

Christmas Journal 2002

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HEALTH, WELL-BEING AND MEDICAL RESEARCH

Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation

There really was no choice this year: our Brendan Wood contribution went to the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation and we matched the BWI amount. It is too bad that there was no choice, but this year Gloria underwent breast cancer surgery, followed by chemotherapy at the Princess Margaret Hospital, also a deserving facility. Established in 1986, the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation (CBCF) is the largest charitable organization in Canada dedicated exclusively to supporting the advancement of breast cancer research, education, diagnosis and treatment. We believe that the funds we provide will be best used to attack a disease which strikes one in nine women. So here's to early detection and self-examination - it is so important.

- Richard Rotman and Gloria Stein



Richard Rotman and Gloria Stein



Eugene Chan and Maki Ishikawa

Canadian Cancer Society

As part of Brendan Wood International's generous Christmas time Lazarus Project, I will be making a donation to the Canadian Cancer Society. Cancer is a disease that has affected many of my close family and friends, including my father, along with many other people in the world. As a charity whose mission is to eradicate cancer and enhance the quality of life of people living with cancer, I believe that the Canadian Cancer Society is a deserving organization that will, hopefully, one day become obsolete.

- Eugene Chan



Mark and Shelley el Baroudi

Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada

Your Christmas Story is a heart-warming one and you should be commended on your generosity. I have opted to support the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada.

For the past nine years Loewen, Ondaatje, McCutcheon (LOM) has hosted a Gala and Auction to benefit the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada. This highly acclaimed gala event has quickly become one of the MS Society's leading fundraisers and the "Bay Street party of the year". Net proceeds from the dinner and 100% of the proceeds from the auction are donated to the MS Society. Thanks to the generosity and support of the business community, LOM's Gala has raised in excess of one million dollars for the MS Society. LOM is committed to continuing in the fight against this disease which affects an estimated 50,000 Canadians.

- Garrett Herman



Jon Ruby and Beth Cohen



Leslie Sheffer and Matt Ritson Bennett

Dustin Leopold Quest for a Cure

This year we forwarded BWI's generous Christmas contribution to the Dustin Leopold Quest for a Cure.

This is a fund set up for the purpose of supporting research on Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). There is no known cause or cure for IBD. In Canada an estimated 100,000 men and women suffer from IBD. People are most frequently diagnosed between the ages of 15-25, or 45-55. The disease is particularly difficult for children and young adults since it often affects a person's self-concept, body image and lifestyle at a time when "being like every one else" is so important. Canada is believed to have one of the highest incidence rates of IBD in the world.

The Dustin Leopold fund was set up in memory of Dustin Leopold who lost his fight to Crohn's disease before his 18th birthday. My particular interest stems from the fact that my late father was married to Dustin's grandmother, and my son attended high school with him. Dustin's grandmother recently passed away and I made the donation to this fund in her memory.

- Larry Himmelfarb



Larry Himmelfarb

Easter Seals Sailing Regatta

This year my donation will go to Easter Seals. This is, of course, for handicapped children. The particular program I would like to support is the 2003 Sailing Regatta to be held again in my hometown of Thornbury. Last year we raised \$8,000. This donation will help with all the initial costs involved to promote this event.

We hope to make the Regatta larger this year and hope to raise \$16,000 or more!

- *Verla Moore*



Michael Martin and Verla Moore



Alfred Wirth

Alzheimer's

Alzheimer's is a devastating disease that robs people of their memories, their independence, and ultimately, their lives. As the leading provider of grants for Alzheimer research in universities and hospitals across Canada, the Alzheimer Society of Canada is ensuring that a cure can be found as soon as possible. In addition to funding research, the Society also promotes public awareness, and provides information resources and support services for families and individuals affected by this crippling disease.

- *Alfred Wirth*

Toronto People With AIDS Foundation

Imagine having the HIV virus, but this being only number 4 or 5 on your list of troubles. It is exactly those men, women and their families who are in this situation that the Toronto People With AIDS Foundation seeks to help. For the past 3 summers I have ridden my bike to Montreal to raise money for this incredibly compassionate foundation. The ride, which takes 6 days and covers 660 km, asks each rider to raise a minimum of \$2000 in order to ride (I would like to again thank each of my colleagues who sponsored me last year.) All costs associated with the rally are covered by corporate donations enabling 100% of the funds raised to make it to end recipients.

Each year there are several riders who are living with HIV/AIDS and who are users of the foundation's services, and who desperately want to contribute through riding but find the fundraising goal very tough and miss the \$2000 minimum by a couple hundred dollars. Using the Brendan Wood International donation as a seed, I have started a fund which helps these riders get over the \$2000 hurdle, allowing them to ride.

The Bike Rally raised over \$400,000 last year - a significant jump from \$68,000 four years ago. The Bike Rally is now TPWAF's largest fundraiser and has enabled the creation of several new services as well as dramatically enhancing existing ones.

- Stewart Borden



Stewart Borden and Anne Wood

Philip Aziz Centre

In 1991 an artist and teacher by the name of Philip Aziz became terminally ill with **HIV/AIDS** – and during the last year of his life was taken in and cared for by a small church group on the Esplanade in Toronto, known as the Church in the City. Philip left his estate to the church and asked them to create a hospice to care for people infected with this devastating disease, treating them with dignity during the last days of their life, such as he was treated by the new friends he first met in 1991. The Philip Aziz Centre was incorporated in 1995 and since then has helped not only those infected or affected with AIDS, but as well young children with terminal cancer, through home hospice care.

Last year the Philip Aziz Centre cared for over 112 people:

- 72% were persons living with HIV/AIDS.
 - 39% were male and 61% female
 - 87% were adults and 13% children
- 28% were young children with cancer.

The rising statistics of those infected with HIV/AIDS are staggering – and the outcome of diagnosis continues to be grim. And as most people know, Cancer is the leading premature cause of death in Canada.

The challenges of PAC continue to be the stigma of the terrible disease that is infecting more and more human beings, and often the lack of compassion and support from those who must not ignore the fact that there currently is no cure. The tragedies are young help-less children who may have already lost their father, and now see their mother dying, leaving them alone and frightened of their future.

The PAC provides many services, including:

- Respite care and companionship.
- Practical assistance with daily chores/activities.
- Accompaniment to medical appointments.
- Education to community and churches
- Planning and conducting funerals and celebrations of life services
- Bereavement support.
- Pastoral counselling and spiritual care.
- Coordinating with Community Care Access Centres, physicians, nurses, families, friends, clergy, and related support services to ensure the continuity of care.
- Spiritual support at the HIV unit of The Hospital for Sick Children.
- National and International conferences on the subject of HIV/AIDS and spiritual care.

In summary:

This is such a critical and yet challenging time in the life of the Philip Aziz Centre – critical because of the growing funding required to help support an increase in referrals from persons living with a life-threatening illness – challenging because the stigma of HIV/AIDS must be removed, doors must be opened to seek the support and compassion from those who cannot ignore the fact that there is no cure – and that the very least we can do is provide these vulnerable human beings with dignity and respect. The staff and volunteers at PAC provide unconditional care without discrimination to all persons affected by terminal illness.

Thank you again for your gift and for the opportunity to describe what I truly believe is a compassionate organization whose leaders and volunteers offer hope and dignity to those they serve, and who are delivering social services at one of the highest levels in the city of Toronto.

- Don and Judi Pangman



Albert Vitols and Maria Thorburn



Arshad Hussain, Naureen and Aamir Noorani



Don and Judi Pangman



Wei-Shi Zhu



Brendan Wood and Ian Russell



Max and Paul Warne



Nora Turkevics and Jhad Friesen

Meagan's Walk

I have forwarded BWI's generous Christmas contribution to Meagan's Walk in memory of Meagan Bebenek. Five-year-old Meagan died in June 2001 after a six month battle with brain stem glioma, a terminal form of brain cancer. Meagan lived on the same street as some of my dearest friends and while I never had the pleasure of meeting her I continue to be inspired by her and her family. Meagan's story has touched the hearts of thousands across the City and beyond and there are satellite walks already taking place in countries such as England, Germany and Singapore to name a few. The first Annual Meagan's Walk in Toronto was held on May 12th, 2002 - Mother's Day, and raised more than \$98,000 and involved more than 800 participants. The event ended in a ceremony at The Hospital for Sick Children with all the participants forming a human hug around the Hospital to give hope to those children inside.

Following are some excerpts of the words of hope given by Denise Bebenek, Meagan's mother, at this event:

*"Brain tumours are the leading cause of death from cancer in children under age 15. My family is a casualty of that statistic in the person of Meagan to whom this walk is dedicated. The number of laboratories with an emphasis in pediatric brain tumour research in Canada is but **one**, and is associated with this very hospital- The Hospital for Sick Children. It's grossly underfunded. The need for this research, now, is immense. That's where all the proceeds of this walk are going. By your participation, you will share ownership in the early stages of a cure.*

We have chosen this event in such a visible way for two reasons. First, to bring a long overdue awareness to our community and country of this devastating disease and the desperate need for research. Second, to demonstrate to the children inside this marvelous hospital, our hope for them and their future.

We realize that each child is a gift to be cherished and with each premature death, we realize the loss of outstanding potential. Do we just let that potential go? Or do we take on their potential and fight to save young lives. This is the gift Meagan leaves us. Her life has taught us to walk each day with greater ambition and much greater awareness that each person's needs are important and filled with meaning. Meagan's death should in fact teach us about living, that we must uncover our own gifts. If we trust in ourselves and in the universe, make the most of each life situation given to us and genuinely try to accept all things given to us as true gifts, then there can only be greater energy and passion for life and for one another. Today is an example.

Our passion for life and for helping children whose lives are threatened demonstrates that we are all making a difference. My hope is that we all individually take home the greatest gift of all: to have the quiet confidence that there is a path to hope and peace for our own individual missions in life, and for the other Meagans awaiting for us to help find a cure for this devastating disease. The impossible is possible if, and only if we choose to make it so. May all the children of the world continue to teach us that life should not be looked upon as needing to live with great sacrifices and duties, but rather to learn to live from our hearts. They are our greatest teachers. May this hug show them all inside today that we are listening."

- Nora Turkevics

THE HOMELESS AND THE LESS FORTUNATE

The Holiday Hamper Project

The grade 8 and 9 classes at St. Clements School are putting together Holiday Hampers to deliver to two families in need this Christmas. These families have been identified through their children's schools by social workers working for the Toronto District School Board. The first is a family of five with two sons ages 5 and 13 and one daughter age 12. The second family is a single father with two daughters ages 11 and 14.

We have provided a number of items for both baskets and have used your generous donation to purchase groceries for both families.

Thank you, once again this year, for providing us with another opportunity to participate in the true meaning of Christmas. I know your donation will be very much appreciated by both families. Your generosity, as always, is inspiring.

- Lauren, Tory, Rob and Sandra Hines



Diana Weatherall and Rob Hines

Yellow Brick House

Mel and I donated the contribution from Brendan Wood International to the Yellow Brick House, a Toronto shelter for battered women and their children. The donation went towards Christmas presents for the kids under the age of seven who are confined to this little shelter.

- Pat and Melanie Wood



Melanie Wood, Rob Hines and Pat Wood



Ross McMaster and John Weatherall

Daily Bread Food Bank

My decision to support The Daily Bread Food Bank is based on the following:

- 1) No one in this country should go hungry;
- 2) Governments are reticent to get involved in the area since they would then be forced to admit that a serious problem exists. In addition, governments do not wish to support a perceived left of center organization;
- 3) Volunteers at The Daily Bread Food Bank are magnificent people who are making a difference.

- Ross McMaster

Kathmandu Children's School

Your kindness was donated in Kathmandu, Nepal - in November 2002 - to the Children's school for the purpose of purchasing new reading books. The children's school operates on a volunteer basis with donated funds for materials and equipment.

Your kindness helped to bring smiles to the faces of the children in Kathmandu and to assist in their education for brighter futures. Thank you for allowing us to be the messengers on your behalf.

- Mo and Kumari Colson



Kumari and Mo Colson



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February 03, 2003

Treasurer

BW International Inc. (TTPC)
17 Prince Arthur Avenue
Toronto, ON M5R 1B2

Dear Treasurer,

On behalf of Tyndale St-Georges Community Center, thank you so much for your financial contribution. Your gift helps Tyndale St-Georges to keep on providing its unique and vital services to the population of Little Burgundy.

In this our 75th Anniversary year, we are more committed than ever to securing Tyndale St-Georges' future for another 75 years. From its founding in 1927, one would never imagine how it has grown and to what extent it has made a difference in the lives of so many; today we welcome over 2,000 people each year. We serve the parents, infants, children, newly arrived immigrants, refugees and adults of the community, promoting the development of new skills to empower and to help them to reach their true potential.

Your support and generosity truly helps us to build a brighter future for the many people that we serve. We thank you.

Sincerely,

Patricia Rossi
Executive Director

Enclosed: Tax Receipt



Ryan Hue, Amir Noorani and Sandra Ryan

On Our Salvation Army Day of Giving:

Several people at Brendan Wood International pulled together to try to make Christmas day a little brighter for eight families brought to our attention through the Salvation Army. Although not everyone could participate in the afternoon of “Hand to Hand” giving, many of our friends & family gave their time, energy and even encouraged their respective employers to contribute to this cause. Although they could not spend the day with us in the hand to hand giving, Teresa Chan & Laura Torzsas helped with our Christmas effort, donating both their time and many cheery gifts. Laura’s company, Orchard International, was kind enough to donate bath/body products & toys for all the Christmas packages. Teresa encouraged Riviera Concepts to provide perfume and bath products for all the mothers and teen girls of the families we brought Christmas cheer to.

On the actual day of giving our team, consisting of Trevor Torzsas, David Clements & Laurel Ward visited two families. The first family we visited was a family of 6 from the Congo. The mother, Messi, arrived in Canada about 6 years ago with her daughter. The father, Kitoko, formerly a judge in the Congo, was not able to reach Canada until 3 years later. The entire family has been waiting ever since to get their official residency. We had the pleasure of spending about an hour with Messi, Kitoko, and daughters Kristine & Jessica. The family was extremely welcoming to us and are extremely happy to be in Canada, even though the weather was a little hard to get used to in the beginning.

The second family . . . Unfortunately we were only able to spend a brief time with Noreen who is raising three grandchildren. We walked with her from the Salvation Army office where she volunteers twice a week in the kitchen. We found out that the most popular days to go to the Salvation Army kitchen are apparently the days when Noreen does the cooking. Noreen was going straight from her kitchen duties to the house to drop off our Christmas gift packages and then to pick up the kids from school. She was kind enough to share a prayer with us at her house.

- Trevor L. Torzsas



Trevor L. Torzsas

Thank you once again for the opportunity to participate in Brendan Wood International's Christmas Giving Celebration. This year's celebration provided Stephanie and I with an opportunity to work with the Salvation Army and learn more about their mission and core values.

We were happy to have had the opportunity to spread good cheer to a group of less fortunate families. These hand-to-hand greetings proved very rewarding as did the lesson which I picked up from one of their soldiers - making a difference happens one individual at a time.

- Michael and Stephanie Flynn



Brendan Wood and Michael Flynn

Earlscourt Child and Family Centre

In the spirit of giving established by the BWI partners over twenty years ago, current BWIers take a hands-on approach to helping those less fortunate during the holiday season. This year, we have chosen to make a contribution to the Earlscourt Child and Family Centre in Toronto, specifically their Girls Connection Program.

Girls Connection reaches out to families with girls under-12 who have anti-social and aggressive behaviour. It is the only empirically-based girl-specific program in North America with their research findings disseminated throughout the Social Work community. Unfortunately, the program is not government-funded and must make do with grants and gifts from corporate and private donors.

We hope that our small contribution will help Earlscourt continue in their noble pursuit of working with our society's "future mothers".

- Rod and Nicolle Wisco and Robert Posthumus



Adrian Miles and Robert Posthumus



Geoff Ryan and Rod Wisco

Back in late October, Rod and I were discussing societal issues that pertain to our youth. It was a “hot-topic” for me as I am a soon to be proud father. During our talk, he told me about a charity that his sister was involved with, the Earlscourt Child and Family Centre, located in Toronto. He explained to me that the charity focuses on young girls, 12 and under, who, for whatever reasons have anger management or anti-social behavioral problems. We then talked about the treatment of the girls and why this program was so successful compared to others. After my conversation with Rod, I came home and told Meghan about the charity. She was as intrigued and appreciative of the effort this charity was putting forward as I was.

When BWI generously provided funds for people donate to a charity that they felt was important or relevant to their lives, both Meghan and I had little hesitation deciding on the Earlscourt Child and Family Centre. With our child on the way we wanted to give to an organization that was focused on our future. Since the donation, we have found out that we are having a baby girl, which makes this donation much more relevant and special to our lives.

It is our hope that we will be able to continue our support this organization for many years to come.

Brett Williams and Meghan Kennedy



Brett Williams and Meghan Kennedy

April 9, 2003

Brendan Wood International
17 Prince Arthur Ave.
Toronto, On M5R 1B2

Attention; Brendan Wood

Dear Brendan

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to be apart of your donations program for a second year.

This year I had the opportunity to do something more personal with your donation. Your monies matched by my own were used to launch a fund raising drive to send a team to an orphanage in Trinidad. The Grade 8 Youth Group at our church (Chartwell Baptist Church) has gone every March break to an orphanage to assist in their daily chores and to give a much-needed boost to the operations. My daughter Carly was a part of that group this year.

What an eye opener to have kids from Oakville go to a very needy area and see how they live. The kids on this trip come from families who often go on very nice trips over the spring break. So to see them come back and honestly say "this is the best trip I have ever been on" is amazing. Especially when they tell their friends that they only got one day at the beach.

Needless to say the kids at the orphanage were truly thankful for your gift. The Youth Group not only did crafts with them while they were there but also left a substantial donation of supplies to enhance the rationed supplies at the home.

Once again your company was able to seed an event that was blessed by your generosity but then went on to multiply it with matching donations and personal effort.

Thank you again for letting me be apart of this experience.

Sincerely



R. Bruce Friesen, President
CanadianMgrSearch



Paul and Brendan Wood



Dear Friends
And Family
Mr. [unclear]

I would like to thank you for the support you gave me for my Trinidad trip. It was an amazing experience, and in thanks for your support I would like to share a little about the trip with you.

During the March break I went on a youth mission trip to Trinidad. The purpose of the trip is to help at an orphanage. 14 grade 8 students from my church and 3 leaders will go to share the love of Jesus Christ with these orphaned children in Trinidad.

There were three main things that we did while we were there. We played with the children, did work projects, and did everyday chores. Some of the things that we did with the kids were tie-dye t-shirts. The kids really enjoyed making the t-shirts, because they don't get to do crafts like that very often. We also did a joint talent show one night, which was fun for both the Trinidad kids and the Canadians because we got to see lots of their talents and they got to see ours! Our work projects consisted mainly of painting. I helped out in painting a few things. I helped paint/redecorate the laundry room, as well as some of the staff rooms. However the main paint project was Camp David. Camp David is one of the buildings on the property that had never been painted at all it was cement. So over the week we primed the whole building as well as painted it. In addition I helped out with a few daily chores. Some of them were sweeping, mopping, cooking, but most memorable was doing the dishes. There were 30 kids in the home as well as staff and 25 Canadians visiting, and no dishwasher! I got to help out in doing dishes a few days while we were there. I now appreciate my dishwasher at home a lot more!

There were very many memorable experiences that I experienced while I was in Trinidad. One of those experiences was going to Kernaham village. Kernaham is the 5th poorest village in Trinidad. We went there to hand out a free lunch to the people in the village and to put on some games for the children. I was amazed at how happy and cheerful the kids were in Kernaham. They had so little but that was okay with them because they had enough to survive. It was a good lesson for me to realize how much I have to be thankful for.

All my experiences were not so moving like my experience in Kernaham, some of them were scary. I had a few experiences with bugs in Trinidad! After we had finished doing the painting for the afternoon I



was quite hot, so I decided to have a nice cold shower. (Cold showers were the only option!) While I was cooling off in the shower Julia (one of the girls on the trip) sees a BIG cockroach! Julia went to kill it but missed as it was running away, so she asked me if I see it anywhere in the shower. Right away I said no assuming the bug wouldn't come in a shower! Then about 1 minute later I turn around and staring right at me was a HUGE cockroach! I screamed very loud and got out as fast as I could! Thankfully some one was brave and quick enough to kill the bug before it got away! So much for a nice cool shower!

I had lots of fun while I was in Trinidad, playing with the kids was the most fun though. We often played cricket, because the kids loved to play it. Another thing the kids loved was sidewalk chalk! We brought them some to play with while we were there and we also left some. It was so fun to draw with the kids but it was also an eye opener. We had just given these kids sidewalk chalk to play with, and they don't get to do that very often. However as soon as we gave it to them they came up to us offering us some so we could colour too. It made me realize how even though they have so little they want to share, and how I should be like that. I have so much, giving up a little of it is not going to hurt me!

There are a few things that I have taken away from this trip that I don't think I will forget. I never realized how much I really have until going on this trip. The people in Kernaham live in a little shack and the children can't go to school because they have to stay home and help out. Yet they are so happy and thankful for what they do have. I have learned from the children at the orphanage as well as the people of Kernaham that I need to appreciate what I have and realize how blessed I am.

I would like to thank you once again for supporting me on my mission to Trinidad. It was appreciated very much by me and my family. I hope I have given you a good idea about what I did in Trinidad, and how it has impacted me.

From, Carly Priesen

Thanks alot for your donation to my trip to Caribbean it was the first one I got, so it means alot to me. I hope you had a good trip!

PS. I got my pictures back and there are some very good ones. So I will be sure to send some to your email as soon as possible. Thanks again!





Milan Roy and Nora Turkevics

Anishnawbe Health Toronto

As another winter approaches, I can't help but think about the upcoming extreme cold alerts and what this might mean for a growing homeless population in Toronto. Specifically, Aboriginal people are disproportionately represented among Toronto's homeless population. In 1999, while Aboriginal people comprised less than two percent of the general population, 17 percent of the homeless people the Anishnawbe Street Patrol served were Aboriginal.

A recent compilation of the number of deaths among the homeless population of Toronto revealed that 35 percent of those who died as a direct result of the harshness of a life lived on the streets, were Aboriginal.

Although there are a number of organizations that are supporting the homeless, I believe that BWI's generous contribution, that I will match, can best be used in the fight against homelessness in the community by supporting an organization that has a cultural response to the issue. It may be that other centres, while effective and useful for the mainstream homeless population, have been unable to help Aboriginal peoples deal with the core issues that cause the drinking, the homelessness, the depression, and the dysfunction in families. There are deep issues at work, ranging from colonization and dispossession, to the cultural and familial destruction wrought by residential schools.

Anishnawbe Health has a number of Street Patrol programs as well as longer-term Outreach programs to provide a culture-based solution to this growing problem and provides an important service to this community.

Anishnawbe Health Toronto is a culture-based Native healing centre committed to the full recovery of Anishnawbe people through traditional ways. This healing takes place from the spiritual realm, through traditional Healers, Elders and Teachers, through ceremonies and other gifts of Creation.

- Milan Roy



Ken Moore, Allison Godfrey and David Clements



Sohail Ahmer and Shelley el Baroudi

Street Haven

Over the years, I had heard reference made to Street Haven briefly on the news but did not pay much attention. I originally wanted to make a donation to the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. However, my contact person had reservations about this because she felt the funds might not get to the people who really need them and suggested an alternative, Street Haven.

Street Haven offers services and programs to women who have addictions to alcohol, cocaine, and other drugs. Some of these women are also homeless and afflicted by mental illness. As such, there are case managers to provide ongoing support. Having no money, home, and lacking a network of family or friends, these women can find solace in the drop-in center or tend to health care issues through physicians who are affiliated with this organization. There is also a breast cancer clinic on site.

There are educational programs and a learning center to help women develop coping skills so that they may learn to deal with the multitude of issues that face people with addictions. There are two facilities that offer residential rehabilitative programs which may last up to six months. There is a hostel for emergency shelter and an apartment building which is subsidized while these women recover and gain the strength to move forward in their lives.

As always, I appreciate the opportunity to make a difference through the support and generosity of Brendan Wood International.

- Brenda Kastner



Brenda Kastner

Honorable P.O.
The Honourable James K. Bartleman
Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

Just P.O.
The Honourable Hilary Weston
The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, P.C., Q.C.
The Late Honourable Pauline M. McGibbon, C.C.

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Peggy Ann Walpole, C.M., RN
Executive Director

March 5, 2003

Brendan Wood International
17 Prince Arthur Avenue
Toronto, ON M5R 1B2

Dear Brendan Wood International,

Greetings to you from all of us at Street Haven. We are grateful for your recent generous donation. What a wonderful way to acknowledge your staff at Christmas time, to request that they choose a charity for you to donate to. I only wish more companies would follow your lead. A receipt is enclosed for your purposes.

This is a difficult era in which to raise funds. Many agencies like ours are feeling the strain. As well, I know it must be difficult for you the donor to ascertain who and where is the best place for your dollar. Given all of this your donation means a great deal to us. You may be assured any monies will go directly towards the women.

Street Haven continues to offer a safe place for seventy two women who are in our shelter and housing as well as the forty to sixty women a day who use our Drop-In Centre. Through our programs women find help for their immediate needs as well as the opportunity to achieve an improved future.

We are always happy to have donors visit Street Haven. If you would like to stop by, please give myself or Carol a call at 416-967-6060.

Best wishes to you.

Sincerely,


Peggy Ann Walpole, C.M., RN
Executive Director

Receipt Enclosed/cm

Street Haven 87 Pembroke Street, Toronto, Ontario M5A 2W9 | 416/967-6060 Fax: 416/924-6900



Stewart Borden and Alf Wirth

Help for Humanity

When I heard that BWI would be continuing their Christmas tradition of The Lazarus Projects, I felt more inspired about Christmas giving this year than in times past. It was very humbling to know that I could be apart of a tradition of sharing and giving generously to charities that not only my peer group had a passion for, but also the leaders of the firm in which we take such direction from. I thank you for this opportunity.

The charitable organization that I chose was Help for Humanity and the reason for my decision was actually an easy one. Help for Humanity is currently working on a Senior Village project in Kitchener, Waterloo. The project is to help individuals who have given their life to different ministries around the world in the missions field and who have now retired to find themselves lacking the basic necessities of life. All too often we have forgotten the people who have spent their lifetime helping others and making the small differences in the world, that we for the most part, take for granted. For this reason, I have forwarded the funds to Help for Humanity as their efforts run parallel with my desire to give. Some of us can help by getting our hands dirty by participating in the daily activities and other help by giving generously like BWI.

- Ryan Hue



Rob Perry and Ryan Hue



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December 19, 2002

Brendan Wood Co.
Attn: Rob Posthumus
17 Prince Arthur Avenue
Toronto, ON M5R 1B2

Dear Mr. Posthumus,

Thank you so much for your generous gift of gift certificates, toiletries, socks, gloves, toys and candy. Please pass along our thanks to everyone at Brendan Wood who helped to make this donation possible. Gift-in-kind donations are such important components of all programs at YSM. We couldn't get along without them. They help us keep costs down while enriching the lives of the people we serve.

As an example, in every department at YSM we serve a lot of meals. On the surface it may seem as though there's not much to it beyond providing good nutrition. But behind the food there are opportunities for staff to sit down with people and get to know them, encouraging them in the many difficulties they face.

As we get to know people and they come to trust us, we can then find out where we can best help — with computer training, childcare support, counselling or social activities to name a few options.

Whether your gift is clothing, food, computers or toys, it helps us provide the support that leads to change. On behalf of those who have received assistance through your kindness, please accept our thanks along with our best wishes for a happy new year.

Gratefully yours,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Barbara Walkden".

Barbara Walkden
Director of Development

BW/bc



Trevor Torzsas and Robert Posthumus



Ljubomir Radovanovic



Rajie Ragbeer and Virna Kim

INTERNATIONAL

Seeds of Peace

We have built a global stockbroker (Auerbach Grayson & Company) that operates in 82 countries, worldwide. Both of us travel a great deal and conduct a lot of business in Israel and the surrounding Arab countries. We believe that one of the solutions to solving the world's problems would be to solve the Middle East situation. What better way to start than through the young people of that region? Our donation has gone to Seeds of Peace, a camp set in the State of Maine. Seeds of Peace creates a community in which Arab and Israeli children live together in cabins, share meals and participate in numerous summer activities in an environment designed to build mutual understanding and respect for each other. The camp was established in 1993 after the original World Trade Center bombing. It has now grown to offer programs worldwide and includes many children from impoverished countries.

- Jonathan L. Auerbach and David S. Grayson

January 22, 2003

Messrs. Brendan Wood
Stuart Borden
Brendan Wood International
17 Prince Arthur Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M5R 1B2
Canada

Gentlemen:

Jon and I thank you for the generous donation and special program, which you have started.

You will see from the attached that we have made our donation to Seeds of Peace. This organization started as a summer camp in Maine for Arab and Israeli youth to learn to live together.

Warm Regards,



David S. Grayson

SEEDS OF PEACE



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www.seedsofpeace.org

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Donor Panel
Executive Director

John Halbach
Founder

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February 19, 2003

Brendan Wood
Brendan Wood International
17 Prince Arthur Avenue
Toronto, ON M5R 1B2

Dear Friends,

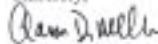
On behalf of Seeds of Peace graduates everywhere, our board of directors and staff, I want to personally thank you for your contribution on behalf of Auerbach Grayson & Co.

On July 10, 2002 Seeds of Peace founder and president, John P. Wallach lost his valiant battle with cancer. John fought his illness with the same courage and determination that he fought for peace. He started Seeds of Peace following the February 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center. John asked what are terrorists trying to achieve? His response was, above all they want to instill fear and to keep us mired in the hatreds of the past. John asked, why can't we come up with an answer, something that would fight terror and inspire hope? His answer was to mobilize the next generation of young people from regions of conflict and to provide them with the skills required for leadership and coexistence.

We have been remarkably successful in our first decade. In the past ten years, more than 2000 young people representing 22 nations have attended the Seeds of Peace International Camp in Maine and have gone on to work with our Center for Coexistence in Jerusalem and through a variety of other programs designed to sustain personal ties and friendships. This summer more than 450 young people from the Middle East, the Balkans, Cyprus, South Asia and the United States will attend our camp in Maine.

I am determined to continue John's work and sustain his legacy of peace and coexistence. Your donation will help immensely in our effort to break down the barriers of suspicion and mistrust and combat the hatreds that fuel these conflicts. Seeds of Peace has shown us the way the future could be; our job is to make that future a reality. Thank you again for your generous support.

Sincerely,



Aaron David Miller
President

Amnesty International

This year I will be giving to Amnesty International. Amnesty International is a worldwide campaigning movement that works to promote internationally recognized human rights.

Amnesty International's vision is of a world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards. Their mission is to undertake research and action focused on preventing and ending grave abuses of the rights to physical and mental integrity, freedom of conscience and expression, and freedom from discrimination, within the context of their work to promote all human rights.

Amnesty International has more than a million members and supporters in over 140 countries and territories. It is impartial and independent of any government, political persuasion or religious creed. Their work is financed largely by subscriptions and donations from our worldwide membership.

- Jas Singh



Ljubomir Radovanic, Charles Yang and Jas Singh

As a member of Amnesty International for some years, I would like to make a donation - on behalf of Brendan Wood International - to aid their work in defending human rights around the world.

Amnesty International is a worldwide campaigning movement which works to promote human rights. Amnesty International's vision is of a world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

As Canadian citizens we enjoy numerous freedoms and luxuries. It is important to expand our social consciousness globally, and to be aware of those less fortunate who are being inhumanely persecuted around the world.

- Andrew Cohen



Andrew Cohen and Nora Turkevics

EDUCATION AND LEARNING

Cahoots Theatre Projects

Cahoots Theatre Projects is a Toronto-based theatre company that is dedicated to the creation, development, and production of new Canadian plays that reflect our cultural diversity. For over 17 years this theatre company has supported and developed the work of culturally diverse artists, and has produced work that is socially relevant and critical. This upcoming summer Cahoots Theatre Projects will also be running an arts camp for underprivileged children.

- Nadine Villasin



Nadine Villasin and Jas Singh



Anne Wood and Matt Ritson Bennett

VARIOUS

The difficulty that we faced this year in complying with your most inspiring Christmas donation festival was choice. There are so many and such a variety of needs. To support an individual, a cause, a charity, should it be local, world wide or national. When I explained this dilemma, at the Christmas Party, your generous and talented Chairman, Brendan Wood, sprang forward and said two further cheques would be in the mail.

This means that the single mother with five children will receive the cheque that will lighten her load; that General Romeo Dallaires' appeal, to the Canadian Psychiatric Foundation luncheon, for extensive research into Post War Trauma can be further supported and we only need a bit more to pay a teacher for one year in Afghanistan, and there are a bunch of ladies coming to lunch to take care of it!

What an achievement, a Christmas celebration that assists a family, helps Canadian military personnel who served their country at huge sacrifice to their mental health, and gives children of a war ravaged nation a chance to gain a measure of education and thereby hope for their future. Thank you Brendan Wood International

- John and Diana Weatherall



Omar and Fowzia Bangash

I send a couple of big cheques to both Queen's and McGill Universities every year now, to which I am also now adding the Royal Vic and Queen Mary Hospitals. My other main form of more altruistic and Christmasy behaviour, to which I will devote the additional largesse you have kindly provided, will be of the most direct kind: I make a tour of the battered humanity found on the streets of Montreal - area from the old Forum to Crescent St. - and provide a few bucks for as many as I can, some now rather expecting me as annual tradition. I suppose much of this goes directly to a bottle of Quebec or the like, rather than more sensible expenditures, but I still think they get a greater pleasure, maybe even benefit, out of this informal dole than they do from the services they use all the time from the Sally Ann and the Old Brewery Mission, who get a street donation from me as well.

That I can do such things at all is to no small extent due to many happy years of collaborating with BWI. Some of you at BWI may be unaware that the jolly Santa Claus with the big white beard and red suit was actually the combined invention of that famous American 19th century poem, *The Night Before Christmas*, but even more from the Coca-Cola Company. Coca-Cola hired a Swedish artist to draw this kind of Santa (the old European St. Nick was a much thinner and grimmer figure; he was even supposed to leave lumps of coal in the stockings of little boys and girls who had not been good) in 1931. He actually used one of the drivers of the Coca-Cola trucks as his model. The image spread over the world like wildfire; by the 1940s, people already assumed Santa had always been around.

As much as I regret my absence from this year's BWI Christmas party, I'll admit one reason I like being a teacher is my chance to annually relive Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Marking terrible term papers for hours, I start growling, "Are there no prisons? Are there no workhouses?" Sitting in the gymnasium for final exams, watching a scene that never changes, I am visited by the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future. Marking the finals, the spirit of giving begins to descend on me, generally meaning that most kids will find better news on their results than they expect or deserve; when I finish, I'm ready to go out and find people to share my sense of the gift of life and friendship.

- Neil Cameron



The Stories of Lazarus
Excerpted from The New Jerusalem Bible

The parable of the rich man and Lazarus

Luke 16: 19-31

¹⁹There was a rich man who used to dress in purple and fine linen and feast magnificently every day. ²⁰And at his gate, there used to lie a poor man called Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹who longed to fill himself with what fell from the rich man's table. Even dogs came and licked his sores. ²²Now it happened that the poor man died and was carried away by the angels into Abraham's embrace. The rich man also died and was buried.

²³In his torment in Hades he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off with Lazarus in his embrace. ²⁴So he cried out, "Father Abraham, pity me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames."

²⁵Abraham said, "My son, remember that during your life you had your fill of good things, just as Lazarus his fill of bad. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony. ²⁶But that is not all: between us and you a great gulf has been fixed, to prevent those who want to cross from our side to yours or from your side to ours."

²⁷So he said, "Father, I beg you then to send Lazarus to my father's house, ²⁸since I have five brothers, to give them warning so that they do not come to this place of torment too." ²⁹Abraham said, "They have Moses and the prophets, let them listen to them."

³⁰The rich man replied, "Ah no, father Abraham, but if someone comes to them from the dead, they will repent." ³¹Then Abraham said to him, "If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead."

The resurrection of Lazarus

John 11:1-49

There was a man named Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister, Martha, and he was ill. ²It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. ³The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' ⁴On receiving the message, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death, but it is for God's glory so that through it the Son of God may be glorified."

⁵Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶yet when he heard that he was ill he stayed where he was for two more days ⁷before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go back to Judaea.' ⁸The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews were trying to stone you; are you going back there again?' ⁹Jesus replied:

Are there not twelve hours in the day?
No one who walks in the daytime
stumbles,
having the light of this world to see by;
¹⁰anyone who walks around at night
stumbles,
having no light as a guide.

¹¹He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is at rest; I am going to wake him.'

¹²The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is at rest he will be saved.' ¹³Jesus was speaking of the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep'; ¹⁴so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; ¹⁵and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.' ¹⁶Then Thomas – known as the Twin – said to the other disciples, 'Let us also go to die with him.'

¹⁷On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. ¹⁸Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died, ²²but even now I know that God will grant whatever you ask of him.' ²³Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' ²⁴Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' ²⁵Jesus said:

I am the resurrection.
Anyone who believes in me,
even though that person dies, will live,
²⁶and whoever lives and believes in me
will never die
Do you believe this?

²⁷'Yes, Lord,' she said, 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

²⁸When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' ²⁹Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹When the Jews who were in the house comforting Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

³²Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' ³³At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who had come with her, Jesus was greatly distressed, and with a profound sigh he said, ³⁴'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' ³⁵Jesus wept; ³⁶and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' ³⁷But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man. Could he not have prevented this man's death?' ³⁸Sighing again, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. ³⁹Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day since he died.' ⁴⁰Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' ⁴¹So they took the stone away. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

Father, I thank you
for hearing my prayer.
⁴²I myself knew that you hear me always,
but I speak
for the sake of all these
who are standing around me,
so that they may believe
it was you who sent me.

⁴³When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with strips of material, and a cloth over his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Directory of Contacts

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Rita Leung and Gary Fung

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Meagan's Walk

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Paul and Brendan Wood

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Paul Wood, Anne Wood and Michael Flynn



Eugene Chan and Maki Ishikawa

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Kosuke Saga

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Anne and Brendan Wood

