

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual

# “Lawyers for Literacy”

## A Law Society Community Event in Partnership with West Broadway Youth Outreach

**Date:** February 4, 2012

**Location:** Crossways in Common

Broadway and Furby

**Time:** Any hour(s) you choose between 10 am and 4 pm

For the last several years the President of the Law Society has championed a charitable endeavour. It began with a Run/Walk initiated by Grant Mitchell to raise money for the Society for Manitobans with Disabilities. Each year since, a different charity has been chosen and a different fundraising vehicle was used, (running/walking/painting, etc). This year I have broken with tradition and have adopted the same charity and fundraiser as last year. I hope that by doing the same event for a second year, it may raise the profile of the organization enough that it will have ongoing support from the legal community even if the next President chooses a different charity. And I thought that by using the same format, we could establish the platform for an ongoing fundraiser regardless of what charity a future President may champion. I would like to think that ALL lawyers can read and understand the importance of strong literacy skills to future success. So it seems to be a natural and easy activity for lawyers to adopt and support either by donating money, books or time. Last year the Lawyers for Literacy program raised over \$14,000 for the West Broadway Youth Outreach program, and 60 lawyers participated in reading to the children. Please consider volunteering your time to read to a child on February 4, 2012 and/or help us raise money for West Broadway Youth Outreach.

### **Who are we supporting?**

WBYO is a recreational life skills program for children who live in the area bounded by Arlington Street, Portage Avenue, Osborne Street and the Assiniboine River, for children ages 4 – 12, with junior volunteers, mentors and role models ages 13-17 from the area. All activities are free.

This organization operates on a shoestring budget of \$80k for salaries, operating and supply costs. It provides services to approximately 600 area children in the summer and

a similar number throughout the school year. The funding they receive comes from the United Way of Winnipeg.

They provide 28 structured programs after-school and evenings year round. They have homework club where kids are encouraged to engage in their studies and are offered incentives to do so. They have a Dreams Program through which kids are encouraged to think beyond the day-to-day and realize that they can have dreams that can be fulfilled.

The Goals of the program are to:

- Ensure that local children have the opportunity to have their basic social, emotional and recreational needs met
- Instill a sense of accountability in local children
- Provide positive adult role models
- Develop local leadership

It may be hard to imagine what it would be like not to be able to read, or as a child, not to have had an adult who encouraged reading. We take reading and writing for granted. Unfortunately, there are many children and adults who aren't as privileged and who struggle every day to understand information written at even a basic level. Many kids do not have an adult at home who reads to them or encourages them to read by sharing with them the joy of reading. Many do not have an adult with sufficient literacy skills to help them with their homework. So on February 4th our volunteers will have the opportunity to read with, or to, children from the West Broadway area.

We will provide pizza and drinks for the kids and volunteers and prizes as an additional incentive to participants.

### **How can you help?**

You can volunteer to read for an hour or more on Feb 4th to children aged 4 – 12. The “Lawyers for Literacy” Day will allow:

- Us to share our skills with children by helping them read, or in some cases reading to them
- Kids to gain an understanding of what can be accomplished by learning to read and write well, through interacting with us
- Kids to have an opportunity to spend some time with a lawyer and learn how important we think reading is, because we are there to enjoy reading with them

You can sponsor one of your colleagues to read based on the number of hours they read or the number of books they read, or you can simply make a lump-sum donation to acknowledge their participation. WBYO will provide a charitable receipt for donations of \$20 or more.

You can donate items. Start the new year off by recycling. West Broadway Youth Outreach welcomes donations of books, children's clothes, juice boxes for after school snacks, games, toys, and musical instruments...pretty much anything you can think of that would be of interest to a child. So while attending to read, you can also find a new home for those gently-used things that are appropriate for children ages 4 -12.

Pledge forms and volunteer signup sheets are available on the LSM website.

Please join us on February 4, 2012. It will be fun, worthwhile and requires only that you use skills you take for granted, but one that the participants value immensely.

**Helga Van Iderstine**  
President  
The Law Society of Manitoba

## LAWYERS FOR LITERACY

### VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SHEET

*Instructions: Please complete this form and return it to Jenny Jones by fax (956-0624) or e-mail ([jjones@lawsociety.mb.ca](mailto:jjones@lawsociety.mb.ca)) or speak to Jenny directly at 926-2026.*

Name of Volunteer: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.:                      Work: \_\_\_\_\_      Home: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

The Lawyers for Literacy event runs from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

I would like to volunteer my time to read to a child from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_

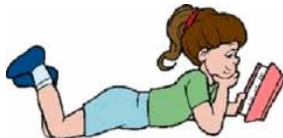
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## Lawyers for Literacy Pledge Form



#	Name	Phone Number	Address	City	Postal Code	Donation Amount	Cash	Cheque
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								

\*Cheques should be made payable to **West Broadway Youth Outreach** and donations must be a minimum of \$20.00 for a charitable receipt.



Lawyers for Literacy is an event carried out in partnership between the Law Society of Manitoba and West Broadway Youth Outreach Inc. (WBYO). On February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012, lawyers from across the city will volunteer their time to read with children. Your donations will be used to help WBYO to provide recreational, educational and life skills programs free-of-charge to children and youth from the West Broadway neighborhood. For more information about the WBYO or Lawyers for Literacy, please contact us at 774-0451, [wbyo@mts.net](mailto:wbyo@mts.net) or visit our website at [www.westbroadwayouthoutreach.com](http://www.westbroadwayouthoutreach.com).