

The Research and Appeals Committee
A committee of the
Rotary Club of Toronto Charitable Foundation

The Research and Appeals Committee reviews unsolicited appeals for funding that are received in the Rotary office. The Committee's role is to conduct due diligence reviews using its Project Evaluation Guidelines, and making recommendations to the Foundation. 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 to be considered and grants are not made to individuals.

The Foundation Board authorizes all grants and the Research and Appeals Committee's role is strictly advisory. Appeals are assigned to committee members who conduct an in-depth review. This review may involve calls to or visiting the appeal agencies, interviewing senior staff, examining relevant financial information and other important details.

The Research and Appeals Committee members prepare a written report by applying the Project Evaluation Guidelines. These reports are presented at the monthly meetings of the Research and Appeals Committee and votes are conducted on each appeal. All recommendations to the Foundation Board are a result of a collective decision of the Committee.

In 2016-2017 the Research and Appeals Committee reviewed 31 appeals and 10 were recommended for approval.

The successful appeals were made to the following charities:

- Furniture Bank
- Concerned Kids
- ArtHeart Community Arts Program
- Woodland Cultural Centre
- Disabled Sailing Association of Ontario
- Nanny Angel Network
- Gilda's Club
- St Alban's Boys' & Girls' Club

The Research and Appeals Committee also conducts due diligence and comments and provides recommendations to the Foundation Board on major projects selected by the Senior Citizen's Committee. These projects were made possible by the restricted Laughlen Trust Fund.

Seniors projects: SPRINT Senior Care - Toronto Ride Program, \$101,000

The Foundation Board provided \$234,000 for Research and Appeals and a further \$125,000 for Seniors appeals.

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Appeals directed to our Foundation for grants in excess of \$75,000 are assigned to the Research & Appeals Committee for due diligence and comments only. A report is provided to the Foundation Board following a similar process as described above.

Luzita Kennedy
Chair