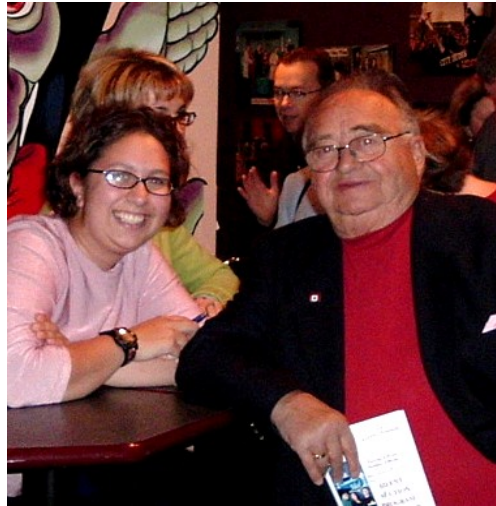


## Fundraising Update by *Barbara Baer Pillay*

Mufty Mathewson dropped off a clipping recently from the Edmonton Community Foundation newsletter which reprinted, with permission, an October 12<sup>th</sup> 2006 *The Economist* article. I would like to summarize it here because it is about donating to charity but it is also about our brains! According to researchers at the National Institute for Neurological Disorders and Stroke in Bethesda, Maryland, USA, people give, even when they can expect nothing in return, **because it feels good**. The researchers set up an experiment that examined what happened inside of 19 people's heads (through the wonders of MRI scanning) as they made certain decisions around making a charitable donation. The very interesting result of this admittedly small sample, is that they found that the part of the brain that was active when a person donated was the brain's reward centre as well as the part of the brain that is activated in the bonding behaviour between mother and child and even in the part of the brain that feels romantic love. From there, the researchers decided that, at least from this preliminary work that we can say: "...the warm glow that accompanies charitable giving



Vanessa Pillay with her grandpa, Barb's Dad, Frank Baer, welcome guests to the NABIS West Edmonton Mall Jubilations Dinner Theatre and Silent Auction, Nov. 2004

has a physiological basis." So there you have it, a scientific reason for that feeling we get when we give; our brains are intimately involved!

When my father, Frank Baer, died this past spring, after a year of declining health due to a brain injury, it was a 'no-brainer' to ask that donations be given to NABIS to honour his memory. Still I had to okay it with my mom and my siblings and it felt good that they immediately agreed that that was very appropriate. I don't think it was because they were at all thinking, at least in the immediate aftermath, that Dad died because of a brain injury; he was after all 83; and it wasn't because I work for NABIS in fundraising. I think what they really wanted to honour with these donations is the spirit of my dad who, if nothing else, always championed the "little guy" and the "underdog." NABIS, when put up against the big foundations and organizations involved in cancer or heart disease or children, is definitely a little guy; with people affected by brain injury too often, also, the underdog.

That's why NABIS is here and why people give to NABIS; **it makes us feel good.**

## NABIS Youth Organization News

By *Cecilia Lee*

As NABIS Youth Organization founder, I attended the June 2007 NABIS AGM to present two awards to two very deserving individuals who have been an integral part of the Youth Organization for some time now. The Youth Leadership Award was given to **Vincent Jeong**, who is now off on scholarship to Princeton University in the fall. **James Zhou** was also awarded for his leadership; he too is off to finish high school at the prestigious United World College in Singapore. We will miss them both and wish them the best in their world travels and studies. New executive members include **Daseul Kim, Justin Quedado, Mathew Palakkamanil, Patricia Jee, and Peter Iglinski**. This promising group will be sure to meet the excellent standards set by Vincent and James. An August planning meeting will see this energetic group looking at all the ways that they can continue to be a part of the NABIS community. Just in the last twelve months, the Youth Organization has had a very successful bottle drive, helped at the Christmas Open House, worked the Dinner/Silent Auction, flipped hamburgers and hot dogs at the Salisbury Greenhouse and held their own 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Roller Disco. Whew! Some members have also showed up at Networks to lend a hand this summer. All in all, this is a great partnership which can continue to grow.



Barbara Baer Pillay and Cecilia Lee at the June 19th NABIS AGM.