

President's Annual Report 2011

The Registered Psychiatric Nurses Foundation Incorporated is the only charitable foundation in Canada for Registered Psychiatric Nurses. The Foundation's purpose is to attract and manage the gifts of many donors into a permanent endowment fund to enhance the profession of psychiatric nursing education, practice and research.

The Board of Directors oversees the management and charitable status requirements of the Foundation. Each year, the Foundation's grows closer to reaching its goal of a \$100,000 financial base. Your support of the Foundation through regular donations via the debit plan, one time donations, donations in honour of or in memoriam all contribute to achieving the goal. Again this year the Foundation has benefited from an increase in funds (up \$100/month since 2009) donated by an increased number of people contributing through the debit plan. Thank you and we look forward to your continued support.

The Foundation has distributed monies in the form of bursaries, awards and scholarships each year since 1997. In 2010, four scholarships of \$500 each were awarded to Registered Psychiatric Nurses and students enrolled in the psychiatric nursing program in Manitoba. In 2010, the Foundation accepted responsibility for the John Alex Crawford Scholarship; a \$500 scholarship to be awarded annually to a Registered Psychiatric Nurse in Canada who is pursuing a Master's or Doctoral studies that are directly related to psychiatric nursing clinical practice, education, administration or research. The Foundation is pleased that the first John Alex Crawford Scholarships were awarded at the 2011 annual meeting.

The awarding of annual Scholarships is dependant upon the donations of many donors; namely, Registered Psychiatric Nurses, friends and family of RPN's and others who support the work of RPN's and the Foundation. In 2010, under the leadership of a group from Selkirk, a very successful Quiz Night was held raising over \$4000 helping to bring the Foundation closer to achieving its goal of \$100,000. If you or someone you know has a passion for fundraising and is willing to take a leadership role in this area; please contact myself or any board member.

The Foundation was very pleased to be informed that in January 2011 the first ever Canadian Master Degree in Psychiatric Nursing would commence at Brandon University. The Masters in Psychiatric Nursing will ensure that qualified RPNs will be available to educate future RPNs. The values and beliefs of psychiatric nursing are best taught by Registered Psychiatric Nurses. Congratulations and thank you to Dr. Dean Care, Dean of Health Studies at Brandon University, Dr. Renee Robinson and all others who have been instrumental in making the Masters program a reality. The Foundation is committed to promoting participation in this program by sponsoring two annual scholarships; the Alf Barnett and John Alex Crawford Scholarships.

Thank you also to the volunteer Board of Directors and to the staff of the CRPNM to whom the Foundation is ever grateful. Annette Osted, Executive Director of the CRPNM has been a great supporter of the Foundation since its inception. Thank you Annette for your guidance, support and direction.

All the best in your well deserved forthcoming retirement.

Mrlene Fitzsimmons, President