



Investing In Community Dreams

The Jubilee Fund recently invested in three new projects.



Gary Gillis & Pat

Gary Gillis recently opened **GGR Mould Remediation Services**. The company's primary services include removing mould from areas behind drywall, crawl spaces, floor joists and attic. Gary and his employee Gloria Young are government certified in mould and asbestos removal and are trained to follow the provincial guidelines for removal in a safe manner.

Recently, the Jubilee Fund caught up with Gary and Gloria working on a house that had extensive mould damage in Selkirk. In speaking with Pat the home owner, she expressed how pleased she was with the quality of their work. They had removed and/or cleaned all the infected areas and were presently repairing the damage to the drywall and floors.



Gloria Young

Mission Statement
The Jubilee Fund endeavours to advocate social justice through awareness-raising about a moral economy and through ethical financing in the form of loans and equity for community economic development.

Goals

1. To increase the community's awareness of the Fund and the need for a moral economy.
2. To increase the organization's financial strength to support future projects.
3. To finance community development initiatives not served by traditional banking institutions.

Board Members

Sister Jean Ell, President
The Grey Nuns (Manitoba)

Jerry Buckland, Treasurer
Menno Simons College

Sister Josephine Chudzik, Secretary
Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus & Mary

Gabriel Dufault, Vice President
Consultant Dufault Consulting

Cindy Coker
SEED Winnipeg Inc.

Sister Caroline Deters
Missionary Oblate Sisters

Douglas Mackie
United Church Conf. Mb/NW On.

Audrey McClelland
KAIROS

Victor B. Olson
Merchant Law Group

Russ Rothney
Assiniboine Credit Union

John Schwandt

Janelle Siemens
Mennonite Central Committee

Jubilee Fund Newsletter
Vol. 1, 2005



Mondragon Worker Cooperative

A popular restaurant in the Exchange district, **Mondragon Bookstore & Coffeehouse** has recently become **Mondragon Worker Cooperative**. The Jubilee Fund was able to assist the employees to purchase the



Mondragon Worker Cooperative

restaurant from the previous owner. The members have expanded their menu and added a number of new books to their library.



510 Selkirk Avenue

The Jubilee Fund has provided funding to the North End Community Renewal Corporation to purchase 510 Selkirk Avenue and convert it into office space. The building originally was Manuel's Furniture, but in recent years it served as a storage space. NECRC has secured a lease from Government Services and the Aboriginal Directorate for a five year lease with a five year renewal. When the Jubilee Fund's camera was at the site recently, demolition of the interior space was completed. It is anticipated the new offices will be ready early in April.

"Be the change you want to see in the world."

Mahatma Ghandhi

People who want to

The President's Reflections Sister Jean Ell

This is a time for gratitude for the many blessings as the Jubilee Fund celebrates its 5th anniversary. Once again we hear in the news, discussion and talks about forgiving the debts to poor countries by the World Bank. This is a consolation, since the Fund was established in response to the Hebrew Scriptures that calls for the periodic redistribution of wealth and debt cancellation. Although the Fund could not forgive the debts of the world, the founding members wanted to make a dent in Winnipeg's poverty by assisting those in need and provide them with the financial backing to make their dreams come true and become at the same time more self-sufficient and self-reliant.

Looking back over this past four-year journey as a member of the Jubilee Fund Board and as President for the past three years, it has been a remarkable experience. The Fund has grown from one part time staff to two staff working three quarter time. Our offices moved for the fourth time, just before Christmas to a more permanent situation. We continue to sponsor projects, such as co-operative day cares; businesses such as Organic Planet Worker Co-op, Northern Star Worker Co-op and most recently GGR Mould Remediation Services and Mondragon Worker Cooperative; and housing projects including in-fill housing and apartments for University of Winnipeg students and single parents in the inner core. We are always interested in reaching out to others in need of help with their projects.

We are most fortunate to have received funding from the Province of Manitoba to assist with our staffing costs. That five year agreement ended on December 2004. We are now in discussion with the Winnipeg Partnership Agreement to obtain new multiyear funding. We hope to receive a response to our request prior to our Annual Meeting. In addition to the provincial funding, we received a \$10,000 grant in 2003-04 from the Winnipeg Foundation to purchase new computer equipment for our office.

On February 3rd, the Jubilee Fund held an Open House and Fifth Anniversary Celebration. We were pleased to have five of the original seven core members from 1997 in attendance. It was a great occasion to reminisce. Sister Denise Kuyp our founding President spoke of the work that was involved by this diligent group of volunteers who had a vision and an determination.

While the Jubilee Fund has made great advances from its humble beginnings, it still has great needs. We are always on the look out for new projects; we need volunteers to serve on our committees, to work as mentors and as project managers. In addition, to ensure our future growth we need new investors and donors. Will you help us do what we can to help others?

Special Thanks to Our Investors

Anonymous Fund (2)
Agassiz Presbytery United Church
Anglican Diocese of Rupert's Land
Elizabeth Anne Barr
Maria L. Benjamin
Elizabeth & Jerry Buckland
Centre for Christian Studies
Jessie Chudzik
Anne & Robert Duncan
In Memory of John Ell
Madeline Enns
Beatrice & Andrew Goussaert
Grey Nuns of Manitoba (The)
L'Institute De Notre Dame
Immanuel United Church
Carl L. James
Geraldine & Eugene Kostyra
Oblates of Mary Immaculate (Mb)
Jakob Letkemann
Mary Lobb
Terri & Garry A. Loewen
Audrey McClelland
Ivey & G. Bruce McNeill
Mennonite Central Committee (Mb)
Jeanette & James S. Moran
Glenn Nichols
Parish of St. Mary Magdalene
Irene Rainey & Tim Sale
Beverley Ridd
Harold Shuster
Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus & Mary
Lynda Trono & Alan Doerksen
United Church of Canada Mb & NW On
Melanie Whyte & Paul Gehrs
Sandra Wiebe & David John Dyck

Government and Foundation Support

Government of Manitoba, Urban
Development Initiatives
The Winnipeg Foundation



Sister Jean Ell & Sister Denise Kuyp

Margot Lavoie



Margot Lavoie

Margot Lavoie was born in Laurier, Manitoba. As a teenager, she started taking seriously the Gospel of Jesus-Christ. It became the guide and inspiration for her life. Gradually, as her life took shape, she felt compelled to commit herself to side with "those who don't count and are not heard" in our society. She started her career as a teacher and later as a child care worker.

In 1994, on a trip to Ottawa, she found a discarded pamphlet for "Prisoners' Sunday". She called the number that was on the pamphlet and spoke to someone who told her that Restorative Justice Week would replace Prisoners' Sunday. On her return home, she did some research and found information on Restorative Justice. She participated in a workshop sponsored by MCC that had Dave Worth and Wilma Derksen as the main speakers. Since then, Margot has networked with people from difference agencies, faith groups who share the hope of bringing people together to build compassionate communities.

In 1997, Margot Lavoie attended the Winnipeg Ecumenical Coalition for Economic Justice workshops, designed to educate and give training for building a moral economy. At the end of the workshop, the question was posed "How can we apply what we learned over the weekend and apply it to our community." It was agreed that a team should be formed to develop a plan that would start giving people a real chance.

This decision resulted in the initial discussions and meetings to form the Jubilee Fund. In our interview, Margot commented, "I originally thought that we could put our money together and hand it out. I wanted to share what we had with people who didn't have."

Margot believes that poverty is structured into our economic policies. The poverty we see around us, low income, insufficient housing, food banks, etc. are the direct result of such policies. Our system makes it happened. We have people who are deemed more deserving of tax breaks than others. Some people have all kinds of opportunities in life, while many are renege the most basic needs of life.

There are some people in our city that can't even use a bank because they have no picture ID, which in Manitoba is the driver's license. Not having the proper ID, prevents them from opening a bank account, thereby leaving them at the mercy of cashing institutions that make money on the backs of the poor by charging exorbitant fees.

Much of Margot's work consists in working collaboratively with other organizations that work at educating the public and advocating for a more "just society". She is employed by the Manitoba Missionary Oblate and is a member of their Justice and Peace Committee. She has served on the Jubilee Fund's Communications Committee since 2001. In addition, she serves on the Board for Bridging the Gap Ministry, an agency supporting prisoners and their families who are in the process of transition into the community.

make a difference

Cindy Coker



Cindy Coker

Cindy is the Executive Director at SEED Winnipeg Inc. and a member of the Jubilee Fund board. SEED Winnipeg is a non-profit agency that works to combat poverty and assists in the renewal of Winnipeg's inner city. It has a number of Asset Building Programs including Saving Circle (helps individuals save money for future goals); IDA Program (helps you save for an education, start or expand a small business or buy or renovate your own home); and the Money Management Training (helps to learn more about budgeting, banking and credit). SEED Winnipeg also offers a Build-a-Business Program including Youth Build-a-Business and the Community and Worker Ownership Program.

Cindy was born in South Carolina and moved to Philadelphia to attend university. She has extensive experience working in the economic development field in the United States, primarily using a worker cooperative model for enterprise development. It was during her work as a consultant to worker cooperatives that she had the opportunity to speak at a conference in Canada and meet with others working on similar projects in Winnipeg.

Her husband had the opportunity to come to Winnipeg to work in 1993, a challenge they both looked forward to. When they moved, Cindy continued to work for a worker cooperative in Philadelphia that she had co-founded and spent much of her time travelling to cities in the U.S. When travel became too much, Cindy decided to focus her attention on worker cooperatives in Winnipeg. While doing some research to support the start up of an ecological cleaning worker cooperative she learned about SEED Winnipeg. When she joined SEED in 2001, her first project was to assist in the expansion of their worker cooperative program.

In discussion with Cindy about the cooperative model she states "people spend a large part of their time in the workplace. The worker cooperative structure can support a more democratic management process. My experience has been that people can be empowered to develop their skills in the workplace which often results in their becoming a volunteer in schools and in their community. The results are better communities and stronger citizen action. Becoming involved gives individuals an opportunity to change rather than watch, what is happening".

Last year, the local chapter of the Canadian Worker Cooperative Federation (CWCF) gave a presentation to the CWCF National Conference on what they did and how the cooperative structure allowed them to make their values part of their daily work. It was an amazing experience. When you ask people to tell their story, it helps others to understand how it is different. It impacts people, allows them to start to work, stories about caring and making a difference and that they **can** make a difference.

The Jubilee Fund is a key piece of that work by providing access to funds that allows low-income individuals to own or share in the ownership and management of a business.

Brother Thomas Novak



Brother Thomas Novak

Thomas Novak OMI was the first secretary of the Jubilee Fund. In a recent interview, he recalled that the Fund was actually conceived as a way for people of faith to participate in the Jubilee Year. When asked what makes the Fund unique among all the other investment funds out there, Brother Thomas responded, "The Fund is rooted in the faith of the investors."

"As faith groups around the world focussed on making the year 2000 a sacred time for cancelling the debt of the world's poorest countries, a small group of Manitoba church people gathered to reflect on how the spirit of the Jubilee could be brought to bear on our own local economy."

"According to Hebrew scriptures, every 50 years, slaves were to be set free and debts cancelled. (Leviticus 25:8-19). However, Jubilee is more than a celebration or a one-time effort to bring a little more justice into the world. It is a way of life, a commitment to create a community where everyone is able to gather enough to look after their needs and the needs of their families, and where no one would have too much (Exodus 16:17-18).

"We wanted to bring some of that Jubilee spirit into our own time. We wanted to find a way for faith groups and individual believers to use some of our investment dollars in a way that would help out people who cannot normally access the services of mainstream financial institutions. We discovered that a faith-based investment fund already existed in Eastern Canada, but we wanted to create something local, where Manitobans could invest in their own community, where they could see for themselves the results of their investments and talk to the people who have benefitted from the Fund."

"Back then, in 1999, we hoped that the Fund would one day expand beyond the Christian community. After all, all of the great religious traditions have expressed, in different ways, the same essential wisdom that the key to peace among peoples is that all people have enough to live. For example, North American Aboriginals had regular ceremonial give-aways, such as the Potlatch. Islam teaches that every believer is to give 2.5% of his income in alms every year, and is to charge no interest on loans. I still look forward to the day when the Jubilee Fund membership will include a wider spectrum of Christian groups and non-Christian faith traditions."

Brother Thomas says that he first got to see the spirit of Jubilee at work, even before he had a name for it, when he worked as a missionary in First Nations communities in Northern Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Brother Thomas continues to be active in the Fund, working on the Nominations and Bylaws Review Committees. Today he is part of the local leadership team for his order, the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

Special Thanks to our Donors

Anonymous (3)
Rita Borthwick
Elizabeth & Jerry Buckland
James Cartlidge
Charleswood Mennonite Church
Cindy Coker
Anne & Robert Duncan
Denis Ell
Howard R. Engel & Esther G. Juce
Madeline Enns
Hildegard Epp
Clara Ferner
Filles de la Croix
Fort Garry Mennonite Fellowship
Church
Grey Nuns of Manitoba
Jakob Letkeman
Manitoba Central Committee
Missionary Oblate Sisters of
St. Boniface
Oblates of Mary Immaculate
(Manitoba)
Strini Reddy
Sisters of our Lady of the Missions
Sisters of the Saviour
Douglas Smith
John & Enid Schwandt
Gladys & Terrance Terichow
Mary & Gordon Toombs
Tannis & David Young

"We join with people the world over who have been inspired by the powerful vision of Jubilee as a new beginning. It is a time for restoring balance and justice between people and for renewing the earth itself. We are convinced that the gross inequity which we see in our city, our country and our world are neither necessary nor inevitable. We are choosing to live out the Jubilee vision that calls for a regular redistribution of wealth."
Sister Denise Kuyp of Our Lady of the Missions. Official launch of the Jubilee Fund, January 6th, 2000.

Yes, I want to Invest in People – Invest in Our Community

I would like to purchase a Jubilee Investment Certificate. Please find enclosed my cheque for:

\$500.00 _____ \$1,000.00 _____ \$1,500.00 _____ Other \$ _____

I would like to support the work done by the Jubilee Fund Inc. Please find enclosed my donation for:

\$25.00 _____ \$50.00 _____ \$100.00 _____ \$250.00 _____ Other \$ _____

I would like to become a monthly donor to The Jubilee Fund Inc. Please call me to arrange monthly automatic withdrawal.

I am interested in becoming a Member.

I would like to volunteer _____ as a business mentor _____ as a committee member

I would like more information. Please telephone me to discuss further.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town _____ Prov. _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

All donations are tax deductible and a tax receipt will be issued.

Charitable tax # 6758 5481 RR0001

The Jubilee Fund Inc.

Ste. 210 - 207 Fort Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 1E2
Telephone: 204 - 589-5001 or 975-2650 Fax: 204 - 977-0123
Email: ritalb@shaw.ca or jubileefund@shaw.ca

If we have sent this newsletter to the wrong person, or you are no longer interested in receiving it, please call Rita Borthwick at 589-5001 or email: ritalb@shaw.ca

Jubilee Fund Loan Guarantee Recipients

Social Projects

Career Action Pathing Centre (NECRC)
Alternative Financial Services
King's Park Childcare Centre Inc.
Panda Bear Daycare Co-op

Business Projects

GD - 02 Worker Co-op
GGR Mould Remediation Services
Mondragon Worker Cooperative Ltd.
NECRC - Renovation of 510 Selkirk Ave
New Earth Bakery
Northern Star Worker Co-op
Organic Planet (sole proprietorship)
Organic Planet Worker Co-op
Your Place Hair Design

Housing Projects

North End Housing Project: 4 houses
Spence Neighbourhood Association: 2
infill housing homes
Student Apartments in Spence
Neighbourhood (Young St.)
Student/Single Parent Apartments in
West Broadway (Furby Street)

Membership 2005

Anglican Diocese of Rupert's Land
Archdiocese of St. Boniface
Christ Lutheran Church
Grey Nuns of Manitoba (The)
KAIROS, Cambrian-Agassiz Region
Mennonite Central Committee (Mb)
Micah House
Missionary Oblate Sisters of St.
Boniface
Oblates of Mary Immaculate (Mb)
St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church
Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus &
Mary
Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions
Sisters of the Saviour
United Church of Canada-Agassiz
Presbytery
United Church of Canada-Conference
of Mb & NW On