

Children's Wish Foundation April Stallings, Resource Development Manager

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Bart Daley introduced our speaker April Stallings, Resource Development Manager with the Children's Wish Foundation. April has worked in the non-profit world for nearly twenty years and is passionate about the change and good that committed, kind people can make in the world. April is originally from the southern United States, and has lived in Canada for nine years. April loves Canada. She has a wonderful husband and a thirteen-year-old son, and two dogs. Her favourite wishes are the ones that the children make up themselves, because they are always surprising and unique!

Children's Wish Foundation is a Canadian Charity for over 35 years, focussing on Canadian Children. They are in every province and territory. Over 465 towns and cities provided the work for the foundation. They are based in the Calgary office, and grant between 130-140 wishes (one wish every three days).

They have a constantly cycling through of wishes, and never have a wait list for wishes. They ensure that when the kids are ready, the foundation is ready. They tend to grant four types of wishes: travel wishes, item wishes (i.e. health), celebrity wishes, and wishes the kids thought of themselves. Some of the children are terminally ill, whilst some of the children have a diagnosis that has no name. Many wishes are often for children suffering from the following types of health impairments: leukemia, other cancers, transplants or transplant candidates, neuroblastoma, cystic fibrosis and children receiving "complex care".

Anyone can refer a child for a wish, it does not have to be a medical professional so please refer! The foundation has a national board of medical professionals and the referral details are sent to their board — the over-riding consideration is how impaired is this child's life due to their disability or impairment? If the foundation is made aware of a terminal child, a wish can be granted as quickly as 48 hours.



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Some examples of wishes granted include:

- Jayden Strouse (Edmonton) whose wish was the foundation's 25,000 wish. Jayden had a type of cancer with no cure. He wished to design his own sneakers. Jayden's shoes arrived at Thanksgiving, and Jayden died that November. But the Miami Heat picked up on the story and now Jayden's shoes can be purchased at: www.kingjay.org
- Tristan was suffering from Ewing Sarcoma with Myeloid Leukemia. Fulfilling Tristan's wish gave Tristan a "higher" purpose in his life. Tristan was invited to LR Helicopters and permitted to fly an actual helicopter! Tristan refused to be defined by his health challenges said before passing away, "You are defined by the qualities you wish to be defined by."
- Isabelle, from Calgary, had left heart syndrome — her heart has never worked on the left side. Isabelle's



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Spousal Birthdays:

Faye, spouse of Terry Green, March 4; Josie, spouse of Jim Hennessy, March 7; Margaret, spouse of Gerald Langeries, March 20; and Judy, spouse of Jim Thompson, March 25. Happy Birthday to all!

(No piano player today ... despite the electronic help from Bev's phone, we were awful !!)

Wedding Anniversaries:

David and Margaret Irving 50 years — their anniversary date is March 1, 1969. Happy Anniversary and congratulations!

Membership Anniversaries:

Lyle Davidson 34 years, Joseph Hooper 37 years, Alex Soutar 13 years, Ian Burgess 42 years, Herbert Imler 42 years, Tom Sorenson 42 years, Margaret Southern 42 years, Jim Thompson 42 years, Dale Perret 11 years. Happy Anniversary to all!

Fellowship Committee: Bev Tonkinson, Co-Chair

An invitation was extended to those who would like to attend the Glenbow Museum as a group. Costs are \$12 plus GST, which is the senior's rate, but if 10 or more attend as a group, the costs are \$10.80 per person.



Greeters: Bill Churchward and Anne Dale.
No Piano Player today.

Bill Churchwood introduced today's

Visitors and Guests:

David Burgess [guest of Dr. Ian Burgess], Paul Yang (Rotaract Member from University of Calgary) [invited by Rhea Graham], April Stallings [Guest Speaker], Megan Boyle [Guest of the Guest Speaker]



Minutemen:

- Pat Hutchinson — there are some illness to report — Bob Montgomery (cold and pneumonia, but he is on holidays now)
- The next Rotary meeting is 5:30 pm at

the Carriage House on Thursday evening — no regular noon meeting Tuesday

- Terry Green — on Thursday the Bonspiel team had to pull out because Terry Green has health concerns

Member Birthdays: presented by Bev Tonkinson

Graham Boone March 2, Gwynneth Gourley March 4, Stephen Pick March 9 and Garth Plunkett March 28. Happy Birthday to all!



Rotary Bonspiel: Bruce Bohnet

The Bonspiel was recently held in Lethbridge. The team from our club won an award for the team that exemplified good sportsmanship, Rotary ideals, and fellowship! The namesake of the award is Harry Jewel, and the award

has been instituted since 2001. Congratulations to Mo Tynan, Michael Spears, Bruce, and John Fortunka from the Fish Creek Club. Congratulations Team!

Photos courtesy Stephen Pick and Anne Dale

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Water and Sanitation Month

March 19th Blythe Butler, Early Childhood Development Network
 March 26th Anne Dale — Days For Girls
 March 28th Cribbage Club @ Horton Road Legion — contact Peter Bickham

Maternal and Child Health Month

April 2nd Syed Ahmed, Community Hearing Outreach Program
 April 5th Fairview Mentoring at Roots 2 STEM
 April 9th Christina Hassan, Full Soul Project
 April 12th Fairview Mentoring at Roots 2 STEM
 April 13th or 27th Cribbage Club @ Horton Road Legion — Wind-Up
 let Peter Bickham know if you have a preference on the dates
 April 16th Youth Night Dinner — evening meeting
 April 20th Community Service at Ronald McDonald House, 10:30am - 12:30pm — contact Wayne Wiebe
 April 23rd Lucia Piazza, US Consulate General
 April 30th Dr Mukarran Zaidi, Chairman, Think for Actions Committee



Youth Service Month

May 3rd Fairview Mentoring at Roots 2 STEM
 May 7th John Hufnagel, GM, Grey Cup Champion Calgary Stampeders
 May 10th Fairview Mentoring at Roots 2 STEM
 May 14th Jeremy Farkas, Calgary City Councillor
 May 21st Abdulfatah Sabouni, President of Aleppo Soap (a Canadian success story)



Meeting Minutes

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"Chase the Ace"

- \$63 value today (there is actually an Ace in the pot !)
- last four numbers were: 4072, the winner was Hank
- the pot for Chase the Ace was \$899. The winner for the pot was ... again ... Hank!

A new game will start next week.



- Did you hear about the guy too big for his britches? He was exposed in the end. Hilarious!

Good News: Congratulations to Hank for winning the daily draw, and for also winning the entire pot in Chase the Ace!, and Bill Churchward — last week was the anniversary of joining his first Rotary club — 35 years at 4 different clubs!



This month's scribe, Francis, hard at work ...



Sargent-At-Arms: Ron May (he is back from holidays in France for one month for the Rotary Exchange Program)

Today's Fines:

Infractions: Anne Dale put money in for being late, \$1 for those who did not stand up for the singing of O Canada. Gary Lamb asked if Ron May was a member here? \$1

Ron May's Jokes:

- Did you hear about the thief who stole a calendar? He got 12 months.
- Did you hear about the store that gave out batteries? They were free of charge.

Casino !!

September 28th and 29th
 at Calgary Casino



Save The Date!

Polio almost eradicated. Here's why we can't simply 'declare victory'

So far this year, there have been six known cases of polio infection, in Afghanistan and Pakistan — two of the three countries left in the world where polio remains.

You can't just look at infection numbers and declare victory. You also have to ensure the virus exists only in dedicated labs with obsessively strict safety protocols, and purge it from every other scientific and medical facility that might, maybe, harbor particles of the deadly infection. Such labs are numerous.

To uncover those "potentially infectious materials", the Global Polio Eradication Initiative hosts a big table that lists the dates and locations of wild poliovirus outbreaks, and the times each country did live-virus vaccinations, so labs around the world can scan the database and see whether their samples might have originated in a polio-prone area.

Some labs, which might have unwittingly collected poliovirus, initially find the process invasive, but containing an infectious agent is kind of an uncontroversial goal. "No one wants to be that guy who lets polio back into the world," [Anna Llewellyn, a Global Poliovirus Containment Officer at the CDC] says. "No one wants paralyzed children."

Polio is nearly wiped out – unless some lab tech screws up. But right now, when polio is finally almost totally gone, is the most important time to keep the few remaining agents of death on lockdown. "We're getting close to realizing eradication, which is a really rare moment in the spectrum of humanity, to say we're able to wipe off the face of the earth something that has caused so much suffering," says Llewellyn. "The closer we get, the more devastating a release would be."



Children's Wish Foundation

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wish was unique. Isabelle got to meet the judges from her favourite show, America's Got Talent, as her wish!

The impact of granting wishes for children include boosting the child's mental health, helping the child get through medical procedures, and giving the children and families a sense of normalcy. The fulfilment of these wishes are long-lasting, not just transactional.

The average cost of fulfilling a wish is approximately \$10,000. The whole family experiences the fulfilment of the wish along with the child.

To support the Children's Wish Foundation, you can donate directly, raise money through your church, your service club and through volunteering with the Foundation.

The Children's Wish Foundation is on various social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
www.childrenswish.ca or phone them at: 587-880-3268

President George congratulated the speaker for her efforts, and the Rotary Club of Chinook made a donation to Polio Plus in appreciation for April Stallings' talk.

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