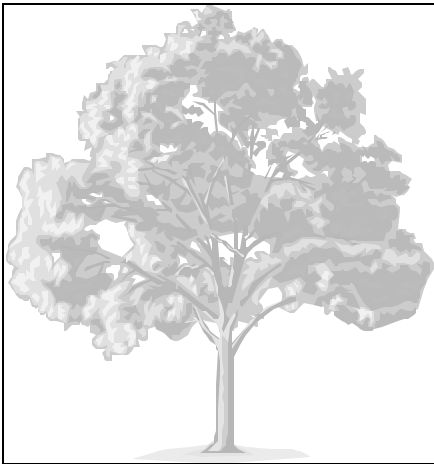


The Maytree Foundation

Annual Report 1997

The Maytree Foundation's Vision



The Maytree Foundation is a Canadian charitable foundation established in 1982. Maytree provides start-up funds for programs which the Foundation hopes will eventually find support in the public social service system, or from individuals and organizations in the communities that benefit from the programs.

Maytree believes that there are three fundamental sets of issues which threaten political and social stability: wealth disparities between and within nations; mass migration of people because of war, oppression and environmental disasters; and the degradation of the environment.

Of these, Maytree is active in funding projects which address wealth disparity and migration. We view our society's toleration of poverty as a fundamental threat to stability both in the world at large and in Canada in particular. Systemic poverty is an unjustifiable burden to millions of people, and bears paralyzing costs to society. It perpetuates a vicious cycle by limiting opportunity and repressing the human spirit. The correlation between poverty and most serious social problems is a stunning indictment of society's continuing tolerance of poverty.

Maytree grants aim to combat poverty by creating opportunities for people to break the poverty cycle. We view migration as a threat if managed poorly, but as an opportunity if we recognize the strengths of the migrants. We believe that newcomers offer tremendous benefits to the Canadian economy and society. Therefore, programs which facilitate their settlement enrich Canada. Further, we believe that urbanization is a powerful force. Programs which support the strengthening of communities are supported by The Maytree Foundation.

As its resources are few relative to the magnitude of the needs, Maytree looks for ways to maximize the impact of its grants. It focuses on empowering individuals, funding innovative projects, supporting effective leaders and finding ways to achieve change through its grants. Currently, the Foundation is focusing on funding refugee and immigrant settlement projects in Canada.

Alan Broadbent
Chairman

Judy Broadbent
President

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“Maytree grants aim to combat systemic poverty by creating opportunities for people to break from it.”

Current Activities

Our current focus is on refugee and newcomer support programs with a particular emphasis on employment. Applicants must be registered Canadian charitable organizations. (In certain cases, the Foundation will consider applications through a trustee where the applicant organization does not have registered Canadian charitable status.) Eligible projects are normally funded for six months to a maximum of three years. Continued funding is contingent on the receipt and approval of reports and on our satisfaction with the progress of the program. Maytree believes self-evaluation is a vital management tool that enables an organization to improve its performance continually. Candid evaluation by those administering and delivering services, as well as by those benefiting from them, is key to demonstrating the value of a project. Maytree, therefore, requires regular reporting on the progress and activities of each project, as a condition of continuing funding. Projects and organizations which Maytree funded during 1996 - 1997 are listed below, together with the most recent grant amount.

| | | | |
|---|-----------------|--|-----------------|
| <p>African Women Resource & Information Centre (First Year of a Three-Year Grant)</p> | \$24,600 | | |
| <p>Black Creek Community Health Centre (One-Time Grant)</p> | \$ 6,918 | <p>St. Stephen's Youth Employment Counselling Centre - SEDI Project (One-Time Grant)</p> | \$14,000 |
| <p>Canadian-African Newcomer Aid Centre of Toronto (CANACT) (First Year of a Two-Year Grant)</p> | \$41,000 | <p>St. Stephen's Youth Employment Counselling Centre - Connections Project (Third Year of a Three-Year Grant)</p> | \$34,430 |
| <p>Canadian Multilingual Literacy Centre (First Year of a Three-Year Grant)</p> | \$45,000 | <p>Skills for Change (Second Year of a Two-Year Grant)</p> | \$48,905 |
| <p>Elsbeth Heyworth Centre for Women (First Year of a Three-Year Grant)</p> | \$48,300 | <p>South Asian Family Support Services (One-Time Grant)</p> | \$ 6,000 |
| <p>FCJ Hamilton House Refugee Project (First Year of a Two-Year Grant)</p> | \$47,500 | <p>Toronto Refugees Affairs Council (TRAC) (Second Year of a Two-Year Grant)</p> | \$32,083 |
| <p>Muslim Community Services (Second Year of a Three-Year Grant)</p> | \$38,302 | <p>Umugenzi for Refugees (One-Time Grant)</p> | \$42,410 |
| <p>New Experiences for Latin American Refugee Women (NEW) (Second Year of a Two-Year Grant)</p> | \$22,249 | <p>Unemployed Professional African Women & Men Association (UPAWA) (First Year of a Two-Year Grant)</p> | \$40,000 |

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“Given the respect that Caledon has earned for its informed opinions, it is often sought out by the media as an independent and authoritative voice on Canada’s social affairs.”

The Caledon Institute of Social Policy

The Caledon Institute was founded by Maytree, in collaboration with Ken Battle, in 1992. The Maytree Foundation continues to be its principal donor. Caledon is an expression of our faith in the role of effective public policy in advancing social good.

The Caledon Institute has made very important contributions to social policy in Canada. Caledon has played an influential role in the reform of public pensions, child benefits, programs for Canadians with disabilities and federal social transfer payments to the provinces. With its capacity to write about complex issues in clear and accessible language, Caledon has been instrumental in stimulating public interest in and understanding of social policy. Caledon’s innovative *real leaders* and *community stories* series have provided a voice for community leaders and social entrepreneurs. In addition to writing Caledon commentaries and reports, staff delivered several papers on various social policy issues to conferences and seminars that are being published in journals and books.

Caledon President Ken Battle, Vice President Sherri Torjman, Senior Scholar Michael Mendelson and Caledon Fellows have access to decision-makers both in Ottawa and across the country.

During the past year, Caledon was commissioned by the federal government to help design a new child benefits system, to write a national framework on disability income and supports, and to host experts’ forums on proposed changes to the Canada Pension Plan. Other projects include an investigation of the impact of the social policy changes in Ontario, the production and dissemination of a film on social partnerships, and an emerging partnership with the Community Opportunities Development Association in Kitchener-Waterloo on a poverty-reduction campaign. Caledon also published same-day analyses of the 1997 Federal Budget and the latest poverty statistics, and issued its second *Memo to the Next Prime Minister* during the federal election campaign.

Special Projects

The Maytree Foundation also supports the following two projects which fall outside of our regular funding mandate. We do not accept applications in these area.

Maytree Service Fellowship

The *Maytree Service Fellowship* is a three-year pilot partnership with the York University Steps to Arts Program. Steps to Arts is an access program for capable students who face barriers to their education and whose circumstances may prevent them from achieving their academic potential. Students who are accepted into the Steps to Arts program may apply for a *Maytree Service Fellowship* grant. Successful applicants for the *Maytree Service Fellowship* must demonstrate a willingness and a potential to participate in meaningful community service throughout the academic year. They are required to volunteer for several hours a week in a placement approved by Maytree, as well as maintain an acceptable academic standing. Each grant covers the student’s tuition with an amount allocated for books. Twelve students were funded in 1997-98. The *Maytree Service Fellowship* is committed not only to assisting vulnerable young people reach their academic potential but also to influencing their development as community service leaders. York University is undertaking a research study of this project.

Roots of Empathy

The Maytree Foundation is funding an innovative program at the Toronto Board of Education that helps educate children for their future role as parents. *Roots of Empathy* is a classroom-based parenting program designed to foster the development of empathy and teach child development. The program revolves around a class of students monitoring the needs, growth and development of an infant. The “class baby” is brought to the school for a visit by his or her parent at least once per month during the academic year. The material that arises during the visit is integrated into the general curriculum. *Roots of Empathy* was launched in the Fall of 1996. Four early primary classrooms in two inner-city school participated. In the Fall of 1997, the program expanded to seven inner-city schools and fourteen classrooms, ranging from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 7. A research component will be introduced next Spring.

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“Maytree focuses on empowering individuals, funding cutting-edge projects, and finding ways to achieve sustainable social change.”

New at Maytree

Ian Grant, who joined us in January on a one-year contract, has been a highly effective and valued member of the Maytree team. He exhibited a special sensitivity and respect toward the needs of newcomers. We are grateful for his help in expanding the number of projects that we fund and we wish him all the best as he moves on to new endeavours in 1998.

During the summer, Sarah Michael worked at Maytree as an intern after graduating from Queen's University, which she attended as a Canadian Merit Scholarship Foundation recipient. She also spent part of the summer in Canada's north with a program operated by The Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation. Sarah is now studying at Cambridge University in England.

Jane Millan continues her involvement with Maytree. She spent most of the past year in California, but will return in January 1998 to develop programming in the area of education for young people.

Diane Varga joined the Maytree staff in the role of Executive Assistant to the Chairman in April, 1997. She is the editor of the Toronto Region Foundation Newsletter.

In September, Shannon Hill joined us on a one-year contract before resuming her studies in classical music. She provides administrative support to the Maytree staff.

We are pleased that Ratna Omidvar joined Maytree in January of 1998 as Executive Director of our Refugee and Immigrant Division. Ratna comes to us from Skills for Change, where she was Executive Director since 1988. During that time she built Skills for Change into a leader in provision of support and development programs for refugees and immigrants. A graduate of the University of New Delhi, she has been involved in many aspects of community life, and in 1995 she received the YWCA Woman of Distinction Award. At Maytree, she will assume operational responsibility for granting in refugee and immigrant support, will develop a public policy approach in the area and will broaden the scope of programming.

Directors of the Maytree Foundation

Alan Broadbent, Chairman
Judy Broadbent
Dan Burns
Jane Millan

Staff of the Maytree Foundation

Ratna Omidvar, Executive Director,
Refugee & Immigrant Program
Jane Millan, Project Developer
Shannon Hill, Administrator

Officers of the Maytree Foundation

Alan Broadbent, Chairman
Judy Broadbent, President
Paul Gallagher, Vice-President
Elizabeth Cowdrey, Treasurer
Diane Varga, Secretary

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