

Community Service Highlights 2016

Statement of Purpose Community Involvement Committee

To help improve the quality of life of persons in need in the community through personal and financial support.

-Start 2 Finish, TD Bank presented us a \$5,000 donation split between Dictionaries for Life and the Start 2 Finish Running and Reading Club. The \$1,500 for Start 2 Finish provided running shoes for the kids at two local beacon schools who prepare for the race weekend 5km through this after school programme. I've attached the video that I showed at the club assembly earlier last year for those that missed that meeting.

<https://youtu.be/4gUA08DO9Ss>

-Ottawa Rotary Home Golf Tournament - Request forwarded via Doug Rowlands. We have a strong connection to the adult respite care home and this event with the club represented on the board. We annually provide a sponsorship of the hole in one contest. Our club is always represented at the tournament with a foursome.

-Camp Misquah. The club has supported this camp for children and adults with developmental disabilities for many years. <http://misquah.com/about>

-Trips 4 Kids - <http://www.tripsforkidsottawa.ca/> Cat Weaver, the tremendously energetic leader of this activity based programme for low income children has presented at our club before. Their programmes continue to expand and it would be great to have her back again in 2017 to update the club. Recently received a Trillium grant.

-Kelly Lee Evans. Alan Bowles had suggested we support Kelly Lee, a past speaker (and singer at our club) now experiencing a difficult time. She has since suffered two brain injuries. She had been ordered by her doctor to cancel her planned tour and stay in bed to rest and allow the brain to heal. She is a single parent raising three young children and needs money for food, shelter, living expenses and medical expenses for her and her children.

-School Breakfast Program-Ottawa Network for Education. Anne Cole the Dictionary for Life liaison at South Nepean Rotary club had passed on a request via Linda Flynn. With 13,500 children daily assisted at 175 schools this programme benefits the full community and is in ongoing need of support.

-Expansion to Community Hospice Care development in Kanata. Request was that all clubs in the city contribute as there will not be government funding. <http://www.hospicecareottawa.ca/who-we-are.html> This hospice was of comfort to former member Julia Hill at the end of her battle.

-Bursary for the teen mothers graduating from the Youville Academy in June. We have been a long standing supporter with a bursary toward continuing education. We always have a committee member attend to present the bursary. The graduation ceremony is very inspirational.

-Camperships for Christie Lake Camp and Camp Merrywood. We have been long time supporter of both camps. A Christie Lake camp representative attended our golf tournament this year to speak about their programmes. We have had a representative from Easter Seals speak to the club in the past about the evolution of their programmes. Merrywood was originally founded by Rotary in 1948 on Big Rideau Lake near Perth and Easter Seals was originally founded by 10 Rotary Clubs in 1922.

-Centre 507, a day centre serving the homeless and the “precariously housed” in Centretown and the surrounding area. Participants deal with many challenges such as hunger, poverty, unstable housing, poor health, addictions, mental health, loneliness and isolation. The club has been very involved in the past and Carol Waters had been quite hands on with the centre.

-Elizabeth Fry Society of Ottawa (EFSO) has been serving women and female youth at risk with the law since 1951. They offer a variety of different programs and counseling services to provide women with supportive living and learning environments. Women of all ages are referred to EFSO by officials working in the criminal justice system, lawyers, medical professionals, social workers, and by staff of community-based organizations and agencies. The agency also operates a 15-bed women’s shelter out of the Bronson Centre called JF Norwood House. Request was brought to us by Ron Doll.

-Cityview United Church- Christmas Hamper programme supporting 75 families in the Dynes Rd/Caldwell neighbourhood adjacent to the clubs longtime meeting location at the Travelodge Hotel. Request was brought to us through Fred Christie.

-Jonathan Pitre- Ottawa's Butterfly child- Doug Rowlands had passed this suggestion on, this young boy has been going through specialized treatment for his rare skin disorder in Minneapolis.

<http://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/a-new-medical-plan-for-jonathan-pitre>

-Twice Upon a Time - Literacy programme that previously was awarded one of the Club Awards. Encourages children to read by giving them new or gently used children's books. Have given away 9,000 books since inception. We contributed to their development appeal.

-Parkdale Food Bank - We have been involved with some initiatives in the past including this past holiday toiletries collection and some of the shoe fitting events.

-Christmas Exchange (now the Caring and Sharing Exchange) - The club has been a long time supporter of this 100 year old charity. They offer food vouchers at Christmas to those in a time of need.

-Hospice in Kanata - OutCare Foundation. Cash Calendar Partner sought support for equipment for their family kitchen area. Allan Bowles had shared this request.

-Nella Campagna - Long time server for the club lunches at the Travelodge. President Jean has emailed the club and requested we consider support as she is experiencing serious personal financial challenges and is in danger of eviction. There was an overwhelmingly generous response from the club.

-Young person in need, request submitted through Bill Rolph. We were able to assist part way to enable this deserving but disadvantaged boy to pursue his dream of joining a competitive baseball team this coming summer.

As you see, many requests were submitted though club members. We welcome suggestions for needs in the community in 2017!

Dave Morton

Community Service

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