



2009

Share the Green Winning Entries

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, WI etc.

Partnerships: Due to extensive water damage at the previous location there has not been an active youth centre in Woodstock from some time now. On July 1, 2009 the YFC/Youth Unlimited staff moved into a new location on Kent Street (near Zellers). They are preparing the new youth centre 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.

Sakura House

Submitted by: Brad Bruder

August 31, 2009 will be a very special day here in Oxford County. Sakura House will finally open its doors. This project has been ongoing for many years now. My wife Nicole has been a member of the special events committee for 3 years. I have watched as she worked tirelessly to make this project a success. This past year she took a leave of absence from this committee to focus on her studies at King's College as she pursues her certificate in Grief and Bereavement. She has been an active palliative care volunteer with VON for 2 years and has helped two clients in this time. Her passion and courage inspire me every day, so much so that I am taking the Fundamentals of Palliative Care course so that I can be a part of the Sakura House team. I have joined her in helping out her latest friend as he battles ALS. I have come to realize how important volunteers are, but most importantly how our community will benefit from Sakura House. This is why I would like to be considered for the Share the Green Contest. Sakura House will need furnishings for the House and I would like the \$1000.00 to be donated to Sakura House in honour of my wife, Nicole.

Nutritional Cooking Classes in Woodstock

Submitted by: Robert Bartley, Director of Culinary and Executive Chef

Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment

Since I am in the business of feeding people I would welcome the chance to use my talents to better the lives of others by: Taking the \$1000 donated by Green Financial to show under privileged residents of Woodstock the ease of feed themselves healthy, nutritious meals. My idea would be to give a cooking class for select group of individuals (maybe 30 – 40) of how they can cook nutritious food for them selves on a very low budget. Once cooking class was finished (30 minutes to 1 hour) we would host them as well as 150 more under privileged people to a buffet lunch that would resemble the dishes that I have taught at the cooking class. In addition I would print out the recipes for the lunch they enjoyed in hope s that they would be able to replicate them in their own home. We would require a donated space that would allow us to use there facilities in order to host this – such as a church or community centre. As well we would require some volunteers to assist with the lunch service.

Thank you for considering this.



Bridge2Aid, based in Mwanza, Tanzania.

Submitted by: Jan Vicars

In Tanzania, primary education is paid for by the government. However, the buildings where the children go to school are extremely dilapidated, with paint peeling off the walls, broken desks and chairs and a serious lack of proper teaching resources. Children sit four or five to a desk with no space to work. But they are happy to be learning. They are happy to be given the opportunity to count, to read, to have a chance of escaping from the poverty trap of previous generations.

My daughter, Tara, is currently volunteering for Bridge2Aid, a charitable organization based in Mwanza, Tanzania. This organization focuses on two different aspects of life in Tanzania - dental health and community development. The community development arm of the organization employs Fay McNamara as an education coordinator. Fay is a British trained teacher whose main responsibility is getting children to attend school and doing everything in her power to help them succeed.

Fay's main area is based around Kigongo Primary School, where 600 children are in attendance. Regular visits to the school show an improvement in attendance and participation. Bridge2Aid has supported the children with uniforms, sports kits, balls and other equipment. They are also working with the school management to provide teacher training. However, the school is in a very serious state of disrepair. If I were given \$1000, I would have the walls of the classrooms in Kigongo Primary School repaired and painted with educational aids, such as number lines, the alphabet, maps and diagrams to create a better learning environment. The money would also go toward repairing the existing desks and building new desks to allow the children better working surfaces. Much of the work would be done by volunteers; some by local tradesmen.

Such a gift would show these children that they are valued. By creating what we, in Canada, expect is a normal learning environment, we would show them that their education is important – that they are important - that we believe that they deserve the best and that we believe they can succeed. Such a gift would make an important difference in the lives of many children – both now and in years to come. Improving the learning opportunities for these children may well impact future generations in this extremely deprived area of Africa.

Oliver Stephens Elementary School

Submitted by; Bob Benford

I don't know what or how but it seems to me that it would be a good thing to give something to Oliver Stephens school in memory of Victoria Stafford. I suggest something that would be used by kids her age. It could be equipment or books but it should involve the staff at the school. I sincerely hope that several others have thought of this before I did.

Bob Benford



Pat Jancsar

Submitted by: Gail Evans

Dear Susan

Gail asked me to write this letter to you and your company - she thought that I could explain the financial problems I have with having MS and Diabetes better myself. My situation right now is affecting my eye sight which I am slowly losing , The Government finally passed legislation that covers my eye examines which is helpful as I have to go to the eye doctor every 3 months, so my prescription can change every time or every other time. Paul's medical plan at work is very limited - \$125.00 for prescription glasses every 2 years and my lenses alone are usually about \$200.00 - \$300.00. After Paul lost his job of 25 years - we realized how much was actually being paid through his old medical plan. It is not just the eye prescriptions but the drugs, the trips back and forth to University Hospital in London to the MS clinic and the medical supplies you need daily.

People always say "Oh aren't you lucky look at all you can declare on your income tax" what they do not think about is where does the money come from first - when you do not have it and as you know it is only a small percentage that actually can be claimed. We finally had to declare bankruptcy and even after that we still struggle to pay the medical expenses. I volunteer on the Oxford County MS board and see the struggles our clients like myself have to face financially every day and my heart goes out to them, of course Gail says to me I need to think about myself but that has always been secondary to me - so she asked me to write this to you.

Yours Truly, Pat Jancsar

Dominican Republic Orphanage

Submitted by: Jordan Lavin, Operations Manager

We are going back to the DR, to the same orphanage... the middle of January. Many of our group from this year feel very close to this location already, and so far we have 100% return of last year's team. We will be bringing upwards of 20 people this year on the team and completing a few projects.

1. Complete construction and "stocking" of a chicken coop. Large enough to produce eggs for the nearly 200 children onsite every day.
2. Continuing to work on our soccer field project with the addition of seating and bleachers.
3. Purchase and facility construction for two cows.
4. Extending the vegetable garden and the irrigation to support the new crops.
5. Adding an irrigation system to the baseball field, located next to our soccer project.

I would like to extend the invitation to anyone from the GFG group to join us as well. We had quite a moving week last year. I felt like we all took way more than we gave. Our growing team, and our company is committed to this project on an annual basis with 2011 plans for Guatemala and onto Peru.



Forever Angels, Mwanza, Tanzania

Submitted by: Tara Vicars

Mwanza, Tanzania, is currently my home. It is also the home of Forever Angels. As an orphanage that presently caring for 46 children under the age of five, it is a place full of love and hope. Some of these children arrive malnourished. Some have been severely abused. Some are born prematurely and would die in the local unequipped hospital. However, when children arrive at Forever Angels, no matter what state they are in, they are showered with nutritious food, clothing and most of all, with love.

This orphanage was built to care for 20 children. Within a year, it was at capacity. But the need here is so great and Amy Hathaway, the founder and manager of this home, cannot turn away children that will otherwise die or be sent to heart wrenching orphanages. Slowly, over the past few years, they have created a separate house for the tiny babies, added a large bedroom for the toddlers, raised the roof to add an attic for drying diapers and extended the play area. However, the original bathroom remains.

It was built with 20 children in mind. Nowadays it is always crowded. Bath time is a nightmare of wet, slippery floors, sharp corners and plastic tubs packed end to end on the floor. The staff and volunteers have very little room to kneel to wash the children. The drainage in the floors is inadequate.

By September 2009, we would like to see this bathroom renovated to make it safe and comfortable for 50 children. Non slip tiles, child size toilets, sinks low enough for the children to wash their hands and proper drainage are all being worked into the plan.

If I were given \$1000, it would go to Forever Angels to help with the bathroom project to make the home that much safer for the children that I love so very much. This amount of money would cover a third of the estimated \$3000 that it will cost to complete the renovation project. The rest of the money will be raised by myself, and other volunteers in Mwanza. Local workmen will complete the technical work, with volunteers helping out as much as possible.

Please consider Forever Angels and their need for safe and comfortable surroundings for the young children under their care.

Tara Vicars

Web: www.foreverangels.org



Lucas Downing Cancer Fundraiser

Submitted by: Bruce Dorey

Hi Paul

Our Church was recently introduced to an inspirational young man named Lucas Downing who in his young life, I believe 11 years old, has been working hard for several years fund raising for cancer research and aid for cancer victims. Recently he is raising money for a young girl, in the Innerkip area, Rachel Macdonald, and her single mother. Rachel has cancer and her mother has had to quit her job to care for her daughter. The family is in need of assistance and Lucas thought he could help. Lucas has helped run many fund raisers including growing his hair to be cut off for a wig for a cancer victim.

I would give my \$1000 to Lucas to encourage him to continue his efforts, not only in fund raising but also in encouraging others to do the same. If this young man can do so much what is wrong with us?

Pay it Forward – 10 couples \$100.00 each

Submitted by: Rayburn Lansdell

Hey Paul and Susan.

Thank you for the reminder to submit an application for the Share the Green contest.

I'm not sure if each year needs to be a new idea as to what a contestant would do with \$1,000 from GFG, but last year Sharon and I had a lot of fun taking the \$1,000 and breaking it into \$100 "pay it forward" assignments that we shared with 10 other couples. The GFG "seed" money was more than doubled in many cases as families added to the \$100 gift and then passed it on to a need that they were aware of, whether that was to an individual, family, charity or particular project.

Given another opportunity to share the green, we would do a repeat performance of last year, possibly with some of the same couples, but perhaps a whole new set of people that would be encouraged to pay it forward to others.

Thanks for the opportunity to submit this idea and thank you for being a caring company that wants to make a positive difference in our world by generously sharing out of your profits (maybe this year... your losses!).

Talk to you later.

Rayburn

