



## News and Notes from The Marquis Project - April, 2014

### Marquis Global Citizenship Award Presented to Minnedosa Collegiate Student Group

The 2014 Marquis Global Citizenship Award was presented to the C.H.A.N.G.E. student group at a special school assembly at Minnedosa Collegiate on March 25, 2014. The *Citizens Helping All Nations Grow Equally* group has been active for the last seven years volunteering for many local causes and fundraising for projects in the developing world. The group has raised over \$75,000 for projects such as constructing a school in Ethiopia and hurricane relief in the Philippines. Current efforts focus on the Blanco's Children project in Haiti where C.H.A.N.G.E. is sponsoring 35 orphaned children. On the local front, students volunteer for a variety of community organizations such as Minnedosa Palliative Care, Christmas Cheer Board, and the Minnedosa Food Cupboard. Each year the group engages with parents and the local community through a benefit that serves as both a fundraising and educational event.



C.H.A.N.G.E. Student Group, Staff Advisors and Marquis Board Member Kim Burgess at Minnedosa Collegiate

*“Being involved with C.H.A.N.G.E. really opens your eyes to things that are going on in the rest of the world”* says student volunteer Josh Woychyshyn. *“It is a good thing helping other people in our community and all around the world”*.

The annual award recognizes a person, or a group who have made an outstanding voluntary contribution to promoting an understanding of development issues, or who have contributed in an outstanding way to global citizenship by their involvement in international issues. Al Friesen, President of The Marquis Project states that *“It is very unusual for a student group to be so active in their local community while at the same time deeply engaged in international development projects. These initiatives exemplify what the Marquis Global Citizenship Award is all about”*.

Marquis board member Kim Burgess and Education Program Facilitator Samantha Dellezay presented a group certificate to be displayed at the school, as well as individual certificates to group members.

## Marquis Meets with new Minister of Education



Marquis Vice-President Mireille Saurette with James Allum, Minister of Education

Several members of Marquis met with the new Minister of Education, James Allum on February 27, 2014. The relaxed and informal meeting provided opportunity to apprise the Minister of the history of Marquis, our educational work in southwestern Manitoba, overseas partnerships and recent Fair Trade initiatives. Marquis reported in detail about our educational work made possible by the annual grant from Manitoba Education, thanked the Minister for this support and expressed the hope that this partnership would continue under the new Minister's tenure. The Minister expressed genuine interest in the work of Marquis, asked many questions, and appreciated several hand-out materials. Thanks to Drew Caldwell, Marquis board member and MLA Brandon East, for assisting in setting up the meeting.

## Marquis Educational Program Exceeds Targets!

The Marquis Project is pleased to report that we have already exceeded the targeted number of students reached through our education initiatives with several months still left to go in the school year. Our funding agreement with Manitoba Education calls for reaching 1,200 students per year and Marquis has consistently achieved or surpassed this number in recent years. Thanks to our Education Program Facilitator Samantha Dellezay for her hard work and enthusiasm.

## Financial Matters

During the fall of 2013 The Marquis Project Board of Directors approved the restructuring of the debt that had accumulated since the financial crisis in 2008. The \$30,000 maximum Line of Credit has been cancelled and \$20,000 of debt has been converted to a term loan over 60 months with regular monthly payments. Barring unforeseen circumstances this loan will be paid off in the fall of 2018. A new line of credit with a limit of \$5,000 has been established. This should be more than sufficient for Marquis' needs in the foreseeable future. None of this line of credit is currently being used.

The Marquis Board believes that this action was necessary for prudent financial management and to finally reduce and eliminate this long-standing debt. Committing to monthly payments motivates Marquis to get the job done, but also adds to the challenge of making sure we have the income to do so. As a membership-driven charitable organization, **Marquis relies on you as a member and donor to help meet this commitment.**

In the face of gradually declining membership and donor support over the years, Marquis will be conducting a telephone campaign during the spring months to provide further financial information and solicit your assistance and financial support to help us achieve our goal to eliminate the debt. Thank you in advance for your understanding and support.

You can send your donations via cheque to Marquis, by signing up for monthly debits to your account, or online through major credit cards or PayPal (see details on the Donate tab on the Marquis website). All donors will receive a charitable tax receipt at year end. You can also view a copy of the Marquis 2012-2013 Fiscal Statement in the Library tab on the website.

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