

Jane Tyler Legacy Fund

Summer Newsletter 2015

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your foundational support of the Jane Tyler Legacy Fund.

Since we launched the fund in 2012, generous donors like you have enthusiastically participated in our annual Wine Draw, our Mother's Day Panel and dinner, and a joyful house concert by Juno award winner Shari Ulrich. This summer, the JTLF plans another house concert, an evening of poetry and music in East Vancouver. We hope you enjoy this short update from us and that you have a wonderful summer.

Victory for Parents on Social Assistance

In March 2015, the Liberal Government of BC announced a significant policy change that finally will permit parents on social assistance to pursue educational studies without losing their benefits.

The new *Single Parent Employment Initiative* comes into effect September 2015. The government policy promises that it "...will help single parents secure a meaningful job by allowing them to stay on assistance for up to 12 months while they train for their new job. Single parents on income and disability assistance will also have access to tuition and education costs for approved training programs that last up to 12 months for in-demand job, transportation costs to and from school, and full coverage of child-care costs during training."

After almost three years' of lobbying efforts for such a change, JTLF and other agencies concerned with women's and children's poverty (such as First Call BC) celebrated the new policy. Prior to the policy change, full-time students had been ineligible for income assistance since 1997. Anyone on assistance with a

The policy change means we can finally offer our bursary to women! Until now, policy prevented anyone on social assistance from pursuing the educational opportunity that might get him or her into a job. Also, anyone on assistance would also have had any substantial cash gifts clawed back from their assistance cheque. Until this policy change, our Fund was completely blocked. We did, however, keep fundraising and kept up our lobbying efforts. We met with MLAs and participated in public forums, and we think we may have had at least a small impact on this policy change. We are very glad to see the current government provide some support to women like my mom.

Gale Tyler, JTLF Founder

child over the age of three was expected be available to accept a job, so they were essentially prohibited from taking courses. The policy change will provide for at least a small number of the 16,000 single parents (mostly mothers) on social assistance to access educational programs. Of course there are restrictions on the types of programs one can pursue, and the maximum length of program to be funded is 12 months. As the practicalities of the policy are realized, JTLF members are optimistic that there is a role for us to play in assisting at least one woman to pursue her goals. 2015 shall see the first award of the JTLF Bursary.

About the Jane Tyler Legacy Fund

Jane Tyler found herself poor, unskilled, and raising two children alone after divorcing in the 1940s. With the financial support of friends, Jane was able to pursue her Early Childhood Educator diploma, and to sustain herself and her children.

The Jane Tyler Legacy Fund provides grants for bursaries for women who are single mothers on social assistance to pursue a post secondary education at a community college, university or equivalent educational institution who show a demonstrated financial need, scholastic potential, and evidence of a commitment to pursue post secondary education.

JTLF is a small volunteer-run organization that exists solely to administer bursaries, raising funds and lobbying where required.

We thank you for your support

Contact Us!

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Email us to receive invitations to our upcoming events:

janetylerlegacyfund@gmail.com

<http://vancitycommunityfoundation.ca>

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Jane Tyler Legacy Fund

I would like to donate to help a mother on social assistance pursue her educational goals. A cheque for the Jane Tyler Legacy Fund is enclosed in the amount of:

\$20 \$50 \$100 \$ _____

Please make your cheque payable to: Vancity Community Foundation.
Add a note with the name of the Jane Tyler Legacy Fund.

Or visit http://vancitycommunityfoundation.ca/s/donate_now.asp

You may also donate directly from your Vancity VISA or Vancity account, or donate your Vancity Visa Rewards Plus points