

**Elder Connections
Annual Report 2011
Year Ended August 31, 2011**

The following are some program highlights for the year ended August 31, 2011.

1. Thank you to all of our computer training teachers Avraham Cujic, Sam Cheung, Naomi Mills-Smith, Morry Koperwas, Gurpreet Singh Bhalla and all our substitute teachers. Over this past year, seniors received training at our 8 computer training sites in York Region, Mississauga, Durham Region, Toronto, Oshawa and Brampton. The training focus is on how to use e-mail, the Internet and MS Word. Classes are also given in Yahoo Messenger, Facebook and Skype. Best wishes to Caryl Alexander on her retirement. Your dedication as coordinating our computer training was exceptional and you will be missed.
2. Thank you to Dov Ber Marshall, Saira Malik and Sylvia White for their leadership in multicultural and intergenerational classes and programs by connecting diverse senior groups and juniors. The Intergenerational Culture Exchange's goal is to bridge social gap between the generations through friendly visits, get-togethers, activities and educational programs throughout the year. Youth volunteers visit seniors in their homes, senior's centers and senior's resident facilities.
3. Thank you to Barry Lipkus for coordinating our Bingo and providing advice at our board meetings.
4. Thank you William Scandlan for his Disability Tax Credit seminars. These seminars were developed to advise eligible people of potential tax savings. To date, 59 seminars have been arranged in the past five years. More than 2,500 individuals have been able to receive their rightful tax credits. This credit which has been in the *Income Tax Act* since 1985 can be claimed up to 10 years retroactively. It is estimated that the average tax recovered is \$5,000 to \$6,000 for an approximate total of more than \$15 million in tax refunds.
5. Thank you to Noor Din for his leadership in developing EPIC (Enterprise Promotion & Investment Centre). It is a community based venture that supports self-employed initiatives for the marginalized work force. Elder Connection is one of the founding partners for this program. In addition, thank you to Human Endeavors for the many programs serving the South Asian Community.
6. Thank you to D.B. Marshall for his senior's education and care giving classes.
7. Thank you to Gary Gladstone and Abi Radcliffe for working on the Fundraising Planning Day , Board Role & Governance , and Strategic Planning .
8. Thank you Morris Jesion and Abi Radclife for the work on the Toronto and York Region computer training sites, the newsletters, educational programs,

intergenerational, multicultural programs and fairs, speaker's bureau, volunteers, students, cultural, social and recreational programs in long-term care facilities, seniors connecting seniors and youth and fundraising.

9. Thank you to Jack Pinkus who speaks on safe medication use and health promotion throughout the Greater Toronto Area. Jack Pinkus is a member of the Ontario Pharmacists' Association (OPA) Board of Directors. The OPA has been rolling out a program called Seniors Safe Medication Use Program (SSMUP) throughout the province. This program has been operating for nine years. About 12 per cent of the population is seniors and about 40 per cent of prescription users are seniors and of that 40-50 per cent used prescribed and over-the-counter medication improperly.
10. Thank you to our lottery licensing officers from all of our municipalities for being supportive of Elder Connections programs.

Thank you to our Board of Directors: Mary Allen-Armiento, Noor Din, Julius Gabel, Gerry Hurwitz, Goldie Leibman, Jack Pinkus, Ari Sitnik, Martha Dallaire, Don Forman and Barry Lipkus.

Munir Jan
Chair