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ROSES are Blooming



By Julie Annett

Have you ever asked yourself what the value of a ROSE session is to your community, your Women's Institute (WI) or your family and friends? Since I began this position, I have asked myself that question many times. The answer is clear; the power of knowledge and the value of education can never be measured.

In the past three years, over 10,000 people have attended a ROSE session and over 350,000 pieces of educational material have been distributed! We can only imagine how many of these people have been inspired by the resources they have been provided with and the friends that they have made! Your efforts have allowed people access to valuable educational resources that they may never have had access to before.

Many of you have shared your thoughts about the ROSE Program with me over these past few months, and I have even had the privilege of attending a few ROSE Sessions. It is clear that you have the expertise and ambition to make the ROSE Program the best, most influential health and social service program in Ontario. The ROSE Program will help focus FWIO's educational and membership efforts. I am confident that together we can make the "ROSES are Blooming" Expansion Project successful and unforgettable!

What is the "ROSES are Blooming" Expansion Project?

The idea behind the "ROSES are Blooming" Expansion Project was to expand on the success of the original ROSE Health Program. This will be done by expanding the ROSE Program into other focus areas and by establishing eight additional partnerships with key health and social service organizations. Leadership Training Sessions will be provided to WI representatives in the spring of 2004. A Provincial "ROSES are Blooming" Forum will be held in the summer of 2004.

How is the Trillium Grant money being distributed?

FWIO is grateful to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for providing a \$223,600 grant to expand the ROSE Program. This will allow for the implementation of a two-year plan to enhance and ensure the sustainability of the ROSE Program. Some of you may be wondering how this money is to be distributed. The Trillium Foundation granted the money based on a pre-determined budget accepted by the FWIO Board. Each portion of this grant has been allocated to expanding the ROSE Program in a number of ways.

Some of the things that the grant will allow FWIO to do include: staff a ROSE Program Manager and ROSE Administrative Assistant, produce marketing and promotional materials, maintain *The ROSE Garden* newsletter, expand the FWIO website, conduct Phase II of the leadership workshops, expand the ROSE Program Planning Guide, evaluate the ROSE Program and host a "ROSES are Blooming" Forum.

Who are ROSE Partners?

Thank you to all who have returned the Community Based Needs Assessment Survey. From the results of this survey, key organizations will be chosen to provide WI Branches with valuable educational information and resources. While the focus of the ROSE Program is on our partners, Branches can also host ROSE Sessions using the resources and tools of other organizations.

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Headquarters Fund



To date:
\$617,752.77
\$1 million

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