

# Making a Difference



The Rotary Club of Toronto | Marketing & Communications Special Edition

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## ROTARY CLUB OF TORONTO CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

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 supports charitable and educational community projects and the charitable activities of the Club.

### MISSION STATEMENT

The Rotary Club of Toronto Charitable Foundation is the fundraising and granting entity of The Rotary Club of Toronto. Its primary mission is to fund programs, in the City of Toronto, which benefit children and youth in the areas of health, education, child abuse and neglect, social development and life enrichment. It also funds community programs for the homeless, disabled and seniors and contributes, from time to time, to international Rotary projects which assist children and youth.

### Board of Directors

<b>Chair:</b>	Robert Smith, <i>President</i>
	Peter Love, <i>Vice President</i>
	Blair Spinney, <i>Treasurer</i>
	Carol Hutchinson, <i>Secretary</i>
	Robert Smith
	Brian Westlake
	Valerie Clarke
	Susan Howson
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	James Hunter
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	Carolyn Purden
	Ross Amos
	Sylvia Milne
	Richard White

### Standing Committees of the Board

**Research & Appeals Committee Chair:** Valerie Clarke  
**Investment Committee Chair:** Susan Howson

## The Rotary Club of Toronto has a Charitable Foundation



### What is it?

The Rotary Club of Toronto Charitable Foundation is a separate, not-for-profit corporate entity with its own Board of Directors and Members. It was established in 1951 when a former member of our Club, Bill Coutts, of Coutts Hallmark, made the first generous donation of \$1,000. The value of the RCT Foundation today is \$17,092,000.

Our Foundation is directed by dedicated Club Members who have managed this as a vehicle for donors who wanted to leave money to our Club's charitable activities. Many members named our Foundation in their Wills.

The Foundation Directors are elected by the Members of the Foundation. The Board of Directors is made up of five members-at-large and six nominated from the Board of Directors of The Rotary Club of Toronto. This structure ensures that the Club Board could ultimately control the governance of the Foundation.

### Where did the Foundation money come from?

Funds in our Charitable Foundation has come from a few very substantial donations/bequests or transfers. One of these very early bequests is the "Jean K. Cowan Rotary Memorial Fund". The value of the Cowan Fund as of June 30, 2013 was \$3,790,000.

Another large contribution to our Foundation came from the estate of former member, R. Watson McClain. This bequest totalled approximately \$400,000 and was designated for aiding "those in their advancing years". Due to this substantial gift, our Club initiated a major fundraising campaign to fund The Laughlin Centre, a residence for seniors in downtown Toronto.

The Laughlin Centre subsequently closed and the \$3.2 million value of its Foundation was transferred to The RCT Foundation. The income from these funds is restricted for charitable activities supporting "seniors" causes.

Since 1990 our Foundation has donated in excess of \$11m to different registered charities. Funds for the 100th Anniversary charitable donations came from The Rotary Club of Toronto Charitable Foundation.

### What does the Charitable Foundation mean to the future of our Club?

The Rotary Club of Toronto Charitable Foundation enables The Rotary Club of Toronto to accomplish exceptional charitable initiatives for the benefit of many disadvantaged Citizens primarily in the core area of the City of Toronto.

*Excerpted from presentation given by Foundation President, Bob Smith*

## The Rotary Club of Toronto Transition Centre at St. Michael's Hospital – by Peter Love



The Rotary Club of Toronto Transition Centre opened in January 2000, in response to concerns at St. Michael's Hospital that vulnerable patients, including those who were homeless or under-housed, were being discharged after Emergency Department visits in a fragile state. Rather than sending these patients directly to a hostel, shelter or the streets, the Transition Centre gives patients a place to rest for up to 18 hours, launder their clothes, shower and work with staff on a discharge plan.

The Transition Centre, which is located within the Hospital adjacent to the Emergency Department, was built and supplied with major appliances and furniture thanks in part to a \$500,000 donation from The Rotary Club of Toronto Charitable Foundation (RCTCF). The Centre has two bedrooms, a bathroom and shower, laundry facilities, a clothing cupboard, and small living room and dining/kitchen facilities. Non-clinical support staff work with the Emergency team to assist clients with medical follow-up appointments, transfers to hostels and other social service units, job applications and other needs. In addition, social workers, community care coordinators and specialized nursing staff help with discharge planning. The Transition Centre can also provide ongoing treatment,

such as intravenous antibiotics or complex dressing changes for wounds and other injuries, that would usually happen in community clinics.

In 2014, St. Michael's Hospital announced a major renovation plan that will involve a long-needed expansion of its Emergency Department and a relocation of the Transition Centre within the new facility, and subsequently the RCTCF announced that it will make a donation of \$550,000 to help cover the costs. The Transition Centre is an invaluable community resource for the disadvantaged in Toronto, for which all members of The Rotary Club of Toronto can be justifiably proud.



**THE ROTARY CLUB OF  
TORONTO  
PHILANTHROPIC COMMITTEE  
YOUTH AND CHILDREN  
SERVICE (YCS) COMMITTEE**

**Your Rotary dollars  
are hard at work**

– by Prince Kumar, Committee Chair



The members / friends of YCS, and Rotaractors are busy making a difference in the lives of youth and children of our community via our 8 sub-committees.

Wondering what they are doing and think you can help?

Last year 15 projects and charities were financially supported to further their cause. We hosted our 85th Children's Christmas Party – bringing smiles to 100s of children with disabilities, hosted our 3rd annual Youth Leadership Expo engaging and empowering 600 students, selected 10 deserving finalists from City of Toronto and celebrated youth civic leadership. We strengthened our partnership with TDSB, supported youth organizations in partnership with the Argonauts via Argos 50/50 draw, financed 2 RYLA candidates, facilitated Youth Exchange students, and ended the year with a celebration!

This year we are welcoming Healthy Beginnings as a sub-committee and are exploring the viability of an Interact club engaging high school students. With more requests from youth and children causes, our roster of potential projects / community partners to support for the year is already filling up. With so much going on, all we need is your help to make it happen.

**Join us:** Every 3rd Tuesday from Sept to June at 5:30 pm @ Rotary Office Boardroom.

**Our Mandate:** The committee is responsible for supporting the needs of children and youth in the community. The committee supports programs which benefit children and youth in the areas of health, education, child abuse and neglect, social development and life enrichment.

Charlie's and FEAT are two community agencies that have received funding from YCS and are featured in this issue.

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

**Charlie's FreeWheels is buzzing with energy at Queen and Sherbourne** – by Katherine McIlveen-Brown, Director



Personal engagement and active learning are much more than educational buzzwords at Charlie's FreeWheels. The real buzz is seen during our bicycle program for youth, when hands-on work, concentration and collaboration comes to life.

Our core program is a Build-a-Bike class, where each participant strips down a donated bike frame and rebuilds it with replacement parts as needed. Young people graduate from the program with a bike they have built entirely by themselves. This includes a lock, a helmet, a bell, and a set of lights. We teach all our students how to ride safely on the road through a combination of in-class education and on-road experience.



Youth between the ages of 12 to 21, residing in Regent Park, Moss Park or St. James Town can participate in the program completely for free. Youth who live in Toronto but don't have a place to call home are also eligible. Since 2011 we have had close to 400 Build-A-Bike graduates!

The program is only a start. "FreeWheelers" also get to come back during Drop-In Hours to repair and maintain their bikes. They may apply for volunteer and employment opportunities and are invited on Charlie's Rides during the summer. All of these added opportunities and activities keep young people engaged for the long-term.

We are building the next generation of Toronto's cyclists with positive personal development. While encouraging healthy living, bicycles also teach new skills and help youth develop self-confidence and pride. Bicycles give their riders a sense of freedom, and get young people mobile, with no cost to them but sweat.

Charlie's Freewheels – a recipient of the YCS Rotary Lunch Certificate donations and participant in the Youth Leadership Expo, is also hosting the December YCS committee meeting on-site at Queen and Sherbourne. Find out more about them by joining the YCS meeting.

**FEAT – recently featured in Global News' - Making a Difference segment!** – by Jessica Reid, featured here with Minister Naqvi



With the support of The Rotary Club of Toronto and in conjunction with Jessica's Feet for FEAT walk-a-thon from Toronto to Ottawa, FEAT for Children was able to sign a

lease to purchase agreement on a new 2014 - 25 passenger bus. The bus enables FEAT to continue the delivery of our four supportive programs designed to optimize the outcomes of at-risk children, youth and families affected by familial incarceration.

The bus facilitates over 115 children to participate in our After School Program and Peer Mentorship Project with Ryerson University which was recently featured on Susan Hay's "Making a Difference" segment of Global TV. In our programs, children are able to receive help with their homework, engage in arts and sports, and learn healthy coping strategies. Youth in the programs collaboratively prepare nutritious meals, organize community projects and participate in educational excursions. Our programs have shown to improve school attendance and academic achievement, reduce psychological distress and isolation, and increase self-esteem.



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*Making a*  
**Difference**