



SOROPTIMIST FOUNDATION OF CANADA

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BULLETIN FROM THE CHAIR

September 30, 2015

Volume 11 Issue 15

Announcing Grants For Women Awards 2015

Grants for women applications this year numbered 193 and each of the applications was from an exemplary young woman making the job of the judges very difficult. In spite of the difficulty of the task Aline and Anna and their judges were able to choose 4 exceptional young ladies.

They are:

From the Eastern Canada Region:

ERIN ALBANESE, MA, St. Paul University, Ottawa, Counselling and Spirituality, 2016, worked in youth treatment centre as an addiction counsellor.

GENNA EVELYN, Master of Laws (Fundamental and Collective Rights) Candidate 2016, Faculty of Law, University Laval, LL.B. 2006 University of New Brunswick.

From the Western Canada Region:

THARSINI SIVANANTHOJOTHY, MSc student, School of Public Health, University of Alberta, 2016: BSc (Honours), Department of Biological Sciences, University of Toronto, 2013, During her first year at the School of Public Health, Tharsini co-founded the U. Alberta Jericho Project (UJP) with her colleagues.

ASHLEY MAJOR, University of Toronto, Juris Doctor, 2017, BA Human Justice, University of Regina, 2013. She is studying law and its intersection with women's rights and interests. She will be working in New York this summer, with Human Rights Watch, Women's Rights Division.

SOROPTIMIST FOUNDATION OF CANADA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year, as I am sure you are aware we tried something new. The Soroptimist Foundation of Canada conducted their AGM at Abbotsford, BC in conjunction with the Western Region Leadership Retreat. The result was heart-warming, attendance was very good (around 60) which of course makes more Soroptimists aware of what we do – it was fun and educational for all. Western Region Governor Heather Rollins and Governor Elect Rita MacKenzie put on a wonderful retreat and it was a pleasure to be part of it. The hotel was very comfortable and the meeting room fit the bill well.

The SFC board extend their thanks to Margot Rutherford and Glynda Boucher for their forethought in planning a fundraiser which was conducted during the weekend. Margot and Glynda sold 'squares' for \$5 each raised \$1,000 for the Foundation.

Lisa and Warwick Holland, our financial advisors, attended the AGM and put out a challenge. They donated \$500 and challenged everyone to match donations to a maximum of another \$500 by 6 PM. That challenge raised another \$1,000.

Jayne Carre, SI Edmonton President, presented a cheque of \$5,000 on behalf of SI Edmonton.

Many thanks go to Governor Heather, Governor-Elect Rita and the rest of the WCR Board; Margot and Glynda, Lisa and Warwick, SI Edmonton and everyone that attended this joint partnership experiment - you made the SFC AGM such a success.

GUEST SPEAKER

Sharon Fisher, SI The Langleys, was our guest speaker and Sharon spoke about her experiences speaking at the United Nations and about education of women throughout the world and the fact that there are still individuals vested in blocking that education. Sharon went on to tell everyone about the successes of Raven Bowen, one of our Grants for Women winners from 2011. Raven is off to the University of Durham in England to take her PhD. Thank you Sharon and congratulations to Raven!

BEQUESTS

In her report, treasurer Sheryl Hopkins mentioned that we had received a bequest from the estate of Helen Catherine Gibson in the amount of \$10,000 and that we were expecting a bequest from the estate of Betty Jane Secord. On my arrival home from the AGM, I received a partial payment from her estate in the amount of \$19,666.66. I don't know when the next payment will arrive or if there will be anymore but I will keep you up-to-date. Obituaries for these generous ladies can be found in the Fall 2015 Cornerstone. The Foundation is forever grateful to each and every wonderful woman who has chosen to remember it in their bequests - their generosity will go in perpetuity, helping young women fulfil their educational dreams and making the lives of women and girls better.

CLUB GRANTS

This year, six Club Grants were awarded to clubs in the amount of \$1,000 each and they went to:

1. SI Central Alberta - **The Power of a Girl**
2. SI Calgary - **Live Your Dream Alumni Luncheon Program**
3. SI Edmonton - **Mighty Fingers Facing Change**
4. SI Courtenay - **Yes You Can Mentoring Project: Dream It Be It Career Support For Girls**
5. SI Kawartha Lakes - **Girls on the Run**
6. SI Winnipeg - **For Girls Self-Esteem Forum**

Please remember that the deadline for application for Club Grants is now **June 30, 2016**.

DONATIONS! DONATIONS! DONATIONS!

Donors are the backbone of the Foundation, thank you very much for your support. Without each of you, the Soroptimist Foundation of Canada would not be what it is. Let the SFC be your Charity of Choice.

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