

Contest win allows students to donate \$5,000 to charity

DSS quartet chooses Union Gospel Mission as beneficiary

Dave Willis, The Delta Optimist

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The work of four Delta Secondary students has netted a Vancouver-based charity \$5,000.

Grade 10 students Andreas Russell, Raymond Chan, Robert Anderson and Jonathan Victorino competed against numerous other DSS teams from their grade and came out on top in an Youth and Philanthropy Initiative contest.

The group researched the Union Gospel Mission, which provides meals, shelter, education, counselling and housing for the homeless, and then made a presentation outlining what the organization is and what it does.



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Delta Secondary students (from left) Robert Anderson, Jonathan Victorino, Andreas Russell and Raymond Chan get to donate \$5,000 to the Union Gospel Mission.

They visited drop-in centres and observed how the group helped the homeless, said Russell.

His dad works for the Union Gospel Mission, which gets the \$5,000, Russell noted.

Chan, who said he's seen firsthand the effects drug and alcohol addiction can have on a family, said it felt good to be able to help out the charity.

The presentations were judged by fellow students in addition to a vice-principal and a counsellor, said DSS teacher Michael Iachetta.

"I think the program's had a really positive effect on the students. A lot of them are volunteering with the charities they researched," he noted.

The \$5,000 was provided by the Toskan Casale Foundation, the organization that created the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative.

The Toskan Casale Foundation was launched in 2001 to help "the most vulnerable people in our community who need immediate relief and assistance supported by long-term stability."