

CHRISTMAS JOURNAL
2004/2005

Brendan Wood, Partners & Friends

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A CHRISTMAS STORY

Twenty five years ago in early December three Brendan Wood International partners gathered for a quiet lunch to contemplate the usual, annual, empty ritual, namely the dreaded company Christmas party! Three of us, all Catholics, were depressed by the upcoming spectacle. That year had been a terrible year and we had no extra cash or enthusiasm for a hollow celebration. On the second glass of wine, we rebelled unanimously. The Christmas party was off! What would we do instead? Given our moods, it was decided that little, if anything, would make us feel better. Then the inevitable... “there are lots of people worse off than us”. Why not do something to help others? So who was worse off than us and what could we do to help them? While there were countless people who needed help and uplifting, we didn’t really know who they were and how to reach them. As we meditated on this, the conversation began to light up with all kinds of ideas. In fact, there were so many ideas to look into, and causes to investigate, that we completely forgot about our meagre funds. It was as if the desire to do something had multiplied our resources. It had.

With all the possibilities and little cash it was decided to do the research Brendan Wood International style. How could we get the most value to the end user? Which charitable organizations really delivered? Which were bureaucracies? Who had a handle on the best answers to social problems? What causes were the most important?

The next move was obvious. We would split up some cash amongst the employees of Brendan Wood International, our interviewers and some of our friends and ask them to seek out the best causes they could find and gather together for a dinner at which they would share the story behind what they did with the money. We agreed there would be no restraints on any basis – all religious and secular causes chosen by our friends were ‘in’.

It was possibly the best decision ever made at BWI. The education has been spectacular, the dinners have been inspirational, to say the least, and we couldn’t have imagined how much could be done with so little money when the right people chose to put it into the right hands. We now call these efforts the Lazarus project.



Brendan Wood



Stewart Borden

BWI PARTNERS



Jon Ruby



Nora Turkevics

The last two years have presented our Lazarus project with innumerable opportunities to participate in acts of charity. An obvious perception, especially now that Lazarus finds itself on many lists of known contributors, is that organizations seeking financial support are rapidly increasing in number. While assessing the needs and qualities of various charitable organizations and sending a cheque is certainly better than doing nothing, the road ahead calls us to a deeper commitment.

In the broader picture, Lazarus is now anxious to grow in wisdom and commitment and we feel that greater “hands on” use of our skills, energy and resources is the next level to be achieved in that growth.

Anne and I join our partners in a most sincere thank you to the many friends this year and last who added their personal gifts and inspirations to Lazarus. Many thousands of dollars passed through our hands from yours to good, solid organizations. A special thank you to the Salvation Army.

At Christmas we are especially aware of the world changing event of the birth of a child. Reflecting on it, the birth of every child is a world changing event. Hollywood produced a great piece of theatre demonstrating the enormous difference made to the world by the life of a single person and how easily that truth becomes lost like so many others in a world of political correctness. The name of the movie ‘It’s A Wonderful Life’ starred Jimmy Stewart.

This year we are supporting any and all institutions who make a meaningful contribution to the commitment to life, especially amongst women struggling with unexpected or unwanted pregnancies. Mother Theresa’s Missionaries of Charity and many other institutions on our list provide moral support, love and care to mothers and their children who might have been lost. In a world so greatly in need of change it seems apt to throw our arms around new life, for in each and every child the possibilities for our world are as amazing as birth itself.

Some say we must save the world. In China this means population control! Some say we cannot feed the people we have. Amongst African dictators that means starvation! I say life is beyond our ken. It is a miracle to be viewed in awe. Only love can touch it.

— Brendan Wood



Special Guests: Captain Geoff Ryan and Captain Sandra Ryan from the Salvation Army with Brendan and Anne Wood

GUEST SPEAKERS

**CAPTAIN SANDRA RYAN
SALVATION ARMY CORPS 614**



Goeff and I have been married for 16 years and have three children. Both of us grew up in Salvation Army families, entered full-time ministry as Salvation Army officers and were ordained in 1990. Following a 70-year absence of the Salvation Army in the Soviet Union, we led a six-officer team to reestablish the ministry there. We came back to Canada in 2000 and are presently living and working in Regent Park, the oldest and largest housing project in Canada with a project called Project 614. ‘The 614’ has been a model of change impacting the Salvation Army mission in the inner city. There are now several 614s worldwide, with more starting in the near future.

Our team is committed to a way of community development that is uniquely powerful. By moving into the community, becoming part of the lives of those served, forming relationships between members of the community who can serve each other, building self-esteem, friendships and partnerships, Project 614 achieves results. We have every faith in the wisdom of our approach and the unique depth of its effectiveness in developing the heart of a community.

**ROB PERRY
SALVATION ARMY CORPS 614**



On behalf of the team at Salvation Army Corps 614, I would like to thank the Brendan Wood team for assisting once again with our Christmas sponsorship program. Your loving donations help to make Christmas a time for celebration for many of the families in our community.

Thank you also for sacrificing time and energy to come and personally deliver the gifts. The deliveries were made all the more enjoyable by the friendly and energetic spirit that was brought with the team as they came and experienced the lives of people in our community.

A final thank you to the three BWI elves who came out on the coldest day of the year to take part in our children’s Christmas Pageant and to hand out the toys and books that were so graciously donated by Brendan Wood International.

DON PANGMAN PHILIP AZIZ CENTRE



In 1991 an artist and teacher by the name of Philip Aziz became terminally ill with 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 provided 8500 hours of front line service to 115 adults and children.

We are very grateful to all who support the work of the Centre – individuals and organizations that share a mutual vision and compassion to help those living with the challenges of HIV/AIDS.

We have a dream to build a Children's Respite Home in Toronto and the first in Canada that will focus solely on children infected with HIV/AIDS, a place where children can have a safe, familiar haven while their primary caregiver (who is HIV positive) convalesces, receives hospital care or requires a temporary break from care giving for the purpose of physical and/or emotional recuperation. We have a goal – to officially open the doors of the Philip Aziz Centre's Children's Respite Home in August 2006 – when over 20,000 will be attending the World AIDS Conference in Toronto.

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.

LYNN GRAN NATURE CONSERVANCY OF CANADA



Lynn Gran and Brendan Wood

Thank you for inviting the Nature Conservancy of Canada to be part of Brendan Wood International's Christmas event and celebration. I applaud the philanthropic spirit that is encouraged by Brendan Wood and friends.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada is working to ensure a natural legacy exists for future generations all across Canada. For over 40 years, the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) has been working to protect Canada's most threatened natural habitats and the endangered species that call them home.

NCC is Canada's only national charity dedicated to preserving ecologically significant areas through outright purchase, donations and conservation easements. Our plan of action is partnership building and creative deal-making with any individual, corporation, community group, conservation group or government body that shares our passion. The results? Since 1962 we have secured a long-term future for more than 1,400 properties, comprising 1.8 million acres of magnificent woodlands and seashores, internationally significant wetlands, threatened prairies, and a host of other precious natural places. And in the process, we've won the confidence of Canadians, new Canadians and visitors who want to protect their natural heritage for generations to come.

BEV CRANDELL OXFAM CANADA



Founded in 1963, Oxfam Canada is a non-profit international development organization that supports community programmes in food security, health, nutrition and democratic development with an emphasis on working with women. We are a member-based organization. Members help to formulate our direction, participate in governing bodies and elect representatives to the Board of Directors.

Oxfam Canada is one of the 12 Oxfam organizations around the world that form Oxfam International. Together we are working to tackle the root causes of poverty, social injustice and inequality. Oxfam Canada believes that people together can create a fair world, free of poverty and injustice.

A fair world respects the basic rights of all human beings to:

- earn a decent living to support themselves and their families
- enjoy basic education and health care
- get help in life-threatening disasters
- speak out for their rights
- be treated as equal.

Oxfam Canada builds lasting solutions to global poverty and injustice. We work with allies in Canada and around the world to change the policies and practices that perpetuate human suffering. We support organizations in poor communities overseas in their struggle to secure basic rights. Oxfam's advocacy and campaigns for just policies are rooted in the knowledge and experience gained in that struggle.

JOHN MCMAHON DAILY BREAD FOOD BANK



John and Teri McMahon

Thank you for your kind invitation to be a part of your Christmas event. I chose the Daily Bread Food Bank as my charity of choice. For thousands of families across Toronto, putting food on the table is a constant challenge. The holiday season can be an especially difficult time for those individuals who live on a fixed income and must stretch their dollars simply to eat. The Daily Bread Food Bank has a two-part mission: to feed hungry people and, ultimately, to eliminate the need for food banks. We all hope that there will come a time when hunger in Canada is a thing of the past.

Between Sprott Securities, friends and associates within the financial community we were able to raise enough money to pay off the mortgage obligations on the food bank property.

— John McMahon



A SELECTION OF STORIES

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



As an Iranian Canadian, Amnesty International is a charity that touches on issues that are close to my heart.

The political environment in my home country is one which is in complete disarray. Although I love the country, and the culture, I am deeply disturbed by the acts carried out by the government, as they often ruin lives and terrorize families.

Amnesty International is a worldwide movement of people who campaign for internationally recognized human rights. It is these rights that as a Canadian I often take for granted. However, I am reminded by the events that have impacted the lives of my friends and family, that these rights are not enjoyed by all.

One of my closest friends grew up never having met her father. He was a man who spoke openly about his political views. It was this desire to speak freely of his opinions that ended his life. His dream of a society where people can speak freely about their faith and political opinions was crushed by his own countrymen.

Much like my friend's father did, Amnesty International aims 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 its work to promote all human rights.

— Yasmine Mirabedini

ANGELS IN THE NIGHT



Several years ago, a colleague and I decided to spend the donation given to us by BWI on buying gloves, mitts, and hats for the homeless, and then spend the day of the Christmas Party driving around the streets of Toronto trying to give these items to those in need. Many many people were very appreciative of our donation (it was an extremely cold day), but we did end up with gloves and mitts left over – not everyone we found wanted them, and I was personally a little bit discouraged by not having been more efficient in our charity.

This year, I was introduced to an event and organization called Angels In The Night. This group, 100% volunteered, has organized a hat/mitt/glove/blanket drive similar to ours several years ago, however on a much larger scale. Two Saturdays before Christmas roughly 30 volunteers gather at a downtown office and sort through thousands of items which have either been donated or bought by money raised by Angels In The Night, and organize these for ‘the drop’. Then Tuesday night, 100 volunteers are organized into 6 teams and drive throughout Toronto in donated school buses and deliver the items to pre-arranged shelters for the homeless – small shelters, big shelters, shelters for battered women, Salvation Army shelters, etc...Originally started by a mortgage broker in Vancouver, the event has spread across Canada, and raises well over \$100k in clothing and supplies for Canada’s homeless.

— Stewart Borden

THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF FOOD BANKS



I have chosen to direct my donation towards the Canadian Association of Food Banks, an umbrella organization representing approximately 235 food banks across every Canadian province and territory. The CAFB mandate is to assist Canadian Food Banks in meeting the immediate food needs of recipients while working towards long-term solutions to hunger and poverty.

In 2003, the CAFB collected and distributed nearly nine million pounds of food industry donations to member banks through the National Food Sharing System, a dollar value equivalent of \$18 million. Data from Hunger Count 2003 indicates 777,869 people using food banks in one month, representing a 5.5% increase in demand over the previous year, and 40% of food banks reporting difficulty in meeting demand. Moreover, 39% of food banks users were children.

Donors to the CAFB provide food, transportation, and financial assistance. Our support will make a difference in the lives of thousands of Canadian adults and children. It is only through our combined efforts that we can have the necessary impact on hunger.

— Jessica Lui

CANADIAN BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION

I'm sure everyone has seen those pink ribbons that symbolize breast cancer awareness. A number of family friends in my church community have either recently passed away from breast cancer, or have been diagnosed with breast cancer. While the chances of developing breast cancer has typically been known to increase with age (after 50 years old), research shows that today, younger women are being diagnosed with it as well. I think it is extremely important that women, young and old, are educated on this issue early on because it is very easy to overlook the symptoms when it is in its early stages.

The Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation was founded in 1986 by a group of community leaders in Toronto, Ontario. The Ontario Chapter is one of four Chapters, and is the oldest and largest of the group. Breast cancer is becoming more and more evident today, than it was a decade ago, and the CBCF funds, supports, and advocates for:

- More innovative research
- Education and awareness programs
- Early diagnosis and treatment programs
- A positive quality of life for people living with breast cancer

There are a number of ways contributions can be made to this foundation.

- Special Events – CIBC Run for the Cure
- Individual Giving – Donations via phone, mail, fax, online, in person
- Employee Giving – Workplace campaigns
- Corporate Giving – Sponsorships, corporate donations, etc...
- Donor Bill of Rights



The Garden of Hope is a project that has been undertaken by the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation. It will be situated right in Toronto's High Park, to commemorate Jemima Howard, one of the first women to be diagnosed with breast cancer in Canada, who was instrumental in the creation of High Park. The idea for this garden developed because it has been found that the environment around us affects the quality of lives and the healing process for people living with diseases. The purpose of this garden is to establish a sense of calmness and a place to regain focus and build strength. This is the first site of its kind in Canada.

— Carol Kim

CANADIAN BREAST CANCER SOCIETY



Brendan Wood International's generous initiative to reach out to charities that are close to the hearts of individuals at the firm is an admirable one. It is in this spirit of giving that I wish to make a donation to the Canadian Breast Cancer Society.

Five years ago, a close friend was diagnosed with breast cancer. Being a strong and determined individual she maintained a positive attitude and sharp wit. As the disease progressed, she fought harder, insisting on taking part in social events whenever possible. She smiled big and laughed louder as her body continued to weaken. In February of 2001, her battle against the disease was lost.

The facts surrounding breast cancer are horrific. One in nine Canadian women will develop the disease, and one in twenty seven will die from it. In addition, breast cancer deaths comprise the second highest cancer death rate among Canadian woman.

An estimated 21,200 mothers, wives and daughters developed breast cancer in 2004, and 5,200 will die from it.

In support of increasing awareness and furthering medical research related to breast cancer, I make my donation.

— Juliana Sponer

THE CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY



As part of Brendan Wood International's generous Christmas time charity program, I will be continuing to make my donation to the Canadian Cancer Society.

According to the CCS, an estimated 145,500 new cases of cancer and 68,300 deaths occurred in Canada in 2004. Just from those numbers alone it is easy to understand why it is not a complete surprise to discover that this disease has affected many of my close family and friends, including my father who passed away 14 years ago from lung cancer. It was a shock at the time as he was a non-smoker and seemed to live a fairly healthy lifestyle. Luckily, his suffering was short as the time from diagnosis around Christmas time until his death in May the following year was relatively short. Having been diagnosed around Christmas makes the timing of BWI's program all the more meaningful.

As a charity whose mission is to eradicate cancer and enhance the quality of life of people living with cancer, I believe that the CCS is a deserving organization. Their advocacy, support/services, information, and research initiatives will undoubtedly be a large part of the development towards a cancer free world while aiding those who are faced with the disease everyday. Administrative costs are kept as low as possible, making up 6% of the total budget, 49% is used to fund research, 33% goes to community services, and another 12% to further fundraising. Hopefully, we will all be around in the near future to see the Canadian Cancer Society's vision, and live in a world where no one fears cancer.

— Eugene Chan

THE CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY



Vincent Fazari was a light-hearted friend and classmate, who fought his battle with cancer with optimism and humor. I will never forget the day in first year university when Vince came to my friends and I, bearing the news of his illness. Overwhelmed and shocked by the news, Vince consoled us and wiped our tears, when it was in fact our job to comfort him. Although Vince excelled in school and joined countless clubs, it is his determination, strength, and wisdom that I will always remember. In the words of Vince, “The cancer can not defeat me. All it can possibly do is kill me, But it shall not defeat me.” Vince died a year ago at the age of 22.

Based on current rates, about 40% of men and women will develop cancer during their lifetimes. It is the leading cause of premature death in Canada.

The Canadian Cancer Society is a national, community-based organization of volunteers whose mission is the eradication of cancer and the enhancement of the quality of life of people living with cancer.

— Ginger Tien

CENTENNIAL INFANT AND CHILD CENTRE FOUNDATION



The contribution to the Centennial Infant and Child Centre Foundation will help enhance the programs they provide for children who have disabilities and multiple delays in development.

Centennial's infant developmental therapists now visit over 325 babies and children every year in their homes and daycares and the center is the major agency in Toronto to monitor premature infants born at under 30 weeks gestation, weighing less than 1250 grams. The Centre's preschool continues to be unique in Toronto because of over 120 adults who come in at least once a week to work with a child.

On behalf of all the children we thank you for your donation and commend you on your unique way of celebrating the Christmas season.

— Ellen and Raymond Brackstone

CHRISTIE LAKE CAMP



Christie Lake Camp has provided first-rate summer camp experiences to economically disadvantaged children for 83 years. The counselors teach skills such as swimming, canoeing and art, help children develop self-confidence and positive social interactions, as well as build special memories that last a lifetime. \$1020 sponsors one child for a full two-week session.

In order that the children don't 'fall through the cracks' during the winter, the Skills Through Activity and Recreation (STAR) program provides free skill development programs for economically disadvantaged children throughout the school year in arts, education and recreation. Kids can register for swimming, cooking, tutoring, hockey, karate, basketball, pottery and much more. \$175 sponsors one child's participation in one 8-12 week program and \$525 will provide a child three sessions of programs, which is the typical annual enrollment per child. The founder of Christie Lake Camp, Dr. Dan Offord, a child psychiatrist, was the Director of the Camp from the 1950s until his death in April 2004. His work in research, at Christie Lake Camp, and as an advocate for all Canadian children earned him the Order of Canada in 2001. It should be noted that 36% of the Camp's revenue comes from individuals, fundraising events account for 11%, the United Way and the Community Foundation of Ottawa are contributors. As well, the student counselors are not paid for the work that they do at the summer camp or during the winter STAR programs.

— Leslie Sheffer

DUSTIN LEOPOLD QUEST FOR THE CURE



Frances and Larry Himmelfarb

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

EASTER SEAL SOCIETY



Bruce and Monica Friesen

Thank you once again for including us in your Christmas Gala. What makes this event stand out beyond your gracious hospitality is your focus on charities.

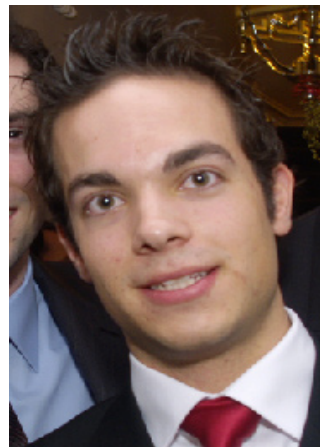
We are pleased to once again participate in the charitable giving program. This year we have selected the Easter Seal Society as the recipient of our donation. Often I have overlooked the larger charitable organizations as potential recipients as I was unsure of their efficiency in delivering the services to the end person. However, this year I was able to see the Easter Seal Society in action. This year a newsletter was sent to parents of handicapped children promoting the Easter Seal summer camp. Leanne, a CanadianMgrSearch employee, was the recipient of the newsletter. As a result she applied on behalf of her son. What followed was very impressive. She was soon contacted by Easter Seals and was assisted through the registration process by caring staff members. In addition, once her child was off to camp she was contacted daily with reports of his stay and his care. The camp itself was also amazing in that they provided close to 1 to 1 camper/staff ratio. This permitted such amazing activities as white water rafting and horseback riding in a safe environment. These are unheard of activities for most physically and mentally challenged kids.

— Bruce Friesen

FIVE COUNTIES CHILDREN'S CENTRE

The reason I selected Five Counties Children's Centre as the charity for my donation is ultimately the children. I feel my childhood was one of the most important times of my life as I was able to be a free spirit. Every child should have the opportunity to feel the same way that I did when I was a little. I know a lady, Karen Laine, who works at this Centre but also has attended the Centre with her daughter who was diagnosed with cerebral palsy (CP). This girl touched me in a silent way more than she will ever know. Now 22, she has overcome many obstacles that are associated with CP. I was informed that she was hardly able to speak when she was just a 'wee' child and now she communicates well. Karen started to learn sign language along with her other daughter and the rest of the family members. Institutions like the Five Counties Children's Centre provide the opportunity to maintain this close relationship with your child even as they are challenged with an unfortunate disease. This girl has developed her motor skills to the level that now she is competing at the Special Olympics in swimming. Five Counties Children's Centre has been a large influence in the development of many other children along their way to enjoying a childhood that is as enjoyable as can be.

— Kevin Jennings



Franco Agostino, Brendan Wood and Stephanie Flynn



Captain Sandra Ryan and Rob Perry of the Salvation Army - 614 Project

GLOBAL MISSION TO RESCUE FALUN GONG PRACTITIONERS

“Mom, where are you?”

This is a story from Mrs. Tianxiao Zhang, one of my friends who is living in Vancouver, about her niece, Rongrong, a four year old Chinese girl:

“A small, timid figure walked out hesitantly from the background towards me. She looked very different from the cheerful face in my memory since our first acquaintance. I was caught by a strange air of innocence around her. It struck me that she was my niece Rongrong. In stark contrast to the other children who are having fun and giggling around her, Rongrong stood peacefully amidst the chaos. It was not her fault that she couldn’t enjoy the fun brought about by the Christmas Season. Unlike her peers, she was born without a father by her side. It was not her father’s fault either. Months before her birth, her father and my sister-in-law, Zou Songtao were arrested and illegally detained in a Chinese detention centre after going to Beijing on a peaceful appeal against the persecution of Falun Gong. During his captivity he was electrocuted, beaten up, and severely tortured. When the father finally had a chance to return home to look at his new baby, his happiness did not last long – he was re-arrested in July 2000, and never came home again.

The darkness did not end thus. Rongrong’s mother, my sister Zhang Yunhe became the next target victim. Faced with constant harassment by police officers, Rongrong did not enjoy what she deserved as a baby. Soon, Rongrong’s life was distorted again when her only other parent left her as well. Rongrong had to live with her 60-year-old grandmother thereafter. Due in part to her grief over the loss of her daughter and son-in-law, Rongrong’s grandmother passed away in August 2001.

It wasn’t the fault of any of her family members that it ended up this way. Rongrong, who has suffered no less than the adults have, is absolutely innocent as a child, yet she is suffering tremendously from a needless persecution.

As I watch her step onto a little stool, reaching up to kiss a box of her Daddy’s box of ashes; and as I looked at the joyous holiday mood around her, the irony struck me. I vowed that I would give my best to give her that important thing that she has been missing – love.”

Standing on Canadian soil, people can hardly imagine the brutal persecution to Falun Gong practitioners, a group of 70 million people who believe in the principle of “Truthfulness, Compassion, Tolerance”, has lasted for 5 years in China. At least 1157 have been tortured to death for not renouncing their peaceful faith in Falun Gong; more than 100,000 are being detained in prisons, labor camps and mental hospitals; tens of hundred of children like Rongrong lost their parents.

Tonight, when Christmas trees are lighted, when families reunite, I cannot stop thinking of ten of hundreds Chinese orphans like Rongrong, and hundreds of million people who are silenced in China. I would like to give this donation to Global Mission to Rescue Persecuted Falun Gong Practitioners that has helped me to rescue my mother from Beijing Women Labor Camp in 2003, and hope they could help Rongrong to get out of the land of nightmare and reunite with her aunt in Canada.

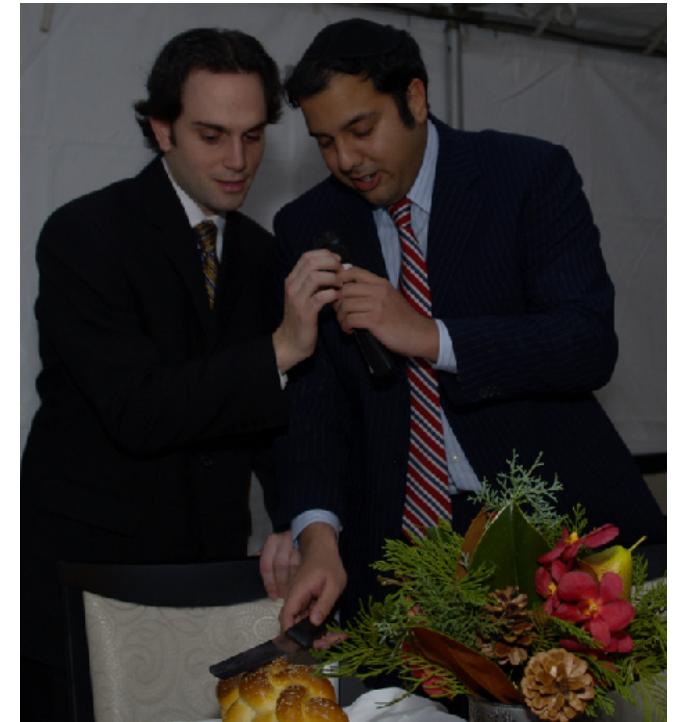
— Charles Yang



Charles Yang



Tom and Laurel Ward



Jon Ritter and Sam Moses : Blessing the callah

GRAPES FOR HUMANITY

You may be wondering what we're all about. Grapes for Humanity. Why grapes? What's that got to do with Humanity? It all begins with wine. We love wine. Which may sound strange as the basis for a charity but people who care about wine are the most giving people we know. They love to share their cherished bottles and that same spirit of hospitality informs other aspects of their lives. If you are passionate about wine, you care about people. So why not tap into that enormous reservoir of caring and sharing of the international wine community to raise funds for those less fortunate than ourselves?

We raise money by putting on wine tastings, wine dinners, wine auctions and other wine-related activities and to direct the proceeds of these events to those in immediate need. We have raised over \$1,200,000 in just four years of operation. These monies have been used to support projects in Cambodia, Nicaragua, Honduras, Ethiopia and Angola.

— Garrett Herman



Stephanie Flynn and Nora Turkevics

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Christmas is the time of year that tends not only to cause much joy, but it can also cause sadness for those who live in a disadvantaged situation, as it is also the time of year for reflection and self assessment.

At Christmas, it's in the home that the family can truly bask in the warmth of the holiday season. However, for some it is a struggle to find a home of their own. 'Habitat for Humanity' builds affordable homes for low-income families. By providing a place from which a family can truly call home, this charity helps to set a foundation for a better life. I can't think of a more meaningful way to help support a family than to provide them with a home to call their own when they are currently without one.

The majority of the building materials are donated, and the labor is volunteer work. The money is used to help organize the projects, with the end result being a house built by the community for a very low and economical cost. Knowing a family will have the ability to truly enjoy Christmas in the future from my donation makes this a worthwhile cause for me.

— Keith Ward-McNally



THE JEAN TWEED CENTRE



Just over three years ago, my best friend finally admitted she had the disease of alcoholism. For the next year she tried to overcome it by seeking help through a number of treatment alternatives including detoxification and treatment at recognized hospital programs, Alcoholics Anonymous and tremendous family support, but they were not successful for her. Then she learned about The Jean Tweed Centre.

Jean Tweed was a broadcaster, journalist and book store owner in the early 1980s who found that although there were a number of facilities to which men could turn for assistance, there were none for women. Sadly, she died before the facility that bears her name opened in 1984.

The Jean Tweed Centre, based in Etobicoke, accommodates women from all over Ontario for help in overcoming alcohol and substance abuse. The residential facility houses 18 women for a 21 day program to rehabilitate and physically and mentally regroup to restart their lives and this is followed by an ongoing 2 year program of support as well as a relapse prevention program. Family support programs as well as day care for children help family members cope through this difficult time in all of the family members lives.

The treatment program has an outstanding success rate of 90% - and I am thrilled that my friend has been successful to the extent that she is now an active volunteer with the centre.

— Paul Mann



The Wood Family: Brendan, Stephanie, Patrick, Anne



Vladimir and Ljubica Pjevic (little Tara made her appearance 2 weeks later!)



Vickrum Arora, Michelle Rabba, Jon Ritter and Milan Roy

JEWISH WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL

The charity that I am endorsing is the Jewish War Veterans Memorial. This project, after years of discussion, was finally approved after the City of Toronto agreed to provide land in Earl Bales Park for a Canadian first; a memorial to Jewish war veterans the world over. The structure is to be designed by the same architect who was involved in the redevelopment of the World Trade Center site. A Wall of Remembrance will be inscribed with the names of Jewish War Veterans from all around the world, including the names of the 16,000 Jews who served in World War II. Apart from relying on one major benefactor, the war veterans of Canada are poised to begin a public campaign to raise the \$5 million needed to construct the memorial. The structure will be a living memorial, a place people can go on Remembrance Day and for educational programs.

The reason this memorial is so important to me, is my personal connection to it. My great uncle, Max Sucharov, was conscripted to go overseas in 1943, in the RCAF. He was killed in a plane crash in December of 1944, flying over France. Here is his story: The plane he was flying in began to experience icing problems en route to its bombing target. The pilot ordered the other crew members to evacuate, using their parachutes. One of the crew was afraid to jump, so my uncle took him down on his parachute. Unfortunately, the weight of both bodies was too great, and both men perished in the fall. The pilot was able to land the plane safely and tell his story. I have seen a copy of the original typed letter to my great

grandmother advising her of her son's death, and would like to quote the following from it. *"May I now express my own deep sympathy and that of all the Squadron in your irreparable loss. Your son had made many friends with whom he was very popular. I know we will miss him badly. His constant cheerfulness, willingness, and obvious ability had endeared him to us all. He was a very valuable member of the Squadron. We all highly honor the gallant sacrifice your son has made so far from home in the service of his country and democracy."*

My uncle was only in his early twenties when he died, never able to return home to Winnipeg, to his fiancé, the rest of his family and his planned university education. My mother remembers his bicycle, stored on the porch of her parent's house, waiting for his eventual return, a return that never occurred. My uncle is buried in France, and I hope one day to visit his gravesite in the Canadian War Cemetery near Paris.

I think that it is important to keep these stories alive, so that other Canadians will not forget who lived and died protecting us and keep us safe from harm. As this generation of war veterans dwindles, it will be up to us to keep their memories alive and their stories told.

— Sharon Walder

THE KOBY MANDELL FOUNDATION

Security and peace of mind never used to be a topic of discussion in North America. No one really ever worried about stepping on a bus or a train and worrying about a bomb going off. Following the tragedy of September 11th, the world became a different place for everyone, no matter where you were lived. Unfortunately, this has been the way of life in Israel since its' existence. Peace of mind and security have been things that have been hard to come by for the state of Israel and the rest of the Middle East. Although, peace has always been talked and dreamt of, some of the naysayers have decided to use terror to slow down that dream for peace in the Middle East. One might not be able to appreciate peace of mind and the feeling of security until it affects them, but the Israeli people have a constant reminder of terror almost everyday because loved ones have been killed by disgusting acts of terror that are inhuman to the rest of society. I have visited Israel on numerous occasions and have witnessed people enjoying and appreciating each day because they really never know when the next suicide bomber will attack their bus, nightclub, restaurant, shopping mall, movie theaters, cafes, and even their own school. Israel is a country where people appreciate being able to just get up in the morning and arrive at work alive. The state of Israel is dear to my heart and I have many relatives who live each day in fear of terror. I admire their courage and lifestyle to live each day to the fullest and NEVER complain.

I chose the Koby Mandell Foundation because of their mission to help families who have been struck by terror and help them be able to return to life, with strength, hope, and healing. Koby Mandell, at 13 the oldest son of Sherri and Seth Mandell, and his friend Yosef Ishran, were killed May 8, 2001, in a cave in the rocky countryside that surrounds the Mandell home in Tekoa.

An excerpt from the website explains the tragic day for the Mandell family:

“Our son Koby was a boy who loved his family, his parents, his 2 brothers and sister. He loved his countries, America and Israel, and he loved our village of Tekoa and he loved the land of Israel. He was murdered by terrorists for that love, while out hiking with his friend Yosef Ish Ran. On May 8th, the boys skipped school to go hiking. He was killed brutally, viciously, in a cave, pummeled with bowling ball sized rocks. He was killed with utter cruelty”.

One of Foundation's funded initiatives is a camp called “Camp Koby”, which for most of the campers is the first opportunity to meet someone their own age that has suffered a similar loss. But these are Israeli children, aged 9 to 17, who have a special bond - one they wish they did not have: each has lost a mother, father, sister or brother in the Intifada - some of them more than one. This camp provides these children with a place to relax and enjoy camaraderie with kids their age to help forget about the grief they been through at such a young age.

Seventeen-year-old Yotan Hamami's father, Amiram, was one of 29 people killed in the Passover bombing at the Park Hotel in Netanya last spring. “My friends at home, they can talk with me and they can try and understand,” he says. “But they never will, because they have never been there. They'll never know what I'm going through. The other guys here - they know. They feel the same.”

The act of terror is a choice that is unacceptable. Living each day without having peace of mind is not fair to anyone. The Koby Mandell foundation helps families cope with the tragic losses from terror. I want to support their and my own dream for peace because it is about time the people of Israel and the rest of the world live in peace and enjoy life to the fullest.

— Jon Ritter



Jon Ritter and Jill



Larry Himmelfarb



Flora and Paul Wood

THE LADY BUG FOUNDATION

One day eight year old Hannah Taylor from Winnipeg, Manitoba was on her way home from school, when she saw a few small children eating out of a garbage can. She was deeply affected by the experience, and shortly after started collecting money in her class for the homeless. As Hannah explains it: *“I couldn’t stand it anymore... I kept asking my mom why there were homeless people and Mom said if I couldn’t stop worrying about it, then maybe I could do something about it.”*

She came up with the idea to create Ladybug jars and placed them in businesses around the city to collect money. This small act from an 8 year old girl quickly grew to a countrywide charity providing food and shelter for the homeless. The convictions of this young lady who felt that she could make a difference have been a great inspiration to me. This is why I have decided to donate to the LadyBug Foundation Inc.

— Jordan Sumerlus



Judi Pangman and Monica Friesen

LISTEN UP TV

Our donation was made to Listen Up TV (a division of Media Voice Generation) which is a weekly half hour program that examines news and current events for the spiritual meaning that events bring to our lives. Journalist Dr. Lorna Dueck hosts studio interviews and field reports on how faith impacts the world. I have been on the board for nearly two years now and have seen the major impact this program has on the viewing public. Their web site for further information is www.listenuptv.com.

Blessings for the whole Brendan Wood organization for the good works they continue to do.

— Robert Acheson



Robert and Mary Catherine Acheson with Brendan Wood

MEAGAN'S WALK



Nora Turkevics and Adrian Miles

As in past years I am pleased to make a donation 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. While I never had the pleasure of meeting Meagan she has certainly left a loving and lasting impression on my closest friends who had the privilege of being her neighbour.

The community in Toronto's west end where Meagan lived rallied to support her family in their mission to raise hope, awareness and research funding for pediatric brain tumours by organizing a yearly fundraiser. Meagan's Walk is held each year on Mother's Day. What started off in 2002 as a local Toronto charity event has snowballed and this year it was confirmed that in 32 different cities and towns across Canada - down into the United States, and over into Europe, children and their families walked in union with the Toronto group. The walk ends at The Hospital for Sick Children with all the participants forming a human hug around the Hospital to give hope to those children inside. This year more than 1,500 participants raised over \$120,000.

Following are some words of hope given by Denise Bebenek, Meagan's mother:

"The Hospital for Sick Children/Brainchild is committed to helping children afflicted with brain tumours and their families with the support they need on their journey. It is my hope that this walk will demonstrate to these afflicted children that we are here as beacons of hope for them and their future. On this Mothers Day we realize that each child is a gift to be cherished. 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. Our passion for life and for helping children who's lives are threatened, exemplified by being here today demonstrates that we are all making a difference. What keeps us going in times of despair is hope. It is hope that has inspired all of us to be here today. We derive our hope from the contagious optimism of the young patients at the Hospital for Sick Children. They seem to know that hope can be trusted. Let us learn from them".

— Nora Turkevics

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY



Beth Cohen and Jon Ruby

Every day about 350 people world wide are diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. What they have to look forward to is a life of slowly and painfully watching their bodies betray them a little more each day.

The victims of this disease are afflicted usually between the ages of 20 and 50 and are more often women than men. What this means is that among all the others suffering from MS, there are a disproportionately large number of mothers.

If you go to a website dedicated to this disease you read a lot of things presented as scientific fact, but surrounded by words like ‘may be caused by’ or ‘studies indicate but there is no definitive evidence’. The stark truth is that no one actually knows what causes this disease, or more importantly, how to fight it.

All of the above comes together to mean that for the 2.5 million people with the disease, and the 350 people who are diagnosed each day, it is hard to maintain hope.

Each year I remember my grandmother who lived with this disease for decades and try to support the Multiple Sclerosis Society. I support research in her memory but also so that the afflicted and their families can look forward with hope. Because more than anything else, that’s what this disease threatens to take away from those who suffer from it.

— Jon Ruby

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY

The MS Society of Canada was also the charity of choice for Joel and Mary Rochon and Susan Bowman.



Joel and Mary Rochon

I have matched the dollars graciously given to me by the firm, and have made my annual donation to the MS Society of Canada. As many people, I am regularly conflicted by the number of charities and causes that I would like to be able to support. Without hesitation, though, every year I donate money to the MS Society of Canada.

I watched my brother-in-law, Wayne Bowman, live with MS, and ultimately watched him die from it. I saw first-hand the devastating path the disease takes and the toll it takes, not only on its victims but also on the families and caregivers. Wayne lived a remarkable life, despite, or perhaps because of, MS. He outlived doctor's expectation by over 2 decades, earned 2 PhDs, volunteered with many organizations and was a cantankerous and opinionated debater with everyone within earshot. He was a real fighter.

In the eleven years since Wayne's death, there have been quite a few scientific advances made both in understanding and treating MS. The MS Society directly supports both medical research and the needs of people living with MS. It is in Wayne's memory that I make an annual donation to the MS Society.

— Susan Bowman



OUT OF THE COLD



John Weatherall

My story is about the Out Of The Cold program in the City of Toronto. The Out Of The Cold program is an ecumenical service to the homeless of Toronto providing food, shelter, and personal support in the winter months from November to April every Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning. Those in need of shelter are cooked an evening meal, given sleeping bags and mats to sleep on, are served breakfast in the morning, and given a bagged lunch as they leave.

I chose the Out Of The Cold program as my charity based on a talk I had with my parish priest, Father Pat, at the University of Toronto Newman Centre chapel. Father Pat told me that the program was in need of financial support. Ten minutes following our conversation he received an email from the group stating they needed support. I took this as a sign that they were indeed the charity I would help this Christmas.

For more information on the program I included a link (<http://www.homelessness.on.ca/ooc.html>) and hope the Out Of The Cold program will be in your thoughts when giving this Christmas season.

— Paul Schuck

THE REDWOOD SHELTER

I made my donation to the Redwood Shelter which is located in Parkdale. It is a place where women with children, primarily below the age of six, can go to escape an abusive relationship. Most of the women who find refuge there have more than one child and they tend to be very young. The Redwood provides shelter, emotional support, a community, job training, and assistance with moving on with their lives. During the Christmas season the Redwood makes a special effort by ensuring the children receive presents in a positive environment.

— Erik Hansen



Karen Lightfoot and Erik Hansen

THE ROTARY GIFT OF LIFE

Wang Mang, age 8, from Anhui province in China arrived in Toronto to have life-saving heart surgery at the Hospital for Sick Children in 2004. He had a serious congenital heart defect called c-TGA, or transposition of the great arteries. Without surgery, he would have died before he reached adulthood.

He is from a poor family in China. His father died of cancer two years ago and left two of them: his mother and him. His mother had no job and spent all their money trying to find a cure of his congenital heart defect in China but failed because they can't afford it and it is hard to find a hospital to do that kind of surgery. Then in early 2004 they were introduced to the Rotary Gift of Life program by someone who had a connection with it in China and this organization accepted them for the surgery in Toronto.

The cost of the surgery was \$60,000. Half of this was paid for by the Herbie Fund for international patients at the Hospital for Sick Children and the other half by the Rotary Gift of Life program.

— Wei-shi Zhu





Jhad Friesen



Brendan Wood with daughter Stephanie



Franco Agostino



Vickrum Arora, Josh Sommerfeldt, Sam Moses

S.H.A.R.E AGRICULTURAL FOUNDATION



Julie Shaw and Josh Bennett

In 1975, after having traveled to Africa to visit farms, a group of Peel region farmers including Bob Bell, Neil Armstrong, David Armstrong, Ralph Dunton, Joe Gray, Brian Nealy and Dick Pallet decided to start a charity focusing on farm aid to poor regions. Their goals were to build a charity organization with minimal administration costs, based on a model of education and growth, such that their proceeds would be a “hand up, not a hand out.”

In 1976 the S.H.A.R.E. Agriculture Foundation was founded with a single project in mind: to bring a herd of cattle to a community in Mossoro, Brazil. A Milton couple by the name of Hugh and Melba Beaty sold their dairy herd, and supervised the project in Mossoro for three years.

Many new positive developments occurred from the initial Mossoro project. Much of the milk produced every day by the herd at the University was donated to an orphanage across the street. To this day this orphanage receives a daily supply of fresh milk. Once a few S.H.A.R.E. sponsored graduates from a local community had established a full working farm, the first offspring were donated to other farms in the community. Shortly thereafter the community began to sell offspring to the upper class farmers of Brazil.

Today S.H.A.R.E has 22 operating projects in Brazil, Belize, and El Salvador. Every project is based on the same model as the original Mossoro project, in which members of the community are given the training, and responsibility to ensure the sustainability of the project. Every project is designed to assist communities in development, rather than to simply give one time hand outs.

— Josh Bennett

THE SHARING WAY

Many of us wish for an end to “Child Poverty” but for most of us the wishing is where the action ends. We wonder how we could possibly make a difference and then, overwhelmed by the vastness of these complicated issues, we turn our attention back to more daily personal matters .

For my girlfriend Stephanie and I, the Sharing Way is unique. These volunteers are not easily deterred by those moments of blanket emotions and believe that they can make a difference in the lives of children and are passionate about trying to do so. Both as Christians, and having a direct link to this organization, we have decided to apply our donation towards this charity.

The Sharing Way is the relief and development department of Canadian Baptist Ministries. Through this organization, people respond to disasters around the world and partner with local Christian groups in long-term development programs. Jireh Shoeshine Kids Project is one of these programs in Cochabamba, Bolivia. It helps children who are raised in poverty and have to shine shoes in the local markets to help feed their families. Many do not attend school. The children are hungry and dirty because of the lack of facilities for good hygiene. Some are even beaten when they return home with less income than expected. The Shoeshine Ministry endeavors to help and show God’s love to these children by providing meals, showers, clean clothes, trade skills, and much needed medical care.

This charity is known to us because Stephanie, as a nursing student, has been directly involved with the humanitarian efforts of this organization in Bolivia. In 2003 she volunteered her summer to work amongst the children in Cochabamba providing medical treatment, building churches, schools and hospitals. She has this to say about that experience:

“I have learned through my experience here is that it’s hard for people to have dreams when they have to think everyday about where their next meal is coming from – they don’t have time to wonder what they might like to do in the future. So to help the kids we first need to take care of their pressing need – survival. It is not enough to send a child to school; we need to make sure they can still support themselves and their family. Everyone loves children, as long as they belong to someone. When they belong to the street, few love them. And the children know it. Those cupped hands never ask for love, they ask for money. To live another day is the baseline of their need”.



SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES

SOS was founded in 1949 by an Austrian, Hermann Gmeiner, to provide a family, a home, and a village for kids orphaned or abandoned in WW2. It is now the global charity with the highest recognition factor, although not well known in Canada, since we had few orphaned refugees. SOS remains true to its original objective of harbouring & educating orphans. Most activities now take place in Africa & other parts of the sick (HIV) & war ravaged world to provide some normalcy for helpless children & to keep them from being brutalized as young soldiers, sex objects, or slave labour.

— Alfred Wirth



Alf Wirth and Allison

SUNNYBROOK HOSPITAL

My grandfather was diagnosed with a tumor in his throat after years of smoking and this was a large burden on the family. We admitted him to Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto, where he had surgery performed to remove the tumor. We were all very grateful to Sunnybrook and hope that it can continue to save lives. They were supportive in many ways, not just in a medical sense. That is why I would like to make Sunnybrook Hospital my charity.

— Jon Ashurov



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

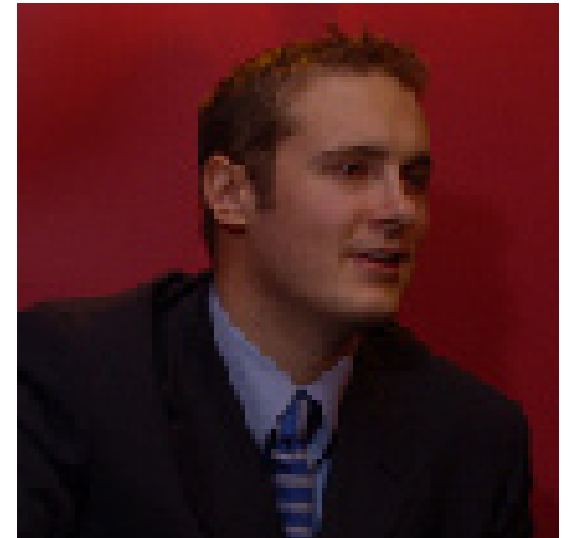
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is one of the oldest charitable organizations in the world, founded in 1833 in France by 20-year old student, Frédéric Ozanam. The young Frédéric, a Catholic, wanted to help the poor of all religions during the industrial revolution. He also wanted to improve the lives of his peers by urging them to perform works of charity rather than simply talk about what should be done to help the needy. Now beatified, Blessed Frédéric founded the Society in the name of St. Vincent de Paul, a French priest from the late 16th and early 17th century who alerted the people of his day to many of society's ills. Along with several friends, Frédéric visited the poor in their homes, helping whenever possible by sharing whatever food and other necessities were available. As importantly, the young men provided food for the spirit through their many acts of kindness and friendship.

This international organization is made up of lay Catholic men and women who are committed to live and grow in their Christian faith through prayer and personal involvement in charitable works. It has spread to more than 130 nations, with more than 900,000 members worldwide. Volunteer members, called Vincentians, seek, in a spirit of justice and charity and by person-to-person involvement, to help those of all faiths who are needy and suffering.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is one of many quality charities in the world whose members strive to help the less fortunate. What separates it from most others is the way in which their volunteers conduct this work. Rather than helping only those who come to them, their members provide one-on-one service to the less fortunate, going into people's homes to learn the extent of the needs before determining how to help. This assistance includes providing not only immediate help, but also assistance geared toward aiding individuals in finding ways to resolve the issues that put them in a position of need in the first place.

In addition, unlike many other organizations, 100% of all cash donations made to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, as well as all proceeds from the sale of donated items in their thrift stores go to their programs to help the needy.

— Jamie Sawyer



SPRING VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH



Lee and Josh Sommerfeldt

My wife Lee and I decided to apply our donation where we think it is needed most this Christmas, in our home church community. Willowdale, North York has a high population of people living under the poverty line, many of which use Spring Garden Baptist Church as a means to get by. Spring Garden provides a food bank service to the community that is utilized heavily every week of the year. The Christmas season is when the demand is at its greatest. Lee and I are heavily involved with our church and knew that there was a great need in the surrounding area. I spoke with the Chairman of the Board of Deacons at Spring Garden on this subject recently, and he brought to my attention that the food bank is in dire need of replenishing. He informed us that a direct donation could be made to the food bank, ensuring that 100% of the funds would go solely to that cause.

After we had made our decision to give our donation to the food bank at Spring Garden Church, our Bible Study group, which consists of 5 other couples, decided to match us and give as well. BWI's donation, along with ours and our groups', will no doubt ensure a stocked up food bank and hopefully a happier Christmas for those in need in the Willowdale community.

"If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." – 1 John 3: 17,18.

— Josh Sommerfeldt

THE STEPHEN LEWIS FOUNDATION

At a Youssou N'Dour concert in Toronto in August 2004, the acclaimed Senegalese singer asked the audience: “What do you (the west) think of when you think of Africa? AIDS? War? Poverty? I want to show you that there is more to Africa...a reborn Africa...a beautiful Africa. New Africa.”

BWI's focus on Africa's children and hunger issues addresses an urgent need. Both of these issues are exacerbated by the AIDS pandemic that is ravaging the region.

1) Women and Children:

- There are 25 million people between the ages of 15 and 49 living with HIV/AIDS in Africa. Fifteen million (58%) are women.
- Of the 6.2 million people between the ages of 15 and 24 living with HIV/AIDS in Africa, 75% are women and girls.

Not only are women the most affected, they also carry all of the burden of nursing, care-taking and additional labour. Most importantly, when mothers die, they leave their children behind: Over 20 million children will be without one or both parents in sub-Saharan Africa by the year 2010.

2) Family income is gutted as wage earners die:

Plots of land are left untended as many of the farmers and labourers that work the land are dying resulting in significant food production issue in countries like Botswana.

As bleak as it may seem, there are organizations and people providing hope and inspiration – a dream of a New Africa.

One such person is Stephen Lewis – the U.N. Secretary General's Special Envoy on HIV/AIDS in Africa. He has worked tirelessly on working on the systemic issues facing Africa and generating interest and macro funding support. However, he came across a number of grassroots organizations that he saw were extremely effective at a local level and needed support urgently. As a result, he formed the foundation that bears his name in 2003. He told BWI's own Stewart Borden, at a Toronto Rotary meeting this year, *“The Foundation has now received in that relatively brief space of time, over a million dollars, with minimal solicitation, and we're getting the money out as responsibly and quickly as possible to a number of grass-roots projects in several countries, addressing issues of palliative care, and orphans, and yes, grandmothers, and associations of people living with AIDS...fundamentally all of the groups who are so vulnerable and so incredibly poor, and yet can perform miracles of human intervention with a few thousand dollars.”*

I will be supporting with BWI's matching funds, the Stephen Lewis Foundation. I have asked that the donation be directed to a specific project: the Reach Out Mbuya Parish HIV/AIDS Initiative, that serves the local community in Mbuya, on the outskirts of Kampala, Uganda. The project includes a clinic which administers ARV treatment, a sewing workshop, a micro-credit scheme and support for school children affected by AIDS. It is staffed almost exclusively by volunteers, both expatriate and Ugandan, with more than half of the program staff being HIV positive.

— Milan Roy



Brendan Wood and Stewart Borden



Anne Wood with son Patrick



Milan Roy



Carol Kim, Juliana Sponer, Yasmine Mirabedini, Michelle Rabba

UNICEF, CYSTIC FIBROSIS & UNITED WAY



When setting out to choose an organization for BWI's annual giving I wanted to choose a place that best matched our international profile. Rather than limiting myself to a single charitable organization, I decided that I would like to service 3 different organizations. One organization that had an international focus (UNICEF), one organization that had a national focus (Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation), and one that was local (United Way of Greater Toronto). This encompasses everything that BWI stands for.

I established two factors that I felt were critical in selecting my institutions. First, they had to service the sector which I deemed important. International organizations had to have a worldwide presence; national organizations had to have a Canadian focus, while local organizations had to be working for the city of Toronto. Second, I wanted to ensure that at least one of the three organizations addressed BWI's focus for the season, which was organizations working to solve poverty and hunger.

— Vickrum Arora

WORLD HUNGER YEAR

World Hunger Year is a leader in the fight against hunger and poverty in the United States and around the world. World Hunger Year is convinced that solutions to hunger and poverty can be found at the grassroots level. World Hunger Year advances long-term solutions to hunger and poverty by supporting community-based organizations that empower individuals and build self-reliance. World Hunger Year envisions a world without hunger and poverty. If they can shift the prevailing viewpoint on why hunger and poverty exist, then they can influence the policymakers and put an end to this human tragedy.

—Sam Moses



Y-ME BREAST CANCER ORGANIZATION

One woman in eight either has or will develop breast cancer in her lifetime. To ensure no one faces it alone, Y-ME National Breast Cancer Organization provides 24 hour hotline services to anyone touched by or concerned about the disease. The hotline is the only hotline staffed by trained counselors who are breast cancer survivors and provides services in 150 languages.

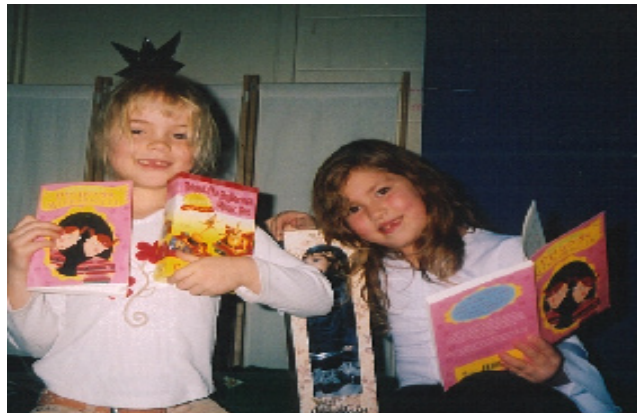
This service is one that my family turned to after we discovered my aunt had been diagnosed with cancer. Coping with the potential loss of a loved one was extremely difficult and the severity of the issue was foreign to my family. Although my aunt did pass away from the disease, services such as Y-ME were exceptional in their knowledge, empathy and compassion.

“Dollars raised are used to help people who are dealing with breast cancer today – those who can’t wait for tomorrow’s cure”.

—Michelle Rabba



SALVATION ARMY CORPS 614 CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



Brendan Wood International
17 Prince Arthur Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
Canada