

For Immediate Release

## **Alterna raises \$61,000 in support of two local children's charities**

**Ottawa, ON - (June 8, 2016)** – On June 7<sup>th</sup>, Alterna Savings held its 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Golf Classic at the GreyHawk Golf Club. This year, the tournament raised an incredible \$61,000, which will be shared equally between two vital community-based organizations, Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Support Programs and the YMCA-YWCA of the National Capital Region. The proceeds raised will provide specific support to the Candlelighters Parking Program and the YMCA-YWCA Camp for Kids.

“At Alterna Savings, giving back to the communities where we live and work is part of our foundation as a co-operative,” said Rob Paterson, President & CEO at Alterna Savings. “We are constantly looking for ways to benefit our communities and help wherever we can. In this case, we are happy to alleviate parking fees for parents already burdened with the task of caring for their child receiving cancer treatment, as well as provide a means for financially restricted children the opportunity to attend camp.”

This year, Alterna is supporting the Candlelighters Parking Program which covers the out-of-pocket parking costs incurred by families when visiting the hospital with their child for treatment. As a not-for-profit volunteer organization, Candlelighters offers strength and support to childhood and young cancer patients and their families throughout Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec.

“The cost of parking can feel like a tremendous burden to parents and caregivers of cancer patients,” says Jocelyn Lamont, Executive Director at Candlelighters. “At Candlelighters, we try to lessen the added stress of incumbent parking costs, which allows parents to focus their efforts completely on their child receiving care. Candlelighters covers the out-of-pocket parking costs for every family who has a child receiving treatment.”

Alterna is also supporting the YMCA-YWCA which strives to give every child the opportunity to experience camp by providing financial assistance for families who otherwise could not afford the experience for their children. Y camps are for every child and youth in the Ottawa community and because camp can have a profoundly positive and lasting effect on children, the Y is dedicated to ensuring that as many kids as possible have access to a YMCA-YWCA camp experience.

“Every summer over 5000 kids make their way to Y camps, and experience a summer like no other. However, without financial support almost half of these children would not

have this opportunity,” said Rick Jarvis, Director, Outdoor Education and Camping at the YMCA-YWCA of the National Capital Region. “I’ve seen how a Y camp experience can positively alter the course of a young life. While camp is of course great for having fun, exploring, and making new friends, there’s so much more to it than that. It’s about the opportunity for children to be free in an environment without judgment, and full of encouragement. All kids deserve the opportunity to realize their own potential, regardless of their background or financial circumstances.”

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### **About Alterna Savings**

For more than 100 years, Alterna Savings and Credit Union Limited has been charting new directions to help Ontarians achieve their financial dreams and build strong, vibrant communities. The first full-service, member-owned co-operative financial institution outside Quebec, Alterna Savings shares our expertise with more than 100,000 members. Holding over \$4 billion in assets under administration, we offer a full suite of financial services online, by phone, by mobile and through a network of 25 branches across Ontario, including our partner Peterborough Community Savings, a division Alterna Savings and Credit Union Ltd. Our sister company, Alterna Bank, operates across Canada. Alterna Savings members also have access to the 2nd largest surcharge-free ATM network in Canada with THE EXCHANGE® Network. For more information about Alterna Savings please visit [www.alterna.ca](http://www.alterna.ca).

### **About Candlelighters**

Candlelighters is a not-for-profit organization that provides critical support in a variety of ways to children with cancer, and their families, in Eastern Ontario. The organization fosters a greater understanding of the many challenges and impacts that childhood cancer has on these families’ lives. To learn more or to make a donation, please visit [www.candlelighters.net](http://www.candlelighters.net)

### **About the YMCA-YWCA of the National Capital Region**

The YMCA-YWCA of the National Capital Region is a charity dedicated to building healthy communities. We are committed to nurturing the potential of children, teens and young adults, promoting healthy living and fostering social responsibility within the community. We serve more than 67,000 people across the Ottawa region annually and through our financial assistance programs, the Y is accessible to all. [ymcaywca.ca](http://ymcaywca.ca)

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