

It's that time of year again! United Ways across the province have kicked-off their annual fall campaign to raise funds for the community. Success By 6 would like to celebrate our United Way partners and share some local stories provided by our Coordinators about the support and teamwork that they have experienced with their local United Way.

United Ways – success stories from around BC

Central Vancouver Island

Lynne Brown of the United Way of Central Island has been supportive of two of our five Community Early Years tables. As two of our five Central Island communities were very young and had very new/young early years tables we recognized the need to support them. Lynne has continued to support the initiative and has dedicated her time to steering committees for both communities. She has been an asset in our development of strategic plans – terms of reference etc. With a unique perspective on process and human relations she has worked with me to increase collaboration and capacity which has resulted in numerous successes for our communities – including a \$750,000 one-time funding opportunity from MCFD - a direct result of encouraging two service providers to collaborate and apply for the funds.

-- submitted by Shelley Anderson, Success By 6 Central Island

Merritt

On May 24, 2008, Merritt held an all-day youth celebration at the park. Every school attended, as well as some of the daycares and parents with their young children. Success By 6 sponsored the children's entertainer for the morning and had an awareness booth and a fish pond for all children under six. United Way in Kamloops supplied balloons and magnets, as well as a youth funding grant to support the food and youth volunteer t-shirts. On top of the great donations, Brenda Aynsley, Executive Director for the Thompson Nicola Cariboo United Way, and her staff member Francy Hayward, came in for the afternoon to see the event and share a few encouraging words with event organizers. As usual, Brenda was motivational and positive about the event. We have a fantastic United Way!!!

-- submitted by Cheryl McDonald, Success By 6 Merritt

South Peace

Our local United Way encouraged us to book Robert Munsch for our recent community concert and fundraiser. We were very skeptical and hesitant, but their support and contribution helped us through. As it turns out, the concert was a success, building community capacity and involving a wealth of partners. Numerous organizations that traditionally were involved with our United Way pitched in, along with volunteers and \$\$\$ to allow for tickets to be available to under-privileged families. It was also the first concert at our new multiplex, and brought together over 2500 people, which is a first in our town's history. We made a profit from the event, and we owe it to the insistence and support of our United Way.

-- submitted by Heidy Kux-Kardos, Success By 6 South Peace



United Ways – success stories cont'd

North Peace

The Prince George United Way is just wonderful. The staff provides tremendous support to all of the Success By 6 initiatives across the north. The investment committees are encouraged to use the community ECD research that has been conducted to help make their funding decisions. I sit on the Fort St. John investment committee. This increases communication among the two funding bodies, reduces duplication and helps strengthen partnerships. One example of this is the approach we have taken to help our WOW (Words on Wheels) Bus move towards a position of strength and sustainability by combining SB6 funds and United Way community funds.

Trevor Williams has been creative about utilizing his resources to maximize their impact. The United Way is recognized during our radio campaign in each of the six daily messages throughout the month of April. I believe this also benefits their [United Way's] regular campaign and it certainly increases their profile in the community. In addition, being able to say, in our fundraising efforts, that charitable donation tax receipts will be issued by United Way increases our credibility and makes us look more accountable to donors.

-- submitted by Lynn Locher, Success By 6 North Peace

North Okanagan

Our United Way board members volunteered for the fourth year in a row to review our SB6 community applications. They were experienced in the language of the proposals and took a keen interest in following up with the activities and local events. As well, the executive director came to our year end celebration for the Council of Partners and joined in on the drumming (team building) fun. The admin support is always on top and on time with having contracts signed and cheques in the mail. Our United Way is integral in our SB6 projects. I would give them a "Three cheers – Hip hip hooray"!

-- submitted by Sue Rossi, Success By 6 North Okanagan, Columbia, Shuswap

Terrace

Prince George United Way and Trevor in particular have been outstanding in supporting SB6 North West, through the rigours of getting contracts signed and clarifying what needs to be in place for communities unused to this kind of contracting. Given that PGUW has little or no presence in most of the communities in our initiative, it's safe to say we wouldn't have any of our projects/coordinators in place but for their willingness to go more than the extra mile for very little recognition.

– submitted by Brenda Sissons, Success By 6 North West – Terrace and area



Continued investment supports young children and families in communities around BC

The Early Childhood Development Provincial Partnership (ECDPP) is pleased to announce that the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) has made a further investment in BC children through a grant of \$5 million to Success By 6® in BC. This investment provides critical support for building healthy child and family friendly communities throughout BC.

"The ministry is focused on strengthening and maintaining programs that prevent vulnerability and promote well-being in our children," said Children and Family Development Minister Tom Christensen. "Success By 6 is a valuable early childhood development initiative that provides opportunities to prepare children for school while providing families with resources they may not otherwise be able to access."

Established in 2003, Success By 6 is comprised of a partnership between the BC Government through MCFD, Credit Unions of BC and United Ways. The initiative is dedicated to ensuring that children ages 0 to 6 have access to programs and supports that help ensure healthy growth and development. Success By 6 mobilizes resources to invest in prevention-focused early childhood programs and services. Funded programs include early learning and literacy, nutrition, children's play, outreach programs, parenting and family skills development.

"Today in the province of BC, children 0-6, families and communities have a great reason to celebrate. This funding sustains our work to ensure children, under age six, have access to programs that support their healthy growth and development," said Kim Lockhart, Vice President of United Way Canada and Chair of the ECDPP.

Success By 6 is now active in 220 communities and funds over 440 programs throughout the province. A portion of this year's funding will be directed to further development of the Success By 6 Aboriginal Engagement Strategy introduced in 2006. The strategy focuses on having dedicated Aboriginal coordinators work with Aboriginal communities to help support culturally relevant programs and raise awareness about the importance of early childhood development.

"Our future depends on how we support our children today," said Deb Bryant, B.C.'s Provincial Manager for Success By 6. "We know that each child has tremendous potential and I believe children are entitled to our care and assistance to help them reach that potential. Success By 6 plays an important role in providing that support."



Michael McKnight, Ron Cantalon, Tom Christensen, Kim Andres.



Kim Andres, Shelley Anderson, Deb Bryant, Tom Christensen, Marcia Dawson & Michael McKnight.

Thank you to the Snuneymuxw First Nation

Thank you to the Snuneymuxw First Nation and to Nancy Seward for hosting the 2008 Success By 6 Renewal Announcement.

Through funding from Success By 6, the Snuneymuxw First Nation hosts an annual celebration for their children. We were delighted and honored to have been part of their celebration and to witness the tremendous work that is happening in our communities and for our children.

Special thanks to Shelley Anderson and Katie McLaughlin for helping plan and coordinate the event.



Celebrating 5 years of service with the ECDPP



Success By 6 would like to thank Loreen O'Byrne, former Director, Early Years Branch, Ministry of Children and Family Development and Early Childhood Development Provincial Partnership (ECDPP) member.

Loreen participated on the ECDPP from its beginnings in 2003 to her retirement from government earlier this year. She brought valuable insight and perspective in the area of her ministry's role in early childhood development and prevention, as well as the issues facing individuals, communities and the province as a whole. We appreciate that Loreen was able to commit time and energy to Success By 6 given her demanding position with the Early Years Branch. She has been known to call Success By 6 her "happy place".

The ECDPP and the Provincial Implementation Team extend their very best wishes to Loreen for her future and their thanks for her contribution to Success By 6 and children in BC.