

\$12,500 Raised In One Hour for Ladysmith Resources Centre Association

NANAIMO, BC (December 16, 2016) Wednesday evening, at the third meeting of the recently formed non-profit organization 100 Women Who Care Mid-Island, group members voted to donate \$12,500 to Ladysmith Resources Centre Association (LRCA). LRCA, formed in 1992, is a small non-profit charity that coordinates and provides services and information to enhance the quality of life in Ladysmith and surrounding areas. Recently rebranded, the "heart on the hill", their programs focus on community capacity building.

"I have been bouncing around since Wednesday night when I got the news," shared Shannon Wilson, Executive Director, LRCA. "Our organization is in critical need of funding in several areas right now, so the timing is incredible. Our board and staff are working very hard to raise and save funds. This gift is very significant and will have a huge impact on our ability to serve the community. We are so grateful."

LRCA offers over 10 programs, supporting all stages of life. The programs help create solutions and access to food, clothing, shelter and programs that create a sense of belonging. Programs include: the local Food Bank, Soup Kitchen, Coats for Folks, Extreme Weather Shelter, Christmas Cheer Hampers, Volunteer Counselling, Seniors Outreach and Advocacy, Victim Services, Restorative Justice, Youth and Family Support Services and Early Years Programs (Born Healthy, Mother Goose Dad's Drop-In and Adventures in Early Literacy).

"I am so impressed by the Ladysmith Resources Centre Association," said Leanne Kelly, Chair, 100+ Women Who Care Mid-Island. "I live in Ladysmith and I see the difference LRCA makes in the community. There is a good reason why the organization is known as "the heart on the hill".

100 Women Who Care Mid Island is a not-for-profit organization that makes a quarterly donation to a registered charity based in Ladysmith, Nanaimo, Lantzville, a community in-between, or Gabriola Island. Members meet four times a year for one hour and donate over \$10,000 to a charity. Since the first meeting on June 8, 2016, \$34,500 has been raised for local registered charities. At the June 8 meeting Ladysmith Family and Friends was selected to receive a \$10,300 donation, and at the September 14 meeting, Nanaimo Community Hospice Society was selected to receive an \$11,700 donation.

100+ Women Who Care Members nominate charities to be considered for a donation. At each meeting, three-charity nomination forms are drawn from a basket and the members', who submitted the forms, each make a five-minute presentation about their charity. After the presentation, members vote, by secret ballot, for one of the three charities, and before leaving the meeting, all members write a \$100 cheque to the charity that received the most votes.

Currently the 100+ Women Who Care Mid-Island has 125 members and membership recruitment is ongoing. The more members the group has, the more money they are able to donate. Women can join 100+ Women Who Care Mid-Island online through the organization's website 100WomenWhoCareMidIsland.com.

The next 100+ Women Who Care Mid-island meeting is Wednesday, March 8, 2017, 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at Cottonwood Golf Course.

Karen Dunigan of Jackson, Michigan, formed the first 100 Women Who Care chapter in November 2006. At that first meeting, the Jackson 100 Women Who Care group raised over \$12,000 to buy 300 new baby cribs for a local charity.

Currently there are close to 400 active 100 Who Care Chapters located throughout the world. On Vancouver Island there are three chapters: 100+ Women Who Care Victoria, 100 Women Who Care Cowichan and 100+ Women Who Care Mid-Island.

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