

vancouverfoundation

Fall 2011

stories of modern philanthropy

A ROOF OVER THEIR HEADS

Surrey's Rent Bank helps keep families in their homes

SASHA'S VOICE

Coping with brain injury

AGAINST ALL ODDS

A difficult journey for a passionate volunteer

VANDUSEN GARDEN

Architecture that inspires

The First Word . . .

Going beyond the grant

It often seems as if our newspapers and electronic media are dominated by bad news. We read about the economic struggles of the United States and Europe, hear about the famine in the Horn of Africa, watch severe weather events, tsunamis, wildfires and the attendant loss of life.

While all these stories are real and represent significant challenges, there is also another side to our world. There are stories of altruism, of unsung heroes, amazing ideas, and lives changed with a helping hand or a small amount of money.

These are the stories we choose to share and celebrate at Vancouver Foundation. Since 1943, we have been connecting people to their community and helping generous residents support worthwhile projects and programs in their neighbourhood, their city and their province.

We are all about community. We help fund good community ideas, both large and small.

Every year, thanks to the generosity of our donors, we give out hundreds of grants to organizations and neighbourhoods. Behind each grant there is a story.

This magazine is a small sample of those stories: of people overcoming tremendous obstacles (read “Against All Odds” on page 28) or people working together to find creative, innovative solutions (see “Independent and Connected” on page 11), and how organizations like ours respond to changing priorities (see “Connecting the Pieces” on page 12).

These positive stories remind us that people can make a difference. That if you don't like what's happening in your community, you can personally do something about it. And that when we work together, people and organizations can do amazing things.

At Vancouver Foundation, our job is to sow the seeds of community, and to create opportunities for community to grow and flourish. Like the acorn on our cover, with the right care and attention, a tiny seed can grow into a tall and strong tree – one that will provide shade, clean air and beauty to future generations.



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Here are a few of the projects Vancouver Foundation and our donors recently supported



The People's Poet

The Poet Laureate is an honorary position established by Vancouver City Council in December 2006 to honour and celebrate the contribution of literature and poetry to life in Vancouver. The program is funded by a generous endowment from Dr. Yosef Wosk, which is held at the Vancouver Foundation.

Vancouver's first Poet Laureate was George McWhirter. Brad Cran is the second. During the summer of 2011, Vancouver was actively "recruiting" for his successor. And by the time you read this, the city's third Poet Laureate will already have started a new, three-year term.

Giving Well

Giving Well is a new initiative of Vancouver Foundation that brings together philanthropists to address women's issues. At its inaugural meeting on May 25, eight women granted \$3,000 to RAIN, an aptly-named project of Arts in Action that will support the arts among disadvantaged youth, and \$5,000 to the BC Society of Transition Houses to create an online teaching tool.

For more information about Giving Well, contact Nicole Jeschelnik at 604-688-2204.

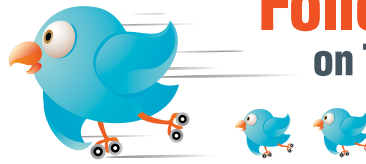
Celebrating a Celebration Artist

Costumes, belly dancing, banners! Music, movies, performance art! Potluck feast, parade! Kitsilano artist Hannelore Evans lived life large so it's fitting that the block party in her memory pulled out all the stops.

Renowned for her huge banners and gigantic inflatable fabric art installations, Hannelore was pivotal to Vancouver's early "celebration art" movement in the '60s and '70s. Her work added both playfulness and mythic splendour to events like Habitat '76, Expo '86 and the 1990 Asia Pacific Festival. Hannelore died February 8, 2011. To commemorate her life and her enormous contribution to Vancouver, Kitsilano residents put together an evening of "celebration art" and invited everyone. **Vancouver Foundation** donors, in partnership with Kitsilano Neighbourhood House, contributed \$500 to the event.

One of Hannelore Evans' fabric art installations.





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Community Book Exchange

A project in east Vancouver demonstrates how a simple but innovative idea can cultivate community bonds, page by single page. A \$350 grant from Vancouver Foundation's Neighbourhood Small Grants Program allowed Eileen Mosca and Susan Lockheart, together with a group of Grandview-Woodlands neighbours, to design and build a community book box at the corner of Lakewood and Charles Street.

The idea of the book exchange is simple: people leave a few books at a time and pick up another. Not only does the project foster a culture of reading and provide free access to books, it also encourages neighbours to get to know each other a little better. The quotation painted on the box says it all: "Got a book that you don't need? Leave it for others to read. Consider it a neighbourly deed."



Paawats – “birds nest” or “a place of learning”

The Huu-ay-aht First Nation is developing a Paawats (language nest) Program in Port Alberni. This program will teach the Nuu-chah-nulth language to children by engaging preschoolers, their parents and elders. It is based on the principle that the best way to acquire a second language is the way that children acquire a first language – through immersion rather than the traditional teaching-learning situation.

By involving elders, the program fits well with aboriginal views of teaching children, while building pride in the local culture and heritage. It will build on the success of the program on the Huu-ay-aht reserve by creating a second program in Port Alberni.

Vancouver Foundation and its donors contributed \$30,000 over two years to the project.

Mentoring Mothers

Mothers for Recovery is a mentoring program that addresses addiction issues in mothers and pregnant women in Kamloops. Through weekly workshops run by professionals and peer mentors, this program decreases the risk of child apprehension and fills many needs that are not met by other service providers.

Run by Kamloops Family Resources, this innovative, grassroots program increases the use of existing services, and directly benefits the community at-large. **Vancouver Foundation** donors supported this program in 2010, and contributed \$30,000 to the project for 2011.



Here are a few of the projects Vancouver Foundation and our donors recently supported

Campbell River cuts ribbon and shreds

A brand new paper shredding business opened in Campbell River this spring and people with developmental disabilities will directly benefit.

Skyline Productions Confidential Paper Shredding cut the ribbon at a facility that will employ clients from the local Community Living Association in collecting, shredding and recycling confidential documents.

The new business will give people with developmental disabilities the satisfaction

of having a job and a source

of income, as well as offer a valuable service to individuals and businesses around Campbell River. The shredder was purchased thanks to a grant of \$60,000 from the **Vancouver Foundation** and its donors.



Starting the journey from awareness to wellness

Youthspace.ca is a safe, online service that will offer emotional support, crisis intervention and information to youth under 25 in Greater Victoria. It will provide a staff-moderated forum, private one-to-one chats and the option of emailing a counsellor directly.

The project, run by the Crisis Intervention and Public Information Society of Greater Victoria, will support youth experiencing crises in mental health and/or addictions with referral information and act as a bridge to other local services. The program will also engage Victoria youth as volunteers in a significant way in their community by providing volunteer training and a direct way to support their peers.

Vancouver Foundation donors contributed \$70,000 to the project over three years.





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Customs for Urban Teens

Customs for Urban Teens (CUT) is a program in which youth gain new skills by restoring an old car from scratch. They learn welding, bodywork and how to put together an engine.

The 65 Impala Supersport that Chiho Chan, Mark McKim and Adam Clark started working on with six at-risk youth from the Downtown Eastside is almost complete. Vancouver Foundation supported the project with a \$5,000 grant. Some from that original group have gone on to get jobs in the industry or further education at BCIT. A youth team

from Vancouver and Langley is putting the finishing touches on the classic muscle car.

They will auction it off in October and hope to raise enough to pay bills and start funding the next restoration project.



60s classic car goes from sad (left) to smokin' (right).



YOW!

Youth on Water (YOW!) is an outdoor recreation and education program that is empowering youth in the Skeena River Valley. The Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition has created a water-based training program that connects participants with local rivers, builds confidence, environmental awareness and a sense of adventure. Through technical guide training, it also gives youth transferable job skills as raft guides. Highly visible and successful, YOW! has grown and is now offered in four northwest communities.

Vancouver Foundation donors supported this program in 2010, and Tides Canada Initiatives Society contributed \$20,000 to the project for 2011.



To find out more about any of these projects, or to make a donation, call 604-688-2204.

A roof over their heads

Surrey Rent Bank's loans of last resort help struggling families pay the rent

BY PAUL HERATY

Bernice Michaluk is on her way to the Surrey Food Bank. She has finished her courses for the day at Vancouver Career College where she is training to be a medical receptionist. She walks home to her tiny condo and checks on her kids (she has three boys: 19, 17 and 14 – “Never a dull moment”). Then it’s onto the bus, hoping there’s a bag of free groceries in her future, maybe some vegetables with which she can make tonight’s dinner.

Michaluk doesn’t look too far ahead these days. She tends to think one month at a time. Two more months of school, then a practicum, then hopefully a job. That’s at least three months before a paycheck. She has enough to pay next month’s rent. That still leaves two months and no money coming in.

“I’ll figure it out,” she says. “I always do . . . It’s not a way to live but I have to be optimistic. What else am I going to do?”



Rent banks are a fairly new concept in B.C. Since opening last year, Surrey Rent Bank has approved 70 loans and kept 200 people off the street.

Michaluk is 43 and separated. She hasn't seen or heard from her husband of 19 years for some time now. Five years ago she kicked him out because of his drug use.

"Things just went astray for him . . . with the drugs, drinking, work, friends. He was smoking crack and who knows what else. For the last year he was around, I was sleeping with my wallet and keys under my pillow."

Since then, it's been a struggle financially to raise three boys and keep a job. She is surprisingly stoic and candid about her situation.

Michaluk has joined the ranks of what Statistics Canada calls "low income economic families" – those who earn less than the "low income cut-off" (a very slippery term, which they define as "the income at which a family or individual spends 20 per cent more of their income on food, shelter and clothing than the average family").

Geography and gender are important factors when it comes to economic status. According to the 2006 Census, 27% of families in the city centre area of Surrey (where Michaluk lives) are low income. Among families that are headed by a lone female parent in Surrey's city centre, 46% are low income.

It's rarely just one thing that brings families to the brink, to the wrong side of this equation. It's usually a series of events – a cascade of bad luck, bad timing or bad judgment – that together shake the fragile foundations of these families.

With her husband gone, Michaluk went out and got a job. She spent five years flagging at construction sites. Tedious work, but it paid the bills. In 2009, this came to an abrupt end when she was fired and deemed ineligible for Employment Insurance.

Thinking this would be a chance to go back to school and re-train for a better job, she enrolled and got a student loan. But it was barely enough to cover tuition. So she approached Social Services for help. She didn't need much, just enough to get her through the last months of school. She'd pay it back when she got a job. They turned her down because of the student loan.

With no money coming in and no prospects, it didn't take long to get behind in the rent. Michaluk blanches at the memory.

"Then the car broke down. I'm thinking 'What am I going to do?' I'm going to be out on the street."

She heard the Salvation Army was a resource for free food . . .

"When I checked it out, you line up, and wait for food from a Sally-Ann truck. You're lined up with people who are using drugs – some are doing the "funky chicken" in the line-up. I didn't want my boys seeing that. And besides, the older one was embarrassed. He thought he might run into his father in the line-up. That didn't bother me so much – it'd be the first time we all had a meal together in a long time."

Michaluk laughs. She hasn't lost her sense of humour.

"Some nights it's pretty tough for food," she admits. "But I found Quest. I can go there and feed us for a week on \$20." (Quest Food Exchange "rescues" non-marketable food from the food industry and distributes it to those in need.)

Luckily, Michaluk also has a good relationship with her landlord. When the landlord saw a notice for the Surrey Rent Bank in the paper, she mentioned it to Michaluk.

"I went in to see them at the Rent Bank. They were really helpful. They were very reassuring as well. They told me that I wasn't the only one."

In fact, city-wide Surrey has 11,300 female lone-parent families and about 2,500 male lone-parent families, which means that as many as 5,000 of the female-headed families could be low income and could be in similar situations as Bernice Michaluk.

"It's not something you want to talk about," she says. "Thank goodness for the Rent Bank. If they didn't help me, then I don't know where I'd be right now."

Michaluk got a one-time loan of \$1,600, which she is paying back at \$60 a month. It has kept a roof over her and her boys' heads, and if she pays it back in full, there is no interest charged. It will help her re-establish a credit rating. Just as important, she also got a lot of financial advice and encouragement from staff.

Judy Peterson is the Team Lead at the Surrey Rent Bank. "Rent banks are a fairly new concept here in B.C.," she says.

"We provide loans to low-income people in temporary financial difficulty. We cover their rent or utility arrears so they don't get evicted," she explains. "It's sort of a loan of last resort."

"And we look for other ways to support them, other than a loan. We get them to budget and look where they can find money in their existing budget."

While there are hundreds in Ontario, currently there are only three rent banks in B.C.: in Surrey, Abbotsford and Prince George. But thanks to the generosity of local philanthropist Frank Giustra, plans are underway to establish a rent bank in Vancouver.

"We opened in March 2010 and later got a \$30,000 grant from the Vancouver Foundation," says Peterson.

Unfortunately, there's no shortage of demand for their services. To date, the Surrey Rent Bank has approved 70 loans, and kept 200 people off the street. Loans average between \$700 and \$800, with an interest rate of 1.5 per cent over prime that is refunded once the loan has been repaid and participants have completed a financial literacy workshop.

Peterson says if they advertised, they wouldn't be able to keep up with the demand.

"Right now we turn down two applications for every one that we accept. For people who don't fit our criteria we try to find another way to solve their problem."

"There's nothing we would like better than not to have a job."

Right now, Bernice Michaluk is thinking exactly the opposite. She graduated with honours from Vancouver Career College in June and is now looking for work as a medical receptionist. By the time you are reading this, she may have started a full-time job.

For the first time in a long time, there is a glimmer of hope – for a paycheck, for the future, for her boys. For the first time in a long time, Michaluk is looking forward, more than just a month at a time. She's looking forward to paying off the Surrey Rent Bank, and that small loan of last resort that made such a difference. **VF**

For more information about the **Surrey Rent Bank**, call **604.547.0123**. To donate to important projects like this, call **Vancouver Foundation** at **604-688-2204**

independent & connected

Volunteer drivers keep Langley seniors mobile

A few years ago, **Rose Hosking** rushed into the Langley Seniors Recreation & Resource Centre, panicked and in tears. She needed to see a medical specialist in Vancouver, but had no way of getting a ride into town and was terrified of missing the appointment.

"I came to the counter and said, 'Could you please help me?'" Hosking recalls. "They were so helpful, so warm and protective. They said they'd arrange it and by the time I left here I felt like I was on cloud nine."

For many seniors, finding transportation can be difficult and stressful, particularly if they live in areas where public transit is scarce or inaccessible. Regular tasks like shopping or banking become a challenge and the prospect of attending a barrage of medical appointments across the Lower Mainland seems overwhelming.

That's why the Langley Seniors Resources Society developed the Transportation Assistance Program (TAP), an outreach service relying on trained volunteers. For more than 15 years, the program's drivers have taken the elderly to doctors, banks, dental appointments, social outings, grocery stores and even the hair salon. It allows seniors to remain independent while keeping them connected to the community.

Janice McTaggart, TAP's outreach community liaison and volunteer coordinator, says the program gives seniors much-needed transportation choices and acts as an incentive to give up driving.

"For some people who need to give up their licence, to have an option before they make that decision makes it easier to do," she says. "And that's a huge reassurance for people."

More than 250 clients rely on TAP each year and the program delivers about 150 rides a month. Some seniors, like Hosking, use the service sparingly, while others depend on it for monthly or even weekly rides.

Doris Weir, who gave up her car three years ago, has increased her use of the service as she has become more immobile and can't say enough good things about it.

"I have found the drivers very pleasant and friendly. They know what they're doing. They drive carefully. I know I can depend on them," she says. "And they stay with me. I'm alone and I have no family, so when I go someplace, like to a doctor or a dentist or for hearing aids, it's nice that somebody is waiting for me to take me home, rather than having to wait for a taxicab."

It's this one-to-one service that makes the program so special and it couldn't happen without the dedication of volunteers. Some even go into the doctor's office with clients and make notes to give to the family later, while others help clients fill out medical forms.



Doris Weir, TAP client, and volunteer driver Don Sutcliff.

BY SONDI BRUNER | PHOTO VINCENT L. CHAN

Volunteers don't just drive seniors – they play a multifaceted role of driver, assistant, confidant, counsellor and friend.

"We're not only drivers, we're like bartenders," says Ross Dewar, who has been a volunteer driver for five years. "We listen to their complaints and I tell them whatever we talk about, it never leaves the car. It all stays inside, because they do build up a trust and a relationship with me."

Don Sutcliff, another one of TAP's go-to drivers, found himself with some spare time after retirement and decided to volunteer for a year and see how he liked it. Eight years later, he's still driving clients and has thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the people he serves.

"The people we deal with are just fantastic and they are so appreciative," he says, "and we appreciate their company too. It's rewarding. That's the key."

As volunteers often develop deep friendships with clients, the program relies on them to speak up if something seems amiss.

"The folks that sign up for the program know the drivers are good listeners and that there are staff behind them that can help out in a difficult situation," says McTaggart. "Very often drivers are the ones that will come and say, 'I drove this lady two months ago and she's lost weight, she's not looking well.' And then we'll make a visit or we'll phone to follow up on that. They're our eyes and ears to keeping people well."

In 2009, TAP was suspended due to funding cuts (though some volunteer drivers continued to chauffeur seniors on their own dime). Thanks to a \$30,000 grant from the Vancouver Foundation and its donors, the Langley Seniors Resource Society was able to revive the program and hire a part-time call dispatcher to connect more seniors with rides.

And seniors like Rose Hosking are extremely grateful to have a valuable program like TAP to rely on when needed.

"This is the most wonderful opportunity for all of us," she says. "The drivers are excellent people and I am so thankful for the seniors centre. They're all doing an excellent job for us, and I think they're super." **VF**

For more info on **Langley's Transportation Assistance Program** for seniors, call **Langley Seniors Resources Society** at 604-530-3020. If you would like to support valuable programs like this, call **Vancouver Foundation** at 604-688-2204 or visit our website at www.vancouverfoundation.ca

connecting.....

Sometimes you can go on a journey of discovery, only to find that what you were seeking was something you left behind

BY FAYE WIGHTMAN

Earlier this year, **Vancouver Foundation** embarked on a journey to determine one or two community issues on which we could focus more of our energy and our discretionary income.

We wanted to understand what community issues were of the greatest concern to a wide range of people and organizations within Metro Vancouver. And then we wanted to know what advice people had for us, as a community foundation, about where we could concentrate some additional effort to make more of a difference.

We expected people would talk about homelessness or poverty, mental illness, the aging population, the cost of living, or transportation issues, and we did hear about these concerns. But we also heard something else – something that dominated many of the conversations we had – and in some ways surprised us because it hasn't made media headlines.

Essentially, we journeyed far and wide and spoke with many people, only to discover that their concerns were remarkably similar and basic.

People from all walks of life overwhelmingly talked about what they saw as growing isolation in Metro Vancouver. Isolated communities within communities. Isolated neighbours within neighbourhoods. A growing civic malaise and indifference to one another. A sense that we are becoming less engaged in the life of our community. That beyond a handful of family and friends, we feel a lack of connection to the other people that make up our community.

There were many theories about what is making us grow apart. We are separated by language, culture, religion, money and age. Many of us work long hours. We rush to and from work, disappear into our houses and high-rises, and rarely even see our neighbours, never mind stop to chat. (One person said the worst invention was the automatic garage door opener. He never saw his neighbours and had no idea when they were home.) We spend more time in front of our televisions and computers and less time with friends and family. We vote less, and volunteer



and join clubs less. And according to a 2010 Angus Reid survey, despite our high use of social media, B.C. residents are among the loneliest people in Canada.

People are right to be worried about these trends because it's connections to one another that create well-being and shared goals.

Research shows that we are healthier and happier, that babies thrive and that we are better able to cope with setbacks

the pieces



such as job loss or illness when we feel connected. Crime rates are lower in neighbourhoods where people know each other's names. People are less prone to depression when they feel they belong. There is less child abuse, fewer suicides, lower teenage pregnancy rates and less substance abuse. Consider this astonishing fact: joining a group boosts life expectancy as much as quitting smoking!

Overwhelmingly, the people we consulted felt that strengthening community connections and supporting initiatives that promote a greater sense of belonging is something a community foundation could and should do.

The good news is that strengthening community connections and helping to get people more engaged in the life of their community is not an expensive undertaking. It can be very small things that build bonds between people.

Let me give you an example. The South Burnaby neighbourhood of Edmonds is socially and culturally diverse, with a large number of low-income families and new immigrants. A resident, Doug Harder, noticed that many of the neighbourhood kids did not have much of a chance for creative play, except on the streets. He decided to offer a course in model car building and with a small grant from Vancouver Foundation, he started a free class that eventually attracted 30 kids and their parents.

Picture it. These were people from widely diverse backgrounds who rarely had an opportunity to speak to one another. They came to Doug's classes, sat side-by-side, made models together and found ways to cross significant barriers created by language and culture. They started to know and trust one another.

The youngsters had an opportunity to focus and patiently build something from scratch with their own hands. It taught them concentration and gave them a sense of pride. For Harder, it gave him a chance to solve a local problem and contribute to his community.

We know that neighbourhoods in Metro Vancouver are not all the same, but the craving for connection among people within neighbourhoods is a shared concern. We also know that helping those who are marginalized become a part of the larger community benefits everyone.

Vancouver Foundation is responding to that concern. We are going back to basics, back to the fundamentals of what makes vibrant and resilient communities – people and relationships.

We are investigating how we can better support our residents and strengthen the bonds between the two million people who call Metro Vancouver home.

It isn't going to happen overnight. Building bonds of trust across barriers of difference is a long-term, slow and sometimes messy process. Not all community-building is desirable. I'm sure the rioters in downtown Vancouver last summer felt the thrill of a common bond. We understand how difficult this task is and that it will not be one foundation that can take responsibility for creating these bonds. This will have to be a shared enterprise. But then, isn't that what community is all about? And isn't that what a community foundation should do? Stay tuned . . . **VF**

Sasha's VOICE

BY DONNA BARKER | PHOTOS TIFFANY BROWN COOPER

Sasha Cumby's mom, Debbie, says her daughter was a typical 16-year-old. But answering what made Sasha typical, her mom describes a young woman who was anything but an average teen: a straight 'A' student and advocate for animal rights, with career aspirations of becoming an environmental lawyer. A Girl Guide in Sparks, Brownies, and Pathfinders. A young woman who was both a deeply committed volunteer and a social activist, she had organized the collection of more than 400 teddy bears to send to children in Afghanistan. On top of her academic and

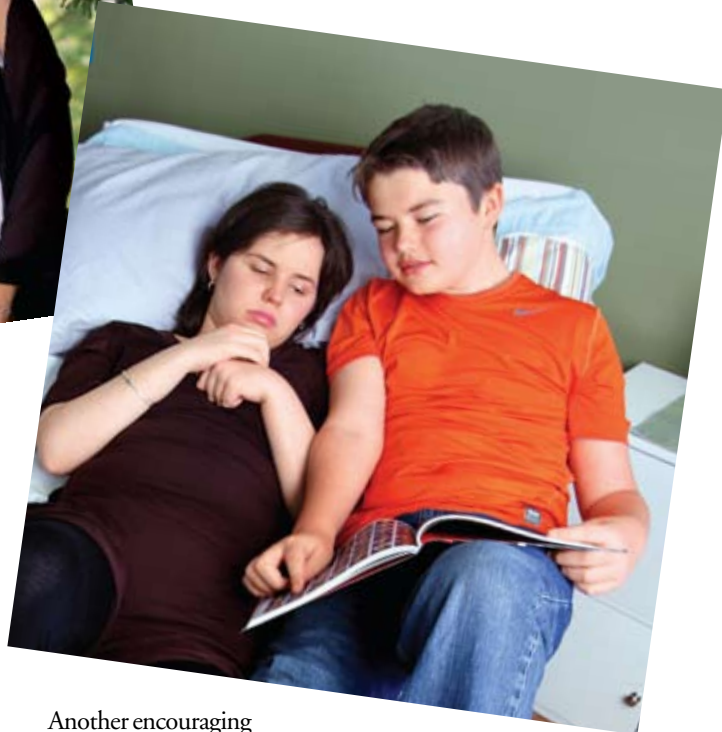
community accomplishments, Sasha held a part-time job at Tim Hortons and babysat, not just her younger brother William (whom she called "her little brat"), but neighbours' kids as well. People who know the six-foot-tall Sasha say she has an old soul.

In August 2009, Debbie and husband Bill took their kids on their very first family vacation: a trip to Disneyland, the San Diego Zoo and Universal Studios. Three days into their trip, sitting beside her boyfriend on the Indiana Jones rollercoaster, Sasha went into cardiac arrest and stopped breathing. Strapped





Far left: Sasha with one of her pet lizards. Top left: Sasha with her mom Debbie, younger brother William, and dad Bill. Below: Sasha reading with her brother William. Her mother credits the progress Sasha has made in her recovery so far to the fact that she's been able to continue living at home with her family.



into the moving ride it was impossible to get Sasha out to perform CPR. First the family, then everyone else on the ride, were screaming to have it stopped. But it was several minutes before Sasha's father could kick open her car and pull her out. By then, the devastating damage to Sasha's brain had already been done.

What the Cumby family didn't know was that both Sasha and her younger brother, William, have a genetic condition called Long QT Syndrome, which is a disorder of the heart's electrical activity.

Sasha's brain injury left her fully dependent on others. She is wheelchair-bound, fed through a gastric tube in her stomach, cannot speak and only has the use of one of her hands. In the Cumby family's home, a three-storey townhouse in Victoria with four flights of stairs, it was impossible to accommodate Sasha's needs.

"Once Sasha was ready to leave the hospital, almost everyone told me we had to move her to a facility. I said I would rather go bankrupt than have my daughter live anywhere than with us. But the truth is that were it not for the Giving in Action society, we never could have been able to renovate our home to make it accessible for Sasha. She would be in an institution – and I'd be right there with her!" says Debbie.

Giving in Action is an organization established by Vancouver Foundation and the provincial government in 2006. It helps people living with disabilities and their families by providing grants for home renovations – such as lifts, elevators, ramps, and door widening – and to purchase wheelchair-accessible vehicles.

Debbie deeply believes that Sasha's improvements to-date – she can now shake her head "no" and sometimes nod her head to say "yes" – and the ones Debbie expects to see in future, are because Sasha is with her family. She's included in all family meals, starting with breakfast. William eats in her room every morning before heading to school. Mom spends all day with Sasha, taking her to physiotherapy and occupational therapy appointments and helping with home schooling. And when dad, Bill, gets home from work on the military base, his first priority is to hang out with his daughter.

Another encouraging sign of her improvement according to Debbie is that Sasha has resumed one old habit in her playful relationship with her dad – rolling her eyes at his bad jokes and silly comments. Although she can no longer say "whatever," Debbie can see Sasha's old personality in her smirk and other facial expressions, which are improving all the time.

Debbie admits that when she thinks about the donation they received from Giving in Action, she gets emotional. "It's only due to that charity that we can have Sasha at home with us. The best place for her is here with her family loving her – especially in her situation because only she can get her brain to make new pathways. If she was living anywhere else, she wouldn't have the same encouragement to work as hard as she has to, to make herself better."

Although Debbie understands that Sasha will never be the same young woman she was before her heart attack, she knows that the old Sasha is still behind her daughter's eyes.

"Since she was little she's been an advocate for animals and less advantaged people. As her mother, I've always been Sasha's advocate, and now I'm her voice, as well. I believe if she could speak now, Sasha would say something that she's said many times before: 'A book has many pages, as do our lives. So don't judge the cover until you read the life behind the book.'" **VF**

For more information about Giving in Action, go to www.givinginaction.ca or call toll free 1-866-523-3157



A Dramatic Entrance

BY DOROTHY BARTOSZEWSKI | PHOTOS TIFFANY BROWN COOPER

Seduction.

That's what VanDusen Botanical Garden director Harry Jongerden is aiming for with the garden's new \$19.4-million Visitor Centre.

It's not a word usually associated with botanical gardens, which tend to be rather reserved. But according to Jongerden, VanDusen and other botanical gardens need to start struttin' their stuff, not only for their own survival, but for the survival of the planet.

"Forty per cent of the world's plant species are expected to be extinct by 2050. Meanwhile, we've been a secret garden, hiding behind a fence. We just can't afford that anymore, on any level," Jongerden says matter-of-factly.

Instead, Jongerden hopes the Visitor Centre, which is designed to look like a native orchid, will function just as real flowers do. Flowers lure in insects with nectar. In return, the insects spread the flower's pollen.

With the Visitor Centre, Jongerden aims to draw people with beauty – both the building's beauty and the beauties of botany. Refreshed and inspired, they'll want to know more about plants and their connection to the future of our planet. Then, he hopes, they'll go back out into the world to change how they live.

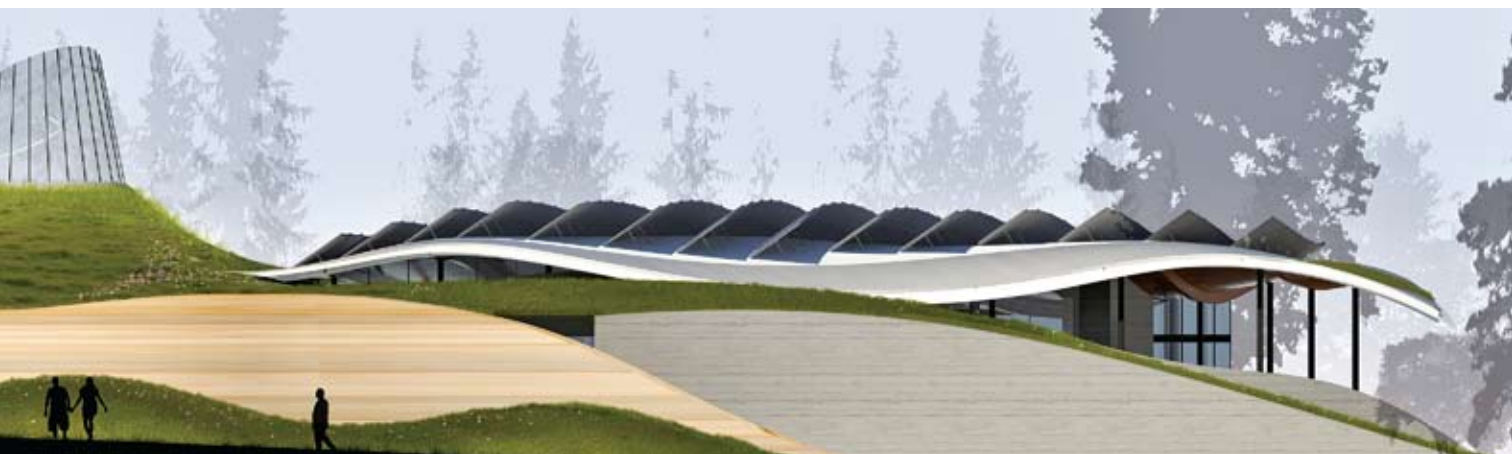
That's why the new building flaunts its sinuous green roof "petals" above busy Oak Street. And that's also why, inside and out, the new Visitor Centre is a showcase for sustainability.

The building aims to be Canada's first certified "Living Building," creating no negative environmental impact. Solar cells, photovoltaic panels, geothermal and energy exchange within the building will enable the building to produce as much energy as it consumes, leading to no net energy consumption. The building will get all of its own water from rain catchment, storm water and black water recycling. Designed by leading local sustainable architecture



firm Busby Perkins + Will, the building will also exceed stringent LEED Platinum building standards.

Jongerden's face lights up with boyish enthusiasm as he explains how the "stem" of the orchid – the walls of the building – are made of rammed earth, while at the centre of the building's "orchid flower," a gorgeous glass oculus (a special circular skylight) will provide natural light, as well as automatically open and close to regulate temperature.



Top left: A dramatic entrance off Oak Street. Bottom left: The green roof and oculus of the new Visitor Centre. Top right: The glass oculus in the main hall helps the building breathe. Bottom right: The sinuous lines of Discovery Hall.

Inside, the building's Discovery Hall will meld the delightful and the educational, explaining how plants feed the world, inspire innovation, sustain the economy and heal and restore us. "We can't live without plants – it's that simple," says Jongerden.

"The beauty of the garden says 'all this is worth saving,'" says Jongerden. "The building says sustainability is not only achievable, it's desirable." Together, it's a one-two punch that could make VanDusen Garden a potent agent for environmental change.

But this stirring vision nearly didn't come to fruition. Fundraising for the project actually started back in 2004. Vancouver Foundation and VanDusen Garden have a long-standing relationship; W.J. VanDusen, for whom the garden is named, was also one of Vancouver Foundation's founders. So Vancouver Foundation was eager to help VanDusen bloom anew.

The Foundation stepped up as one of the first major donors on board for the project, donating \$1 million.

"That one million dollars really primed the pump for our fund-raising drive," says Jongerden. But finding the remaining \$18 million wasn't easy. The economic meltdown of 2008 hit. Plans were reworked more than once. "Vancouver Foundation really hung in there with us, which we really appreciate," says Jongerden. The building finally opened its doors in September 2011.

Can a building really seduce, delight, and transform?

It's a lofty goal for any edifice. But standing in the new Visitor Centre's main hall – the oculus opening to the breeze, natural light streaming in, illuminating sinuous curving walls of wood and concrete and the roof undulating above – is fascinating; for a moment, breath-taking. And without you even realizing it, the seduction has begun. **VF**

For more info on VanDusen Botanical Garden, visit their website at www.vandusengarden.org Or better yet, visit the Garden at 5251 Oak Street in Vancouver. If you'd like to contribute to the future of the Garden; if you want to help this gorgeous facility continue to excite, educate and inspire visitors about the world of plants, call Vancouver Foundation at 604-688-2204

Downtown Eastside Kitchen Table Project



Valerie Nicholson serves up nutritional advice with a generous side of kindness.

food for *thought*

Dishing up nutritional information in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside

BY PAUL HERATY | PHOTOS JAIME KOWAL

When a five-foot piece of broccoli starts talking, you listen.

Especially when the floret is dispensing nutritional advice in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside (DTES).

"Did you know broccoli boosts the immune system, and helps fight cancer? That almonds can cure a headache? That red grapes are much better for you than green?"

It's a tough crowd today. They're all here at the Evelyn Saller Centre for the \$2 meal and not keen on being harangued by a bunch of vegetables. But after a round of Food Jeopardy that would do Alex Trebek proud and a spirited rendition of food showtunes by an apple, an almond and water, more people drift over to watch.

This hour-long presentation is part of the "Downtown Eastside Kitchen Table Project." Led by Potluck Café Society and supported by Vancouver Foundation, the project uses theatre, games and prizes to teach DTES residents about the importance of good nutrition and their right to quality food.

The delivery is charming, a little hokey at times, and funny. The message – for an audience that struggles with basic issues like food and shelter, and many of whom have HIV, Hepatitis C or are otherwise immuno-compromised – can be lifesaving.

Behind the costumes and behind the project are three people who know this neighbourhood, its residents, and their struggles intimately and are passionate about initiating change.

"Mum" (Broccoli)

When Valerie Nicholson walks the streets of the Downtown Eastside, it takes her forever to get anywhere. "People are always coming up to me, saying hi, wanting to talk, giving me the latest news, checking in," she says. Valerie's patience, her willingness to lend an ear and dispense hugs have earned her the nickname of

"Mum" in the DTES. This is her home. These are her friends. But it hasn't always been that way.

"I was living in Surrey raising a family," she says, smoothing back a lock of red hair. "Had three boys. I was a special needs teacher, Red Cross disaster assistant, Scout leader, volunteered a lot in the community."

"My husband and I had a business together. He was seriously injured in a car accident. He never recovered and our business died. He ended up going back to family in Ontario, basically in a coma. I never divorced him. I raised my boys on my own and started a new business myself."

"But someone in my husband's family got hold of our banking and credit information. They used it to buy a truck, new car, TVs, computers. And the creditors came after me. I lost everything, my business, where I was living. Even my kids' bank accounts."

The words come spilling out of her and her voice chokes with emotion.

"I was in my 40s at the time. I lost everything. I came to the Downtown Eastside. Got a job at a fish plant and got introduced to drugs."

"I contracted HIV. Got heavy into crystal meth. I just didn't want to live anymore I guess. Then the place where I was living got torn down so I was homeless. I'd lost contact with my adult children. I wasn't taking my meds. My nutrition was poor. I was living out of dumpsters."

After almost three years in a haze, Valerie woke up. "I didn't want my kids to know I was a drug addict so I quit, on my own." Clean for two years, now she has an apartment, a job, and a mission.

"I live in the Downtown Eastside and I want to make a difference here. Potluck has given me that opportunity and in a positive manner."

Jack (Water)

Out of costume, Jack Kilgour looks like he's just stepped off the golf course: tall, casual, confident. He spent 20 years working in the training and human resources departments of large corporations. He had his own business as well – showing dogs and judging – that he ran on weekends.

“Basically, I was working all the time,” he says. “The dog show stuff was fun, but it was busy.” Jack was also wrestling with some powerful demons.

“I was battling mental illness – anxiety, bipolar disorder. I was also battling addiction – alcohol, drugs. I had a history of depression. I was just trying to keep it together.”

“About six years ago I crashed, really hard. I haven’t worked full-time since.”

“The one thing I learned during that time is that practicing humility is really a positive thing and asking for help is important.”

Jack started putting the pieces of his life back together, with help.

“I found a great psychiatrist, some great medical staff (Jack is HIV-positive), stable housing, and a social support network.”

Out of almost 80 applicants, Jack and Valerie were both hired as outreach workers for the DTES Kitchen Table project. They work 10-15 hours a month, spreading the word about good nutrition.

“This job is keeping my spirits up,” says Jack. “And I feel a sense of ownership, a sense of belonging. When I come to work I really look forward to it.”

Heather

Potluck Café is located at 30 West Hastings, in the heart (or maybe the belly) of Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside. There are a dozen tables in the café, each adorned with fresh flowers. There are local paintings and photos on the wall. The space is bright, inviting, and spotless. One of the reasons why is Heather O’Hara and the Potluck team.

“We’re using food as a tool for social and economic change.” –Heather O’Hara



Top left: Jack Kilgour’s outreach work keeps him feeling connected and positive. Top right: Heather O’Hara, executive director of Potluck Café and Catering.



O'Hara is executive director of Potluck Café and Catering and seems to know everyone who comes through the door. She started here six years ago as a volunteer to help with the business planning. Now, as E.D., O'Hara is understandably proud of what Potluck has accomplished during her term and over the last decade. Potluck is celebrating its 10-year anniversary this year.

"There are not many safe and healthy food choices for low-income people here in the DTES," says O'Hara. "At Potluck, you can access affordably priced food and people feel welcome here. We also produce 30,000 free meals every year for low-income residents in the DTES and we host a monthly community kitchen where 10-15 people learn about nutrition and how to cook."

There are about 30 employees at Potluck. The café is actually only a small part of the operation. The real core is a thriving catering business. They do corporate and event catering for many downtown businesses. The profits from the catering side support the café, job creation and programs like the DTES Kitchen Table Project. The catering also allows Potluck to hire and train local residents from the Downtown Eastside, many of whom have serious barriers to employment.

"The kind of issues we see here in the DTES are poverty and everything that comes with that: low self-esteem; lack of faith in yourself; lack of opportunity; housing issues; a lot of mental health challenges like schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, depression, anxiety; and all levels of addiction."

"I have always been interested in how business and entrepreneurial activities can benefit the world," says O'Hara. "A social enterprise environment like Potluck is a perfect fit for me. Our mandate is community employment and community nutrition. We're using food as a tool for economic change. And Vancouver Foundation has helped immensely." (Vancouver Foundation has given Potluck and its programs 11 grants totaling almost \$150,000 over the last 10 years.)

Back at the Saller Centre, Valerie and Jack are packing up. After the show, they work the crowd, shaking hands, greeting friends, passing out brochures and spreading the word about nutrition.

While the acting and the props may not be quite up to Oscar standards, Valerie and Jack more than make up for it with their enthusiasm and their passion, both for the subject matter and the audience. The delivery may be a little over-the-top, but that's to be expected. After all, in this theatre, chewing the scenery is probably good for you. **VF**

If you want to find out more about Potluck Café and Catering, or if you'd like to talk to some broccoli, visit www.potluckcatering.com. If you want to support Potluck's efforts to bring more nutritious food into Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, call Vancouver Foundation at 604-688-2204 or visit our website at www.vancouverfoundation.ca

more

Nothing breaks down
barriers of difference quite
like the shared goal of
figuring out how to use a
pasta-making machine,
and then sitting down
together to eat the results.



Ridge fosters intercultural
understanding – one banana
muffin at a time.

than muffins

Pre-teen cooking program at Frog Hollow is a recipe for building understanding, trust and the perfect chocolate mousse

BY DENISE RUDNICKI | PHOTO LEIF BUENDIA

The kitchen at Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House

in east Vancouver is buzzing. Busy cooks are mixing, stirring, tasting; and the place smells great. It reminds visitors of Kitchen Stadium on the popular cooking show *Iron Chef*, only the cooks in this kitchen are all about 12 years old, leaping about with the charming and gangly goofiness of youngsters that age.

One boy has his arm around an enormous aluminum mixing bowl, scraping up every last bit of batter for the apple-oatmeal muffins he's making. His self-appointed sous chef is cleaning up behind him, while others make yummy noises over the banana-chocolate chip muffins in the oven. "This batch is done. Where's the next one?" calls out one pre-teen cook, setting two others tripping over each other to get the next loaded muffin tin.

Vancouver Foundation helped the after-school culinary arts program for pre-teens get off the ground last fall with a \$500 grant given through its Youth Philanthropy Council. The program ran once a week for seven weeks. Registration was limited to 10, partly because the kitchen is a little small and also for safety reasons. Vancouver Foundation's grant was supplemented by a \$200 donation from the Pacific Culinary Institute, which also provided a volunteer chef to teach the kids the how-to of filleting a salmon, working with phyllo pastry and creating the perfect chocolate mousse.

Budding chefs Ellen and Vivian are both 12 years old. Ellen wants to be a caterer when she grows up. She says she will cater mostly Asian foods but also "foods from all around the world." Vivian is keen on baking, especially cupcakes, which she just loves to decorate. Her creations look like little pink and yellow crowns with candy jewels.

The most exciting moment for Vivian during cooking class was when a pan of shrimp caught on fire. Ellen's high point was making spaghetti, something she had never tried before. "It was really cool," says Ellen. "A real chef was teaching us and we did things I can't do at home because my big sister is always in the kitchen."

Leif Buendia is the energetic 27-year-old pre-teen coordinator at Frog Hollow. "It was amazing. The chef brought in her 20 professional chef knives and no one cut themselves!"

His goal, besides making sure no one lost a finger, was to teach nutrition. "A lot of these kids come from homes where they are not aware of healthy cooking. So from my perspective, I'm very glad the chef made the program healthy and organic."

The pre-teens learned that fast food restaurants use yellow, red and orange because those are the colours that stimulate hunger.

They found out that boys between the ages of 12 and 19 drink an average of 868 cans of pop every year, that McDonald's salads contain up to 60 per cent more fat than their burgers and that rubber is one of the ingredients in bubble gum.

The cooking classes did more than just teach the youth how to make souvlaki and prepare a bouquet-garni for a soup stock (and that grapes explode in the microwave). It also helped dissolve the cliques within the after-school program. Nothing breaks down barriers of difference quite like the shared goal of figuring out how to use a pasta-making machine and then sitting down together to eat the results. That's one reason why the recipes included food from all over the world – so the youth could learn more about each other, and build understanding and trust. At the end of the program, they got a menu book to take home and try out some of their new recipes, introducing their parents to new foods and new ideas.

That's the element of the program that excites Tanya Findlater, youth services coordinator at Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House. "We have Vietnamese, Chinese, Filipino kids," says Tanya. "They eat together, bring the recipes home and their parents are eating food from different cultural backgrounds. It builds understanding."

This small program is getting a big boost this fall. Vancouver Foundation is continuing its funding, the Pacific Culinary Institute will be back with a new volunteer chef and professional food services company Aramark is donating a new kitchen and appliances. The neighbourhood house is also building garden beds that will be both for the community and for the culinary arts program, so the kids will cook vegetables they've planted and grown. There will also be fundraising events such as family dinners made by the kids and gardening and nutrition workshops that Tanya hopes will bring the parents of the pre-teens into the Frog Hollow "family" and allow everyone to interact more with one another.

It's the kind of youth-driven program that Tanya says is the key to sparking real engagement in the community. "I hope we're creating a sense of leadership at an earlier age so when they get older and get involved in our other programs, they're going to be more amazing than they already are." **VF**

For more info about programs at Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House, visit their website at www.frog hollow.bc.ca
For more info on Vancouver Foundation's Youth Philanthropy Council, call 604-688-2204



green with inspiration

The challenge to youth: green a Vancouver neighbourhood.
The results: phenomenal.

BY DOROTHY BARTOSZEWSKI





This past spring, Vancouver Foundation's Generation Green Awards awarded 19 local environmental projects up to \$12,500 in honour of Vancouver's 125th birthday and its "greenest city" goals.

The award winners, who ranged from six to 24 years old, wanted to plant fruit trees, start a bike-powered cargo co-op, save secret bogs, get local businesses composting, turn industrial land into a food forest, create alternatives to shark-fin soup and much more. Their projects were all resoundingly successful, and Vancouver is now greener for their efforts. But perhaps more important than the projects themselves, these young people learned they could make their green dreams real and they inspired others – neighbours, friends, colleagues – to do the same. We hope the photos of their projects inspire you too. **VF**



What do you do after teaching 10,000 students? Well, if you're June Wilson, you help even more kids learn.

BY DOROTHY BARTOSZEWSKI | PHOTOS JAIME KOWAL

June Wilson taught school for 48 years, most of them at Elphinstone Secondary in Gibsons, B.C. Now in her 80s, she taught generations of children on the Sunshine Coast. "When I came, I taught the kids there. Then when those kids grew up, I taught their kids. Then I even taught some of the grandchildren of that first round of kids!" she says in her mild English accent. "And one family even named one of their boys Wilson, after me!" she says delightedly.

June came to Canada from England after World War II as an exchange teacher. She stayed despite the cultural differences. "At first I was teaching gym class, but the kids had to teach me how to play volleyball and softball – all those sports," she says, shaking her head and laughing.

She soon got her bus driver licence so she could take her kids on trips. "We took them to sports competitions, and to Whistler, and to Bard on the Beach in Vancouver," she recalls. She also shared her passion for English literature with her students. "I would read to them every day," she says fondly. "We would read all the good books. *Jane Eyre*, that kind of thing. They were always asking, 'Miss Wilson, when are you going to read to us?'"

Although teaching 10,000 kids might have burned out some people, June didn't find it a chore. "Oh no. I found the kids very amusing. They are very responsive. If they love you, they really love you. I guess it was just what I was supposed to be doing."

Although she retired a few years ago, Wilson is clearly still loved and remembered in Gibsons, where Elphinstone Secondary recently named its library after her. "People still send me nice letters. Last Christmas, one mother sent me a photo of her child graduating from UBC. When he was in my class, that boy was having a lot of trouble in school. He was not going to pass Grade 7! So I used to drop in after school and tutor him. He'd have to make me a big pot of tea and we'd practise writing. And now he's graduated from university!" she says, proudly. "They're all like my children."

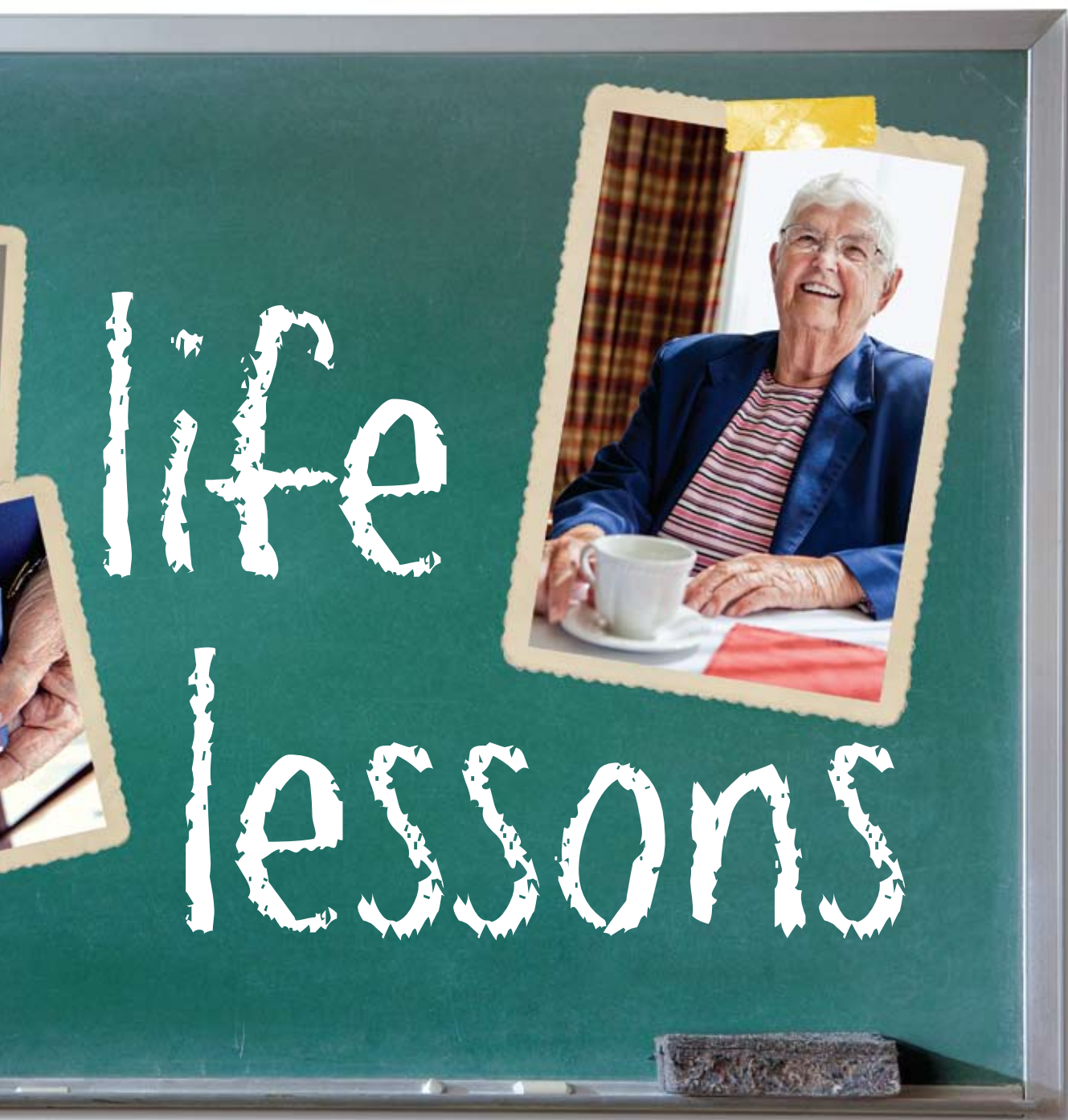
In fact, June has also set up and contributed to Registered Education Savings Plans for 10 children on the Sunshine Coast. Photos of those kids, and kids she's taught over the years, are carefully pasted on the wall of her Burnaby home.

But June's not content merely with giving while she's alive; she's also set up a legacy fund at Vancouver Foundation to continue giving after she's gone. It will fund scholarships or bursaries for post-secondary education to students graduating from Elphinstone Secondary.

"I know Vancouver Foundation will do a proper job and follow my wishes. And when I don't need my money anymore, why not give it away? I have no children. Indirectly, I'm giving to myself because it makes me so happy to do it. I get a lot of pleasure in giving my money away."

June regards her impressive collection of stuffed bears, which covers her dressers. Some she made herself, others were gifts. She pulls out one bear at the back whose fur is almost completely worn off. "This bear is as old as I am," she says gently, giving the





bear a little squeeze and softly brushing his near-bald pate. “I had him when I was born. And he’s nearly worn out with all the hugs and kisses he’s given and gotten over the years.” She carefully puts the oldest bear back in his place.

“I have had a very happy life. But I’m nearly worn out too, you know,” she confides. “I have some money left over and what use is it to me? So I’m giving it to the kids. And the kids are very good, you know. They give back too. That’s how it works, doesn’t it? By giving, we keep the good things in life going, on and on.” **VF**

Top left: One of June’s stuffed bears, well worn and loved.

Bottom left: June proudly shows photos of some of her former students. Right: June’s legacy fund will allow her to continue to help Elphinstone children for years to come.

For more information on how you can contribute to the charity of your choice, through an endowment, a legacy fund, or a variety of other options, call Vancouver Foundation’s Donor and Development Services at 604-688-2204



Cia Ramirez's courage and passion mark her as an inspiring leader – now and for the future.

against all odds

A commitment to youth leadership and personal courage mark Cia Ramirez as a powerful role model with a bright future

BY CATHERINE CLEMENT | PHOTO CLAUDETTE CARRACEDO

It's hard to believe that Cia Ramirez is 23 years old, much less the mother of a seven-year-old girl. With her wide, cherub face, warm eyes and infectious giggle, Ramirez could easily be mistaken for a high school student.

"My mom is Cree, from Saskatchewan and my dad was Mayan, from Guatemala," she says proudly when asked to explain her last name. "I am a true, full aboriginal."

Ramirez is one of those miracles; someone who, against all odds, has not only survived, but excelled. Someone who mixes passion with compassion.

She volunteers with Vancouver Foundation. As a member of the Foundation's Youth Philanthropy Council (YPC) – an advisory committee of young people – she helps review and recommend which youth-focused projects should receive a grant.

Last spring, she sat on the Generation Green Awards jury and helped select the winning youth ideas to green Vancouver's neighbourhoods (see pages 24-25). She even spoke on behalf of the jury at an event where Mayor Gregor Robertson unveiled the winning projects.

And in 2008, Ramirez was presented the Youth Leadership Award of Excellence by B.C.'s Representative for Children and Youth. The award recognizes people and organizations for their efforts benefiting children and youth around B.C.

Ramirez's journey has not been easy. The odds have always been stacked against her.

"My mother was in residential school on the reserve in Saskatchewan," she explains.

The experience had a devastating effect on her mother and consequently on Cia and her five older siblings. At one point, her mother struggled with drug addiction. Home life was chaotic. Moving was common and money was scarce. Her father even robbed a bank to buy groceries for the family and ended up being deported.

Ramirez remembers that last day with her father as though it were yesterday. "He was eating pumpkin pie and told me he was leaving. He promised that one day he would come and find me. That was Thanksgiving Day, 1994. I haven't seen him since."

Ramirez is matter-of-fact about the ups and downs of her life. Only when she talks about her experience in school does her

cheerful demeanor melt away. "I had a hard time in school. I was aboriginal. I was also dyslexic," she recalls and starts to fidget with her hands.

The bitter taste of some memories never fades. Ramirez describes an incident in a Vancouver elementary school where she was the only aboriginal child in her class.

"I remember I was in Grade 2, and on Valentine's Day all the other kids got Valentine cards from each other. But no one gave me a card. And nobody wanted the cards I made for them."

The tears begin to flow down her soft, round cheeks. "Even though I was in Grade 2, I was forced to play with the kindergarten kids because no one my age would play with me."

She moved from school to school. It wasn't until Ramirez switched to Grandview Elementary, off Commercial Drive in Vancouver, that she started to feel comfortable. With a large urban aboriginal population and activities geared to incorporate aboriginal culture, the inner city school slowly helped her build confidence. She no longer felt alone. She had a community to support her.

Today, Ramirez sends her daughter, Tikiya, to Grandview Elementary and has made education a priority for her child. "Since I didn't do well in school, I am happy my daughter loves school. I feel proud about that. She even likes math! I sent her to summer school."

Ramirez not only has ambitions for her daughter, she has dreams for herself. "One idea is to work in health care or education, with youth and children."

Her volunteering with the Foundation is part of her desire to gain experience and understand the needs of the community. She is one of two aboriginal youth on YPC; the other is her sister-in-law Kim Webster.

"Kim has been a big influence in my life," Ramirez says with a big smile. "She is the one who got me into volunteering in the first place. I love her."

Day by day, meeting by meeting, Ramirez is gaining confidence in her abilities and in her voice. At the Foundation, she asks tough questions of those applying for grants. And speaks her mind if she doesn't think a grant request is worthy of support.

Her biggest dream? "I want to be mayor one day." When she is ready for that, Ramirez will certainly have our vote. **VF**

Collingwood kids go DIGITAL

BY CHRISTINE FARON CHAN | ILLUSTRATION PRIYA SHARMA

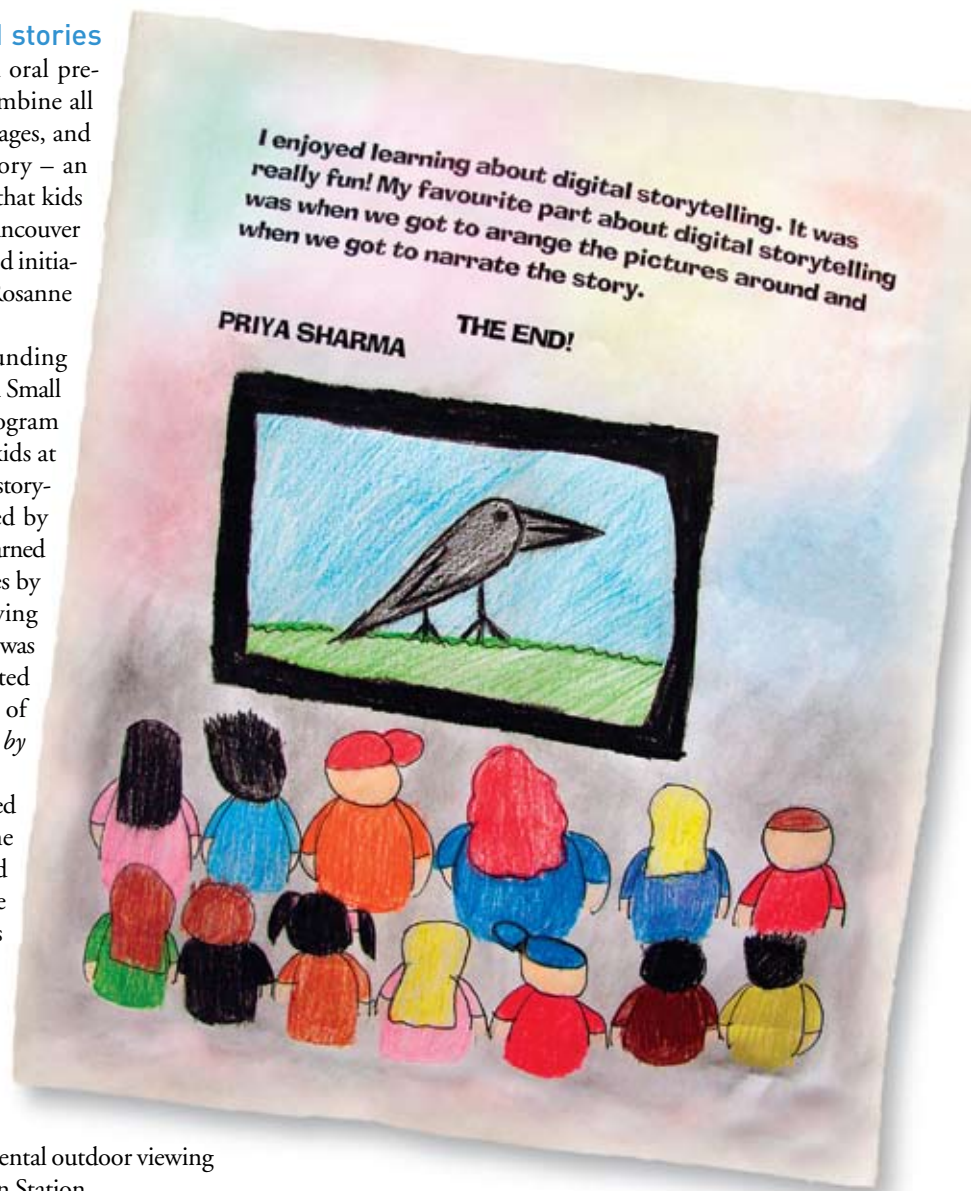
Traditionally, children have told stories through drawings, written reports, and oral presentations. What happens when you combine all these pieces, throw in music, moving images, and some imagination? You get a digital story – an exciting new form of creative expression that kids at Graham Bruce Elementary School in Vancouver discovered first-hand, thanks to the inspired initiative of Collingwood resident and mom, Rosanne Lambert.

Lambert applied for and received funding through the Collingwood Neighbourhood Small Grants Project (or NSG for short), a program funded by Vancouver Foundation. The kids at Bruce Elementary participated in a digital storytelling workshop in the fall of 2010. Led by Lambert and co-artist Janet Mcleish, they learned how to create short, first-person narratives by combining recorded voice, still and moving images, music and sound effects. The result was eight digital stories that were later presented by students at a special public screening of *Collingwood Snapshots: Digital Stories by Bruce Kids!*

The success of that first effort has spawned more digital story-telling workshops in the community. In partnership with Collingwood Neighbourhood House, the workshops have become a forum for expression on issues such as elimination of racism, intercultural development and leadership building.

Almost a year after the Bruce Kids featured their stories, the Collingwood community received another small grant, and came together once again for a public screening of its digital shorts at an experimental outdoor viewing area under the Joyce-Collingwood Skytrain Station.

Much like the support the Bruce kids received from their school's teachers, parents, and neighbours, this year's community event garnered the support of the Collingwood Community Policing Centre, local businesses, and many residents – a true community endeavour celebrating the best of its children, its people and its future. **VF**



To see excerpts of *Collingwood Snapshots: Digital stories by Bruce Kids*, go to <http://TakingStock.TV> For more info on the Neighbourhood Small Grants program, call Vancouver Foundation at 604-688-2204

Vancouver Foundation helps individuals, families, corporations and not-for-profit organizations create their own philanthropic legacies.

We are honoured to have received gifts in 2010 from the individuals and organizations listed below, and extend our sincere appreciation to all those who have invested in communities across British Columbia by donating to Vancouver Foundation.

Endowment Funds

These funds were fully established with contributions of \$10,000 or more.

Anonymous (7)

Aaron Sluggett Memorial Scholarship Fund

Abbotsford Heat Foundation

Alpha Delta Phi British Columbia 2010

AREA Endowment Fund

BC Water Sustainability Endowment Fund

BCIC Aquaculture Program Fund

BCIC Innovation and Commercialization

Strategic Development Program Fund

British Columbia Lung Association –

Jack Patrick & Lois Shirley O'Regan Fund

Butterfly Foundation

Carmichael Foundation

Carole and David Muller Family Fund

Cody's Fund

Commissionaires BC Charlie Brown

Memorial Bursary Fund

ConeTec Education Foundation

Crescendo Fund

Curling for Life Endowment Fund

Douglas Cherrington Legacy Fund

Dr. Lawrence and Mrs. Sally Wong

Emily Longworth Fund

Frinton Fund

Garry & Mary Vallance and

Patricia Strang Fund

Gibson Family Memorial Scholarship

Grace Lim Family Foundation

Grace Lim Legacy Foundation

Hua Xia - B.C. Chinese Music Assoc. Fund

Ida Goodreau Fund

Irene MacDonald Memorial Fund

John C. Kerr Chancellor's Awards Fund/

Emily Carr University of Art & Design Fund

Kay Meek Centre Endowment Fund

Knights of Pythias Crescent Lodge #33

Langley School District Foundation

Scholarship Fund

LGMA Grant Anderson Commemorative

Scholarship Fund

Linda & Paul Gronert Community Fund

Manh Hung & Thi Tham Nguyen

Community Fund

Marian Rowat Memorial Fund

Masters Swimming Association of BC

Matthew Elder Memorial Scholarship

Pacific Immigrant Resources Society

Philip and Muriel Berman

Roedde House Preservation Fund

Ronald McDonald House British Columbia

Ronald McDonald House Permanent Fund

RPC Family Foundation

Ryan Barclay Memorial Fund

Sandpiper Foundation

Shaun G Foundation

Susan & Barrie Forbes Comm. Foundation

The Point Grey Class of '75 Foundation

The Stephen Brown Memorial Fund

Trinity United Church, Vernon – Camp

Hurlburt Endowment Fund

Triple EFF Fund

VDC Dance Centre – Lola MacLaughlin

Memorial Fund

William Thompson C.F. Lung Transplant

Memorial Fund

Start-Up Funds

These funds were started with a \$1,000 contribution and over the next 10 years will become fully established.

Flowerdew Family Endowment Fund

Judith A. Stein First Nations Wellbeing

Trust Fund

Vancouver Humanitarian Fund

Pollock Family Philanthropic Fund

Legacy Funds

These funds were established to help individuals plan for future gifts from their Estates.

Anonymous (3)

Davis Family Fund

Graham Family Fund

John & Cecilia Hall Fund

Kenneth Broadway and Ralph Markham Fund



Linda & Paul Gronert Legacy Fund

Myers-Smith Family Fund

Pavri Family Fund

Scott Kruse Foundation

Shirley & James Johnston Fund

Susan and Barrie Forbes Family Foundation

Funds Established by Estates

We were honoured to receive posthumous gifts from individuals who included Vancouver Foundation in their Estate plans. We're proud to perpetuate the legacies of the following:

Anonymous (4)

Ruth E. Baldwin Endowment Fund for Arts & Culture

Phyllis M. Broome Community Fund

Neil Burton - James and Helen Hunter Fund

Rene Charbin Fund

Ollie Coyes Memorial Fund

Joseph and Marion Delesalle Fund

George R. and Augusta F. Dunn Fund

Joan and Clodagh Insull Fund

Brad Joseph Fund

Elizabeth Evelyn Ledingham Fund

Frances Mastrandrea Fund & the Frank

and Frances Darling Family Fund

Donald Matheson and

Audrey Matheson Fund

Dorothy McIntyre - Dorothy Anderson

Family Foundation

Muriel Mildenerger Fund

Marian Rowat Memorial Fund

Rosamond Helen Sarles Fund

Alfred Schuller Fund

Mary Stewart - Stewart Fund

Elsie & Albert Took Memorial Fund

Roxie Joan Wallace Fund

Alan Williamson - Children's Fund **VF**



**One generation
plants the trees ...**

another gets the shade

Consider a gift to Vancouver Foundation in your Will,
to plant the seeds of your legacy today. We will nurture
your gift for you and your family, for years to come.
We will help it grow, for future generations to enjoy.

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