

COADY INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE 2005 CWL BURSARY RECIPIENTS

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The Coady International Institute and The Catholic Women's League of Canada are long-standing Canadian institutions, committed to the betterment of peoples' lives in Canada and abroad. Beyond the shared commitment to social justice is a relationship between the two institutions which has helped to change the lives of many.

Since 1961, the League has provided financial support to Coady to help finance the studies of more than 130 women community development leaders from around the globe. As a result of this investment, millions of men, women and children throughout the world are better able to build a brighter future.

This year League bursaries were given to Sanana Lewanika, Chaka Mwondela, and Idah Mukuka, all from Zambia, and Rowshon Ara from Bangladesh. Though these women come from different communities, they have in common a deep gratitude to the League.

SANANA LEWANIKA

Sanana Lewanika works for the Catholic Diocese of Mongu in Zambia where she is the coordinator of the Justice and Peace Program. Based on the strong belief that social justice and spirituality go hand in hand, seven years ago the diocese asked Sanana to start the program. She first heard of Coady's Diploma in Community-Based Development from her husband. Whenever she felt there were too many obstacles preventing her from attending, her husband reminded her to have faith. Thanks to the League bursary, Sanana was able to overcome her financial obstacles and attend the Institute or, as she puts it, "drink from the fountain of hope."

"I am very grateful," says Sanana. "I proudly commit myself to fight poverty and other social justice issues that our people face daily back home. I know you worked



Pictured are: Sanana Lewanika, Idah Mukuka, St. Ninian Parish Council President Marie Linden, Chaka Mwondela and Rowshon Ara.

tirelessly to ensure that resources were found to help me and many others to train. Your work will go a long way in helping our people."

ROWSHON ARA

Rowshon Ara is the program officer for the Campaign for Popular Education in Bangladesh. The organization works with 700 partners across the country to promote popular education programs in environment, health, gender, and savings and credit.

"This is a big opportunity for me," says Rowshon. "This experience will increase my skills and will contribute to the development work of my organization and my people. I am very proud of this Institute."

Having completed her studies at Coady, Rowshon has returned to Bangladesh where she plans to form a women's rights organization.

CHAKA MWONDELA

As the public relations officer at the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives in Zambia, Chaka Mwondela works directly with poor farming communities. She shares vital information with farmers on how they can enhance crop productivity to improve their livelihoods.

“The whole Coady program has been very relevant for my personal development and indeed for the advancement of my contributions to development through my work with poor small scale farmers,” says Chaka. “As a result of this program, I am going back having learnt the importance of true citizen driven development.”

IDADH MUKUKA

Idah Mukuka is the community coordinator for the Center for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia, a non-governmental organization committed to the prevention and eradication of HIV/AIDS. Her role at the center is to implement programs encouraging testing and treatments, as well as leading community support groups where people infected with, or affected by, HIV/AIDS come to share their stories and gain strength from one another. She brings true compassion and understanding to her work and has been called the soul of her organization. Idah was referred to Coady by her friend and colleague Stephen Lewis, the UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa.

“When I came here to the Coady, I thought Stephen was right,” says Idah. “I thought it was the right place for me. The kind of work that I do is based on community and this Institute has been able to provide tools to better our communities, how I can help the people living with HIV stand up on their own. I came here to learn, to help my head, but it is my heart that is telling me I am in the right place. The Coady is helping me understand my passion for this work and to see how bright the future can be.”

These four women came together at the Coady International Institute and shared months in the classroom, hours at the library, opinions in discussions, and a deep gratitude for the financial support that helped them to be there. Sanana, Rowshon, Chaka and Idah would all like to thank the women of the CWL for their generosity which helped give them the opportunity to study. †

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Congratulations to the following members who have reached momentous milestones:

- Gertrude Madey – 108 years on February 2, 2006
- Pearl Lutzko – 107 years on February 15, 2006
- Josephine Brady – 106 years on February 27, 2006
- Helen O'Connor – 103 years on February 5, 2006
- Flora Ziegler – 103 years on March 16, 2006
- Bernadine Bohan – 100 years on September 25, 2005
- Paula Haas – 100 years on February 1, 2006
- Julie Lamke – 100 years on February 4, 2006
- Anita Roy – 100 years on February 15, 2006
- Hattie Switzer – 100 years on March 2, 2006

HOLY CROSS PARISH COUNCIL WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

In 2002, Joan Gauvin of Holy Cross Parish Council, and her husband Leonard, received an invitation to visit Lesotho, a tiny mountainous country surrounded by South Africa. While there, they met Clement Lefa Motlaopa, who later was ordained as a priest and wrote to them in 2004. He described this situation, “I have some fields here but I don’t have some oxen to plough or tractor, but I want to supply them with some food.” His parish had many children whose parents had died of HIV/AIDS and these orphans lacked food and clothing.

Joan and Leonard decided to return to Lesotho in October 2004, taking three pieces of luggage with them that contained children’s clothing. They also committed to help Fr. Motlaopa with the purchase of a tractor.

Holy Cross Parish Council has been wholeheartedly supporting Joan’s project and has helped to save about \$1,000 to date toward the purchase of a \$3,000 tractor.

There is a great need in many parts of the world and Joan and Leonard have responded to one of these needs in keeping with the League Prayer “...to share with others at home and abroad, the good things You have given us....”

ST. PATRICK PARISH COUNCIL MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO



Pictured are Irene Gabon and Andrea Tijoe of St. Patrick Parish Council alongside retired Detective Inspector Robert Matthews at the 30th anniversary of The Ontario Provincial Police Child Pornography Section, commonly known as Project P. Project P was formed in 1975 at the request of Ontario’s attorney general. There are currently 14 Ontario Provincial Police officers in the Child Pornography Section, one detective inspector, two detective sergeants and 11 detective constables.