



2010

Share the Green Winning Entries

## Suicide Prevention Coalition

*Submitted by: James Stewart*

It is my pleasure to nominate the Oxford Suicide Prevention Coalition for your annual Share the Green Awards.

This is a group of dedicated and caring community Volunteers and Professionals that are making a positive impact in Suicide Prevention, a much stigmatized subject.

With very modest means they have managed to produce booklets and cards to help people in our community get the help they need. They also speak to various groups to educate and advocate for this most important issue. Many people, in all walks of life, have been touched by a tragic and needless loss of life. As a Thames Valley District School Board Trustee, I support and applaud their work because, unfortunately suicide affects our Students lives too often.

Please consider this dedicated and selfless group of volunteers for your award this year.

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## Jacob's Story

*Submitted by: Bill & Joanne Cantelon*

We would like to donate the \$1,000.00 towards Jacob's Story, the young boy in Woodstock, whom I'm sure everyone has heard about, who requires considerable treatment for his leukemia. It's important to us to help a family who is in need of financial assistance so their son Jacob can obtain the necessary treatment in order to save his life. No parent or child should have to go through such a traumatic life experience.

Not only would this benefit Jacob, but also his parents, grandparents and friends of the family who are all praying for his full recovery. The money would be donated immediately to the family, to be put towards the treatment that Jacob requires. Even though, I'm sure this idea is not entirely unique, we feel it is important. We can only imagine how we would feel as parents if we were put into the same situation and how satisfying it would be if we had the moral and financial support from people we didn't even know.

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## Jacob's Story

*Submitted by: Diane Hatfield*

For the past year, our family has been involved in a Family Match with Big Brother's Big Sisters of Woodstock. What this means is that we are matched as a family with a Little Sister. Our children are ages 11, 8 and 6 and our Little Sister is 9. As a family, we get together once a week and do a variety of things together, including playing, preparing and eating dinner together, as well as community outings.

We discussed, as a group, what we would do if we had \$1,000 to make life a bit easier for someone else. Everybody agreed that we would like to do something for the Hagen-Johnson family, here in Woodstock. Jacob Hagen-Johnson is a classmate of our oldest child – Lexie. Jacob who was diagnosed with Leukemia in March of this year. Jacob has two parents Jess & Bill, as well as four younger siblings – Emma (8), Hilary (4) & twins Nicolas & Mallory, who are 18 months old. This is a very busy family and we thought we would like to do something to help fill their freezer. We did an online search and found [superworks.com](http://superworks.com)

This is a store in London, ON where we could go as a group and prepare meals to be frozen for the Hagen-Johnson family. The store does all the preparation for you, we would just have to book a time and assemble the meals, following directions, which would be assembled in containers ready for the freezer! Since we all like to cook and hang out in the kitchen, we thought this would be a great way to "Share the Green" and help give back to our community.

Thanks for considering our idea for your campaign.

Nancy, Paul, Lexie, Brittanie, Austin & Tobin

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## Jacob's Story

*Submitted by: Tom & Mary Downing*

On March 23, 2010 Jacob Johnson was diagnosed with Acute Myelogenous Leukemia (AML). Since that day Jacob has been in hospital undergoing extensive treatment and testing. Jacob is 10 years old and is the oldest of the 5 children that Jessica and Bill Johnson have. Both Bill and Jessica have cut their full time jobs in half to accommodate running back and forth to the London Health Sciences Hospital and having one of them present 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Just the gas and parking costs are enormous. With 4 other children to care for as well back in Woodstock you can understand the difficulty in juggling time and reduced income to provide care for their family.

It is our recommendation that Share the Green consider the Johnson Family as a recipient of a donation in 2010.

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## New YFC/Youth Unlimited Youth Centre

*Submitted by: Steve Deller*

Goals & Objectives: To utilize the "Share the Green" funds to assist with funding the program equipment for the new youth centre ie. Flat screen TV, computers, Wii etc.

Partnerships: Due to extensive water damage at the previous location there has not been an active youth centre in Woodstock for some time now. On January 1, 2010 YFC/Youth Unlimited moved into a new location at 24 Light Street. They are preparing the new youth centre and hiring staff to begin programming this fall. The Share the Green funds would be very beneficial and help offset the equipment costs and provide activities for the young people to enjoy.

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## Nutritional Cooking Class in Woodstock

*Submitted by: Robert Bartley, Executive Chef and Culinary Director,  
Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment*

Last year I participated in Share the Green by hosting a cooking class for under-privileged folks in the Woodstock area. It proved to be a very rewarding effort for not only myself but the team that help out with the event. I would love to host a similar event at a local community center or church and build on this initiative this coming year. It all started about 18 months ago; I was talking to my good friend Paul Green, who I think you all know, and we were discussing some cool stories of how others have used their talents, resources and hearts in efforts to change the lives of others. This talk inspired me to think about how I too could do a similar activity that could change a life or two. While pondering this challenge it became quite clear that this industry, that I have been so fortunate to be apart of, could also be the same industry that I could use to give back to others.

As you are all aware, eating is a basic in life that we ALL have to do to stay alive. Some are privileged to eat healthy nutritious meals that give all the nutrients to live life to the fullest. I have been blessed with a talent to be able to transform a basic in life into an art form and a passion. In my career I am fortunate to work with the best ingredients available from all over the world. But what if I couldn't afford or source such ingredients? Like for some this is a challenge. However I truly believe there are ways to solve EVERY challenge out there. So I started to think about how could I take in-expensive ingredients and transform them not only into nutritious value but also make them taste so great that anyone would choose them over, cheap, non-nutritious options that many choose, due to cost, time and convenience. This is the challenge that I bring to "share the green".

My plan is to show, teach and provide a group of under-privileged people the options that are available to them. I plan on holding a Lunch and Learn that will not only feed a group of people a healthy, inexpensive hot meal but also hold a cooking class that will teach them how easy, inexpensive and accessible it can be to feed themselves great, healthy food. I would like to thank Green Financial for the opportunity to make a Difference in a person's life. This is something that is right to do and I accept this challenge and look forward to this, whole heartedly.

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## Operation Sharing

*Submitted by: Diann Deller*

To utilize the “Share the Green” funds to purchase Christmas gifts and donate them to Operation Sharing. Prior to Christmas, Operation Sharing operates the Christmas Place at Dundas Street United. Last year, I went to help set up the tables with donated toys and gifts so those less fortunate could afford to obtain gifts for children and for children to be able to pick out something for their parents.

It is always a struggle to have enough gifts to choose from. The funds can go a long way – especially when buying sale items – to provide a Christmas for many families.

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## Bridge2Aid – *Helping Reduce Oral Pain in Mwanza, Tanzania*

*Submitted by: Tara Vicars*

Do you remember the last time you had a toothache? Or maybe just some gum sensitivity, a chipped tooth, a bit of irritation? It was easy to go to the Dentist, wasn't it? Although you might not have liked having to make that visit, it was possible, and in fact, likely fairly easy. However, in Tanzania, where I live, there is approximately one dentist for every 300,000 people. Most of those dentists live and work in the urban centres, yet most of the population of Tanzania live in the rural areas. The number of people who live with pain from cavities and oral health problems is staggering in this poverty stricken country.

The health care team best placed to deliver basic dental services to the large rural populations of this country are the rural Clinical Officers. They are responsible for the provision of all basic medical services in thousands of small dispensaries and health centres across Tanzania. If you need a vaccination, a wound to be stitched, a baby to be delivered or pretty much anything else – the Clinical Officer is the only answer for miles around. Their current training programme does not contain any practical dental aspect. Yet, because they are the only health care personnel available, the Clinical Officers have been extracting teeth with makeshift tools and limited knowledge – sometimes causing much more harm than good.

Bridge2Aid has developed an in depth nine day training programme to teach Clinical Officers Urgent Dental Treatment. Volunteer Dentists from developed nations come to Tanzania to deliver this training, including theoretical and practical aspects. In order to complete the practical training, the volunteers, and Clinical Officers travel to rural villages to provide free Dental Care to those who have been living in pain for months, or even years.

Living here, my job is to ensure that this program is run successfully. We train 48 Clinical Officers each year and treat approximately 5,000 patients during the training. Once the Clinical Officers are trained, we provide the tools that they require to practice safe dental skills. We then make regular visits to ensure that they are using their skills in a safe and effective manner.

If I had \$1,000, I would put it towards the training of these Clinical Officers to ensure that as few people as possible have to live with Oral pain that is so easily treatable.

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## Sakura House

*Submitted by: Nicole Bruder*

Sakura House means so much to me and my husband. Last year, my husband Brad won as he had submitted an entry in honour of my volunteer work with this organization. I was part of the fundraising team before Sakura House opened and now Brad and I attend as many events as we can to be part of the volunteer team for that specific day. I am a volunteer patient care assistant at Sakura House, and Brad is a kitchen monitor. We are at Sakura House every weekend and so far we have volunteered 500 hours to Sakura House. We believe in this cause with all our hearts. I think for us, because both sets of our parents are deceased, we take our compassion to Sakura House and look after the people there like they were our own family. This volunteer work is so very rewarding and we enjoy it very much. Sakura House has helped over 50 families since it's opening in September, 2009. The word is getting out as to the care and compassion people receive when they come into our home. We tell our families that our home is now their home. We have received many high praises from families and visitors.

I will be completing my Grief and Bereavement Certificate at King's College at the end of this year and hope to continue helping people with their grief as I continue to learn everyday from the people I interact with at the house.

Sakura House has recently started "Sunday Sundaes". Another family has received a donation for a year's worth of ice cream to Sakura House. Every Sunday afternoon special sundaes will be served throughout the summer to all patients and families to enjoy. One item I would like to purchase is bistro patio sets for the patio. What better place to go to sit and enjoy coffee in the morning or a sundae on Sunday!

We have had families with children come to visit. We are lacking creative art supplies such as coloring books, crayons, markers and paper for the children to do activities. It would be nice to see the kids at our kitchen table drawing that special picture for Grandma or Grandpa to leave with them before they go home.

Another thought is to have a labyrinth landscaped onto the grounds at Sakura House. The image of a labyrinth is chosen as a metaphor for the journey through grief. A labyrinth is not a maze as there are no dead ends and no wrong turnings. There is only one way, forward. So it is with grief. The only way through it is forward, with many turns and going back and forth over what seems like the same territory. We journey to the centre of our grief, to the centre of ourselves, and then slowly return to re-enter the world. This would be a place where families could go to have quiet time with their feelings and thoughts or to come back to after their loved one has died.

These are only a few of the many items that Sakura House could benefit from, and I would be so thankful if I could purchase them as a winner of the Green Financial "Share the Green" contest. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of Green Financial for bringing our community together by holding this contest yearly. It is a true testament to a great business.

Again, I thank you for this wonderful opportunity.

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## Pay it Forward

*Submitted by: Rayburn Lansdell*

Hi Paul. I'm not sure how many times we should repeat the same entry, but Sal and I would be glad to do our "pay it forward" share the green activity by dispersing ten \$100 gifts to ten other people/couples, encouraging them to add to the seed gift and share their green with others.

For the past 7 years on Christmas Eve Sharon and I gather our 4 children together to give a monetary gift to a family in our community that we are aware is in financial need. We discuss ideas with the kids leading up to Christmas Eve, and then on that day we set a basket on the kitchen counter and all of us contribute to this gift that we then anonymously arrange to have delivered to the family that we have decided to gift that year. Sharon and I usually place \$100 in the basket and each of the kids give out of their allowances/earned income. In the past couple of years Sharon and I have been very encouraged with our children's generosity as the total monetary gift has exceeded \$200.

This year we would like to utilize the \$1,000 from GFG to initiate this giving activity with 10 other families. Our idea is to approach 10 families suggesting that they consider giving a monetary gift to another family in need or to a charitable organization of their choosing, similar to how we have done with our kids over the last 7 years. What we would do is give them \$100 as a starting gift amount and invite them to add to this base amount and then distribute it to their chosen family/charity.

If we are unable to recruit 10 other families to be involved with this "pay it forward" activity, we would utilize any left over funds from the \$1,000 as part of the monetary gift that our family gives to a family in need. That's our "pay it forward" idea in partnership with Green Financial Group.

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## Kigongo Primary School

*Submitted by: Jan Vicars*

My daughter, Tara, is currently in her second year of working for Bridge2Aid in Tanzania, Africa.

Bridge2Aid (B2A) is a charity working in the Mwanza region of North West Tanzania. It works closely with the Tanzanian Government to deliver aspects of their dental strategy, operate a not-for-profit dental clinic in the city of Mwanza, and has a community development programme for the poor.

Bridge2Aid works with the community at Bukumbi Care Centre, a place for people pushed from their own society because of disability or leprosy. B2A is committed to a long-term plan of improvements at Bukumbi, involving input from the Community itself and utilizing volunteers to carry out refurbishments. Achievements so far include providing on-going access to medical and dental treatment for the residents, refurbishment of the toilet blocks and all of the six dormitories, and the community building. They have new bedding, mosquito nets and secure storage for belongings, however meager they may be. B2A has also facilitated income generation groups to encourage the community to become more independent.

Since 2007, B2A has employed Fay David as Education Coordinator, to research the learning needs of children within the community, get them into school and provide support in their learning as well as supporting the children in achieving further education.

The aim of the education programme is to break the cycle of poverty and for the children to receive appropriate education, thereby enabling them to support themselves and their families in the future without being dependent on aid from the government and NGOs. Fay works with the children and their families to encourage them to go to school and supports them with things such as uniforms and equipment. B2A has also supported students who have left primary school by funding their further education. There is also a close relationship with Kigongo Primary School, which is the school the majority of the children attend.

Last year, Green Financial helped Kigongo Primary School renovate its Standard 1 classroom and give the children and teacher a great learning and teaching environment. The younger children now have desks to sit at and murals around the walls to help with their lessons. The newly renovated classroom gives them a sense of pride in their school, and makes learning much more enjoyable and desirable.

If I were fortunate enough to again be granted \$1000 in the Share the Green contest, I would again give it to Bridge2Aid to be used in improvements to the Standard 2 classroom at Kigongo Primary School. This classroom is in dire need of a new floor, fresh paint and educational murals such as number lines, alphabets, maps and diagrams. Just as last year's gift greatly improved the learning environment for the younger children, this year's gift, if granted, would do the same for the older children at this school. The money would also go toward repairing existing furniture, as well as building more furniture for the staff and students.

A gift of \$1,000 to Kigongo Primary School will ensure that the children, of all ages, from Bukumbi Care Centre will benefit from a better learning environment, increasing their chances of one day being able to support themselves and their families.



## Rayjon Share Care

*Submitted by: Janette Bailey*

Rayjon Share Care – established in 1986. Their objective is to foster lasting improvements in the quality of life in Haiti, Dominican Republic and other developing countries, as well as to raise awareness and understanding in our communities of the situation in Haiti, Dominican Republic and other developing countries. – Primarily Sarnia, Ontario based Rayjon's vision is to be; caring communities building partnership through education and development aid.

My daughter Angela went on a Haiti awareness trip with this organization over 10 years ago. We have received countless newsletters since then in regards to their programs and their impact in Haiti.

Rayjon also hosts trips to other developing countries for the purpose of distributing eye glasses, offering medical, educational and technical assistance and fostering of personal awareness and growth. They are guided by Christian beliefs and respect and honour culture and traditions of their host communities. (No, I am not otherwise connected to this cause.)

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Of its 8 million inhabitants, 50% of adults are illiterate, 40% of school age children are able to go to school. In some areas half the children die before 5 years of age. In Haiti and Dominican Republic the majority of people do not have access to clean water, proper food, education, health care etc.

On Rayjon's website, they outline their Community Development Project as well as initiatives and what they have been able to achieve since their inception.

Rayjon has programs ongoing throughout the year. If the Canadian International Development Agency will give \$3.00 for every dollar donated since the earthquake, this will go a long way to help with the Health and Education program in St. Marc.

Check their website at: [www.rayjon.org](http://www.rayjon.org)

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