



STAFF PHOTOS/MIKE BARRETT

The official launch of the Dream Star Headquarters in the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library was capped off with a balloon release Thursday.

# DREAMY GRANT MONEY ONE FOR THE AGES

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Whitchurch-Stouffville's new multi-generational project will no longer have to dream about funding.

Oak Ridges-Markham MPP Helena Jaczek and Savi Singh, an Ontario Trillium Foundation volunteer, were at the grand opening of WS YOU 177 Dream Star Headquarters at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library Thursday — and to offer congratulations to the community on receiving a three-year, \$225,000 grant from OTF.

"YOU 177 will foster more communication between generations of people, in such, Whitchurch-Stouffville will become a stronger and better community," said Jaczek, Ontario's new Minister of Community and Social Services.

Funds from the grant will be used to implement YOU 177, a social innovation initiative that empowers "You" to make a difference in a big-picture context — 1 World with 7 Generations and 7 Billion People.

A community engagement component will draw on the dreams and aspirations of all ages, followed by meet-

ings and workshops to explore local needs and interests, and culminating in community action "legacy projects" designed to support innovation and empower bigger thinking.

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"This is a dream come true. With the support of (the Trillium Foundation), we have an opportunity to do something big, something groundbreaking, something truly meaningful for all parts of the community," said Susan V. Bosak, head of the Legacy Project, a research and education group based near Ballantrae.

Youngsters to seniors — most wear-

ing star stickers on their faces — took part in festivities, creating their own dream stars and bouncing balloons dropped from the library ceiling.

Developed by the Legacy Project, YOU 177 is a broad-based community collaborative that includes the library, local media, service clubs, faith-based groups, schools and seniors groups.

Based on a decade of research, YOU 177 is a community process that taps into what matters to transform everything we do, from the way we live with each other and our planet to how we learn, do business, grow up and grow older. Whitchurch-Stouffville will be a model for the rest of the country, and internationally, Bosak said.

The Trillium Foundation, an Ontario government agency with an annual budget of more than \$100 million, awards approximately 1,500 grants each year to community-based not-for-profits and charitable organizations in the arts, recreation, environment and human and social services sectors.

To find out more about WS YOU 177, visit [www.wsyou177.org](http://www.wsyou177.org).



Connor Huntley-Skouse, 15, has stars in his eyes at Thursday's official launch of the Dream Star Headquarters in the library.