

Making a Difference



The Rotary Club of Toronto | Marketing & Communications Special Edition

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ROTARY CLUB OF TORONTO CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Research & Appeals Committee 2015-2016 a year in review



The Research and Appeals Committee reviews unsolicited appeals for funding. The Committee's role is to conduct due diligence reviews using its Project Evaluation Guidelines, and making recommendations to the Foundation Board. The focus is the downtown area of Toronto with an emphasis on seniors, youth, children and community programs. Applications must have Canadian registered charitable status.

The Foundation Board authorizes all grants and Research and Appeals Committee's role is strictly advisory.

Grants were made to the following charities with successful appeals:

Eva's Initiatives, War Child Canada, The Living City Foundation, Homes First Meal Program

Research & Appeals Committee also conducts due diligence and comments and provides recommendations to the Foundation Board on major projects selected by the Seniors Committee. These projects were made possible by the restricted Laughlen Fund.

Seniors projects:

West Tower Support Services, SPRINT Senior Care, Fred Victor Centre, Good Neighbours Club, Toronto Public Library, Circle of Care

The Foundation Board provided \$240,000 for R & A appeals and a further \$140,300 for Seniors' appeals.

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Investment Committee Co-Chairs: Bill Empey, Tony Houghton

Research & Appeals Committee Chair: Valerie Clarke

Rotary Club of Toronto's Grant to SPRINT Senior Care Helps to Keep Seniors Moving – by Stacy Landau, CEO, SPRINT Senior Care



SPRINT Senior Care is the lead agency of Toronto Ride, a partnership of 13 not-for-profit, community support service agencies that provide assisted door-to-door transportation to seniors 55+ and adults with disabilities who are not eligible for WheelTrans. Toronto Ride's essential service allows clients to live independently by offering equitable access to health care, appointments and activities in the Toronto area. SPRINT Senior Care is an accredited, not-for-profit Community Support Service agency in Toronto providing services to seniors and their caregivers since 1983.



New Transportation Vehicle, SPRINT Senior Care

In March 2016, we received a grant of \$33,000 from The Rotary Club of Toronto Charitable Foundation to purchase a 2016 Toyota Camry Hybrid LE to use for our transportation services. In recognition of this generous contribution, The Rotary Club of Toronto logo was placed on the vehicle and it was put on the road on May 16th. Since then, the driver has completed 595 trips, transporting 204 unique clients to their medical appointments and programs – clients like 81 year-old Ada, who uses the service three times a week: twice to our Adult Day Program and once to The Anne Johnston Health Station's SAGE (Seniors Achieving Greater Esteem) program. Our Adult Day Program provides seniors and adults who are physically frail and/or have cognitive impairments including dementia and Alzheimer's with opportunities to socialize and participate in stimulating programs supportive of individuals' needs and abilities. A client's quote: "It's always such a pleasure riding with SPRINT Senior Care. They pick me up, take me where I need to go and take me home. And the drivers are so nice and helpful."

The 25-Year Story of The Good Neighbours' Club and The Rotary Club of Toronto – by David Hamilton, editor



For over 25 years, The Good Neighbours' Club (GNC), a Toronto drop-in centre serving homeless, marginally housed and socially isolated men aged 50 and over, used an antiquated telephone system. This system covered the Club's basic communications needs, but was not sufficient to efficiently service clients and staff.

Most of us do not need to think about access to telephones because we have mobile phones. But, imagine if we didn't. How would we connect with family members or book appointments? Most of the GNC's clients do not have mobile phones, so access to reliable landlines is critical. They need them to communicate with doctors, dentists, landlords and family, just like the rest of us.

That's why the grant The Good Neighbours' Club received from The Rotary Club of Toronto was so significant. The telephones are a lifeline to the GNC's clients. The installation of the new system was completed in June and those clients who now have their own mailbox numbers are thrilled that they can access messages from wherever they are located.



New Telephone System in Use!

The benefits to staff and the organization were a secondary, yet still important aspect of the new telephone system. With the old system, frontline support workers would take messages for clients and this responsibility took a large portion of their day. Now, because they no longer have to take such messages, their work is focused on more important direct service to clients.

Overall, the new telephone system is providing great service for the GNC's clients, more work efficiencies and less operational expenses.

The Good Neighbours' Club thanks The Rotary Club of Toronto for their tremendous gift!

THE ROTARY CLUB OF TORONTO, PHILANTHROPIC COMMITTEE.

**THE SENIORS COMMITTEE
"MAKE A DIFFERENCE"**



As its mandate, the Seniors Committee continues to focus on services and programs that improve the quality of life for disadvantaged Seniors in our community.

Few years ago, The Foundation suggested that the Senior Committee establish a process in identifying projects that would have the greatest impact and benefit to Seniors in the downtown core. Income from the sale of Laughlen Centre would be used towards these projects. A forum determined that the overwhelming need was access to transportation.

This year 6 projects were identified and submitted to R&A for due diligence and consideration by the Foundation. Over \$140,000 were granted to: **WEST TORONTO SUPPORT SERVICES, SENIOR PEOPLES RESOURCES IN NORTH TORONTO or SPRINT, CIRCLE OF HOME CARE SERVICES, THE GOOD NEIGHBOURS CLUB, TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY and FRED VICTOR.**

In addition, funding for special programs were provided to **HOMES FIRST and 416 COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR WOMEN.** The Seniors Committee also continued with its traditional events in the purchase and delivery of "Meals for Seniors" at Easter and Thanksgiving, June Picnic and The Seniors Christmas Party, now in it's 63rd year.

I would like to thank all the committee members for their support, dedication and continued compassion for Seniors in our community.

— by **Mary Lach**, Chair

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



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Rotary Club of Toronto "Buzz Group"

- Elizabeth Simmie
- John Fortney
- Marcy Berg
- Rudy Haddad

Affordable Non-Urgent Transportation Service for Patients in Need: The Rotary Club of Toronto in Partnership with Circle of Care Foundation Contributes to Sinai Health System

— by **Carey Lucki**, Interim President of Circle of Care



Circle of Care, an affiliate partner of Sinai Health System, helps people live healthier, happier and longer lives at home. Through access to home care and community services across the GTA, we ensure our clients get the support they need to live comfortably and independently, and that caregiver burden is reduced whenever possible. As part of Sinai Health System, Circle of Care is reaching the vision of an integrated health care system and pushing the boundaries to realize best health and care for people with specialized and complex care needs.

"At Sinai Health System, providing the best care means ensuring that patients are safe both during and directly after they have been discharged from our care." says Carey Lucki, Interim President of Circle of Care. Thanks to a generous grant and partnership from The Rotary Club of Toronto and the Circle of Care Foundation, Circle of Care is pleased to announce a new pilot project, rolling out later this month, that will provide non-urgent transportation services to Sinai Health System patients who are most in need.

Arranging for transportation to and from the hospital can be challenging for patients and families following a visit to the emergency department, a hospitalization, or a scheduled outpatient clinic appointment. This challenge becomes even more complex for patients who are physically frail, elderly, vulnerable and potentially living alone, and who are often times exposed to a multitude of socio-economic challenges. By providing reliable, safe and cost-effective transportation services to this subset of clients, we can ensure a sustainable solution for non-emergency transportation for Sinai Health System patients.

Circle of Care already co-leads iRide Plus – a flexible, friendly transportation service that provides over 90,000 non-urgent rides per year for seniors. Experience makes a difference and Circle of Care's expertise will be leveraged for this new pilot project. This new transportation service would act as a true arm-in-arm and door-to-door service that would be provided by a fully licensed and CPR-trained driver at a reduced cost to the patient and the hospital. Operation of the pilot and evaluation of outcomes (funded by a grant from the Bill Enkin Foundation) will be managed by Circle of Care.



A transportation vehicle, a pilot project managed by Circle of Care, affiliate partner of Sinai Health System.

Access to Community Services for Disabled adults, 55+. The Toronto Rotary Club partners with West Toronto Support Services

— by **Thom Burger**, Executive Director, West Toronto Support Services



West Toronto Support Services (WTSS) is an accredited community not-for-profit organization providing social support to adults 55+, adults with disabilities and caregivers. We offer affordable services in the west end of Toronto to support our mission of assisting individuals to maintain their quality of life and live independently.

An important component of that is our Transportation program that provides a vital service in helping seniors remain mobile. It continues to help people access medical services and stay connected with friends, family and social/recreational activities in the community. There is an increasing number of older adults, who live alone, have little support, have mobility issues and/or financial constraints that affect their independence and the need for the service is one that continues to grow each year.



New Vehicle for Use by Older Vulnerable Adults.

When one of our older vehicles needed to be retired, The Rotary Club of Toronto grant generously gave us the opportunity to purchase a new vehicle. Seniors want to live at home and the new vehicle is an important key to keeping older adults independent in the community. Our vehicles are also closely integrated with the Toronto RIDE program, enabling many agencies to coordinate together and meet the rising need for transportation services in an aging population.

Providing us with a new vehicle to replace our aging sedan was a timely and very supportive move to help us continue delivering Transportation to the Toronto community without interruption of service. "We're very thankful for the support from The Rotary Club of Toronto".



The Rotary Club of Toronto
The Fairmont Royal York
100 Front Street West, Level H, Toronto, ON M5J 1E3
Tel: 416-363-0604 Fax: 416-363-0686
office@rotarytoronto.on.ca www.rotarytoronto.com
The Rotary Club of Toronto | Toronto Rotary | @TorontoRotary

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