



REMARKABLE WOMEN

2014: YEAR OF RECONCILIATION

Honouring women who build understanding & empathy between people



KEIKO HONDA

Keiko Honda was living a busy life in Manhattan when sudden illness confined her to a wheelchair. No longer able to pursue her busy career as a cancer research scientist at Columbia University, she relocated to the relaxed Dunbar-Southlands-Kerrisdale neighbourhood with her family...and learned to slow down.

She says that many of her caretakers and neighbours during this difficult transition were people she wouldn't have met in academia, or perhaps even noticed as she flew by them in her "go-go-go" life. She was so struck by the open-hearted compassion of these strangers that she decided to open her life to "spontaneous encounters." Since she and her daughter had enjoyed programs at the Kerrisdale Community Centre, Keiko joined the KCC board. Very quickly, the energy, intelligence, and determination that made her a great scientist were applied to the new work of building community.

True to her vision, Keiko now brings neighbours and friends together to share passions and discuss things that matter, such as art, intuition, the environment and social issues. She believes that community is as important as the joys of life-long learning. Her cultural salons have become so successful that the Vancouver Foundation recently awarded Keiko a small neighbourhood grant. Keiko is also editor-in-chief of *Kerrisdale Playbook* magazine, a community engagement initiative of the KCC, and a member of the Neighbourhood Matching Fund Advisory Board Committee of the City of Vancouver.

Keiko has not only found strength in adversity, she counts herself lucky to be where she is. Living a simple and balanced life that is constantly open to new surprises and wonders is "almost like opening a treasure box," she says. Truly, a Remarkable Woman.