



Family and Community Services Award

Conferred upon Jennifer Hamm on June 25, 2024

"When I see something wrong!" "When something looks unnecessarily wasteful!" "When I think this could be useful to someone else that can't afford it!" "Where is all this junk going, the landfill"? "I can't believe that our disposable society is discarding all this."

These are some of the thoughts that Jennifer Hamm rolled around in her mind. For years on each garbage day, she was horrified to see the amount of potentially useful items cluttering the sides of the streets. People were throwing away unwanted junk that someone else could use. And all this was filling the local landfill sites. So, she decided to do something about it.

She began to collect items that could be salvaged and reused. "One person's trash is another person's treasure". Her double car garage soon looked like a mini disposal site. There she would refinish, repaint, and make small repairs if needed.

She began to publish her finds on a site called BuyNothing.com. It didn't take long before her email and phone started to ring requesting items on her website. Jennifer personally assessed each request according to the needs of the person. Each one had a story of what and where the items would be used. It wasn't long before her new venture turned into a weekly passion.

Large items, too big to pick up and carry to her home, were photographed and featured on her website. The online photos contained the address and location of the item where the would-be owner could pick it up on a first come/ first serve basis. It is estimated that over the 5 years since this initiative started, over 600 items have found new homes.

Jennifer, like many others, believes that our disposable society places a large burden on Mother Earth. At the same time, she recognizes that so much can be recycled for people who can't afford many of these items. She was determined to do something about this situation. Let's hope that Jennifer's initiative will be an example for others to follow.

Jennifer, please come forward to receive your very deserving Family and Community Services Award for your dedication and resourcefulness.

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Upon approval of the Club's Board of Directors the awardee is presented with a certificate from Rotary International and the award citation.

For organizations or individuals not related to a Club member:

- The nominee must have provided outstanding service to families, neighbourhoods or local communities in the National Capital Region.

For members of a West Ottawa Rotarian's family the nominee must have:

- Provided outstanding service to families, neighbourhoods or local communities in the National Capital Region; or
- Made a significant contribution to the work of the Rotary Club of West Ottawa.