

November 2014 *Letter from Faizel Rawji, principal at Senator Reid Elementary School, Surrey, BC*

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

This is my fourth year at Senator Reid Elementary School and I can earnestly say that the more we act, the more we can improve the lives of the families in this community. Over the last few years I have seen refugee families come to the school with little to nothing and in time, build better lives for themselves. One of the families that you have donated to now has a son who has been fully sponsored to be part of the White Caps reserve team. Many others have moved into other areas and are pursuing academic and artistic passions. This cannot happen when basic needs are not being met.

There are many misconceptions about whom we give our donations to. Prior to presenting the families to Chantrell Creek, we do an in-depth review of the families' circumstances. I want to be clear for the families of Chantrell Creek that the donations that you give never end up in the hands of drug dealers, nor do they get frivolously used. We choose families that are fighting for better lives; families where circumstances not choices have been the largest determinant in their current situations.

In my last communication, I vividly described what I saw as I entered the dwellings of the families I visited to give your donations. Today, when I visit those homes I am less startled by how little the families have, instead, I see hope in what we can achieve when we join hands.

On behalf of the community of Senator Reid, I want to thank you in advance for your generosity. Know that you are making a difference in the lives of the people in this community. To be honest, you really have no idea how profound your actions are.

I do miss the Chantrell community a great deal and am continually thankful to have had such a great experience with the families I had interacted with.

This is an excerpt from a note I received from a family on October 30, 2014

'From the bottom of our hearts, we sincerely thank Senator Reid School for being like a family not only to our children but to us.

Thank you for accepting our kids ... for providing them all the school supplies they needed including their daily lunch. Everything is truly a great help to our family.

And now for this opportunity; a blessing indeed.

Thank you Senator Reid for giving us a compassionate heart.

Sincerely ...

Thank you,
Mr. Rawji