

Making a Difference



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ROTARY CLUB OF TORONTO CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Rotary Club of Toronto Foundation: Giving \$100,000 to build a new home for homeless youth

– by Alanna Scott, MM, CFRE, Development and Campaign Director, Eva's Initiatives

What does the Charitable Foundation mean to the future of the Club?



Clearly, the Rotary Club of Toronto Charitable Foundation enables The Rotary Club of Toronto to accomplish exceptional charitable initiatives for the benefit of many disadvantaged Citizens primarily in the City of Toronto.

During the 2012-13 fiscal year, our Club's 100th anniversary, we supported 11 major charitable initiatives at a total in excess of \$1,000,000. It was a special moment in the life of our extraordinary Rotary Club. Our Club's financial ability to make these donations was achieved as a result of prudent planning by this Foundation and is a legacy of our predecessors of 60 years ago; those who had the vision to accumulate capital to ensure and enhance the good works of future generations of our Members.

In addition to the one million donated to the Centennial projects, the Foundation continues to make regular annual gifts in accordance with its normal philanthropic agenda.

The essence of a Rotary Club put in simple terms: "we recruit members – we keep members – we raise money – and – we spend money to help those who truly need it in our Community."

– Excerpt from article by Past President Bob Smith

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At Eva's Phoenix, formerly homeless youth are being equipped to leave the streets for good. Youth can stay at the transitional housing and employment facility for up to a year while they access training and education, hold down jobs, learn life skills and get ready find their own permanent housing.

Due to the City of Toronto's development plans, Eva's Phoenix must be relocated from its current location at 11 Ordnance Street to its new home at 60 Brant Street. Eva's Phoenix Rising Capital Campaign is raising \$11.6 million to relocate Eva's Phoenix and move it into a newly-renovated space this June. This new space will be a haven for Toronto youth for decades to come.



Eva's Phoenix construction site

Rotary Club of Toronto Charitable Foundation is pleased to support the project with a \$100,000 grant. The Foundation has chosen to support the project because it will positively impact the lives of homeless and at-risk people in our community. Thank you very much to all Rotary members who helped make this, and other key Foundation projects, possible.

Eva's Phoenix provides not just a place to stay, but a community. Just as youth in dormitories live together and learn together, youth at Eva's Phoenix live in "houses" consisting of five private bedrooms with shared washroom, kitchen and living areas. This arrangement helps youth practice skills, like healthy relationships and living with roommates, that they will need to thrive on their own. In honour of Rotary's commitment, Eva's will name one of its houses The Rotary Club of Toronto House at Eva's Phoenix.

Rotary Club Makes Precedent Setting Gift for Toronto's Homeless

– by Shirlene Courtis, CFRE, Executive Director, Homes First Foundation



You can't do much if you are homeless. Without a permanent address, it's hard to feel like you are part of a community, find a physician, a job, or count on three meals a day. Established in 1983, Homes First dedicates their efforts to helping those with the fewest housing options. Homes First owns and/or manages 16 properties in Toronto, serving over 550 men, women and children every night.

One of the largest barriers that perpetuate homelessness is a lack of access to regular, healthy meals - physical and mental health suffers and affects the necessary skills to manage life successfully. Homes First approached The Rotary Club of Toronto with the opportunity to support a new Food Program for Strachan House, our largest shelter. With a generous pledge of \$75,000 from the Rotary Club of Toronto and matched funds from other partners, we can now build a food program to provide three meals a day and establish partnerships with food organizations for future wholesale options. The anticipated results on our residents will be profound. Along with the obvious health benefits, we anticipate increased engagement between residents, ending social isolation for many, and creating a greater overall sense of well-being.



Strachan House



The Strachan House Food Program will be tested over a three year period after which we plan to expand as an essential service within the Homes First organization. The Rotary grant will serve as a catalyst to launch this initiative that is greatly needed by our residents, some of the most vulnerable people of Toronto.

Strachan House

THE ROTARY CLUB OF TORONTO, PHILANTHROPIC COMMITTEE.

**International Service Committee:
Supporting High-Impact Global Projects**



The International Service Committee (ISC) supports high-impact projects that make a sustainable and lasting difference around the world. In 2015-16, ISC has supported projects in Syria, Ghana, South Africa, Laos, Uganda, Malawi, and many other countries. These projects provide access to clean water and sanitation; vital health services and access to life-saving medicines, surgeries and medical equipment; skills training and development; education and landmines eradication. This year, the committee has been especially focused on providing access to clean water, hygiene and sanitation in Uganda through WASRAG as well as supporting vulnerable populations including refugees and those impacted by HIV/AIDS. The ISC recently raised over \$58,000 to sponsor a Syrian refugee family in Canada and has put together a caring and passionate taskforce to support this family's transition to Canadian life. Many members of the ISC have been personally involved implementing these projects around the world and significantly transforming the quality of life of hundreds of thousands of people worldwide.

– by Heather Findlay, Chair

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

Toronto Rotary Club of Toronto Contributes \$10,000 to the Largest Global Grants undertaken by Rotary International - Ugandan Water, Sanitation and Hygiene project a huge success

– by June Oliver, Rotary Club of Oakville Trafalgar



This grant is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Oakville Trafalgar, led by June Oliver and co-hosted by the Rotary Clubs of Kampala and Lira, Uganda. We successfully raised US\$459,500 by March, 2015, one of the largest Global Grants ever undertaken by Rotary International.

We are delighted to report on the successful completion this month of the Aloi/Barlonyo, Uganda WASH [Water, Sanitation and Hygiene] project begun in 2015. It is bringing clean water and improved toilets to benefit over 6,000 villagers in these two communities in northern Uganda which had suffered years of devastation by Joseph Kony's Lord's Resistance Army. The project provides solar powered water tanks, rain water harvesting tanks, clean toilets, microcredit funds, tree planting and handwashing facilities to two schools and many households in the two communities. The most exciting and innovative component is the biogas production systems installed at the school campuses to prevent further environmental degradation caused by tree cutting. Cooking fuel will now be produced by biogas from the latrines and animal waste instead of the costly charcoal, formerly used.

We are grateful for the \$10,000 contribution (from the ISC and your Foundation) to our club's project. The Rotary Club of Toronto was one of 28 clubs in Canada, United States and Uganda contributing to this important project. We thank Ron Denham, chair emeritus of Wasrag, and member of RC Toronto Eglinton and Martin Ogang, RC Kampala. We also welcomed Lorna Pitcher's knowledge of the problems in this area.

This successful WASH project was featured in a presentation for WASRAG [Water and Sanitation Rotary Action Group] at the Rotary International Convention in Seoul, Korea last month by Claire Conway of RCOT. Claire emphasized that sustainability was built into the project from the start by empowering the Rotary Community Corps and the Water Use Management Committees of the two villages with ownership of the entire project.

All are invited to join a trip planned by the Rotary Club of Oakville Trafalgar to inspect the project sites in Aloi and Barlonyo on October 3 to 17, 2016. Contact Jennifer Kay for details and the trip brochure. Jkay3@cogeco.ca (905) 220- 4934



Biogas Conversion tanks



Rainwater harvesting tank



Disabled toilet

Update Report: Rotary Club of Toronto's Centennial Project, Bakong Technical College, Siem Reap Cambodia

– by Ronnie Vimsuit, Director and Maureen Bird, Club Member



We Cambodians are extremely grateful for the generous donation of \$100,000 from The Rotary Club of Toronto Charitable Foundation and even more from the members of three Sweat Equity Teams of Rotarians and friends. In a country almost destroyed by the atrocities of the Khmer Rouge it is wonderful to be able to offer hope for the future through the programs of the Bakong Technical College in Siem Reap.

We began several classes and levels on June 1st, 2016 in three initial program areas; IT/Computer Literacy, Business English and Khmer Culinary Arts. We had over 200 applicants, during the first week of open registration, for only 80 slots available. We will be expanding shortly into technical and vocational fields as funding is available and buildings completed.

Building 1, BTC internet cafe, community center, culinary arts school is basically completed and functional. Building 2, the "Snyder West Wing" is partially done. Inside it, we now have two business English classes (40 students each), an admin office and a reception area. In the "Stewart East Wing" now fully completed, we have two computer literacy classes (20 students each) and are planning two sewing classes and a library.

Building 3, our comfort facilities, is now functional and practical, designed to serve and support Building 1 programs. Building 4, our main five classrooms building, is programmed to be completed next year with board-approved budget. We will finish this partially (45%) completed building in 2017 or sooner.



School Opening, 1st class, June 2016

Building 5, our landmine survivors rehabilitation project building, is about 60% completed. We hope to complete it in 2017 or sooner. We have many planned vocational programs for this building.

Special thanks to the families of Chris Snyder, Tom Sears, Jim Stewart and Brian Westlake for their support and guidance.

More info is available at www.btc-cambodia.org, detail pictorial reports on FB at: Bakong Technical College



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