

## Diocese of Ottawa Unit Newsletter January 2015

### Primate's World Relief and Development Fund

#### Happy 2015!

We all need to thank Judy Oatway, our newsletter editor and the authors of the articles that follow in our PWRDF Diocesan newsletter. They describe the amazing and creative ways our parishes are supporting PWRDF. Thanks too, to all the people in parishes around the diocese who have accepted the role of being a parish representative for the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund. And we also want to thank parish leaders for being open to supporting PWRDF as its important outreach ministry.

The most important role PWRDF representatives play, I believe, is to raise awareness of the issues of the most vulnerable around the world. By telling stories about people whose lives have been changed by PWRDF projects, we engage hearts and minds and build connections in our communities that can effect change.

#### What's Happening in the Diocese:

PWRDF's **Lent 2015** resource is available for individual or group Lenten daily study. It encourages people to pray, act and give in ways which will connect you with the related issues and programmes PWRDF supports to food security. Jane Maxwell from St. John's the Evangelist in Ottawa has written one of the Good News Stories. It is available to order or to download at <http://pwrdf.org/resources/annual-resources/>

**Feb 10** - The First Nations Child and Family Caring Society invites you to celebrate Have a Heart Day on Parliament Hill at 10:15-11:15, to support culturally based equity for First Nations children.

OR Hold a **Valentine's Day Party** in your parish to learn about First Nations education, support them by sending a Valentine's Day card or letter to the Prime Minister and your Member of Parliament, or by spreading the word through social media like YouTube, Twitter, and Facebook. More ideas, poster, and resources at <http://www.fncaringsociety.com/have-a-heart>

**April 18** is our next PWRDF workshop for parish reps and people interested in their work! We will be looking at Food Security-global issues and local opportunities including food insecurity in the North.

**May 2**, PWRDF collaborates with the Peacemaking Centre to present a session at the Congregational Resource Day about Education in First Nations' communities and the mission of school children across Canada to make this happen- Shannen's Dream! Please sign up!

**May 31**, the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission will be released in Ottawa. The National Church and our Diocese are planning some great events to be in solidarity with Aboriginal peoples! Stay tuned!

We have speakers available to visit your parishes to talk about PWRDF, its food security campaign or to hear about Jane Maxwell's adventures volunteering with a PWRDF partner in Sri Lanka! Jane has kindly agreed to speak on her 6 month assignment! Please email [pwrdf@ottawa.anglica.ca](mailto:pwrdf@ottawa.anglica.ca)

Thanks for being an advocate for the most vulnerable and a supporter of PWRDF's vision-

A truly just, healthy, and peaceful world!

Valerie Maier and the Ottawa PWRDF Working Group

**Salute to our rain soaked Ride for Refuge Participants!** By Philippa Wilson (PWRDF Working Group)



*Team PWRDF Ottawa before the ride: Rob Garcia, Rev. Karen Coxon, Anton (Tony) Lovink, Valerie Maier, Charles Maier, Philippa Wilson, Marilyn Brownlee, Eileen Mortimer (missing Henry Troup and Shalini Rafael)*

Over the summer of 2014 we had heard from the staff at PWRDF that they were going to participate in the Ride for Refuge – bicycle rides across Canada and the USA raising funds for charities. Not too surprising that this would grasp the attention of our PWRDF staff in Toronto when we remember that Suzanne Rumsey is an avid cyclist. Our staff team would be riding in Toronto and Carolyn Vanderlyp was leading a team in Hamilton. The challenge was out to PWRDF supporters across the country to join this fundraising campaign. Team PWRDF was raising funds to support our partners The Canadian Foodgrains Bank and Finn Church Aid with their programs assisting Sudanese refugees

How could we resist. The Ottawa ride was being held in Kanata, my very own neighbourhood, and Charles and Valerie Maier are fit having walked the Camino Trail not just once but twice. We didn't aim high. Our goal was to raise \$1,000 not sure how many would support us but knowing that any money raised was going to multiply four times as the Sudanese program was a recipient of matching funds from the Canadian Government.

October 4 dawned wet and cold. Nonetheless Team PWRDF Ottawa turned out. Three of us were not able to ride on the day but still were there to support our hardy team members. First off the start line was Karen Coxon riding the 10 km. Tony, Valerie, Charles and Rob cycled the 25 km route and Henry Troup the 50 km route. All returned soaking wet. Shalini, knowing her limitations as a cyclist, was there helping the volunteers of Ride for Refuge Ottawa to provide sustenance to the cyclists after their ride. PWRDF Team Ottawa raised \$3,570, 357% of our goal. Overall PWRDF had 10 teams riding in 10 locations from coast to coast with 40 riders with a combined total exceeding \$18,515.

**Thank you so much to our cyclists and everyone who made donations or sent notices to support our team. Your contributions will truly change the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in this world.**

A note from Carolyn Vanderlyp, Director, Canadian Anglican Partnership Program commenting on the Sudanese crisis: *"...over the next few months, a million children will require treatment for acute malnutrition. 2.5 million people are predicted to be at crisis or emergency levels of food shortage from January to March 2015. Many of those who are displaced by violence are small-scale farmers who depend on growing their own food in order to survive. Now living in refugee camps and host communities far from their farms, they are unable to plant their crops. Soon they won't be able to feed their families. Your support... will provide desperately needed food aid for internally displaced people in Mundry West County, South Sudan"*

For more information:

<http://pwrdf.org/2014/ride-for-refuge-coast-to-coast/>

<http://pwrdf.org/2014/pwrdf-launches-400000-food-project-in-south-sudan/>



## ***Some Like it Hot!***

### **St John's South March Celebrates PWRDF and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mark of Mission**

**By Barbara Apro, St John's South March Communications**

On October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014, St John's South March celebrated its 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Primate's World Relief and Development Fund Sunday. Inspired by the Third Mark of Mission – *Responding to Human Need by Loving Service*, and the "Fredism" *Some Like it Hot*, this year's plans began to take shape over the summer. When Primate Fred Hiltz preached at St John's 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary service in June, his commitment to and passion for the Marks of Mission were clear.

So inspired was Laura Hawley, St John's Music Director and Parish of March Youth Choir Director, that she has launched a *Marks of Mission* Music Series – a series of five events that will each speak to one of the *Marks of Mission*. Beginning with *Responding to Human Need by Loving Service*, the PWRDF initiative to provide 2,000 Haitian students with hot lunches every day, for a year – was adopted. The PWRDF works with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and FinnChurch Aid to provide hot lunches for students in areas most affected by the 2010 earthquake. Since the program's inception, the PWRDF has been able to feed nearly 8,000 students, measurably increasing school enrollment and the academic performance of students. Please see [www.fredsays.ca/Some Like it Hot](http://www.fredsays.ca/Some Like it Hot) for full details.

At a Visioning Day held nine years ago, St John's South March adopted the goal: *to make the Primate's World Relief & Development Fund a priority in the life of our church*. Parish PWRDF Representatives identified shortly following that visioning day – Peter Murphy and Rob Apro – continue to publicise the activities of the PWRDF within our parish, manage the provided resource materials, support an annual PWRDF Sunday, and sell Christmas cards each year.

In the Diocese of Ottawa, we are truly blessed to have a wealth of committed, passionate and knowledgeable speakers available from the Diocesan Committee. This year St John's welcomed Shalini Raphael and Valerie Maier to speak during the worship service. They delivered an informative talk about global food security and PWRDF's impact through its partners.

At the beginning of the service, the *Service of the World* provided in the PWRDF resources, the Rev. Pat Blythe welcomed the children of the Sunday School and related a story of friends helping each other to eat. In Sunday School, the children continued with the themes of helping and empathy, hearing the story "The Good Garden", about a child in Honduras learning from her teacher new methods to tend her family's garden. The children also made a display for the lunch to follow.

Following the service, the celebration continued with the music program prepared especially by Laura Hawley and presented jointly by St John's Choir and the Parish of March Youth Choir. The uplifting music selections – from the Traditional African *Siyahamba* to *Uma Familia*, by J. Althouse – created a spirit of celebration. The Youth Choir is the result of a GIFT Grant from the Diocese of Ottawa.

Following the concert, the congregation was invited to lunch, inspired by the menu of Haitian school children – rice with a variety of bean dishes (some spicy; some not!), and fruit & veg on the side.

Not only was awareness fostered of the Third Mark of Mission – *Responding to Human Need by Loving Service*, but the concert and lunch raised over \$800 for the PWRDF through a free-will offering. In her congratulations to the choirs for their performances, Laura wrote: "I've had so much positive feedback [from the congregation] on how moving the music was, and I hope you all feel very satisfied and proud of the wonderful artistry and expression of love and outreach that we shared together on Sunday. I think it was a very moving and meaningful concert, which is a testament to the commitment each of us had to the vision and spirit of the event."



## **From Truth and Reconciliation**

### **The Covenant Chain Link V Event**

By Janyce Elser-Ethier (PWRDF Working Group)

It was a damp Friday evening and I was lost, looking for the location for the Covenant Chain Link V event to attend the opening presentation on education by Dr. Anita Olsen-Harper. I arrived in time to enjoy most of Dr. Olsen-Harper's presentation.

The next morning we enjoyed a presentation by an articulate and passionate group of elementary school students about their participation in the equal education opportunities for all Canadian children program, called Shannen's Dream, launched by Attawapiskat education crusader, Shannen Koostachin. After a few traditional Metis stories, we broke into our workshops, where I learned that, unlike the current provincial education model with its depressingly high rates of Indigenous high school dropouts, the education system at the Kitigan-Zibi Reserve near Manawaki, P.Q. regularly turns out graduate students, who return, degrees in hand, to help their communities thrive. The difference for the Indigenous students and their families between the two education models is that the Kitigan-Zibi students are able to remain in their communities to complete high school and they are educated in a system, which embraces and values their Indigenous culture.

The day ended even more positively with a workshop led by Viola Thomas of Reconciliation Canada, the independent agency striving to take Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians from the truth telling witness of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission (TRC) into right relations. Ms. Thomas advised that the agency is working at the grassroots level to create events and activities to mark the closing of the TRC and to bring the TRC's recommendations into everyday Canadian life.

## Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF)

By Marjory Patterson (PWRDF Rep for St. Matthew's, Ottawa)

On Sunday November 9<sup>th</sup> 2014, Valerie Maier, the Ottawa PWRDF Diocesan Representative and her husband, Charles, generously hosted a tea at their home and welcomed Alison and Chris Longson from Calgary. Alison is the Diocesan PWRDF Representative for Calgary and Chris has just retired from the Board of PWRDF after serving for nine years.

Over the years, Alison and Chris have had the opportunity to visit several PWRDF projects in Africa. Their most recent trip took them to South Africa where they visited three long-standing and successful projects supported by PWRDF: *Temba House*, *Keiskamma* and the *John Wesley Community Centre*. In an informative presentation they shared some of their impressions and experiences and brought to life some stories for us, which we, as PWRDF supporters don't always get to hear.

These three PWRDF projects are in the very poorest areas of South Africa. All three are community based organizations started and run by South Africans in response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

One of these projects, **Temba House**, was started in 2000 at the height of the AIDS pandemic, as a hospice where people could die with dignity. It now has expanded and provides respite care as well as long term care housing for those with no family. Programs have been implemented to tackle root causes which allow HIV/AIDS to flourish. The main problems were identified as:

- lack of education
- poor nutrition
- high unemployment
- a very high incidence of rape

In order to tackle these problems pre-school, after-school and adult education programs were started. Meals are provided at the school and community gardens were planted.

Community health workers, many of whom are volunteers, have been trained to visit homes and educate families on a wide variety of health issues. One health worker said that "I tell girls what to do when they have been raped" - a difficult but necessary discussion.

Another initiative was to form a men's group. Here men are taught parenting skills and encouraged, despite their cultural reluctance, to talk and discuss issues including bigamy and violence.

The evolution of Temba House and its work has impacted the community greatly and now government services in the area are improving. The programs the Longsons visited gave them lots of **hope for the future**.

To find out more about PWRDF and read stories of other projects please go to [www.pwrdf.org](http://www.pwrdf.org)



Learning computer skills at the John Wesley Centre  
(PWRDF photo)