

Volunteer Grandparents' 2008 Annual Report

Message from the President

The past year has been a very exciting and challenging year for Volunteer Grandparents. We were thrilled and honored to be selected as a tenant for the new Holdom Avenue site. Moving from the old Willingdon site required significant effort, but the effort was worth it. Our move is now complete and we are pleased with our IT upgrades, office furniture choices and the overall usability of the new space.

I am pleased to report that we have secured our current funding streams for the near future. One of our goals as we move forward is to add to our funding base. By doing this, we would be able to build upon the wonderful base that has been established by our Program Coordinator.

We have been able to add talented new board members this year and our board membership is now up to eight. I want to thank the board for their dedication and commitment to Volunteer Grandparents and I look forward to working with them. I also want to recognize the great work that our program coordinator, Veronica Grossi, has done. She is a passionate, efficient and effective advocate for the program.

In closing, I want to thank you for your continued commitment to Volunteer Grandparents and I hope that I am able to see you at our AGM on March 24.

Stephen Sjoberg
President, Volunteer Grandparents

Message from the Program Coordinator

I am pleased to present Volunteer Grandparents' Annual Report and audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending December 31st, 2008. With our mission to bridge and enrich the generations, Volunteer Grandparents has continued to focus on growing our community exposure and increasing the number of program participants in 2008.

We anticipate continued growth in 2009. Our priorities, determined by our strategic planning session are the following: exploring new funding streams to increase and stabilize the organization's resource base, continuing to develop social capital both in our staff and volunteers, and ensuring that we are consistently providing high quality and professional core services.

We would like to thank all of the caring and involved individuals, schools and families who contributed so much to the success of our organization. We invite you to come and visit us in our new office location 203- 2101 Holdom Avenue, Burnaby.

Veronica Grossi
Program Coordinator, Volunteer Grandparents

2008 Program Highlights:

- ▶ We served 44 children in our Family Match Program plus countless other children enrolled in elementary schools in the Lower Mainland (involved with our School Match Program).
- ▶ In 2008 we have actively engaged 30 volunteers through placement in the School Grandparent Program, the Family Match Program and our New Horizons for Seniors Program.
- ▶ We dispersed the Mary Florio Bursary to 3 different families involved in our program amounting to a total of \$600. The funds enabled the parents to enrol their children in special classes.
- ▶ Over 85 volunteers, families and members attended our Volunteer Appreciation Picnic August 2008 at Confederation Park.
- ▶ 228 community members participated in activities and presentations hosted by VG in Burnaby, funded by the New Horizon's for Seniors Initiative.



Thank you for Your Support in 2008!

Board of Directors:

We would like to recognize the hard work of Volunteer Grandparents' Board of Directors. A special thank you goes out to the following members:

Stephen Sjoberg - President
Ken Dalla-Zanna - Secretary
Elliot Mak- Treasurer
Roland Kym- Director

Scott Fraser- Director
Woosang Lee- Director
Isabel Kolic - Director
Thomas Liao- Director

Financial supporters in 2008:

Volunteer Grandparents strives to maintain a diverse funding base, and relies on support from individuals, companies, foundations, events, governments and the BC Gaming Commission. We thank the following supporters:

Province of BC- Gaming Policy Branch



New Horizons for Seniors Initiative



HRDC – Summer Student Program

Contributors:

Additionally, the following companies made contributions to our Volunteer Appreciation Events:

- ◆ Canadian Western Bank
- ◆ Costco
- ◆ Festival Vancouver
- ◆ M & M Meat Shops
- ◆ COBS Bread
- ◆ Metropolis at Metrotown
- ◆ PNE- Pacific National Exhibition
- ◆ Electronic Arts in Burnaby
- ◆ Safeway
- ◆ Starbucks
- ◆ Tim Horton's
- ◆ Valley Bakery
- ◆ Wal- Mart
- ◆ Xentel Ticket Donation
- ◆ Vancouver Children's Festival
- ◆ COBS Bread

Our events were more successful because of the support from these companies.

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