

# Westminster College Foundation

## NEWSLETTER - January 2010

### FOUNDATION MISSION

Westminster College Foundation provides grants to charitable organizations that support education, health and/or spiritual care, focusing on youth and/or seniors. Projects that demonstrate creative development of new initiatives or new programs that make a difference are favoured.

***A word from Dr. Roderick Singh, Chair, Westminster College:***

*Westminster College is excited and pleased to have approved and/or distributed grants to charitable organizations that currently total in excess of \$1.4 million since the inception of the Westminster College Foundation in 2007.*

*During these challenging economic times Westminster College Foundation remains committed to continuing its assistance to charitable organizations as well as being fiscally responsible to ensure a bright future for continued support.*

### 2009 GRANTS

Westminster College Foundation is pleased to announce that the following charitable organizations received grants in 2009:

**Camp KeeMoKee**

Established in the late 1950's KeeMoKee continues to provide campers and staff an opportunity to develop a greater sense of self (physically, emotionally and spiritually) in a safe and supportive environment within a Christian atmosphere. Camp KeeMoKee received funds to assist with their kitchen upgrade in order to comply with health and safety regulations as well as to assist with the KeeMoKee Camper Subsidy Fund to help children attend Camp who otherwise may be unable to due to their families' financial situation.

**YMCA of Western Ontario - Strong Kid's Campaign**

A grant to the Strong Kids Campaign assists in providing access for youth and their families to the Y's camps, programs and services and helps them learn the Y's core values: Honesty, Respect, Responsibility and Caring. The impact is not only positive for the youth, but also the families and the community.

### **Horton Street Seniors Centre - Forward Bound Program**

Horton Street Seniors Centre provides recreational activities for seniors. A grant was provided to assist the Forward Bound Program pilot project that is aimed at helping to decrease the occurrence of isolation among low-income, frail seniors within the City of London. The program combines volunteers and staff to not only help the seniors improve their overall quality of life but assist in creating new relationships and friendships while participating in meaningful programs designed to meet their current physical needs.

### **London Interfaith Refugee Sponsorship Alliance (LIRSA)**

LIRSA sponsors and supports individuals and families who have been identified as refugees according to the United Nations Geneva Convention, by providing social and emotional support, advocacy and community liaisons in areas of health, education and employment. The work of LIRSA is humanitarian, non-sectarian and apolitical and works in cooperation with Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Cross Cultural Learner Centre and sponsorship agreement holders (United Church of Canada, Roman Catholic Church, Anglican Church). The grant from Westminster College Foundation is for the purpose of assisting with the medical, dental and vital services for London-area refugees.

### **Wellspring London & Region**

Wellspring London and Region is a community-based organization that offers a wide range of non-medical programs and services to support cancer patients and their loved ones through diagnosis, treatment and beyond. The services are professionally delivered and volunteer supported. Wellspring charges no fees and receives no core government funding. The grant provided to Wellspring London and Region will assist them to continue their work and reach out into the community providing awareness of the programs, services and support that they provide.

### **Algoma Presbytery – United Church of Canada**

A grant was provided to Algoma Presbytery to assist with the Focus on the Gay Family Conference that was held in Sault Ste. Marie in September 2009. The Conference was organized to help promote gay issues through workshops and by providing training to interfaith groups on becoming welcoming congregations. The conference helped to educate and give people tools to make a difference by looking at different forms of discrimination (homophobia, sexism, racism...) and help to promote the faith communities in welcoming all forms of discriminated groups.

### **The Southdale Chaplaincy Inc.**

Since 1991 the Southdale Chaplaincy, working out of the London-Middlesex Housing Corporation Complex at Southdale Road East and Millbank Drive and supported by an ecumenical network of London area churches, has focused on strengthening families and providing youth with programs to help them find a firmer footing in often challenging and difficult circumstances. The grant received from Westminster Foundation will assist with a new program called The S.I.N.G. Project

(**S**trengthening, **I**nviting hope, **N**ew horizons, **G**ranting new opportunities). This program will bring music to youth who would otherwise have few opportunities to develop musical skills, and is designed to also help with development and strengthening of social skills.

### **Scouts Canada**

The Scouting mission of providing opportunities to young people encouraging their personal growth; physically, spiritually and mentally is more relevant than ever. A grant was provided to assist with the repair and replacement of the roof at their program and administrative centre located on Windermere Road in London to help ensure that their wide range of programs for youth continues to be available.

### **Over 55 (London) Inc.**

With the mandate to assist seniors with employment opportunities and helping them age in their place of residence for over 24 years, Over 55 (London) Inc. was provided a grant to assist with their development of a Senior Web Portal to be the “go to” site for London and area seniors to access a full range of information, services, and organizations for seniors.

### **London Conference – United Church of Canada**

A grant was provided to assist with the We Believe in Camp Conference that was organized to provide the opportunity for camp staff from across Hamilton, Toronto and London conferences to gather for learning, fellowship and networking with key presenters from across Canada and the USA.

### **Norwich United Church Summer Leadership Program**

The Norwich United Church Summer Leadership Program provides opportunities for youth to grow leadership skills such as communication, problem solving, teamwork and adaptability skills, within a Christian context. The secondary goal is to provide a quality, affordable day camp programs within the community. Norwich United Church received a grant to assist with the operation of this program.

### **Women’s Community House**

The Women’s Community House provides emergency housing, second stage housing and transitional support for abused women and children in London, Ontario. The grant was provided to assist with the development of the Concurrent Shelter Child Witness Program. This program is being designed to meet the needs of the client (children and youth) while they are residents of the abused women’s shelter, and provide them the opportunity, in a group setting, to process and understand the violence and abuse that they have witnessed; and to help them identify and express emotions surrounding violence, separation, shame, guilt and/or loss.

We would like to share a few of the wonderful comments that Westminster College Foundation received from some of the 2009 grant benefactors:

*We appreciate Westminster Foundation's support for without it many children would have been unable to attend camp this year.*

*J. Bowman, Vice-Chair Camp KeeMoKee*

*Thanks to the funding received from Westminster College Foundation we were able to provide 34 "at risk" children the opportunity to benefit from the experience of overnight camping. These children were able to learn and play in a safe environment based on the core Y values of honest, respect, responsibility and caring. For many children this is a once in a lifetime opportunity.*

*H. Peever-Bain, Development Officer, YMCA of Western Ontario*

*Because Wellspring London and Region does not receive any type of government funding, donations such as yours have great impact. You are helping many individuals and families who turn to Wellspring for emotional, social, psychological and informational support. These programs are often hard to find or not available elsewhere. Thank you, once again, for continuing to work with Wellspring as we reach out to people living with cancer through their diagnosis, treatment and beyond.*

*J. Meilleur, Director of Development, Wellspring London & Region*

*Please convey our thanks from this congregation and community for the help the foundation has given to us. It is so hard to express what a difference this money has made in the lives of so many people. It is wonderful to know that the few thousands of dollars contributed by this congregation to the building of Westminster College has been multiplied over and over again, and keeps on giving.*

*D. Bowman-Woodall, Norwich United Church Minister*

*On behalf of members of LIRSA, may I express our sincere thanks to everyone at the Foundation for our grant to help refugees with their medical, dental and other health needs. We have already begun our work with Karen families who have visited/will be visiting a dentist for the first time in their lives. Your willingness to help us help others is so much appreciated.*

*P. Rivard, London Interfaith Refugee Sponsorship Alliance*

## **2010 GRANTS**

If you are a charitable organization and your mandate meets with the criteria as set out by Westminster College Foundation and would like to be considered for a grant in 2010, please note the following deadlines:

- Spring Grant Applications must be received no later than March 1, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.
- Fall Grant Applications must be received no later than September 1, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.

For more information about Westminster College Foundation or programs at Westminster College, please contact:

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