



SCOTTISH RITE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
VALLEY LIAISON COMMITTEE



As part of our on-going efforts to keep our Scottish Rite brethren informed of what is happening within the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation, I would like to share, and request that you also share with your membership by reading this at upcoming meetings, the following views expressed by Thelma Gregan, Director of the Halifax Learning Centre. These sentiments were included in the summer Newsletter distributed by the Halifax Centre at the end of July. It is entitled “Planting Seeds”.

Someone’s sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.” A quote from Warren Buffet.

We’re experiencing quite a heat wave right now so thinking about sitting in the shade is an inviting place to begin a summer reflection.

This quote has led me to reflect upon the many seeds that have been planted within our community, the growth we have experienced and all that is yet to come.

I love to hear, and to share, the story of the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation and the seeds that are planted through that body, every year. The Foundation, established in 1964, has concentrated its efforts in the support of research into the causes and cures of “puzzles of the mind” – particularly as they impact children and persons of advanced years (in the form of Alzheimer’s Disease). Each year, the Foundation awards half a million dollars in research grants and graduate student awards in support of studies that impact this area. Great things have grown from this arm of the Foundation’s work!

In 2003, the Foundation began a pilot project: a Learning Centre for Children with dyslexia in London, Ontario. From that seed, have grown eight other centres – from Halifax to Vancouver. Our Centre opened in September, 2006 with seven tutors and seven children. Today there are 40 tutors and close to 60 children. Our “family” has grown to include a rich assortment of people: volunteers who support the work of the tutors in our reception area, families from our waiting list who participate in events and educational opportunities, professionals from the community who share their expertise – and learn from ours, and a variety of contributors and promoters who quietly share financial support and stories of our work.

Our tutors plant seeds with children every day. Some of these grow quickly while others require time, patience, nurture and care. The results, though, can take your breath away!

Sowing and growing – there’s lots more to come! It’s exciting to contemplate what the future holds. Take time to do some dreaming during the holidays.

I hope that this summer is bringing you all that you need: times of rest and renewal; companionship and solitude; adventure and excitement... and moments that take your breath away!

The Board of Directors of the Foundation join Thelma in sending along our best wishes for our members during this past summer. We hope you had time to dream and that each of you will consider planting seeds in your Valley and in your community. The Learning Centres need our support in many ways as outlined by Thelma. Perhaps you can begin by providing your financial support through the use of the blue envelope. For more information be sure to check out the Foundation website at www.srcf.ca.

Ron Findlater, 33°
Valley Liaison Chairman