



# Giving Well

## Celebrating Women in Philanthropy

Giving Well is Vancouver Foundation's first giving circle. It brings women philanthropists together to learn about current community needs and to collectively support women's issues.

### Back to Our Roots

Vancouver Foundation started with a gift of \$1,000 from Alice MacKay, who had saved it from her secretarial job. She wanted this gift to help homeless women trapped in a cycle of poverty. Inspired by her generosity, W. J. VanDusen added his own gift and encouraged nine others to match it. Nearly 70 years later, one woman's vision has grown to become Canada's largest community foundation.

### Vancouver Foundation

Our mission is to harness the gifts of energy, ideas, time and money to make meaningful and lasting impacts in communities.

To achieve our mission we engage more than 150 experts in their respective fields to collectively advise on a wide range of issues. Vancouver Foundation is a reputable grantmaker and, by leveraging community expertise, we effectively evaluate grant proposals to ensure projects will have the most positive impacts possible. The strict evaluation process allows us to direct funding to innovative projects that meet the most pressing needs of the community.

Every year, through the expert guidance of our Advisory Committees, we support a wide range of projects addressing women's issues. In 2010 alone, we allocated over \$200,000 to projects addressing the challenges women face across BC, such as overcoming violence, finding and maintaining housing or gaining financial independence.

### How Giving Well Works

We developed *Giving Well* in response to our supporters' wishes to be engaged in grant making, to learn more about current community issues and connect with other likeminded people.

At each meeting, Vancouver Foundation brings forward selected grant applications to *Giving Well* members for consideration. These applications have been submitted by charities and have been pre-screened by our Advisory Committees. Each project will be presented, discussed and debated, and *Giving Well* members will decide which projects to collectively support with grants of \$5,000 or more. Members contribute \$1,000 and mutually decide which charitable projects to support.

*Giving Well* is chaired by Vancouver Foundation Board member, Dr. Vera Frinton. Vera has served on Vancouver Foundation's Board of Directors since 2006. She is currently the Chair of our Health and Medical Education/Research Advisory Committee and serves on our Distribution Committee. Her experience is a great benefit to the work of this giving circle.

*Giving Well* meetings take place twice per year. In 2011, members granted \$22,000.

## 2011 Members

We wish to acknowledge and thank the following members for their contributions during the 2011 year:

*Anonymous (2)*  
*Jane Banfield*  
*Roberta Lando Beiser*  
*Gillian Chee*  
*Jane Davidson*  
*Isabelle Diamond OBC*  
*Lynda A. Farmer*

*Dr. Vera Frinton*  
*Liz Haan*  
*Arlene Howard*  
*Christy McLeod*  
*Mary Lou Miles*  
*Helen O'Brian*  
*Linda Oglov*

*Beverley Pomeroy*  
*Sophia Financial Group*  
*Janet Wiegand*  
*Faye Wightman*

## Meeting Schedule

All meetings will take place in Vancouver Foundation's office:  
1200 - 555 West Hastings Street

**Spring Cycle:** Wednesday June 13, 2012, 3:30 to 5:30 pm  
(Registration deadline: May 21, 2012)

**Fall Cycle:** Wednesday December 5, 2012, 3:30 to 5:30 pm  
(Registration deadline: November 12, 2012)

## Contact us

If you are interested in joining *Giving Well* or for more information please contact:

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