

Club Service Projects Committee

Report Our Covid 19 Response



Thank you to all the members who have responded in any way to assist the Toronto East Rotary Club in making a difference in our community. Our chosen path has been to work with local agencies where our input and contributions can have the largest impact. A very special thank you to the generous members who have made cash contributions to our TERC Foundation.

In the past 60 days, our club has expended over \$50,000 in the fight against Covid 19. Our expenditures have largely been through wholesale channels, so the impact of every dollar has been magnified

Thank you to MadeGood Foods who donated 1,000 granola bars to our club. We are distributing them to the local shelters. Thank you Pres. Marion for making this connection for us.

Michael Garron Hospital: COVID-19 has caused many disruptions in peoples lives. Some of our neighbours battling cancer have been particularly hard struck, especially if they are financially insecure. TERC established a \$20,000 fund at the MGH Oncology Department, to support cancer patients in need. The fund will provide emergency support if patients undergoing treatment require assistance with rent, food, transit, etc.

Emily's House has transformed their facility into palliative care, to relieve the overcrowding at Michael Garron Hospital. Our club purchased three compact refrigerators, used to store food and refreshments in the patient area, and three 35" smart TVs. The TVs will allow patients to maintain contact with their families. Total cost \$1000 & donations.

Foodbanks: there are three food banks in our catchment area, Bethany Baptist, Glen Rhodes & Eastview Community Services. These volunteer locations continue to serve the public during these trying times. As you might expect, there has been a decrease in donations and an increase in need. Our club donated \$7,500 to these locations, to assist them with the increased demand.

Blake Boultbee Youth Outreach Service: The BBYOS continues to operate, offering mental health services for at risk youth in our community. TERC donated \$3,000 to this organization, allowing them to continue their counselling services and provide food cards / drug store cards to those in need.

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Opportunity For Advancement offers assistance and support for women who have experienced partner abuse. They provide many programs that offer practical tools and resources. TERC donated \$500 in grocery gift cards to assist those in need.

Food Program: to assist families in local shelters, the club approved \$7,000 to provide prepared meals for two shelters. The program is underway at WoodGreen & Red Door. We opted to do this program with The Ellery as it will provide them with much needed income for their fledgling business. They prepare 65 nutritious meals each week, and Toronto East members make the deliveries. The feedback has been very positive from all sides.

Disinfectant Cleaner: Jim Anastasiadis has donated Health Canada approved disinfectant to any of the local agencies that require it. Thank you Jim and thank you to Joe Runza and Karen Somerville who made the deliveries. Jim has more of this product available if you have a recommendation.



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Toys Program: The children residing in our local shelters are isolated and generally do not have many personal belongings. Red Door Shelter has 65 children in residence, Woodgreen has 120 children & Nellie's Shelter has 55 children. TERC arranged a \$3,500 wholesale purchase of games, puzzles and arts and crafts materials for these children. The attached photo shows about 15% of what was donated. I am sure we brought smiles to a many little faces.





Sanctuary Toronto: has street outreach workers offering dignity, support, food, clothing and basic health care to Toronto's homeless population. TERC provided \$1,000 in prepackaged food and \$2,000 for 100 rain suits, 50 spring jackets & shirts. Retail value on the clothing is over \$7000.

Nellie's Shelter: houses 140 people, 55 children and 85 adults. With programs interrupted and families isolated, this vulnerable group is under high levels of stress. To help out, TERC is spending \$2,000 to purchase food and baby / toddler clothing for the families resident there. We also provided a 3 month supply of diapers.





Clothing Program: We purchased 165 items of baby clothing, toddler and youth clothing to be donated to the shelters and refugee services. We also donated 35 adult winter coats to New Circles. Total spend was \$1,975.

Phillips House: is a mental health facility attached to North York General Hospital. The club has pledged \$2,000 to a Rotary District Grant, led by the Willowdale RC. The funds will be directed to assist children and youth with eating disorders, and other mental health issues. Our contribution will be combined with four other Rotary Clubs and matched by the D7070 District Grant program.

Free Reading Program: TERC continues to offer this program of 3500 interactive activities for children to improve reading comprehension and spelling skills. The program is free of charge to all users and a wonderful tool for any child with computer access. The program can be accessed from the home page of our website. <u>www.torontoeastrotary.com</u>