and Department of Community Resources, among others.

Hellquist said providing a facility that houses a number of agencies will help to improve people's lives and ultimately it will help build a better community.

"The people who use our services deserve to be treated with respect and have the opportunity to be served in a nice environment," said Hellquist.

"People may be poor but we don't have the right to treat them poorly," he said.

With Thursday's donation the food bank is nearing the \$2.5-million mark and Hellquist is confident the organization will reach its goal this year.