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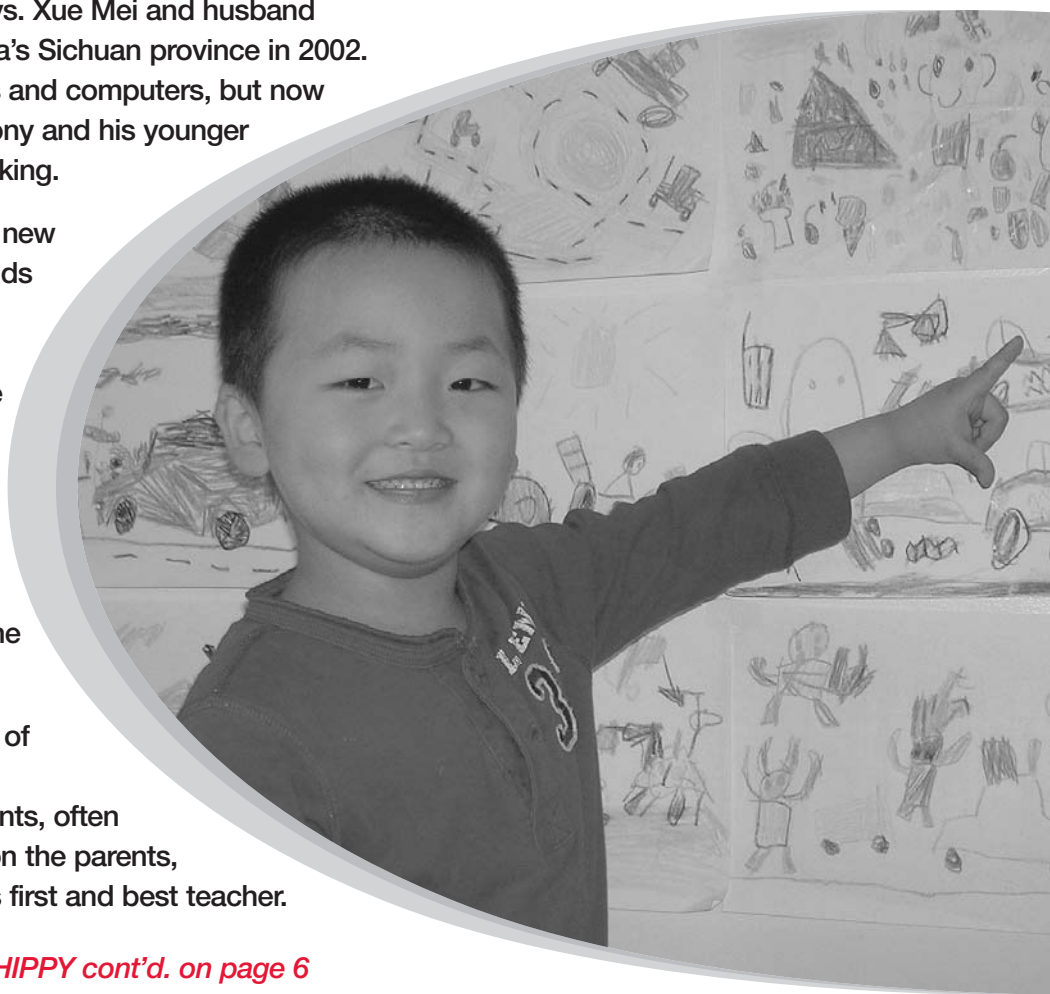
Fall 2008

HIPPY helps kids be ready for school

Four-year-old Tony points proudly to his colourful drawings. Crayoned cars, trucks and Transformers fill the wall in his family's apartment near Second Narrows Bridge in East Vancouver. "He loves to draw," mom Xue Mei says. Xue Mei and husband Aikun moved to Vancouver from China's Sichuan province in 2002. Xue Mei has a degree in mathematics and computers, but now she's a full-time mom, looking after Tony and his younger sister, Anika while her husband is working.


Settling into Vancouver is not easy for new immigrants, she says, and when the kids are young and mothers have to stay home, it's often boring and lonely. Many immigrants can't afford daycare or kindergarten, and lack of English language skills and cultural differences can make it hard for their kids to fit in when they start kindergarten. Xue Mei wants to make sure that Tony is not one of them. So she signed up with the HIPPY program.

HIPPY - Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters - aims to help disadvantaged children and their parents, often immigrant families. HIPPY's focus is on the parents, believing that the parents are a child's first and best teacher.



HIPPY cont'd. on page 6

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A lifetime of caring

For close to 50 of her 93 years, Muriel Webster has dedicated herself to helping others by supporting United Way.

In 1949, while raising two young children and working as a nurse at various Vancouver hospitals she began volunteering with the Community Chest, a community collective that became part of United Way in the 1970s. "I saw the need of it," she explains. "At the hospital, I saw so many people in need."

Her first experience involved taking people on tours of the Gospel Mission and other agencies to see the problems faced by many residents and the homeless.

When her family moved to Ottawa, she continued to volunteer and in 1962 she became residential chairman of Ottawa's Community Chest. She continued to help out for many years. For decades after she volunteered for United Way and its former organizations, such as the Red Feather, Community Chest and United Appeal.

Muriel credits her parents – especially her mother – with fostering the desire to help in her early years. "My parents always took care of other people in so many ways. I think that is why it gave me the feeling I wanted to help people," she recalls.

Muriel is not alone in her desire to help others and to create a safe, supportive community. In 2006, just over 700,000 British Columbians donated over \$1.2 billion dollars to charity¹ and approximately 12 million Canadians did some form of volunteering² totaling almost two billion hours, which was equivalent to one million full-time jobs. On average, volunteers contributed 168 hours each. Many in the Lower Mainland, like Muriel, donate through United Way and are helping to create a healthy, caring, inclusive community.

"I find that you can never give as much as you get. It's a most fulfilling thing, helping people," says Muriel.

¹ *The Daily*, November 1, 2007, *Statistics Canada*
<http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/071101/d071101c.htm>

² *The Daily*, June 5, 2006 *Statistics Canada*
<http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/060605/d060605a.htm>



Do you have a story to share?

Please let us know how long you've been giving to United Way across Canada by making a note on your pledge card. If you'd like to share your story about giving or volunteering with United Way, please contact Sheila Wex at 604.294.8929, local 2236.

Success Depends on All of Us - Recognizing Leaders in our Community

The following donors were inadvertently omitted from our recent publication, Success Depends on All of Us - Recognizing Leaders in our Community. These donors, along with thousands of others, share United Way's vision of a healthy, caring, inclusive community. We are proud to recognize these Pioneers who made personal contributions of \$2,500-\$4,999 in 2007.

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2008 Fundraising Campaign Kicks Off

September 10 United Way of the Lower Mainland officially launched the 2008 fundraising campaign with a goal of \$32.9 million, the dollars required to invest in programs and services to achieve lasting change in our community. The 2008 Campaign Kick-Off was presented by Coast Capital Savings.



Left to right: Lloyd Craig, President and CEO of Coast Capital Savings; Buzz Bishop from 95 Crave; Jamie Pitblado, Vice President, Promotions and Community Investment for The Vancouver Sun and The Province; Pamela Martin, United Way Campaign Cabinet Co-chair and CTV News at Six Anchor; Surrey Mayor Dianne Watts; United Way Board Vice Chair, Lydia Drasic; Yuri Fulmer, President and CEO of Mr. Mikes Restaurants and United Way Campaign Cabinet Co-chair; United Way President and CEO Michael McKnight; and, Mark Madryga, Senior Meteorologist at Global News

HIPPY cont'd. from page 1

“With HIPPY, he’ll be ready for school. And HIPPY is not just good for kids, it’s good for the parents,” says Xue Mei, who has found her own English language skills are improving with the program.

The free educational program was brought to Canada nearly 10 years ago. Community Innovation Grant funding from United Way in the initial stages helped get the program off the ground. United Way Community Innovation Grants are distributed once

a year to organizations working to develop, test and support new ideas and innovative projects. This year United Way is funding 28 projects throughout the region for a total of \$728,347.

Today, HIPPY Canada helps between 80 to 95 families in the Lower Mainland, and about 350 families across the country at any one time.

Building an age-friendly future

It was supposed to be a routine check-up, but when 77-year-old Port Coquitlam resident Bill visited his doctor a few months ago he received a shock. “She told me I was diagnosed as having Alzheimer’s. You could have knocked me down with a feather,” says Bill, a gregarious man with the knack of pulling people together.

It’s Thursday morning and Bill and six other men and three women are busy playing bingo. Bill meets twice a week with nine other Tri-Cities seniors with mild dementia at the brand-new Glen Pine Pavilion in Coquitlam. The new Tri-Cities Leisure Connections program is organized by the Wilson Centre Seniors Advisory Association in collaboration with the City of Coquitlam, City of Port Coquitlam and community partners and is funded in part by United Way.

“A lot of them are quite isolated,” says therapeutic recreation practitioner Vicki Robertson. “It has brought them out of their shells, and they’ve formed their own social group.” Robertson along with another staff member and several trained volunteers run the program.

Dealing with issues like social isolation and disabilities related to aging define some of the most important challenges and opportunities confronting our society. By 2021, the seniors’ population in the Lower Mainland will have doubled to almost half a million people. To build an age-friendly future United Way has made seniors one of its priority investment areas and is taking a lead role in bringing these issues to the table.

United Way will host a Seniors Forum in November to assess and discuss the state of seniors’ services in our community. Core issues to be considered include: availability of outreach services; availability of housing options that allow older people to remain in their communities; our readiness for older immigrants and newcomers.

United Way is focused on working with partners to support an active aging agenda and to ensure that seniors have the opportunity to remain independent and contributing to our community.

Seniors Learning Summit

Presented by:



*Monday, November 17, 2008
Hilton Vancouver Metrotown
6083 McKay Avenue, Burnaby*

Please see www.uwlm.ca for more information.



United Way Night with the BC Lions

Have a night of fun while supporting United Way! Join us for the BC Lions vs Toronto Argonauts game at 7:00 PM, Saturday, October 25, 2008 at BC Place. Buy a \$20 ticket with \$5 from every ticket purchased being donated to United Way.

To order the United Way special ticket offer, contact Justin McIntyre of the BC Lions at 604.661.3612.

*Seating available on a first-come first-served basis and includes service charges and GST. (Ticket value \$28)



Thursday, February 26, 2009 Program: 7:15 am
The Westin Bayshore Vancouver

Tickets: \$25 per person.

Tickets available January 2009.

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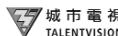


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