



CENTENNIAL BEAT

AUGUST 2012

Service Above Self

The Rotary Club of Toronto, \$100,000 Centennial Award

Dear Readers,

This is the seventh issue of the Centennial Beat, a publication recounting themes and achievements as our Club celebrates its Centennial Year beginning July 1, 2012. During our Centennial Year the Club will be donating in excess of \$1,000,000 to local and international agencies.

From its simple beginnings in January 1918, the Rotary Voice started out as a bi-weekly, four-page publication and in March 1919 it changed format and became a weekly newsletter. It has evolved into a team effort and now is produced by an editorial team of members using up-to-date technology to produce and distribute this exceptional publication. It is circulated using social media tools as well as the printed format. Our newsletter is produced every week with the Voice Extra on alternate weeks. It is a communications tool of which our Club and members are very proud because it certainly tells our Club's story!

Enjoy.

Maureen Bird

The Rotary Club of Toronto Centennial Award of \$100,000 will be given to Youth Employment Services YES for its innovative program, The Rotary Club of Toronto Centre for Youth Empowerment: Job Camp

The Rotary Club of Toronto Centre for Youth Empowerment: Job Camp provides youth with the opportunity to engage in a two week pre-employment training program followed by a job placement opportunity. The program is designed for youth 16- 29 years of age who have less than a high school education, unstable living conditions, little knowledge of job search techniques, history of criminal activity or other barriers that prevent them from finding a job.

The \$100,000 Rotary Centennial Project funding will allow Youth Employment Services YES to continue the program for the next three years. The funds will be used to support the costs of delivering the program's workshops, program coordination, participant stipends and participant workshop materials.

During the two weeks youth participate in a series of interactive workshops that cover: labour market and apprenticeship information, resumes and cover letters, mock interviews, references, networking, career exploration and the use of social media. Key to the program's success is to access individual counselling with a caring and supportive counsellor.

Job Camp is structured to accommodate all types of personalities and learning styles. It provides extra support for multi-barrier youth in jeopardy of being unemployed long-term. The program focus on group work and supported independent work. The program provides a supportive place where youth with

barriers can feel comfortable and see a future for themselves through improved life skills and self-esteem. Our counsellors assist participants in clarifying their goals, identifying their strengths and weaknesses and assessing their job opportunities or educational options.

YES has grown into Canada's largest youth employment agency. Over 7,500 youth per year in all YES programs achieve 82% success in finding work, training or return to school. The average cost at YES to help a youth find a job is \$1,500. With the cost of incarceration over \$100,000 a year, a shelter bed over \$50,000 a year and welfare payments of \$12,000, it makes good economic sense to help youth find a job.

YES has grown into an internationally recognized Centre of Excellence for youth employment and empowerment with the ongoing support of RCT. Financial support is essential but volunteer contributions are imperative. YES thanks all the Rotarians of our club who have served on the YES Board of Directors for the past 44 years.

October 2, 2012 at Brassaii Restaurant: Join The Rotary Club of Toronto and Youth Employment Services YES to celebrate our Centennial year and support the Job Camp project. For more information or to reserve your ticket please call 416-504-5516 extension 230.

To learn more about YES and The Rotary Club of Toronto Centre for Youth Empowerment: Job Camp program please visit www.yes.on.ca



CENTENNIAL BEAT

Youth and Children's Services Committee Chooses The Rotary Club of Toronto Centre for Youth Employment: Job Camp

— by Pat Neuman, RCT Project Liaison



It was a lengthy process to choose the committee's recipient of the Centennial gift of \$100,000. Three years ago, each member of Youth and Children's Committee was asked to submit their choice for a project/organization to receive this money. A Project Subcommittee was struck. Several ideas were submitted, presentation paperwork was received and each group was asked to do a presentation on their project

illustrating how the \$100,000 was to be used. Discussions ensued and voting was held to cut down the full list. Each of these groups was assigned a member of the committee who would lobby for the group and assure the committee that all was in order. The list was eventually pared down to three organizations who were asked to submit additional information and make another presentation. A Q&A period involving the entire committee took place with each organization. Votes were taken by secret ballot to choose the final recipient.

As with many Government programs, funding for this program had been slashed to unworkable numbers. The Job Camp would be cancelled without further funding. Youth Employment Services YES and The Rotary Club of Toronto have a long history and the Youth and Children's Service Committee chose this project for it clearly demonstrated future sustainability and would enrich many young lives. Youth and Children's Service Committee believe that jobs empower youth to be stronger people, give them self-confidence, self-esteem, and have a purpose in life. It was exciting to know that we would be able to provide the assistance and support they so badly needed to help Toronto youth who may have "slipped through the cracks".

Job Camp Success Stories

Before getting to YES, I was jobless and not having success finding a job because I feel that I did not have the skills or knowledge to find work. I found the number for YES on a flyer at local community centre and called. I got put into the Job Camp Program. They taught me how to improve my resume, cover letter, interview skills and how best to locate jobs. I feel like my job searching improved 100% and I am now getting calls returned by employers and interviews!

- Anita, Job Camp Participant

I first came to YES when I was unemployed with absolutely no prospects or experience within the city at all. I had no money for expenses and no money for rent and was in a horrible position after leaving school. I gave it a shot and it was the best decision I have made since moving to Toronto. The Job Camp program kept me on my feet and motivated to find work, and I did. In just under a week and a half I had an interview with one of my favourite employers and was hired days later. I am now working 5 days a week and loving what I do. The people at YES are amazing at what they do and they will find you a job if you are motivated and work with them.

- James, Job Camp Participant

When I first entered the Job Camp program at YES I was on the verge of losing my apartment and in between schools. With the help of Job Camp I was able to revamp my resume and interview skills thus boosting my confidence to put myself out there on the job market. Within the second week of Job Camp I had 2 interviews and was hired on the spot at Alimento Fine Foods. Working there enabled me to keep my apartment and I've already saved enough to pay for my first semester of college. Without programs like these I wouldn't be where I am today.

- Rachel, Job Camp Participant



MOVING FORWARD

Join the Youth and Children's Service Committee and get involved in their many worthy projects

Contact Chair Jeff Dobson
jdobson@strathbridge.com

Become a volunteer at Youth Employment Services YES

Contact Nancy Schaefer,
Yes President and Rotarian
nancy_schaefer@yes.on.ca

Join the Communications and Public Relations Committee to promote our great Centennial projects.

Contact Chair Sylvia Geist,
sgeist@rogers.com

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CENTENNIAL MEMBERSHIP GOAL

It is a great feeling within our committee members to know that Rotary Club of Toronto has provided the funds on behalf of the Youth and Children's Service Committee to create "The Rotary Club of Toronto Centre for Youth Empowerment: Job Camp".

A Win/Win for everyone, especially Toronto Youth.

— Member's Quote, Pat Neuman

