



Conferred on Wendy Pyper, June 25, 2024

This Non-Rotarian's contribution of time and talent who meets more than one of our four criteria, is awarded the distinguished Paul Harris Award. She has created The **Canada Cuba Care Connection – 4C** to provide medical supplies to non-urban areas of Cuba. With her excellent communication skills, effective leadership, planning and its execution distinguishes her as an ideal recipient of this Award.

The ever energetic and creative Wendy Pyper discovered how to ship these supplies to Cuba with the help of *Facebook* groups such as *Canadians Helping Cubans*. Out of her basement which looks like a small warehouse of supplies, Wendy works alone assembling supplies in boxes to be shipped to Montreal and then onto Cuba. Each box must be of a specific size, weight, and mass to be allowed into Cuba without being intercepted by Customs. There are no duties placed on small shipments of medical supplies.

Her support comes from the people of Canada specifically in Eastern Ontario. Once she has completed a needs assessment from her trusted Cuban connections, Wendy approaches her contacts in different organizations back home for supplies. Some of these groups include *Firefighters Without Borders* who obtain paramedic supplies passed their expiration date in Canada but can still be used by the hospitals and clinics in Cuba with a degree of effectiveness. Also Wendy reaches out to other organizations such as the *Lions Club* and the *Kemptville Hospital* for supplies to fill her Cuban list. With energy and skill, Wendy has established robust networks in Canada and Cuba.

With her “hands-on volunteering”, Wendy has made outstanding personal contributions that has generated mutual respect between and among the people of two different countries. With her trusted connections and careful planning, the supplies are picked up at the Varadero airport and delivered to hospitals, clinics and other intended destinations. Deliveries by car or motorbike and sometimes by hand, are totally dependent on the supply of fuel. It is expensive and in short supply. The much needed supplies are administered to those in need irrespective of background.

Wendy Pyper exemplifies the qualities of “service above self” and provides a role model for the ideal community builder. She selfishly donates countless hours gathering, shipping and hand delivering medical supplies to Cuba. Cubans benefit from the generosity of Canada Cuba Care Connection.

Wendy Pyper, please accept your Paul Harris Fellow Award

Criteria for Awards to Non-members Paul Harris Fellow Award:

At the Club's request Rotary International issues a certificate in the awardee's name and a PHF pin, both for presentation with the award citation to the awardee. Paul Harris was the founder of Rotary. A nominee must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- a. Has made an outstanding personal or business contribution that has significantly enhanced the welfare of the community at the local, national/international level; or
- b. Has made an outstanding personal or business contribution that has significantly improved understanding and generated mutual respect between or among people of different races, cultures or countries; or
- c. Has performed outstanding community service in support of youth, the elderly, the underprivileged, the disabled or the developmentally challenged; or
- d. Exemplifies the qualities of the good citizen and provides a role model of the ideal community builder.