

## SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND

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### What the SCL Foundation intends to do

A number of board members of the Soong Ching Ling Children's Foundation have visited the Hastings Community School, and were most impressed by the students, the after-school programs and the dedication of the Community School Coordinator and staff members of the school. It is the intention of the Foundation that the following actions will be taken:

1. raise funds to provide interim funding to support the hiring of a part-time Family Support Worker;
2. raise public awareness of the situation at the inner-city schools;
3. seek out partners such as the Lions Clubs and Rotary Clubs to provide support to Hastings Community School and possibly to other inner-city schools;
4. continue to monitor and support the Hastings Community School and possibly other inner-city schools.

### What YOU can do to help

You could make a big difference by doing any of the following:

1. make a donation to this project;
2. help us in our effort to raise public awareness;
3. participate in our work on this project by joining a committee or the board of the SCL Foundation.

Please give us a call and let us know how you wish to participate and contribute to this very worthwhile project!

Howard Chu, SCL Foundation Director  
(604) 868-1233, or  
Jennifer Scott, Community School Coordinator  
(604) 713-5268

The Paul and Eileen Lin Scholarship Fund was established in 2001 to help students in needy regions of China to complete senior high school education. We have received tremendous support on this project and donations were received and ear-marked for the endowment fund.

Disbursements to students in Nan Xi High School in An Hui province and two schools in Ning Xia commenced in the 2003-2004 school year. In the current school year, a third school in Inner Mongolia was added to the scholarship program. The funding in each location is 30,000 RMB annually providing assistance to 30 students.

In October 2004, Barbara Tong, our president, and Marian Leung, a board member, visited the Nan Xi High School and the two schools in Ning Xia to meet with the students and review the general effectiveness of the scholarship program. Both Barbara and Marian reported that the scholarship programs are operating up to our expectation, and the feedback from the students and the teachers was very positive. (Note: all travel expenses to the schools were incurred by the board members personally.)

We intend to visit these schools regularly to monitor the success of the scholarship programs. As the fund and income grow, we expect to increase the number of scholarship recipients, either at the existing schools or at new locations.

### Financial Summary

Startup donation from Linbridge Foundation	\$190,000
Donations received 2001-2004	\$180,000
<b>Total funds received</b>	<b>\$370,000</b>

Annual interest income	\$18,000
Annual scholarship disbursement	\$15,000
Number of students assisted annually	90
Assistance per student (1,000 RMB)	\$166

# THE SOONG CHING LING CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION OF CANADA



## REPORT ON PROJECTS



Hastings Community School  
And  
Scholarship Endowment Fund

# THE HASTINGS COMMUNITY SCHOOL PROJECT

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Over the years, the Soong Ching Ling Children's Foundation has worked towards improving the lives of children through a number of projects, both in China and in Canada. The latest project undertaken by the Foundation is to provide funding to hire a part-time Family Support Worker at the Hastings Community School. This position is desperately needed to provide support to Chinese speaking families, mostly new immigrants to Canada, in developing connections to the community and adapting to a new education environment for the parents and the students.

## Hastings Community School

The Hastings Community School is one of the schools designated by the Vancouver School Board as an inner-city City School. This designation is given to schools located in low-income neighbourhoods where students and families usually require additional support to reach their potential both socially and academically.

Among the 680 students at Hastings School (Kindergarten to Grade 7) and 150 students at Tillicum Annex (Kindergarten to grade 4), more than 50% of the school population speaks English as a second language, and about 41% of the students speaks Chinese as a first language.

The Hastings Community School is faced with many more problems in addressing the needs of the students compared with other schools. The school is located in a neighbourhood with a high crime rate, many of the students come from families with limited financial resources, but most significantly, the students come from very diverse backgrounds which places additional demands on the type and level of care not faced by other schools.

## Students' Family Background

Approximately 19% of the students come from single parent families. Many of the students' families struggle with limited financial resources, parenting and social skills.

Struggling to adapt to a new environment, with language barriers and a lack of understanding of the Canadian society and systems, the new immigrant families in this neighbourhood quite often experience stress and breakdown of the family relationship. Conflicts in the family often occur from the changing roles between the father and the mother and between the parents and the students in a new society.

## Work of the Community School Coordinator

Through the many after-school programs organized by the Community School Coordinator and some full-time and part-time staff members, the school strives to create a "Web-of-Care" which aims to support a child's social, emotional and physical well-being and, on a limited basis, extend the support to include the family. The reason for extending the support to the family is that the after-school experience of the student greatly affects the student's performance at school, even though support to the student's family is not a responsibility of the school.

Due to a shortage of funds required to maintain the essential programs, and to provide a minimum level of care to a large student populace, the Community School Coordinator has to spend approximately 25% of her time on fundraising.

## The After-School Programs

There are at present 55 programs including 31 programs for children, 8 programs for parents and 16 programs for the family. These programs operate under the supervision of the Counseling Services Team (CST), comprising the Community School Co-

ordinator, a Counselor, a Youth and Family Worker, a Neighbourhood Assistant, a First Nations Support worker, the Principal and the Vice Principal. Due to funding curtailment by the Ministry of Children and Family Development, the position of a Chinese speaking Family Advancement Worker who was a member of CST and working full time at the Hastings Community School was eliminated in 2004.

The Community School Coordinator and the other members on the Counseling Services Team are primarily responsible for the design and development of these innovative programs to reach out to the more vulnerable and at-risk children and their families. These programs have been proven highly effective in improving the behaviour and academic achievement of these children through encouragement of pro-social behaviour, respect for self and others, celebration of achievement and meaningful roles for students.

## Funding Shortfall for the Programs

The current Provincial Government has adopted a mandate to reduce government spending and taxes. As a result, public services have been affected. While the Ministry of Education, the Vancouver School Board and the Ministry of Children and Family Development are all very aware of and recognize the need of the inner-city schools and the importance of children's development, some funding reduction still occurred.

There is a need to educate both the government and the public that additional assistance to the inner-city schools is greatly needed. The funding curtailment and the lack of help could be attributed to an oversight by both the government and the public in not recognizing that schools such as the Hastings Community School are in a unique situation and deserve extra help.