

## GOLDEN STAR AWARDS 2014

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#### **ACE Agassiz Centre for Education, Agassiz, BC**

##### **ACE Intergenerational Program**

This alternate education program is the only program in BC specifically for seniors to study alongside youth. The wide variety of activities including Senior Teen Lunch at the local Legion where the students prepare and serve lunch as well as organizing a program of games and conversation. The ACE also organizes a Christmas Morning Breakfast for single seniors who would otherwise be alone. The students canvas local businesses for donations so that everyone has breakfast, a picture with Santa and a gift! The ACE Burgers BBQ held at the Legion is a fund raiser for the ACE graduation. The relationship with the Legion has lead to a Legion Auxiliary for Youth.

The prize money will be used to upgrade computers and software.

#### **Gulf Islands, School District 64, Salt Spring Island, BC**

##### **Connecting Generations**

The object of the program is to bring together youth and seniors, whose paths might not otherwise cross, together for conversations about skills, interests and life experience. Teachers and students are able to access a database of participants, meet individually and in small groups to share/learn about a variety of topics. Examples include first- hand accounts from seniors who fought in World War II, or from those who experienced internment during the War. The expertise seniors bring to the program are wide and varied, for example music, ESL, genetics, astronomy, photography. The prize money will be used towards a program planned for the Fall of 2014 promoting volunteerism in the community, and for an intergenerational forum in December.

#### **Heritage Woods Secondary School, Port Moody, BC**

##### **The Seniors Tea Project**

The Seniors Tea has been a 10 year tradition at the school which involves students from many curricular areas: Home Economics, Music, Dance, Theatre, Leadership and the Independent Direct Studies Philanthropy class. The completely student led event brings together approximately 100 seniors and students for a social activity. This lead to other intergenerational opportunities with residents of a local seniors complex, the Eagle Ridge Hospital Auxiliary, the Glen Pine 50Plus Fashion Show and Tea, and a 'Red Scarf' project with veterans presented at the Generation to Generation Ceremony on Remembrance Day 2012. Future plans include students partnering with a local Crossroads Hospice on a quilt project. The prize money will be used to support all of the projects.

## **Robron Centre (ELM Alternate), Campbell River, BC**

### **Equinox Connection**

Grade 10 to 12 students in the Alternate Education Program meet bi-weekly with seniors at the Yucalta Lodge. During the visits, students helped residents with arts and crafts programs, sports activities and the annual "Pioneer Olympics". The students learned to use a variety of communication skills, to work with older individuals with a wide range of abilities and challenges. Empathy for others has been enhanced. Students have also been introduced to many career options when working with staff members (care aides, occupational therapists, recreation coordinators, etc) and in discussions with residents about their former careers (fishermen, tailors, carpenters). Meaningful relationships have been formed. The prize money will be used to continue the program and to offset travel expenses.

## **Valley View Elementary School, Courtenay, BC**

### **Berwick/Valley View Intergenerational Program**

Kindergarten students visit with residents of the Berwick Retirement Community and work with local community artists on a variety of projects linking literature and fine arts. The seniors and the students have an opportunity to share their stories, ask questions and communicate through oral language. Examples of the art work is displayed in the retirement complex and in the classroom. At the end of the year, a video diary of the shared intergenerational experiences will be given to the students. The prize money will be used to purchase books, art and educational supplies to enrich the intergenerational project.

LEGION GOLDEN STAR:

**Step-Up Program, Vast Education Centre, Port Albernie, BC**

**Step-Up/Legion Intergenerational Program**

Students from the Senior Skills Training Education Program met and interviewed veterans from Legion Branch #293 about their experiences in WW2 and the Korean War. This was an opportunity for the students to learn how to work as part of team, practice their communication skills, develop employment skills, to understand the sacrifices made by the veterans. The students learned how different were the lives of veterans from theirs, but more importantly, to understand that individuals and society can move forward in peaceful ways. Students followed this up with articles for the local paper, Alberni Valley Times, and with visits to the Field of Honour and the Hupacasath War Memorial site. One of the students won the local Remembrance Day Art contest.

The prize money will be used to help with ongoing transportation costs for clean-up at the Field of Honour and the Memorial sites.