

Making a Difference



The Rotary Club of Toronto | Marketing & Communications Special Edition

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ROTARY CLUB OF TORONTO CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Remember to Name Us in your Will



Established in 1951, The Rotary Club of Toronto Charitable Foundation was formed to receive bequests and other gifts. Within the constraints imposed by donors and the tax laws, the Foundation uses its net income to support charitable and educational community projects and the charitable activities of the Club.

The Foundation only makes expenditures with the approval of the Board of Directors of the Foundation, which has eleven members, six of whom must be Club Directors. The worthiness of charitable projects is scrutinized by the Board of Directors of the Foundation, with input from its Research and Appeals Committee, the Club Board and the Club's Philanthropic Committees.

Our Foundation was started by a generous bequest by a former member. A substantial portion of the Foundation assets come from bequests from Rotarians, spouses and families of Rotarians. Remember to name us in your Will.

— by Valerie Clarke

Board of Directors 2015-2016

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Research & Appeals Committee Chair: Valerie Clarke

Dowling Community Service Centre Supporting Individuals with Mental Health Needs

— by Charlotte Berger, Executive Director and Volunteer Fundraiser



The Dowling Community Service Residence and Dowling Centre Outreach Program are immensely thankful and wish to express our deepest gratitude to The Rotary Club of Toronto Charitable Foundation for your kind gift of support granted to our charitable organization. With the aid provided by The Rotary Club Toronto Charitable Foundation our charity was able to remove depleted, stained, ripped carpets with new durable PVC wood design flooring, replace metal worn out office chairs in the community room with comfortable bench style durable leather sofas and discard an old broken down dishwasher with a new industrial model dishwasher.



New durable wood design flooring



New comfortable leather sofa

Our programs are recognized to be a valuable resource in the community and importantly the individuals in need of our program support are now able to experience a clean, healthy, comfortable environment. This generous gift donation has significantly helped maintain our program delivery to allow us to continue to be a viable source of support for individuals struggling with mental health needs.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, our team of residential mental health counselors, our volunteers and recipients of our programs we again are so thankful to The Rotary Club Toronto Charitable Foundation for a most significant positive change in the lives of previously homeless individuals in our transitional residential program and for individuals struggling to cope with independent living in need of supportive services provided through our outreach program.

Growing Food, Growing Minds: Rotary Club of Toronto Supports the PACT Grow to Learn Schoolyard Gardens

— by Rachel Schwab, PACT media & public relations



In 2015 alone, the PACT Grow-to-Learn Schoolyard Gardens (GTL) harvested an amazing 20,000 lbs of organic produce, composted over 40 yards of kitchen waste and welcomed thousands of students and volunteers to get involved in the process.

The largest garden at John Polanyi CI expanded to cover over 1.5 acres of growing space! With an outdoor kitchen, dining table and composting toilet, thousands of students, teachers, community volunteers, neighbours and local groups are able to utilize the space each year, making it an active community resource and gathering place. Several classes have made garden lessons a weekly part of their curriculum including the Grade 11 Business Co-op students who have won several awards for their involvement in garden business ventures including farmer's markets and a CSA box program.

"There are so many benefits to having the students in the gardens, which are essentially living classrooms," says David Lockett, PACT president & volunteer co-founder, "Not only are they learning math, agriculture, economics and nutrition, by being outdoors and seeing how food grows, they're also learning how to deeply connect to nature and each other."



The program started with a goal to teach at-risk youth how to grow and share food, but has transformed to meet community need; creating and transforming unused, often grey spaces into bountiful organic gardens where participants learn about harvesting food, sustainability and community building.

For photos and to learn more, please visit www.pactgrow2learn.ca.

**THE ROTARY CLUB OF
TORONTO, PHILANTHROPIC
COMMITTEE.**

**Women's Initiatives
Committee**

**Identifying Hidden and
Neglected Needs of Women**



The Women's Initiatives Committee identifies and confronts issues related to health, poverty, women's services and education. Inviting agencies to Toronto Rotary Club Forums help the Committee stay in touch with the needs of the community. Action plans are based on the invaluable feedback from the Forums and help to determine priorities.

The committee has focused on the theme of Domestic Violence for the last several years. Funds were awarded to:

- a) Nellie's Shelter, a long established women's shelter in Toronto that provides safe housing for women
- b) Oolagen is an accredited youth mental health agency that helps stabilize kids/families in turmoil
- c) Sistering is a drop-in Centre that provides practical and emotional support to homeless, underhoused and low-income women. The Centre has distributed "Start-Up Kits" for women fleeing domestic violence.

The Committee continues to be strong and active in its mandate to make a difference in the quality of life for disadvantaged women.

– by Marcy Berg, Chair

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

Trafficked Victims Will Find Help in New Housing Program – by Rose Cino, Covenant House Toronto



Young, female victims of sex trafficking will find critically needed support to rebuild their lives when a new transitional housing program opens this fall thanks to the support and leadership of the Women's Initiatives Committee of The Rotary Club of Toronto.

The new specialized, longer-term housing program is the culmination of a four-year partnership between the committee and Covenant House Toronto, which will operate the new facility. Covenant House, Canada's largest agency for homeless youth, is implementing a broad-ranging anti-trafficking plan. The new location, The Rogers House, is the plan's centrepiece.

Up to seven residents, 16 to 24, will be able to stay in the house for up to two years and receive transformational support, including trauma and addiction counselling, life skills training and educational and vocational support.



Marg Stanowski Toronto Rotary Club member

Rotary Club of Toronto Charitable Foundation has provided \$275,000 towards renovations and furnishings for the house while the committee has donated \$15,000 to planned prevention efforts.

Most sex trafficking involves Canadian girls and Ontario has been identified as trafficking hub. While homeless youth are at high risk of exploitation, unsuspecting young girls are lured in schools, malls and online.

In 2011, Marg Stanowski, then the Women's Initiatives Committee chair, encouraged the group to make sex trafficking a priority. With its support the partnership with Covenant House began and Wendy Leaver, a former sex crimes unit detective, was enlisted to

help conduct a community consultations and assess programs in other cities.

"We are deeply grateful for the steadfast commitment of the Women's Initiatives Committee to helping young women who have suffered the brutality of this terrible crime," said Bruce Rivers, Covenant House executive director. "They recognized early on that this issue needed attention by bringing Covenant House to the table and have demonstrated great compassion and generosity in supporting our partnership."



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