



REACH...

For the NEWS

The MFC TURNS 15!

REACH CELEBRATES THE MULTICULTURAL FAMILY CENTRE'S 15th BIRTHDAY AND HONOURS DR. CAROLE CHRISTENSEN

REACH honoured the many contributions of **Dr. Carole Christensen**, our Multicultural Family Centre's founder and mentor, on May 23, 2007. Many of Carole's colleagues at REACH and beyond, family members and community partners came to show their appreciation and to celebrate the work that she has done over the past 15 years.

Carole had a vision to alleviate the many barriers immigrants and refugees face when attempting to access healthcare and other community resources. She has worked hard to develop and maintain the MFC's unique community development approach, which has been so successful in providing culturally appropriate programs and services to local immigrant and refugee communities.

In recognition of Dr. Christensen's work and commitment, REACH Community Centre has named an annual scholarship fund in her name. This \$1,000 gift will be given to a grade 12 student at Britannia Secondary School to further their education. The student will have demonstrated commitment to the community through volunteer work and leadership.



From Left to Right: Comfort Ero, Junior Mansaray, Dr. Carole Christensen, Jenipher Wasike, Thoa Lam, and Patricia Dabiri



Best wishes and thanks to everyone who supports and works so hard to provide the important programs and services of the Multicultural Family Centre. May the programs continue to flourish as the staff and volunteers offer their high level of skills and commitment to the community and beyond!

To read more about what's new at the Multicultural Family Centre, turn to page 3.



Special Acknowledgements

Our heartfelt thanks to the Board of Directors and staff of the **Mrs. & Mrs. P.A. Woodward Foundation** for awarding REACH \$73,000 towards the purchase of a digital x-ray machine and a new hygienist bay, cabinetry and chair. We are so grateful for the confidence and support that the foundation has shown towards the work that REACH does in the community.

The **McLean Foundation**, a foundation located in Toronto, Ontario, generously awarded us \$5,000 to be used toward the purchase of new dental equipment.

DASH BC, a program through the Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance, has contributed \$1,500 towards the purchase of a new microwave, shelving and our first-ever dishwasher. This equipment will serve a number of MFC programs which promote healthy food preparation and eating (the staff is pleased too!).

The **THEONON Foundation** contributed \$3,000 to the Dental Department. This generous gift was made possible by **Dr. Lance Rucker**. Dr. Rucker joined REACH in its earlier days as a well-respected dentist and he continues to be a friend and supporter of REACH.



The Fabulous Fran

Farewell Fabulous Fran...

Wise, inclusive, spontaneous, lovely smile, thoughtful, gracious, raucous laugh, irreverent, great sense of humor...can you guess? Add good listener and articulate to that list and you betcha – it's **Fran Moore**, a woman with admirable traits and abilities.

Fran started at REACH 20 years ago as the coordinator of our Teen Pregnancy Program. When the provincial government added supporting young families to their mandate, Fran held up her Social Work degree and said...Counselor? Yes! Of course. And she has indeed successfully performed that role and much more.

During Fran's time with REACH, she explored many new challenges including receiving her Liberal Arts Degree. In the early years, she took the Changeways Course and facilitated the program at REACH four times a year over 12 years. Fran added her expertise and support to the Parents of Teens group and acted as a representative on the Grandview-Woodlands Area Services Team. In addition to her professional activities, she has served as one of REACH's honorary historians. She has volunteered as a staff member on the Board of Directors, the Negotiating Committee, Hiring Committees and Compensation Review Committee. In short, Fran has become central to REACH's philosophical beliefs and a mainstay for staff on a number of levels.

We know that Fran will be kept busy as she begins a new chapter. A new puppy, **Ceilidh**, is on the horizon to add to Fran's other interests such as gardening, cooking, attending her monthly Book Club, and other creative activities that involve wool, dyes, and knitting and hooking needles. An avid cyclist (with no bicycle in sight), we know that Fran will continue to enjoy life to the fullest as she touches those she meets along the way.

We will miss you, dear Fran, and know that you will relish all the joy, adventure, and laughter that you continue to create. We wish to thank you for all that you have done and contributed to making the special place that REACH is.



What's New in the Multicultural Family Centre?

The African youth Anti-Racism Program, funded by the **Ministry of Attorney General – BCAMP**, is wrapping up. For the past year, the group has been meeting at Hillside Gardens in Burnaby. The youth range from ages 13 – 18 years old. They have worked hard to develop a series of anti-racism workshops and have conducted sessions for youth workers at a number of schools in the lower mainland.



The Youth dance the Gumboots Dance



This Homework Club participant chose his book!

The **Quadra Rotary Club** generously donated over 100 books for children in English, French, Arabic, Somali, Swahili, Urdu and Farsi to the African Children's Homework Club. The **Frontier College** donated a lovely bookshelf to store them on.

The Multicultural Family Centre has been brimming with enthusiastic practicum students since the beginning of this year, developing cross-cultural practice skills and, with their varied backgrounds and experience, enabling the MFC to reach out to more individuals and families. We thank them for sharing their skills and time with us.

Best wishes to **Tanya Matsunaga** (intern from the Multicultural Education Research Institute, Japan), **Ashley de Regil** (UBC, Social Work), **Erin Stearns**, **Janna Cressman** and **Zulma Garcia** (all from Trinity Western), **Stacey Jonas** (University of Victoria, Social Work) and **Patricia Manning** (UBC, Social Work).

Anne Bourke has come to us from the School of Social Work at Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland. At the end of her three month placement, she is leaving the MFC with a greater understanding and appreciation of what immigrants and refugees face when departing their home countries. Her experience at MFC has enhanced her knowledge of working in a culturally-sensitive way and respecting the values and beliefs of immigrants and refugees.

While at MFC, Anne worked with the African Children's Homework Club and African Women's Group. She was responsible for implementing a Citizenship Class where she helped tutor a number of people from Afghanistan, Africa and Latin America to prepare for their exams. The class was not just to learn just about geography and government - Anne started each session by drawing on people's strengths, teaching effective relaxation and listening skills, and by getting to know each person's history and background.

Anne returns to Dublin where she will finish her last two weeks of studies pulling theory and practice together for her Masters in Social Work. She begins work immediately with an organization that provides assistance with Child Protection services. Many thanks to you Anne – we will miss you. Your new employer will benefit greatly by your broad experience and knowledge.



COMINGS AND GOINGS...

We welcome **Jenelle Suson**, medical office assistant. Jenelle will be working with us as the medical front desk three days a week.

Meet REACH's New Counsellor

Dan Kemlo has joined REACH as our new counsellor.

Dan has an extensive background as a counsellor in several different settings and locations including Vancouver and Campbell River (Family Therapist), Edinburgh, Scotland (Social Worker) and in rural Quebec (Instructor in a Counsellor Training Program). Dan has come to REACH after working in private practice for a number of years. He specializes in depression, anxiety, anger management and trauma. He works with individuals, couples and families.

Dan can be seen walking or riding his bike to REACH. He is an outdoors person who loves cross-country skiing in the winter and paddling and swimming in the summer. However, weather doesn't deter Dan, as he can be seen cycling, walking and hiking all year round!

Dan is happy to have the opportunity to work with people who may not be able to afford the cost of counselling in other situations. He looks forward to providing counselling at REACH as part of the community. We are too - a warm welcome to you, Dan.

Can You Help?

REACH's Fund Development Committee has started planning for our fall special event. We are busy forming a special event committee. More details will follow about the date and theme in our next newsletter.

Right now there are a number of ways that you can support this fundraiser and we are asking for your help:

- Plan on attending this years event (October – November) and bring your friends!
- Donate items such as artwork, jewelry, gift certificates or novelty items for the silent auction.
- Give a couple of hours a month of your time by helping the planning committee.

Contact **Tamara Abramson** at (604) 940-1616 or tabram@telus.net if you have an item to donate or if you would like to know more about the event.

Looking for a New Dentist?

Our Dental Clinic provides high quality dental services at a reasonable price

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