

Alberta Adventist Fundraising Schools

News & Notes Update

May 2014

Since we launched the Alberta Adventist Fundraising Schools in January last year, some ambitious projects have made exciting progress. Things are happening around Alberta in Adventist fundraising, and together we're stronger, so keep me posted on what's happening with you and your project. We'll share and learn together!

I look forward to your news!

Lynn



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By The Book: Calgary Central Spanish Applies NAD/PSI Map for Successful Fundraising

Pastor Gardner Bermudez reports that implementing the process outlined in the PSI handbook authored by Dr. Lilya Wagner has really helped focus the vision and energy of his congregation, which has outgrown its present church facility in northeast Calgary.

“We took this model from the NAD training, given by the Alberta Conference to (us) pastors, because the building committee can’t do all the planning,” says Pastor Bermudez. The result has been more widespread support of the fundraising initiative, and the ongoing interest of members in participating.

Fort McMurray’s Renovation Provides New Sabbath School Classrooms

When your church attendance becomes bigger than your sanctuary and building fund can accommodate, you haven’t necessarily hit a brick wall. At least that’s what Pastor David Hamstra discovered when he caught wind of a house trailer that’s since been turned into much needed classroom space by volunteer labour.

The mobile home, which members of the congregation have helped to gut and completely renovate, now houses four classrooms and a storage room, and is connected to the main church building by a short hallway. “It will give us flexibility to start a Kindergarten class, Pastor’s class, and a foreign language class,” says Pastor Hamstra.

The improvements and sweat equity could yield \$20,000-\$40,000 above the cost of renovation when the congregation is ready to build a new church and the trailer is sold. Not a bad return on donated time and skill!

Alberta Adventist Researches Fundraising for Schools

Congratulations to Rob Parker on his new degree – an MA in Administration and Leadership, from La Sierra University. Rob survived being both student and principal/teacher (the latter at Higher Ground Christian School, Medicine Hat) by creatively multitasking: he fulfilled a major class requirement by researching and writing a paper on school fundraising.

“Fundraising Dos and Don'ts” looks at some of the pitfalls as well as successful strategies that schools have employed. Being the information philanthropist that he is, Rob is happy to share what he’s learned. Contact Lynn or Rob (parkerteach1@gmail.com) for a copy of his paper.

Conference Invests in Grant Search Tools to Benefit Churches



The Alberta Conference has invested in an online database of foundations that fund charitable projects. Foundation Search is a “prospect research” tool that provides the funding history, preferences, and contacts of over 10,000 Canadian foundations.

Yes, you can google prospective donors and compile your own list, but this tool collapses days of research into an easy-to-read format to help you determine which prospective donors fit your fund raising project. Foundation Search also lists the specific information a foundation requires be included in any proposal submitted to them. The Conference also subscribes to Big Online—a similar database of corporations that give to charitable causes.

Contact the Director of Planned Giving/Philanthropy, Lynn McDowell, for more info on a search for your project. Ask for the **Four-Step Guidelines** for writing proposals that win friends as well as funding, and keep Conference policy on applying for grants in mind (see **Policy**, next page).

Conference Policy on Grant Proposals

Does your church or school have a project? Then you may be listening with new ears to stories that name organization that has made contributions to similar projects. It's tempting to jump in with a phone call, but that's not always the best approach. **Please remember the Conference Policy is that ALL contact with granting organizations must be coordinated through Lynn McDowell, Director of the Conference's Planned Giving & Trust Services/Philanthropy Office.**

By working together in a co-ordinated way and ensuring that one foundation doesn't get overwhelmed by church applications, we can increase the likelihood of your group receiving a positive response!

Hot Tips: Shop and Share

A free and easy, year-round fundraiser has been created to help Canadian charities and non-profit groups raise much-needed funds.

At www.shopandshare.ca you will find over 200 retailers and travel sites - Sears, The Bay, ToysRUs, iTunes, Amazon to name just a few. Ask your supporters to register on this site, choose your charity and then shop on-line for whatever they would usually purchase at the same price (or possibly less on the 'Specials and Sales' page!)

Purchases are shipped directly from the retailers and Shop and Share takes care of tracking and administration. Once your cumulative donation balance reaches \$25, you are sent a check. The more supporters that participate, the more donations you'll receive. Click on the 'Info for Non-Profits' link at the top of the website to see examples of the potential donations available through the program.

To help you get the word out, the organization has created tools such as pamphlets, flyers, banners, etc. It's a perfect way for your supporters to make their purchases and support your charity at the same time!

Please send comments, questions, and news to:

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