

January 25, 2010

## Vancouver Foundation supports Lower Mainland non-profits

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

The Foundation and its donors granted almost \$1.3 million in funding for 47 unique projects that address a variety of community issues specifically in Vancouver and the Lower Mainland. A sample of these projects is listed below in alphabetical order by city:

### **Burnaby School District #41 (Burnaby)**

\$25,000 for Edmonds After-School Program.

This program will expand the range of free, after-school opportunities for primary and intermediate students. They will be able to participate in physical activities, homework support, cooking, visual and performing arts, with dedicated personnel in a safe, nurturing, challenging, and fun environment.

### **DRS Earthwise Society (Delta)**

\$20,000 for Earthwise Sustainable Agriculture.

This fall, in partnership with Delta School District, Earthwise will pilot BC's first high-school course in Sustainable Agriculture, at the Earthwise Farm in Delta. The grant will support the ongoing development, evaluation and marketing of this program.

### **Richmond Animal Protection Society (Richmond)**

\$12,400 for the Catsnip Program.

The costs to spay or neuter a cat can be prohibitive, especially for seniors and low-income residents. Despite City bylaws, many people don't fix their cats. This leads to unwanted kittens, overpopulation, health issues and behavioural problems, which can lead to cats being abandoned at shelters. The Catsnip program will help reduce the number of animals needing shelter and provide low-cost spay/neuter services to individuals referred by BC Housing and other welfare organizations.

### **Surrey Women's Centre Society (Surrey)**

\$15,000 for Financial Independence for South Asian Domestic Violence Victims.

This project will work with the Ministry of Social and Housing Development to increase the safety of South Asian victims of domestic violence, by improving access to income assistance and other public benefits. The project addresses cultural barriers, such as ESL, immigration and citizenship status, legal information, as well as the impact of the extended family on the victim's safety. It aims to increase the likelihood that victims will prosecute their violent partners.

### **Arts in Action Society (Vancouver)**

\$20,000 for Purple Thistle Centre.

The Purple Thistle Centre is a 2,500-square-foot, youth-led arts resource centre, offering arts-based supplies, tools, classes, training programs and workshops for approximately 150 low-income youth.

**Atira Women's Resource Society (Vancouver)**

\$127,500 for 120 Jackson.

This project will provide housing to young women (and their children) fleeing violence, including women exiting the sex trade, new mothers and female child sex workers. Twenty young women who are currently homeless or in dangerous housing situations will have long-term and safe housing, with supports.

**Compagni V'ni Dansi Society (Vancouver)**

\$20,000 for a Métis Kitchen Party.

This project will tie together Métis traditional dance, Métis storytelling, contemporary dance and hip hop to introduce audiences to the traditional and contemporary sides of Métis life. Choreographer Yvonne Chartrand will collaborate with young dancers to create a new work incorporating dance, music and text. The show will premiere in November 2010 at the Firehall Arts Centre, and will be designed so that it can tour in schools and reach younger audiences.

**Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention Centre for Greater Vancouver (Vancouver)**

\$25,000 for Friendly Service to seniors in crisis.

This project aims to improve crisis services to seniors by delivering crisis intervention and suicide prevention training to peer counsellors, staff and other front-line volunteers who work at seniors' centres. The pilot will work with seniors over 55, at the West End Seniors Network Society, before expanding to metro Vancouver.

**First Funds Society (Vancouver)**

\$25,000 for Community Voicemail.

People who are homeless are usually phoneless as well. At a time when they need to be in touch with their caseworker to achieve goals like employment, housing or fleeing abuse, these clients usually lack the tools. This project will provide service organizations, who work with people who are homeless or at-risk, with a bank of phone numbers and voicemail boxes. Clients will get a vital tool for communication, a strengthened relationship with their caseworker and a new sense of inclusion in society.

**Only Animal Theatre Society (Vancouver)**

\$18,000 for *Sea of Sand*.

Only Animal Theatre, in partnership with Leaky Heaven Circus and Playwrights Theatre Centre, is creating an original site-specific play on the shoreline. *Sea of Sand* uses physical theatre, original music, and the alchemy of sand and water to tell a story of memory lost and love reconstructed.

**Vancouver Museum Society (Vancouver)**

\$52,150 for The Bhangra Project.

This Vancouver Museum exhibit will trace the evolution of Bhangra as a trans-national cultural movement, including an exploration of the role the art form had in shaping the social and cultural history of Vancouver. In partnership with the Vancouver International Bhangra Celebration, the project will include a full-feature exhibit and related public programs to launch in 2011.

**Vancouver School District #39 (Vancouver)**

\$50,000 for School Aged Children and Youth Substance Use Prevention (SACY).

SACY aims to prevent, delay and reduce substance use among youth in secondary schools. The program will engage youth, parents and school/community allies in health promotion, learning and positive youth and family development. It encourages healthy communication about drugs and alcohol and helps adult allies learn effective ways to talk with youth.

*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.*

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