



Spring 2015 Newsletter

YEAR IN REVIEW

During the past year the work of the Harvest Endowment Foundation has experienced the Lord's blessings. *Our vision is to help keep the cost of Reformed education affordable for current and future generations and this is the focus of all our activities.* We build up investment funds from which we can distribute money to our various schools. The investment funds come mainly from donations and from bequests that people from our supporting community make through their gifts, and wills and testaments.

Last Fall, Harvest board members attended the membership meetings of our 16 member schools to explain the work that Harvest is doing and to distribute cheques of a minimum of \$2500 per school. We were able to distribute a total of **\$103,520**, an increase of \$17,000 from the previous year. We are very thankful for this growing distribution and as investments increase, the amount for distribution can also increase and the per family effect on tuition fees will become more evident.

The Christian Stewardship Services (CSS) continues to manage our investments. When arranged through Harvest, CSS provides confidential estate planning service for any member of our community. CSS continues to enjoy a better than average return on our investments. We value the services we receive via CSS and appreciate the growing relationship.

Our board members are:

Everett DeJong

Hank Gelderman, Treasurer

Will Havenaar, Executive Director

Kevin Hutchinson

Leo Kampen, Chairman

John Kottelenberg

Hans VanDooren, Secretary

FUTURE

Our Executive Director has received several requests for wills and estate planning during the past year, and most of the people making the request agreed to meet with a representative of CSS. You don't have to be a senior to start planning. A couple in their 40s enthusiastically told us how much this meeting helped them plan for future giving.

As much as we have been blessed with increased financial resources and donations to schools in the past, the Harvest board is convinced that we can do much better in the future. We are working on how to do a more effective job in reaching out to our community and developing a new understanding of present and future ways of giving. Can we double, or triple the average amount per family that each school currently receives?

If you check our website harvestfoundation.ca, you can find the variety of ways to donate and give. One very effective method is called Revocable Deposit Agreements (RDA). This is how it works. A RDA is a loan from you to CSS for a minimum of two years and \$5,000. After two years, the full amount can be returned to you or it can remain for a longer period of time. The money is deposited in the CSS Investment Pool. This Pool focuses on helping Christian charities in Canada by issuing to them safe and reasonably priced mortgages. The net earnings of the RDA investments are shared between you and the Harvest Foundation! Based on past records, both the investment and the depositors' charities of choice can each earn about 2.5% per year. This is a much better return than GICs and current interest rates. You will also receive a tax receipt for this donation.

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