

# Making a Difference

The Rotary Club of Toronto | Marketing & Communications Special Edition

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## ROTARY CLUB OF TORONTO CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

### Investment Committee

The investment committee is made up of Club Members with experience and interested in finance, investment strategy and financial management. Members often have specific industry experience (e.g. banking, real estate, resources, economics, etc.) that spans the range of issues and intelligence that are needed to manage the investment portfolios for the Foundation and the Club Philanthropic Fund. The committee meets monthly to review the current state of the economy, industries, markets, companies and other areas that related to the fund's current investments and other potential holdings. Members are available at other times to respond, on short notice, to changes and needed decisions on the fund's holdings.

The decisions of the Investment Committee are directed by fixed investment objectives and government regulations. The Foundation and Philanthropic Funds provide a significant portion of The Rotary Club of Toronto's charitable donations and the Investment Committee is charged with the management of these funds. The Chair of the Investment Committee sits on the Board of the Rotary Club of Toronto Charitable Foundation.

Bill Empey, Co-Chair  
Tony Houghton, Co-Chair  
Charles Dillingham  
John Berton  
Steve Smith  
Eckhart Mehler  
March 2, 2016

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#### Standing Committees of the Board

Investment Committee Co-Chairs: Bill Empey, Tony Houghton  
Research & Appeals Committee Chair: Valerie Clarke

### Emily's House Children's Hospice is "Making a Difference" with The Rotary Club of Toronto's \$100,000 Centennial Grant

- by Jennifer Kroezen, Director of Development, Philip Aziz Centre for Hospice Care / Emily's House



The Rotary Club of Toronto's \$100,000 Centennial Grant was designated to the Emily's House Perinatal Program – including two neonatal warming beds, monitors, and a legacy cart – and the legacy lives on. "We are seeing the most fragile and complex children outside of an acute care setting, and this equipment has proven invaluable," explains the Clinical Nurse Manager. "Whether the alarms indicate that a seizure is imminent, or that a child who breathes through a trach is safe asleep, the nurses are alerted to respond in a timely manner."

Since opening in July 2013, Emily's House has had a total of 778 admissions. With an injection of play, specialized care, and legacy art, each life improves, however briefly. What matters most is the quality of those moments. As Natalie's mom wrote: "Emily's House not only gave Natalie the peaceful and dignified ending that she deserved, they also gave us hope; hope in knowing that they would be there to help us through our grief, and to provide all the support we needed as a family. Emily's House helped us make memories of our time there with family photos, a family hand plaque and a "memory tree" showing all her visitors. These are items we treasure beyond measure now. In our darkest moment their door was a shining beacon of hope."



Natalie's mom asked, "What would we have done if there was no Emily's House?" Cindy and Brian Sweet, with daughter Natalie.

### The Rotary Club of Toronto Provides Life-Changing Support

- by Meldina Smith, Director, Administration and Resource Development, Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic

The Barbra Schlifer Clinic is a centre by, for and about women. We offer legal representation, professional counselling and multilingual interpretation to women who have experienced violence. Increasingly, we found that women were having difficulty arranging for the childcare needed to attend appointments. We saw this as a concern and acted on it to ensure no woman had to choose between caring for her child and her freedom from violence.

With valuable support from The Rotary Club of Toronto, we were able to renovate the physical space of our onsite **Parent Relief Program** to meet two critical needs: A space where children are free to explore and play, and reassurance for a mother that her child is safe, so that she can focus on building a new life – free from violence – for her and her children.

Today, our child care space allows approximately 6 to 7 children from different age groups to interact with one another as well as space to work independently. A part-time Early Childhood Assistant (ECA) coordinates and

delivers an enhanced child care program three days a week, using the resources we were able to purchase with the grant, including: art and crafts supplies, therapeutic storybooks, a computer, television and videos, and educational games. At last, The Rotary Club of Toronto has enabled the Clinic to establish a structured program that is engaging and supportive and prepares children for what to expect while they are separated from their mothers.



Amanda Dale (back left) and the staff of the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic.  
(source: internet)

Thank you to The Rotary Club of Toronto for their generous and life-changing support.

## THE ROTARY CLUB OF TORONTO, PHILANTHROPIC COMMITTEE.

### Healthy Beginnings Committee



**The Healthy Beginnings Committee** was originally known as the *Layette Committee*, (1920), it was later known as *The Inner Wheel* (1941), *The Healthy Beginnings Committee* (1995) and *The Canvas Bag* (1999) were subsequently established. To this day, the women of The Inner Wheel are knitting beautiful infant sweater sets for the mothers and their babies.

The Pauline Hill Fund helps to provide additional financial support for the Bag Program. There are four deliveries per year, 10-12 agencies participate and it is estimated that 400 families benefit from each bag delivery. HBC members meet on the morning of each delivery, at two established locations in the downtown core, and organize the content of the bags for agency pick-up.

Purchases are made primarily from The Bargains Group. Rotary bags with our logo printed on them are also distributed. Distributions can include diapers, wipes, sleepers for infants, and activity books, tee shirts, flashlights for the older child. Testimonials frequently praise the high value and express appreciation for this long-standing Rotary program. A well-deserved "Thank You" must be given to the many, many volunteers who have supported the bag program, giving it continuity and stability for many years! Thank you to the present volunteers to allow the bag program to flourish!

The HBC also provides grants for innovative community programs, e.g. community literacy programs, helped to purchase musical instruments for Camp Scugog, funded reading circles, etc. The HBC selected for its Centennial Project, *Philip Aziz Centre for Hospice Care, Emily's House Perinatal Program*, one of a kind, in the City of Toronto.

HBC looks forward to its continuing partnership with community agencies that deliver much needed services and programs to children ages 0-6 and their families.

— by **Sylvia Geist**, Chair of The Healthy Beginnings Committee

Marketing & Communications Committee Chair: Sylvia Geist  
Issue Editor: Sylvia Geist

## The Hincks-Dellcrest Centre: The Rotary Club of Toronto's "Small Treasures" - by Nilofar Sleem Liakat



The Hincks-Dellcrest Centre is a children's mental health, treatment, research and teaching centre. A spectrum of primary prevention, early intervention and treatment programs are provided in a variety of locations across the GTA including St. James Town, where a satellite program called, Growing Together operates. A range of programs are provided for families prenatally until their child is 6 years of age. St. James Town is the most densely populated community in Canada and home to many newcomers. It truly is 'The World Within a Block.' Although many families arrive in Canada with high levels of education they struggle to provide their children with the bare necessities of life while they establish themselves in this new country. For many years we have been fortunate to receive generous donations from Rotary's Bag Program which



Bag Contents: Delivery, March 10, 2016



Bag Contents: Delivery, March 10, 2016

are distributed to the families participating in our pre-and post-natal groups. It is always a pleasant surprise to discover what we have received with each donation. The Bags might be filled with diapers, wipes, books, sleepers, creative activities, creams, etc. These might seem like small items, but for the families we work with, these are all vital materials that make an enormous impact on their lives. It is a joy to see the smiles on the faces of the children and parents when they receive these gifts. We know that the contents are very appreciated by the families and well used.

Recipients of the Bags have commented:

- "The bag is very useful. I can use it when I go grocery shopping."
- "It was a nice surprise to find the diapers and wipes, because they can be so expensive."
- "My older children loved playing with the doodle roll and the puzzles."
- "I like the sleeper, specially the size. My child will grow into it."

We are very grateful to The Rotary Club for their ongoing support. Thank you for helping to make a difference in the lives of the children and families at Growing Together.

## Robertson House, New Participant Agency Joins the Bag Program - by Triscia Cust-Jennings, Acting Supervisor, Social Assistance Client Programming



Robertson House is a City of Toronto directly-operated shelter, serving women with children as well as single pregnant women who are homeless. Robertson House offers many services including case management to help residents develop a plan with the goal of transitioning from homelessness to being successfully housed. We also provide pre- and post-natal support to our single pregnant clients, giving them peace of mind about where they will be living after the birth of their baby.

In October 2015, Robertson House was contacted by the Healthy Beginnings Committee of The Rotary Club of Toronto about participating in the Healthy Bags program. I attended a meeting where I had the opportunity to speak to members of the Rotary Club about Robertson House and the services we offer. The Rotary Club selected

Robertson House as an agency to support through the Healthy Bags program.



The Robertson House (source: internet)

The bags provided by The Rotary Club were a great help to the mothers who received them. The small diapers, wipes and newborn sleepers were given to expectant mothers as a layette gift. Robertson House staff distributed the large diapers to mothers in emergency situations. The backpacks, toys, books and doodle sets were given to children arriving at Robertson House as a welcome present to help them settle into their new environment.

The Healthy Bags program has helped our mothers provide for their children during a very stressful time in their lives. Thank you for your support, and we look forward to further developing our relationship with the Rotary Club of Toronto.



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