



CENTENNIAL BEAT

October 2012

Service Above Self

The Rotary Club of Toronto \$100,000 Centennial Award

Dear Readers,

This is the ninth issue of the Centennial Beat, a publication recounting themes and achievements as our Club celebrates its Centennial Year beginning July 1, 2012. During our Centennial Year the Club will be donating in excess of \$1,000,000 to local and international agencies.

Committees and committee work are the back bone of Rotary and our Club is no exception. The Rotary Club of Toronto's Healthy Beginnings Committee can be traced as far back as the 1940's. Dr. Harry Ebbs, who became President in 1952, had noted that many of the health problems in the armed forces during the Second World War could be traced back to prenatal deficiencies. This Centennial Beat will focus on the Emily's House Perinatal Program and how the Healthy Beginnings Committee chose this project for our Club as it looks to the next 100 years of service and making a difference in the lives of children ages 0-6 in Toronto.

Enjoy.

Dina Rashid

Legacy Building

Also within this grant, one portable Bereavement Legacy resource cart and all necessary materials will be purchased. The portable family resource cart will hold supplies for legacy building activities, such as paint/art boards, molding supplies, foot/hand printing supplies, sibling activities, blankets for dying babies, a camera, a video camera and many other items. Programs will include the development of a specialized birth plan, legacy building and memory making. We have had families take over the cart to create the legacy that they have needed to do -- it is their journey. One mom made a small memory book with the photos that we had printed. She was able to do this staying at the baby's side, rather than leaving her critically ill daughter. She got the sibling (an older girl) involved too, and this became a source of enjoyment in an otherwise very sad time.

Philip Aziz Centre Receives \$100,000 Centennial Award For Its Innovative Program

"The Rotary Club of Toronto, Emily's House Perinatal Program"

Emily's House, opening in January 2013, will be the 1st children's hospice in Toronto and only the 6th in Canada. It is a project of Philip Aziz Centre. The Rotary Club of Toronto, Emily's House Perinatal Program, will be a model of family-centered care for families whose babies are likely to die before, during or shortly following birth. Perinatal refers to the time surrounding pregnancy and birth and the first year of the baby's life. Advanced care planning can apply to the unborn infant, just as it does with adults.

We are thankful to the Healthy Beginnings Committee of The Rotary Club of Toronto (RCT) -- for its insight, compassion, and commitment to granting \$100,000 towards this unique, specialized, and necessary care option for families who receive a life-limiting diagnosis for their newborn baby.

Providing Warming Cribs

This RCT Centennial Award of \$100,000 will allow for the purchase of two portable birthing room warming cribs which will provide warmth and comfort to the neonate. When a neonate is born, one of the biggest sources of discomfort is heat loss. The heat provided by the overhead warmer simulates the warmth of the mother's womb -- an environment familiar to the young neonate. Each crib will also have a gel mattress to provide another source of relief and even temperature to ensure comfort while at rest. Should a newborn have difficulty transitioning to breathing, these cribs will have the equipment to assist in clearing fluids from the lungs when required. Instrument trays, shelves, IV poles and a large pass-thru drawer allow for convenient arrangement of the tools that the nursing staff will need for 24/7 care.



Making Memories Out Of Minutes, Miracles Out Of Days

Ongoing bereavement and spiritual support for families and siblings will also be offered so that parents can both grieve their loss and celebrate a life lived. Whether a life is measured in days, weeks, months or even years, through the generosity of this grant, The Rotary Club of Toronto, Emily's House Perinatal Program will help families make memories out of minutes, and miracles out of days.



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Selection Process of The Centennial Project by The Healthy Beginnings Committee

— by Blaire Spinney, RCT Healthy Beginnings Committee Member



Finding the right signature project for the Centennial year is not an easy task. It takes a lot of work from everybody and perhaps a bit of luck. The process for the Healthy Beginnings Committee began with some basic questions: What are the basic needs in the community? What can Rotary do to help? To get answers to these questions we went outside of our Committee and Club to the agencies and organizations that deal with the issues of children 0 - 6 years of age. We invited representatives of these groups to a forum where we held round table discussions of the issues. We found most of the discussion focused on poverty and the barriers to providing information for parents.

Next we requested project proposals from the agencies which were distributed amongst the committee members to narrow to a final selection of one per member. Many agencies were requested to provide additional information. We presented our individual selection to the committee and then voted on the final five, who were invited to present their projects in person.

Then we had the most difficult task of the final selection. The Philip Aziz Centre had a proven track record in other cities and could provide opportunities for the Club and individual Rotarians to get involved in the future. We felt the Centre was unique in that they were fulfilling a need that no other agency was touching on. This made the organization our number one choice.

MOVING FORWARD

**Make a difference
Join the Healthy Beginnings
Committee meetings after lunch,
2nd Friday each month**

Contact Chair Jackie Davies
jcdavies@sympatico.ca

**Share your creative ideas
for helping a child 0 to 6 years**

Talk to members of the
Healthy Beginnings Committee

Become a volunteer helper

Deliver bags to agencies
for moms in need
Contact jcdavies@sympatico.ca

The votes were taken
and Philip Aziz Centre's
Emily's House, Toronto's
first children's hospice,
was selected to receive a
\$100,000 Centennial
Award from The Rotary
Club of Toronto
Charitable Foundation

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CENTENNIAL MEMBERSHIP GOAL

"The Healthy Beginnings Committee held a forum for charities in Toronto to discuss where funding is needed. The demand for safe public spaces and the arts was the reoccurring need in the community of Toronto. Being part of the Healthy Beginnings Committee has exposed me to community knowledge that I would otherwise not be exposed to."

— Dina Rashid, member since 2010

Centennial Calendar

June 1, 2012

The Rotary Club of Toronto and Toronto Argonauts
Community Champion Scholarship Luncheon

July 18, 2012

President Neil Phillips Argos Field Kick-Off

August 24, 2012

The Rotary Club of Toronto Centre for Youth
Employment Empowerment

September 14, 2012

Rotary Health and Wellness Centre
Good Neighbours Club

October 19, 2012

The Rotary Club of Toronto, Emily's House
Perinatal Program, Project of Philip Aziz Centre

November 2, 2012

New Comer's Clinic, Sherbourne Health Centre

November 23, 2012

Founders Day Luncheon

January 18, 2013

Working Women's Community Centre

February 8, 2013

Seeds of Hope

February 24 to March 2, 2013

City of Toronto Rotary Week

March 1, 2013

Guest Speaker, Rotary International
President Sakuji Tanaka, Evening Cocktail Party

April 12, 2013

Bakong Technical College, Cambodia

May 10, 2013

Arts for Children & Youth

May 23, 2013

Closing Event-Centennial Gala



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