



# THE BULLETIN



## Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: **Valarie Wafer**

RI President: **Ron D. Burton**

Week March 05, 2014

Board 2013-2014

*President: Michael Bell, Secretary: Ron Miller, Treasurer: Don Edwards*

**March 12, 2014 - Speaker: Chris Mills Toronto Police "Subject of Social Media"**

Reporting: Ron Miller

Pictures: Ron Miller & Peter Dusek

### Today's Speaker - Judy Leroux - Youth Without Shelter (YWS)



Gill Dugas has happy to introduce Judy who is going to tell about "all the wonderful things YWS does, and all the things that we may be able to help with".

Judy began by saying that she was pleased to be here among "good friends" who have become "familiar with what they are all about" and have participated in some of our "hand-on" events there.

Judy noted that on any given night 1500 – 2000 youth in Toronto are homeless and each year an estimated 10,000 youth find themselves living on the street. 20% of the Canadian

homelessness population is youth between the ages of 16 and 24.

YWS is located in the Kipling/Albion area and are the only emergency youth shelter in Etobicoke. In 1986 a group of teachers and guidance counselors created YWS as they were frustrated with the lack of safe, emergency housing and support programs for their students. Since that time Youth without Shelter has helped more than 14,000 homeless youth to build their confidence and life-skills and to find long-term stable housing and jobs. Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, we are dedicated to providing shelter and support programs in a safe environment, with the goal of getting youth off the streets permanently.

The youth that step through their doors are generally fleeing abusive homes, may have spent much of their young lives in the child welfare system, or have experienced many forms of violence and poverty. Most arrive at YWS with limited age-appropriate life skills and subsequently do not have the knowledge to look after themselves adequately. The youth they serve come from across the Greater Toronto Area (though with their proximity to the Airport, the Red Cross is sending them "youth refugees" as well) and from every economic and cultural background. YWS is located in the Jamestown area of North Etobicoke, a United Way Toronto designated priority neighbourhood. All youth come to YWS with their own individual needs including: immigration issues, substance use and abuse,

# THE BULLETIN

---

mental illness, anger/behavioral problems, issues with the law, pregnancy and feelings of abandonment and trauma from abuse. All have the same need for a safe and stable environment. The youth range in ages from 16 to 24 and arrive with just the clothes on their back or all of their belongings in a “backpack or garbage bag”.

The youth YWS serve: represent all levels of socio-economic, religious and cultural background and sexual orientation; are between the ages of 16 and 24; 60% are male; over 70% have experienced some form of sexual, physical or emotional abuse; approximately 30% are experiencing mental health issues; approximately 34% have considered suicide; approximately 33% suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder; approximately 20% are struggling with addictions; approximately 65% come from families with substance abuse problems; up to 40% have a history of foster care or group home involvement; prior to arriving at YWS 40% have gone without food for at least one day in the past week; approximately 60% of homeless youth have completed Grade 11 or less; up to 65% have not completed high school; an estimated 25% - 40% of homeless youth are LGBTQ

Building upon a solid base of programs and services the strategic approach at YWS is to ensure that every youth has the support and encouragement to develop to his/her potential. All programs and operations are designed and conducted in a manner that is youth centric. A Strength-based (Resilience) Model of Care is the foundation to the best possible successful future for the young people in our care. This is a “one-on-one” approach. Many of these youth never had an adult who “believed in them or gave them any support”. Youth who come to YWS arrive with the label of “homeless” with all

the negative connotations that comes along with it, consequently self-esteem and confidence is low. The Strength-based (Resilience) Model of Care focuses on young peoples’ strengths: building a safe community within our walls where talking, listening and sharing are productive; and giving youth the opportunities to develop the integral skills and confidence to navigate the world and overcome their challenges.

The YWS residential program offers emergency accommodation for up to 30 youth each night. The residential program meets the immediate needs of the youth by providing them with shelter, “one-on-one” counselling, 3 meals + snacks, clothing, and personal hygiene products. Professional child and youth care workers provide assessment, referral and case management services. While staying at YWS, youth agree to abide by YWS policies, rules of conduct and house duties. Equally important, during their stay residents must set goals and actively follow a plan to achieve these goals. Each youth works with a case manager to make sure they are taking the daily steps (such as job interviews, housing searches etc.) to meet their goals.

The YWS housing program helps to place youth in permanent, affordable housing. It addresses the obstacles faced by homeless youth that interfere with the achievement of independent and stable living conditions. Housing workers provide residents with options and work with them through the process of attaining permanent housing. They also liaise with landlords and assist in housing searches and placements.

YWS also has onsite employment counsellors that try to alleviate the barriers homeless youth encounter in finding and maintaining employment such as literacy, legal issues and lack of financial resources to access appropriate

# THE BULLETIN

---

foot and work wear. YWS has averaged around 6 youth a month getting jobs.

As well, YWS provides a "Stay in School" program that is designed to remove the barriers a homeless youth faces in completing their education by providing a safe and stable environment to live in and support and guidance from qualified staff. Twenty youth in the Stay in School Program are accommodated in their own wing of our facilities where they can reside as they are completing their education. Priority is given to youth aged 16 to 19 who are attending high school full-time. The goals of the Stay in School Program are threefold: educational, accommodation and skills development. The program is designed to support homeless youth in achieving success in their educational goals and to learn the habits, attitudes and skills to increase their ability to find and keep permanent housing and employment. All youth work with a case manager to develop a "Plan of Care" outlining their academic, employment and housing goals. Youth in the program have access to volunteer tutors and an on-site computer lab to assist with homework. Students are provided with transit passes, basic school supplies and school appropriate clothing based upon donations. Packed lunches are available for school days. Youth in the Stay in School Program are responsible for maintaining their grades, attending school regularly and completing various household chores. Judy added that they have had 45 students graduate from high school and they have just had their first college/university graduate.

Judy said the YWS has 2,493 volunteers who donate 16,345 hours to their programs. She wanted to thank our Club for participation in such things as preparing meals. She also wanted to mention the outing we sponsored at the Humber Arboretum. She said this was a

"huge success" as many of the kids had never done anything like this. Everyone had a great time. She especially wanted to mention the "Rotary team" that "transformed" room #3 when they painted it in 2013. She was looking forward to March 25th when teams from our Club, along with some of our Rotaractors from York U., will be competing in the "Four Bedroom Challenge" to see which team can come up with best paint & design job that day.

Finally Judy wanted to talk about the YWS Tokens for Change project. This program was started four years ago when a young college professor volunteered at YWS and noted that the youth there were "transit challenged" (especially the homeless) who couldn't afford to use transit. A program was designed in partnership with schools (primarily high schools) in the GTA to canvas for tokens. Through the year they run workshops in high schools based on themes of homelessness. They bring in professional artists and encourage the students to build art in various forms that they can present to the public...art installations, street art, music, choreography, performance art, etc. Then on one day in February all of the schools take to the streets where they can be found at various TTC stations all across the city where they collect donations (either tokens or cash) from commuters. At some stations the students perform live. This year, on February 7th, over \$75,000 was raised for YWS. Judy noted that one of our members, Theresa Sherwood was one of their station captains that day and "did a great job".

Andre Dugas thanked Judy.

---

# THE BULLETIN

## Birthdays This Week



*Carol Weber- March 09  
Happy Birthday to on your happy day... ....*

## **HANDS-ON-ETOBICOKE - Out of Cold Program at St. Matthew's Church.**



Rotary Etobicoke's Hands-On Etobicoke program delivered brown bag lunches for 20 homeless men in St. Matthew's Out of the Cold Program on Sunday, March 2. Included in each bag was a ham and cheese sandwich, wrapped cookies and doughnuts, banana and bottled water. We also added 6 extra boxes of cookies and all the remaining groceries for additional sandwiches to be prepared by St. Matthew's. The extremely kind and caring coordinators and volunteers at St. Matthew's were most appreciative and asked us if we would like to add our Rotary Etobicoke name to next winter's OOTC schedule. So let's mark our calendar for dinner for 70 folks in November or December.

## **Thank You Notes:**

**Haven on the Queensway** – Haven on the Queensway wanted to “express their sincere appreciation” for our support of their food bank and “Care Closet” through the “Kids against Hunger” program.

**ShelterBox** – A thank you was received from Ron Noseworthy, chair of ShelterBox Canada, thanking the Club for our donation for the Typhoon Haiyan relief in the Philippines.

## **Secretary's Announcements**



**Monday March 10, 2014 Board of Directors Meeting 6.00 PM. President Michael Bell's Residence.**

**Wednesday March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014 – Ribfest Committee Meeting 6.00 PM TPS 22<sup>nd</sup> Division HQ.**



# THE BULLETIN

## **Rotary Club of Etobicoke & Toronto West Rotary Club "MicroSkills Meet & Greet":**

**Rotary Club of Etobicoke**

**&**

**Toronto West Rotary Club**

**Are pleased to announce**

**A special "Meet & Greet"**

**To welcome our friends from**

**MicroSkills**

**Friday, March 21st 2014 @ 6:30 PM**

**Westmount Gallery**

**88 Advance Road**

**On December 18th, 2013 our Clubs announced the MicroSkills Youth Centre Expansion Project. This initiative is being undertaken in partnership with MicroSkills. It is a \$300,000 investment in the future of Etobicoke youth.**

**Hear about this exciting project ... and meet the people of Microskills who are making a huge difference in the lives of Etobicoke youth.**

**Contact Jack Fleming,  
jdf@flemingadvisors.com, 416-436-0062  
for more details. Light food and  
beverages provided.**

### **Visitors & Guests**



#### **Visitors and Guests:**

- **Judy Leroux** – Youth Without Shelter (YWS) Speaker
- **Cathy Pettigrew** – Potential new member
- **Monica Rathee-Shah** – Potential new member
- **Robin Bloomfield** – Guest of John Campbell

#### **Attendance:**

Members – 20  
Visitors & Guests – 04  
Total – 24



### **50/50 Draw**

**Gill Dugas – 5 of Clubs. So the Pots grows!**

However, even though Gill didn't win the pot today, she did win a consolation prize. Michael (and Jo-Ann) and Hugh (and Ruth) attended the Andrew Pollock "Highgate Road" CD release party at Lula Lounge on Monday. Andrew is the Senior VP of Marketing and Innovation for Maple Leaf Foods (which includes Schneider's who are our signature sponsor at Ribfest). Andrew's Highgate Road group, backed by some of Toronto's "best studio musicians performed at the party. Michael had a CD from the event and presented it to Gill.

# THE BULLETIN



## HAPPY BUCKS

**Ron Miller** – Ron was happy to say that Liz Reid, Mark Winson and he attended the 700 Squadron Air Cadets Commanding Officers' Parade at Don Bosco Secondary School last Friday evening. Ron had the honour of being the "reviewing" officer for the parade and got to inspect the Cadets on parade. Ron also got to address the Cadets. Ron noted that he was an ex-Air cadet himself and that he had been on the "receiving end" of many a similar parade. He also told the cadets that "he probably would not have gotten to be a Meteorologist if it hadn't been for the weather training he received during his Flying Scholarship training there". He added that afterward Liz told him that while he was reviewing the cadets "he had an ear to ear grin".



**Kester Trim** – Kester was happy to announce the birth of Madison Neveah Kathryn Kershaw. She is one week old...born on February 27th and is Kester and Kathryn's 3rd grandchild. Congratulations.

**Jim Woodside** – Jim was happy to say that he will be 79 on March 10th.

**Jack Fleming** – John was happy to mention the "Meet & Greet" that our Club and the Toronto West Club are hosting to welcome our friends from MicroSkills, Friday, March 21st at the Westmount Gallery. Jack is hoping for a "really good turn-out". He would like to get an idea of how many people are going to attend so if you haven't already notified him that you are going to be there, please let him know by email [jdf@flemingadvisors.com](mailto:jdf@flemingadvisors.com) or at 416-436-0062. Jack was also happy to say that there will be another "mentoring" session at SHEA. Four of our members that were mentors in the first session have agreed to help out again and he is hoping to get two more members involved. The timing still has to be worked out but Jack says that it is about a 2 hour commitment and is a "fun experience". He will give further information when it is available.

**Hugh Williams** – Hugh was happy to say that he was at the FEO (Festivals & Events Ontario) conference which includes the leaders from all the big events in Ontario such as Luminato, the CNE, the Royal Winter fair, etc. He said that everyone there was "astonished" at what we do for our Toronto Ribfest and are "very envious" of the event we run.

**Liz Reid** – Liz was happy to add to what Ron said about the visit to the Air cadets on Friday saying that "Ron did a fabulous job" and gave a "wonderful speech" to the cadets. She also noted that we have made some contacts with the cadets that may lead to them becoming volunteers at Ribfest. In addition, Liz was happy to say that she had contact with Weiting Xu from our Rotaractors at York University, and that they are planning to send as many as 59 volunteers for Ribfest. Liz says that they just elected a new executive for the Rotaract Club and that Weiting will continue as President. Since we are the sponsoring Club for the York Rotaractors, Liz wanted to thank all of our members who have worked to make the Rotaract Club feel more of a part of our Club.

# THE BULLETIN

---

**Judy Burnell** – Judy was happy to say that if we needed a room to hold any of our committee meetings that space was available at the TPS 22 Division Headquarters.

**Michael Bell** – Michael was happy to be back after his trip to Phoenix. While there he attended a meeting of the Superstition Mountain Rotary Club which happens to be the home club of District 5510 Governor Jay Jones who he met at the meeting. Michael brought back with him a club banner from the Superstition Mountain Club and presented it at today's luncheon.



## Malage Vocational School Project, Kilimanjaro, Tanzania.



Brock Buchanan introduced and recommended the Malage Vocational School at Mwanga, Kilimanjaro, Tanzania for ISC funding in October. The funding proposal was for the expansion of the Young Ladies Student Dormitory at the Vocation School. The target population of the services of the School are secondary students who missed chances for higher education and lack skills to combat daily challenges. The School is able to provide skills in mechanics and welding, tailoring, electrical installation, computer applications, cooking and decorating and driving. The expanded dormitory will provide security, comfort and a better studying environment for female students by allowing them to avoid the risks facing them when they go home after classes. Brock recently returned from visiting the Malage Vocational School and announced the dormitory is 80% complete and our Rotary banner, which Hugh designed, is already up..

---