

Rotary Club of Hamilton AM – 2016'17 – Summary

Hamilton Rotary AM has collaborated with other clubs on our World Community Services strategy:

- Rotary Club of Ancaster to support clean drinking water in Haiti - \$7,500
- Salama Shield Foundation to support Youth Action Work - \$5,000
- Club Rotario Valladolid for install of drinking fountains in rural schools in Mexico - \$2,500

Projects in Hamilton we are supporting:

- Inasmuch House Playground Renovation and Accessibility Retrofit
- \$25,000
 - Hamilton Food Share Purchase of new refrigerated truck to move food to various food banks
- \$25,000
 - Westdale Secondary School Aboriginal Student Union Plaque Recognizing Ancestral School lands
- \$1,200
 - Salvation Army Grace Haven Backyard Project providing a safe place for residential and community programs for pregnant adolescents
- \$30,000
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District Volunteer Efforts:

- Club members have been active in training and information sharing activities
 - CLT participation:
 - Cameron Nolan presentation on Governance
 - Al Lutchin – panel participation on membership – sharing our Spring Ahead with Membership program
 - Multi District PETS:
 - Al Lutchin and Nance MacLeod – delivery of workshops around soft skills for leadership
 - Assistant Governor Area 18:
 - Anne Bermingham incoming Assistant Governor – Marta Stiteler
 - Chair - District 7090 Club Leadership Training:
 - Anne Bermingham
 - RI International Conference in Atlanta attendees:
 - Jane Blums – Al Lutchin – Anne Bermingham
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Drams and Disco - new fundraising event

This was a new fundraising event in April 2016 for the Club launched this spring in addition to the annual Diamonds and Denim BBQ Auction. The event raised over \$14,000.

Reading Buddies for Hess Street Grade School

Hess Street School is an Inner-city school with multi ethnic and new Canadian backgrounds, including the children of the 1,000 Syrian refugees that came to Hamilton. Club members volunteer weekly to assist kids in their reading abilities.

Imagine-in-the-Park – Free Children’s Arts Festival

The Club was approached to take this over this year as an official Rotary event that was founded by club member Sharon Levy Cohen 7 years ago. This year 3000 people attended the June 3rd event at Gage Park for day long activities aimed at teaching literacy through art/culture, with the theme around Canada’s 150 birthday.

The following are special moments and heart warming stories from the event, observed by a Rotary Club Volunteer Janet McNaught.

As a musician was just getting set up for another group, a boy came up and asked if he could try her guitar. She said sure, he started playing, and he was good! Lovely flowing tunes, not just strumming. She quickly got out her accordion and played along, then another musician joined in on the chimes. Soon smaller children gathered around, and they picked up percussion instruments, shakers, bells and clappers. It was beautiful music.

When they finished, the musician said thanks for jamming, and asked how long he had been playing. He said, "One year". Others asked him where did he learn to play. He answered, "In Syria". The musician told his father about An Instrument for Every Child, that is provided free for school kids, and said she would be in touch to get him set up with a band and a teacher. The dad apologized that his English wasn't very good adding that they have been in Canada 6 months and that his son had studied for a year in Syria he hadn't played for 4 months as they were out of their home waiting to come to Canada.

Another experience was about a little boy juggling. He was getting really involved, trying very hard, over and over again to get the tricks right. His mother was sitting watching, and said he's not usually this involved, he doesn't play video games or anything. Then she explained more, he is being tested, they think he's slightly autistic. He normally will avoid activities with other kids, and lose interest very quickly. But he was sticking with this one. She asked where she could get some of the juggling balls, because he was obviously enjoying this. The juggler told the mother where to get the juggling balls and the mother's face fell as she said she doesn't drive and doesn't know how to get to the store. So the juggler gave her a set of juggling balls. The mom started crying, the boy came over and gave her a hug. They stayed for about an hour, the mom joined in the lesson so she could learn as well and help him at home.

Also at the juggling tent a group of adults were with special needs boys, all either mid teens or young adults. One boy, non-verbal, was literally jumping in excitement. They gave him a handful of juggling balls because apparently, he does play with things like that, and he took the entire handful and with huge joy, laughing, he flung them at the juggling instructor who caught all and then juggled them. It was magic! That boy was so happy!

The following table notes activities of Rotary Club of Hamilton AM related to the **Lighthouse Award**.

Criteria	Status
1. Successfully complete the qualifications for the 2016-2017 Presidential Citation.	In process
2. Every club member donates at least \$26.50 to celebrate the centennial of The Rotary Foundation to the Share Account and the club achieves a minimum of \$100.00 per member.	No, though total was \$8,300
3. Have at least two members attend the 2016 District Conference.	Yes – 3 people
4. Have two members attend the Grant Management Seminar 2016-2017, thereby qualifying to successfully complete the grant qualification process, including submitting the MOU on time.	Yes – 3 people
5. The President and/or the President-elect and/or the President-elect Nominee (if known) participate in each Area meeting during the 2016-2017 year.	Yes – 3 people
6. Have at least one member participate in a Rotary Leadership Institute program during the 2016-2017 year.	Yes – 3 people; 4 RLIs
7. The President-elect participates in each segment of the PETS program in 2016-2017.	Yes
8. The President-elect, Secretary and at least one other member attend Club Leadership Training (formerly, District Assembly) in 2016-2017.	Yes – 3 people: 2 presenters