

REPORT OF HANDS ACROSS NIAGARA

Hands Across Niagara grants have two primary purposes:

1. To address the root causes of injustice by empowering people to overcome the injustices they face through the work of the proposed initiative
2. To facilitate the formation of community partnerships that leverage resources and skills for new or enhanced community projects.

The following grant was made possible through the generous donations of Anglicans in Niagara:

St. James, Guelph, in partnership with the Guelph Chapter of the Council of Canadians received \$500 to fund a film and discussion series called "Our Health and How it Relates to the Health of Our Environment". The films in the series focus on the impact of chemicals in the environment upon the health of children. One of the facilitators for the series spoke about the experience of the Aamjiwnaang First Nation whose land is located in Sarnia's chemical valley. Follow-up for participants interested in getting involved in advocating for the local environment was made available through the work of the Council of Canadians, Wellington Water Watchers, and the Friends of the Speed River.

A second call for applications was issued in the summer with a deadline of October 21st. Several additional applications have been received at the time of this report.

Members of the Hands Across Niagara Committee,

The Reverend Dr. Derek Anderson (Chair), The Reverend Bill Mous, Christyn Perkons,
and Judy Worsley,

were joined by the following people to form the grant review panel which evaluated funding applications and awarded grants:

Dorothy Brown, Church of the Transfiguration, St. Catharines,
Susan Curran, Church of the Incarnation, Oakville
The Reverend Cheryl Fricker, St. Luke's, Burlington
Sandra Harper, St. Paul's, Westdale,
The Venerable Steve Hopkins, St. Christopher's, Burlington,
Simon Jacques, St. James', Guelph,
The Venerable Peter Scott, St. Mark's, Orangeville,
The Reverend Deacon Irene Walback, All Saints, Erin,
Frank Whiting, Holy Trinity, Fonthill.

Words cannot express our gratitude to this hard working group who were asked to learn a new set of procedures and granting criteria *and* to evaluate applications in a consensus-decision-making environment.

Hands Across Niagara, of course, replaces the Anglican Appeal in our diocese. Donations to Hands Across Niagara are divided equally among:

- The Anglican Church of Canada (funding ministries such as the Council of the North, the PWRDF, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission),
- The Diocese of Niagara (funding grants for ministry partnerships which target the root causes of injustice), and,
- The donor's parish (where congregations are encouraged to use the money to fund local justice and servant ministries)

Hands Across Niagara is helping Anglicans live out our Diocesan Vision. Donations to Hands Across Niagara in 2012 totaled \$36,612.

Hands Across Niagara gathers resources to connect with God's mission in the world. We are grateful for the generosity of everyone who made a gift to Hands Across, and we are delighted to be able to share the good news stories of the ways that Anglicans in Niagara are connecting in new and transformative ways with their neighbours as a result of Hands Across grants. For more information, or to donate, please visit <http://www.niagara.anglican.ca/handsacross>

Respectfully Submitted,

Derek Anderson