

Making a Difference



The Rotary Club of Toronto | Marketing & Communications Special Edition

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ROTARY CLUB OF TORONTO CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

The Role of a Foundation Board Member



Foundation Board members are the fiduciaries who steer the organization towards a sustainable future by adopting sound, ethical, and legal governance and financial management policies, as well as by making sure that our Club has adequate resources to advance its mission.

The board of directors have three primary legal duties known as the “duty of care,” “duty of loyalty,” and “duty of obedience.”

These legal duties require that Foundation Board Members:

1. Take care of our Club by ensuring prudent use of all assets; and provide oversight for all activities that advance our Club’s effectiveness and sustainability. (legal “Duty of due care”)
2. Make decisions in the best interest of our Club; not in his or her self-interest. (legal “Duty of loyalty”)
3. Ensure that our Club obeys applicable laws and acts in accordance with ethical practices; that our Club adheres to its stated corporate purposes, and that its activities advance its mission. (legal “Duty of obedience”)

– by **Luzita Kennedy**, Chair of Research and Appeals, Foundation

FOUNDATION DIRECTORS

Foundation Appointees

Peter Love (Pres/Chair)
Susan Howson (Vice Pres)
Bill Empey-(Investment Cm.)
Luzita Kennedy-(Res & App. Cm.)
Valerie Clarke - Dir. at Large

Club Appointees

Susan Hunter (Club Pres.)
Pat Neuman (Club Pr. El.)
Jeff Dobson (Club VP)
Prince Kumar (Club Board)
Kevin Power (Club Board)
John Fortney (Club Board)

Save the Evidence Project - Foundation Funding Update

– by **Carlie Myke**, Outreach Coordinator, Save the Evidence Campaign. Reviewed by Paula Whitlow, Executive Director, Museum Director

The **Save the Evidence** project is a capital campaign to repair the former Mohawk Institute Residential School building, and to restore the building for use as an historic site. Operated by the Woodland Cultural Centre, and located on Six Nations Territory in Brantford, Ontario, the former Mohawk Institute building is one of only a few former residential school buildings still standing in Canada, one of only two buildings still standing in Ontario, and the only one which has offered guided tours of the building and interpretation of the history of residential schools in Canada. The Woodland Cultural Centre sees over 15,000 visitors each year, many of whom come to learn about the Mohawk Institute and its history. In 2014, devastating roof leaks caused interior and exterior damage to the building. Community consultations overwhelmingly supported the option to repair and restore the structure, and to develop it into a fully-interpreted historic site. The former Mohawk Institute building is currently closed for renovations; we offer a Virtual Video Tour of the building to visitors while the structure is being repaired.

Development has been split into three phases: The first phase of construction, the critical repair of the roof and water damage, will be complete before the end of this fall. The second phase of construction, vital upgrades to the mechanicals of the building, including the wiring, plumbing, and HVAC system, is slated to begin shortly. We are currently fundraising towards the third phase of development, which is the interpretation of the space, the collection and reproduction of artifacts for display, and the creation of educational materials for researchers, students, and visitors. It is our goal to make this site the premiere location for education and information about residential schools in Canada.

The Rotary Club of Toronto Foundation has been very enthusiastic in their support of the Save the Evidence project, specifically towards our third phase of development. We received a \$40,000.00 grant from the Rotary Club of Toronto Foundation in support of our Survivor Filming project for 2017. This project is focused on giving Survivors of the residential school system an opportunity to share their story and memories, to give them a space where they will be heard, and where they know their stories will be preserved for future generations. In concert with our recording company, Six Nations media group Thru the Red Door, we have been able to sit down with Survivors, listen to their memories, and create recorded video anywhere from five minutes to an hour in length. These recordings are powerful. They are first-hand evidence of a dark chapter in Canadian history, and a critical primary resource that can be consulted in the future as we continue to develop the third phase of our site.

The grant that we received from the Rotary Club of Toronto Foundation has allowed us to begin filming without delay, and to start collecting stories from survivors while Phase One was still in progress. Many Survivors are in their 60s, 70s, 80s, and 90s, and it is critical that we reach out to hear their stories as soon as possible. Many stories, including those of the generations that have already passed, are gone forever. We hope to be able to speak to descendants of survivors, to better understand and record the impact that residential schools have had on intergenerational survivors, and on communities as a whole.

Thanks to the support from the Rotary Club of Toronto Foundation, we have been able to record at least fifteen Survivor Stories for preservation towards Phase Three of the Save the Evidence project. The Survivors have come to us not only from Six Nations, but from communities in Northern Ontario and Quebec. We would not be able to complete these projects without the support and generosity of our donors, including the Rotary Club of Toronto Foundation and its members. Nia:wen | Miigwetch | Thank you for supporting our project!



Mohawk Residential School Building Then



Mohawk Residential School Building Now

Our Focus



The focus of the International Service Committee is to assist marginalized people in the developing world.

With the International Convention coming to Toronto in 2018, the International Service Committee wanted to take on a larger scale project. To that end, we're currently involved in a Global Grant to help build toilet blocks for female students in rural India. We have partnered with the Rotary Club of Bombay Airport as the Host Club and we're actively seeking out local Rotary Clubs in Ontario in an effort to receive monetary support. By taking this approach, we will be able to make a more significant impact than we could feasibly achieve on our own.

Over the past year, under the tremendous passion of Maureen Bird, we have welcomed our Syrian family to Toronto. We're always looking for passionate like-minded Rotarians to join our group. If this sounds of interest to you, please reach out and see how you can make a difference with us.

— by **John Farrell**, Chair - International Service Committee

Marketing & Communications Committee Chair & "Making A Difference" Issue Editor: Heather Gordon



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We currently have 596.

Rotary Club of Toronto "Buzz Group"

- Arash Shahi
- John Fortney
- Marcy Berg
- Rudy Haddad

Empowering Women with Sewing Human and Hope Association, Cambodia

— by **Thai San**, Human and Hope Association



Through grant support from The Rotary Club of Toronto, the Human and Hope Association (HHA) has been able to train eleven marginalised women over the course of 10 months. With their learned skills, the women have either set up businesses at their homes, work for sewing shops or make products for the organisation.

HHA aims for the sewing students to be making a minimum of \$60 USD/month profit within one year of graduating from the program, and a minimum of \$90 USD/month profit within three years of graduating from the program. This enables them to support their families, particularly the education of their children so that they have a better future. Their deliverables are: attending daily sewing training, weekly life skills classes, ad hoc workshops and attaining microfinance loans three months into the beginner class.



Human and Hope Association Program Participants

On October 8th, HHA celebrated the graduation ceremony for their sewing students. Here are some key achievements:

- Five ladies have completed their sewing course. Three of them got jobs as seamstresses at a tailoring company, which earns them \$120 USD/month and the other two ladies have set up home businesses, which earns them around \$60 USD/month.
- Six students have moved from the beginner to advanced class.
- Students have gained knowledge from their life skills lessons. They have learned about being confident, keys to family happiness, goal setting, personal empowerment and leadership etc.
- Ten students took out the sewing microfinance loans so that they have been able to earn money by using their skills to fix or make clothes for villagers and shops.
- The microfinance program has maintained a 100% repayment rate.
- The new term has started with eleven students, six in the beginner class and five in the advanced class.

Hope School, Usare, Kenya... Our Gratitude to The Rotary Club of Toronto and The Rotary Club of Mbita, Mfangano Island for the Clean Water Supply

— by **Kennedy Onyango**, Chair of the Hope School, Usare, Kenya

The pupils, teaching staff, board of management of Hope School and the local community of Usare Village, Mbita, Kenya are indebted to The Rotary Club of Toronto and The Rotary Club of Mbita, Mfangano Island, District 9212 for their support of the clean water project, which saw three new taps installed in the first quarter of this year. Through your support, Hope School is delivering clean water to keep the toilets clean and has made it possible for easy availability of clean water to wash hands and utensils to keep over 200 children and their families healthy.

The installation of clean water at Hope School has brought many positive results like:

1. More regular attendance of children since the domestic household chores and water borne related diseases that used to cause absenteeism are now addressed through access to clean chemically treated water that the local community receives at Hope School from the local municipality;
2. The children really enjoy drawing clean, drinkable water from the 3 installed taps and overall hygiene and sanitation has improved in the school;
3. Early enrollment and retention of girls in school has been noted due to availability of water in the village, as parents no longer send their daughters three miles away to collect dirty water from the lake for domestic use. They now get clean water at school (though still periodic due to lack of a storage tank).



Hope School students enjoying clean water

In the 2nd Phase of the Hope School WASH Project, we are requesting that The Rotary Club of Toronto fund the construction of a 75,000 litre underground water tank, which will guarantee storage and reliable access to water at the school. In addition, we are planning to establish an organic food farm at Hope School to help parents/guardians and the children grow crops such as beans, corn, cabbage, carrots, tomatoes and potatoes to feed the children for lunch at school.

With the installation of a 75,000 litre water storage tank, the school will be able to store enough water for our own needs and will have surplus to sell to the local community of about 125 households. The income from the sale of water will be used to meet monthly water bills as well as for medicines for the children.

We appreciate what you have given us sincerely from the bottoms of our hearts. Your dedication to saving and improving peoples' lives is what makes our work possible. Thank you for your compassion and continued support.



The Rotary Club of Toronto

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