

Rotary Club of Belleville – Service Above Self



Thank you, Belleville Rotarian Chris Finkle and his wife Suzanne and Belleville Rotarian Tara Lyons and her husband Tom as well as all the donors and volunteers for stepping up to make things better during the pandemic.

What started as an idea to 3D print a bracket or headband to help with a shortage of Personal Protective Equipment for essential frontline workers has evolved into filling a void locally for community workers.



Chris and Suzanne Finkle's initiative is now in excess of 400 assembled and distributed shields to various organizations consisting of for example; Medical Clinics, Community Living, Long Term Care Homes, VON, PSW's, Dental Community, Compromised individuals, food services, pharmacy, shut in seniors, manufacturing workers and many more areas of need.



By means of an impulsive Facebook live video they were able to amass a 3D Printing community of somewhere between 15-20 printers on board to create and assemble shields and deliver to a drop off location. These community minded individuals are working tirelessly 24/7 to help fill the need of PPE. In the field an engineering company stepped up to mass produce the headbands with the use of a Robot.

The Rotary Club of Belleville and Wellington as well as a GoFundMe page; "Shields for our community" have backed this project to cover costs as the shields are given at no cost to those in need!

Tara Lyons took it upon herself to start a Facebook page called “Shields for Our Community” and started a GoFundMe page. She asked her fellow “Royal LePaggers” for any elastic and presentation covers and the donations started flowing in. Tara along with her husband Tom, were able fill a retirement home’s need for shields. They have given shields to clients who are nurses PSW’s and paramedics. Tara said



“The community has pulled together, and it is amazing the support we have been shown. Through the Facebook page we have been sharing and supporting each other. We have created a small community amongst ourselves too.”

Chris Finkle advised that presently they expanded beyond our community to support areas east to Cobourg, west to Kingston, North to Bancroft and south into PEC.

Chris stated “Much support is still required. If we have saved one life, we have succeeded!”