

Making a Difference



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ROTARY CLUB OF TORONTO CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

What Does Success Look Like?



What does a Foundation Board look like when it is succeeding in its governance role?

Leadership. The President sets the tone and works with the executive director to set the agenda for each meeting. The agenda does not focus on “informing” the board; rather it engages Board members in discussions about important issues.

A high-performing board brings a great diversity of experiences. Board members come from successful careers in business, law, nonprofits, academia, and elsewhere. Their diverse background and experience provides a valuable basis for thinking critically about important matters from different perspectives.

Engaged board members do their homework before the board meetings. They review the documents and reports, and prepare questions. They ask insightful and tough questions. Further, they are engaged in “generative thinking” which is very much needed.

What would you add to this list? What sort of dynamics do Foundation Boards need to cultivate to succeed and remain relevant?

— by **Luzita Kennedy**, Research & Appeals Committee Chair, Foundation

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New Rotary Club of Toronto Health Bus Provides Vital Services in the City of Toronto — by Graeme C. Imrie, Director, Corporate Affairs at Sherbourne Health Centre and Rotarian since 2014

For the past 22 years, The Rotary Club of Toronto Health Bus, a program of Sherbourne Health Centre, has served homeless people in Toronto. With up to 10,000 client visits annually, the Health Bus reduces barriers by bringing health care directly to people in our city who need it most. In 1996, the Rotary Club of Toronto funded the first Rotary Club of Toronto Health Bus, the first mobile health vehicle in Canada that made stops directly in the community. In 2005, the Health Bus was replaced and in the fall of 2017, the third generation Health Bus hit the streets thanks to the generous support of the Rotary Club of Toronto Foundation.

As we start 2018, the services the Health Bus provides are as vital as ever. Pervasive homelessness continues to exist in Toronto (the 2013 City of Toronto Street Needs Assessment found that 5,231 people were homeless). Homeless people suffer from a wide range of health problems and the severity of their conditions can be exacerbated by extreme poverty, delays in seeking care and the health effects of homelessness.

The demographics of homeless and marginalized communities are also changing. Although the primary care sector has expanded to increase access, for many still, barriers to care remain so severe that the Health Bus’s model of literally taking the care to those people continues to be a critical need.

After 20 years of service, Sherbourne evaluated and relaunched the Health Bus program. We expanded our target populations to include groups such as aging homeless people, newcomers to Canada, and LGBTQ youth. We also enhanced the model of care. On-the-spot services are provided by a Nurse Practitioner who can diagnose, treat and monitor chronic illnesses and infectious diseases, provide advanced wound care and prescribe medications. A Mental Health Counsellor provides counselling and addictions support. Health promotion and education are prioritized, including the delivery of health education campaigns such as diabetes or Hepatitis C.

The new Health Bus is a state-of-the-art mobile health clinic. Fully customized in consultation with Sherbourne’s Health Bus staff, features include a comfortable and fully equipped private exam room, a separate private consultation space, wheelchair accessibility, and temperature regulation to increase comfort and dignity for clients accessing services.

Sherbourne was thrilled to introduce the new Rotary Club of Toronto Health Bus to the community in a special ribbon cutting event held in September. To honour the program’s legacy and applaud the outstanding support from the Club, over 100 guests, including Rotarians, Sherbourne clients, staff, volunteers, donors, and community members celebrated together. Guests enjoyed guided Bus tours, guest speakers and a video highlighting the Health Bus’s past 20 years of service.



Members of Sherbourne’s Board and management, Rotarians and Councillor Wong-Tam launch the Health Bus with an official ribbon cutting ceremony on September 14, 2017.



The Rotary Club of Toronto Health Bus

“We are so grateful for the legacy of support from The Rotary Club of Toronto,” says Chantel Marshall, Director of Urban Health at Sherbourne. “The third generation Rotary Club of Toronto Health Bus allows us to expand our services and provides accessible and equitable health care directly to some of the most marginalized people in our city. This has a profound impact on the health and lives of many Torontonians.”

The Women's Initiatives Committee Update



The Women's Initiatives Committee addresses hidden and neglected issues that impact marginalized women in our community related to health, poverty, women's services and education.

In 2016-2017, we supported:

- Interval House – shelter and support for abused women and children escaping domestic violence;
- The White Ribbon Campaign – movement of men and boys to end violence against women and girls;
- The STEPS Initiative – award winning public art charity that involves at-risk women to support community integration.

In 2018, with leadership from the WIC, our Foundation gave \$50,000 to the Immigrant Women's Integration Program, which helps newcomer women gain community and employability skills.

We are presently identifying a new community project that came out of a forum we held last year for agencies serving at-risk women.

We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at noon in the Rotary boardroom. Get in touch to sit in on a meeting. Look out for us at the March 9, 2018 Lunch with a very special guest to highlight International Women's Day.

– by **Chantelle McDonald**, Chair, Women's Initiatives Committee

Marketing & Communications Committee Chair & "Making A Difference" Issue Editor: Heather Gordon

Women's Leadership Program Sees Expanded Reach for Immigrant Women in Toronto – by Alfred-Jean Baptiste, Executive Director of Toronto Centre for Community Learning & Development



The Toronto Centre for Community Learning & Development ("CCL&D") started in 1979 as East End Literacy. In 2006, the name was changed to reflect the organization's growing mandate and the populations it serves. CCL&D provides community learning and building resources to marginalized Torontonians, including academic upgrading and literacy training, leadership development, immigrant integration, civic engagement, skills development and community engagement programs for adults and youth. The overall goal is to provide growth and inclusion opportunities that support individual empowerment, community engagement, and integration.

The Immigrant Women's Integration and Leadership Program ("IWIP") is a full-time seven-month training program for newcomer women. The program is offered at no cost to participants and includes a three-month internship component. Program graduates gain enhanced employability skills, community information and referral knowledge, a greater understanding of Canada's human service system, leadership and community engagement skills and greater civic engagement.

Former IWIP graduates have gone on to receive the prestigious Jane Jacobs Prize for community work in 2014 and 2015, and 70-95% of graduates find employment each year, and some go on to pursue further education, including graduate studies. The skills and engagement of our graduates are an important addition to their communities as they take their skills and knowledge back to other women and their families.

The program started as an east-end pilot in 2002 with funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Following the program's success, IWIP secured funding from the United Way to expand to other priority neighbourhoods in 2006. In 2016, CCL&D identified a community need for even further expansion to reach women in isolation as there was a growing demand that exceeded our ability to deliver the program. We began to look at ways to increase the reach of this successful program to ensure that isolated women did not face an access barrier.

The Rotary Club of Toronto's Charitable Foundation has donated \$50,000 to the IWIP program to help us achieve



Participants of The Immigrant Women's Integration and Leadership Program

the expansion we have envisioned so that we can reach even more women and improve their cultural, social and professional lives. Rotary's funding will allow us to invest in virtual and distance learning technologies, bringing the program to any Toronto immigrant woman through virtual computer access. Our virtual classrooms will have videoconferencing and chat room features, allowing participants to interact with teachers and classmates in real time. There will also be an option to access classes outside of the real-time, virtual or classroom setting as an additional way to reduce access barriers for participants.

The expansion of IWIP, with The Rotary Club of Toronto Foundation assistance, will mean that we can reach more newcomer women who may be living in isolation than we have before. On average, 10 IWIP trainees connect with more than 2,500 residents in their respective neighbourhoods, through their community engagement practicums. We anticipate a 300% increase in trainees, which also translates to over 6,000 newcomer women participating in workshops and other activities led or organized by trainees.

We are thrilled that The Rotary Club of Toronto Foundation and the Women's Initiatives Committee have chosen to support the expansion of this long-standing program of the Toronto Centre for Community Learning and Development. This funding, along with our other community partners and supports, will ensure that we can reach more women at risk of or who are experiencing isolation and support their integration into community life. We will also be able to train more newcomer women so they can be more employable, while also becoming active leaders, contributing to building stronger communities and neighbourhood well-being across Toronto.



IWIP Leadership Program graduates and CCL&D staff celebrate the completion of another successful program.



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