



HAPPY BIRTHDAY CFEC!!!

On October 3rd we celebrate our 10th birthday, and as we contemplate the accomplishments we've had over the years, the most significant one is that we are still here. With funding cuts to community and family literacy programs, the impacts of a struggling economy and other restrictions to non-profit organizations - it is an accomplishment that we do not take lightly. To date we have directly served more than 5,000 children, youth and adults.

Grassroots family literacy organizations, like CFEC address a critical gap in service provision - that for many reasons the formal education system in BC and Canada is unable to do - be it jurisdictional issues or mandates that curtail their ability to eliminate the many barriers that stop adults from returning to school. The good news is thanks to non-profit literacy organizations, their community and business partners, and federal organizations like NALD, these barriers are mitigated and vulnerable families are able to achieve success, not only in educational attainment, but also in life.

Without that first leap of faith on the part of the Vancouver Canucks, the Canucks for Kids Fund, Britannia Community Services Centre, the Vancouver Sun Raise-a-Reader program and the Vancouver School Board, our current success and longevity would be a very different story indeed.

At CFEC we start with the premise that all parents love their children and want them to succeed, but life and difficult past experiences can sometimes hamper this – it is our job to help families find a positive and safe forum to achieve their goals and work towards a brighter and better future.

We work with families from all over the world (Ethiopia, Congo, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Sudan, Liberia, Latin America, Vietnam and China). Most of our participants are women – single parents, refugees, new and established immigrants to Canada and Canada's First Nations.

We support parents and extended family members who are interested in improving their literacy and parenting skills. We know that literacy is so much more than being able to read and write, that it encompasses and impacts all aspects of a healthy and meaningful life.

We strive to give our families the skills and knowledge they need to function well in the reality of the world now and in the future. We know that when we partner with schools and other organizations with a vested interest in human potential, the end result is a healthier economy and stronger communities. And when we support an individual parent achieve their goals, this achievement has intergenerational influence beyond the accomplishments of one. It has an exponential impact on the lives of everyone they encounter through out their lifetime.

As we embark on the next 10 years, CFEC will continue to support the participants in our programs in the way they need and want us to; we will continue to work with our current partners and invite others to support the work we do for the families in the Lower Mainland of BC and other jurisdictions that are interested in partnering with CFEC; and we will continue to incorporate into all of our programs and services the essential skills needed for life and in the workplace.

We believe that it is compassion, kindness and a welcoming heart that turns lives around. It is perseverance and hard work that creates lasting change. It is one person, one parent, one family (however defined) that can change the world.

Commit random acts of kindness daily and we will be the change needed in the world!

Thank you to everyone who made CFEC a reality. Here's to 10 more years!!! Happy Birthday!

Jean Rasmussen, Founder & Executive Director