

January 25, 2010

Vancouver Foundation supports Fraser Valley non-profits

Despite a challenging financial picture in 2009, Vancouver Foundation continued to support charitable agencies and important community projects throughout British Columbia.

The Foundation and its donors granted \$206,000 in funding for four unique projects that address a variety of community issues in the Fraser Valley region. These projects are listed below, in alphabetical order by city/area:

Mennonite Central Committee BC (Fraser Valley)

\$65,000 for Fraser Valley Regional Rent Bank Project. Rent banks have proven successful in Alberta and Ontario. They offer one-time assistance to tenants facing eviction for being in arrears with their rent and who have no access to income assistance, provincial disability pensions or other sources of funds. This two-year project will prevent eviction of tenants in the Fraser Valley Region. The project will also demonstrate the rent bank concept in BC, so the provincial government can evaluate it as one pillar of a comprehensive provincial housing security strategy.

Aldergrove Neighbourhood Services Society (Langley)

\$100,000 for the Langley/Aldergrove Youth Homelessness Initiative. This project will develop youth housing in the eastern end of Langley (Aldergrove), with plans to expand to the western end (Langley City). With two major components – a youth drop-in centre in Aldergrove and a continuum of housing options serving both communities – the project will significantly increase the capacity of the communities to provide local services at youth centres.

Pacific Riding for Developing Abilities (Langley)

\$21,000 for shelters for the Healing Horses Project. Pacific Riding provides therapeutic riding experiences for children and adults with cognitive, physical and emotional challenges. This project will enhance the quality of life for the facility's horses and ponies by creating shelters in the outdoor horse paddocks.

Senior Animals in Need Today Society - SAINTS (Mission)

\$20,000 to build a facility fence. This sanctuary for senior animals is based at the founder's three-acre property near Mission. Rooms, outlying buildings and a barn have been renovated to meet the needs of the animals. Building a sturdy fence around the entire property will provide security for staff, volunteers and animals. It will also keep unauthorized people out, prevent dogs from escaping while exercising, and create access to a second grazing pasture for the companion farm animals.

With more than 1,300 funds, and assets of \$700 million, Vancouver Foundation is Canada's largest community foundation. Since it was founded in 1943, Vancouver Foundation, in partnership with its donors, has distributed more than \$740 million to BC charities.

For more information:

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