

Making a Difference



The Rotary Club of Toronto | Marketing & Communications Special Edition

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THE ROTARY CLUB OF TORONTO CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Principles of Operation



The word Foundation is defined by Meriam-Webster as:

a: funds given for the permanent support of an institution: endowment;

b: an organization or institution established by endowment with provision for future maintenance a trust *administered by a foundation*.

Some of the key words above are principle and future. The Rotary Club of Toronto Charitable Foundation (Foundation) basic principles/values established in its charter are:

- Excellence in fulfilling its mission and goals
- Highest ethical standards and adherence to accepted fundraising and granting practices
- Integrity and fairness in all undertakings
- Adherence to the guiding principles of Rotary including the Four Way Test
- Excellence in the governance and administration of the Foundation's affairs
- Compliance with all regulatory and statutory guidelines

In order to maintain these values and keep the Foundation going in perpetuity, processes have been established by the Foundation. One process is that all requests for funds, whether the request comes from The Rotary Club of Toronto, one of its Committees or an outside charity, must be evaluated by the Research and Appeals Committee (R&A). R&A is a standing committee of the Foundation and advises the Foundation as to making grants. In order to maintain its registered charity status, the Foundation must show that due diligence has been done before granting funds to a charity. R&A has developed procedures which are followed for all requests for funding to assist with the due diligence process.

The Foundation's granting Guidelines for submitting a request are to be found on the Rotary Club of Toronto's website www.rotarytoronto.com

— by Susan Howson

FOUNDATION DIRECTORS

Foundation Appointees

Peter Love (Pres/Chair)
Susan Howson (Vice Pres)
Bill Empey-(Investment Cm.)
Luzita Kennedy-(Res & App. Cm.)
Valerie Clarke - Dir. at Large

Club Appointees

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Jeff Dobson (Club VP)
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Kevin Power (Club Board)
John Fortney (Club Board)

The Rotary Club of Toronto Partners with the Disabled Sailing Association of Ontario – by Karen-Ann Xavier, Vice-president, DSAO



With support from The Rotary Club of Toronto, the Disabled Sailing Association of Ontario (DSAO) has purchased 3 new Voyager lifts and davits to enable people with disabilities to get in and out of sailboats.

The Toronto program QQDSP at Harbourfront has 6 adapted Martin16 sailboats and two Sonar keelboats. Previously one power lift was being used to transfer the sailors in and out of the sailboats, and now we'll have three!

How does it work?

When transferring a sailor with disabilities from their wheelchair into the sailboat, a sling system with straps attaches to a battery powered lift which then raises the sailor out of the wheelchair. A pivoting davit moves the sailor into the boat and safely lowers them into position. The same procedure is done in reverse after sailing when getting them back into the wheelchair. This is a very safe transfer method which requires no manual lifting.

Due to the time for transfers, operational capacity was limited to 65%. With the newer technology and going from 1 to 3 lifts DSAO is able to:

- Increase the capacity of the sailing program by making it a smoother process for the staff and volunteers to get sailors in and out of the sailboats.
- Enable more disabled participants such as higher level quadriplegics to participate.
- Enhance the safety and comfort for people with disabilities who require a lift to get in and out of the sailboats.
- Provide a more comfortable and confident environment for the youth sailors with the process of loading/unloading to and from the sailboats.
- This will also translate to a wider range of staff and volunteers that can support the sailors.



Tracy Schmitt, 4 way amputee, coaching a youth sailor with disabilities.

Sailing is one of the few sports that is highly adaptable, but not only that, it is possible to integrate able-bodied and disabled athletes together so that they can participate and even compete on a level playing field. How better to build confidence and self-esteem for people with disabilities and enhance independence. Healthy bodies, healthy minds.

The DSAO is a registered charity founded, organized and run by people with disabilities, with a dependable source of enthusiastic and collaborative volunteers. Last season, over 125 people with disabilities enjoyed sailing at Queen's Quay Disabled Sailing Program (QQDSP) located just south of the Rogers Centre on Toronto's Harbourfront.

DSAO is dedicated to providing people living with a disability the opportunity and resources necessary to enjoy the social and physical pleasure of sailing. Thanks to The Rotary Club of Toronto, we can make that happen.



Sailor being transferred into the sailboat, Toronto Harbourfront



volunteer companion and sailor from the Get on Board! youth sailing program in Toronto

**Community Service Committee
at Work**



Our committee's mission statement is as follows: "The Committee is responsible for supporting programs for the purpose of improving the quality of life for disadvantaged segments of the population in our urban community. This may include those groups who are most vulnerable to the economic, social & environmental challenges of an urban environment – the homeless, single-parent families, recent immigrants and the poor". For the second year, we are focusing on food security. We all think about food every day, but unlike many of our fellow Torontonians, we don't think about where our next meal is going to come from or how we are going to feed our children. Our committee undertakes projects where a small amount can have a large impact. This year, we derived great joy during the holiday season by helping to fund the Christmas dinner for the residents of St. Simon's Shelter and the various parties hosted by the Eastview Neighbourhood Community Centre. In addition to currently assessing other projects, we are learning more about food security. We recently visited the Second Harvest warehouse and plan to visit the PACT garden in the warmer weather. We are also planning a dinner with PAL (Performing Arts Lodge) on May 10th who we supported in the spring of 2016. There's more to come from our committee; please keep an eye open.

– by Karen Scott

Committee Chair: Karen Scott

Committee Members:

- Marcy Berg
- Kerry Bowser
- James Hunter (Board Liaison)
- John Lloyd
- John Joseph Mastandrea
- Jonathan Wu

Marketing & Communications Committee Chair: Sylvia Geist
"Making A Difference" Issue Editor: Sylvia Geist



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Rotary Club of Toronto "Buzz Group"

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**Simon's Shelter Thanks The Rotary Club of Toronto for its
December Message of Caring** – by Bob Duff, Executive Director

On December 14th, 2016 St Simon's Shelter hosted a gala pre festive season meal for 100 of our community's most vulnerable and at risk members; those who identify St. Simon's Shelter as home.

With care and compassion 100 current and former shelter residents were served Standing Prime Rib, baby carrots, green beans, mashed potatoes, Yorkshire pudding, shrimp cocktail, hot mulled apple cider and an assortment of pies and strudel. There was no question in regards to seconds as these hearty, deserving and worthy appetites made short work of 100 pounds of roast beef and 24 pies. We might ask how? Simply put due to Rotary support.



Bob Duff

This is the only time each year that our shelter residents truly are our customers as we wait on them and take their order accordingly as to rare, medium, or well done. For many of our service users it is the only time in their life they will be waited on. Through economies of scale due to the generous donation from Rotary, Santa Claus appeared and each service user received a gift acknowledging that they are not forgotten or are merely castaways. The Rotary donation provided the pragmatic message that regardless of our station or lot in life all are worthy. Through St. Simon's years of providing shelter we acknowledge that a hungry member of our community is an angry member and understandably so. So much of our self-worth and esteem as human beings flows from the very basics of life, shelter and food.

From the hearts of our entire community here at St. Simon's thank you to each and every Rotarian for the tremendous support and the message of caring you gifted to us in December.

**The Rotary Club of Toronto Supports "December
Celebration Meals" at Eastview Community Centre**

– by Cathy Henry, Program and Resource Development Manager



Eastview Neighbourhood Community Centre (which includes a Boys & Girls Club for at-risk children and youth) is located in the low-income, high density neighbourhood of Blake/Boulton in east Toronto. The majority of people in this service area face multiple barriers, including poverty, food insecurity, single parent families, recent immigration and language barriers. Eastview acts as a neighbourhood "hub" bringing together people of all ages and many cultural backgrounds in a warm, welcoming and safe environment. For almost 45 years, the Centre has provided a wide range of social, recreational, leadership and academic programs for all ages.



Throughout the month of December the Centre hosts at least ten different Christmas & Holiday Party Celebrations to ensure that every child, youth, adult and senior is given the opportunity to celebrate, socialize, share a special meal with their neighbours and receive a small gift. These celebrations are hugely popular and community members look forward to them with great anticipation especially since many of them do not have any other opportunity to have a traditional big family holiday dinner. Although a number of our community members are of different faiths and cultures, they love to join in these celebrations and they truly embrace the spirit of the season.

One of the best attended parties as always, was the Children's Program celebration on December 22nd which hosted 152 children ages 5 – 12 years old! WestJet volunteers (wearing the blue santa hats) served up the meal and helped to run a wide range of fun activities and gift giveaways.

In 2016 Toronto Rotary generously contributed \$5,000 towards the cost of the meals for Eastview's celebrations.



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