



Share the Green

Sharing is caring, around the corner and across the globe.

2012

Share the Green Winning Entries

Table of Friends

Submitted by Rayburn Lansdell

During 2012, Sal and I have been volunteering on Wednesday nights serving dinner at the "Table of Friends" weekly meal for the poor and marginalized of our community. Sal and I are on the floor serving drinks and interacting with our guests/friends as they eat their meal. We truly have become connected with many of the people that come to this weekly meal (usually 60-80) and have been very grateful to serve through this ministry of the St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Mary's Catholic Church.

I would be more than happy to give a \$1,000 donation to this charity to continue with this work, but I'd rather do something else ... a twist on our past pay it forward entries.

What we propose to do with this money is to invite 5 of our "Table of Friends" friends (keeping in mind the 5 may actually be closer to 15 - 20 as some of these friends represent a couple or a family with children) for dinner outside of the Wednesday meal. We would either have them all together at one dinner event or do it in smaller groups. We would cover the cost of this meal. At this dinner we would like to gift each of these 5 friends with \$100. This money is for them to use as they see fit. We will use discretion in who we select having a degree of confidence that the money would be used for necessary things in their living situation (i.e. food, transportation, clothes, toiletries, etc.)

That's where the first \$500 would go.

Then, after we give them the first \$100 and explain where it came from and why we were doing this, we would like to give each of them a second gift of \$100 so that they can pay it forward to someone else that they would want to bless. This way they not only experience the joy of receiving an unearned, no-strings-attached gift, they also can experience the joy of giving an unearned, no-strings-attached gift to someone else.

Sal and I are really grateful for the opportunity to serve and care for these new friends, and are excited about the possibility of blessing them with a monetary gift as well as helping them experience the joy of giving and sharing with others.

I hope your review committee will be favourable to our application.



Nehemiah Construction Ministries

Submitted by Peter Barnes

Nehemiah Construction Ministries is a Canadian Charity involved in Drilling Water Wells in the Desert of Northern Kenya. We have also started different projects to help in the community. Sewing school, gardening projects and we have just started raising funds for continuing education.

NCM was founded in 2000 and became a charity in 2004. They have been working to try and help the widows and orphans of the Turkana People. I am one of the co-founders of this ministry. Each well that is drilled helps to provide clean drinking water to 800 – 1000 people. We would be able to initiate immediately, I am in contact with our people on the ground as often as needed, as I am writing this application I received an e-mail about a school that has had its water supply contaminated, affecting 600 students.

You may watch a documentary on our website, that was made about what we are trying to do in Northern Kenya.

It has helped to bring awareness to the desperate need of the Turkana people.
www.nehemiahconstruction.ca

Sim Canada

Submitted by Don Fulkerson

Why is this meaningful to you? Are you connected any way to the cause?

Two missionaries from Woodstock are leading teams to build a recreation centre for the youth of Mungo, Zambia. Our church is sending a team to help “build” in January, 2013.

How will this benefit other people?

In the Mungo area of Zambia, there is little for youth to do so consequently they tend to gravitate to bars, local parties and less savory activities.

When would you be able to implement your initiative?

They will start to buy supplies this fall in anticipation of starting to build the recreation centre shortly thereafter.



Cheka Sana Children's Trust

Submitted by Tara Vicars

A centre to get and keep boys off the streets of Mwanza, Tanzania

In Mwanza, Tanzania, there are an estimated 500 children living on the streets.

They aren't there by choice.

Poverty drives parents in rural areas to send their young children to the city to try to earn some money. Abuse at home drives children to seek refuge elsewhere. Death of parents and family members drives children away as there is no one left to care for them.

Cheka Sana Children's Trust is the only organization in Mwanza working to get boys off the street, and keep them off the street by providing accommodation, food, education, medical attention, counselling, clothing, reintegration with families when possible and a brighter future for all who chose to participate.

Boys come to the centre of their own free will and agree to participate in all aspects of daily life provided at the centre.

Currently, they are at maximum capacity with just over 50 boys of all ages living at the Centre.

A few months ago, I was invited to a bbq at a friend's house. At this bbq, I started speaking to the manager of this centre.

This young woman is doing an amazing job with these boys, with the staff, with reintegration and with all of the program oriented tasks of the organization. But, she is struggling to make enough money to keep the centre afloat. They have very little external funding and have been relying on money from within Mwanza to get them through. They have no Communications Strategy and no experience in this area.

Which is where I've come into the picture. As a Communications Manager at another organization in Mwanza, I have been volunteering my spare time to help Cheka Sana get the message of their work and their need out to the general public. We are redesigning their website, publishing fundraising and general information packets, starting a blog, a Facebook group, a Twitter account and relaunching their organization.

This manager works harder than anyone else I've met in Mwanza, and with \$1000 she would be able to feed the boys for a month or pay many of the necessary school fees. It would give her a tiny bit of breathing room while we work on further funding opportunities.

Thank you for considering Cheka Sana for \$1000. The lives of over 50 boys could be touched by that amount of money.

The current website can be seen at www.chekasanachildrenstrust.com. Redesign to be finished soon!



Gabriel Smith

Submitted by Jordan Lavin

I am writing today to request your help through your Share the Green for a family in need of our support. Mike and Tina Smith's little boy Gabriel is battling Leukemia. Gabe was first diagnosed at age 3. Gabe and family thought they had beat cancer. Just before Christmas they were dealt a devastating blow that the Leukemia was back. Gabe, now 6, is about to go through a bone marrow transplant. This is a very brave and courageous battle for an innocent 6 year old boy to have to endure. Gabe is the Nephew of Trev, Jen and Geoff, and the Grandson of Ken and Sharon Smith.

Although we can't fight cancer for Gabe, we can give him and his family our support and love, and relieve some financial pressures they will face as they both leave their employment for the next 4 months to support Gabe at Sick Kids Toronto.

How can you help?

Jacobs story is hosting a fundraising dance on May 26th at Cowan Park. *Please support this event for the Smith family! Tickets are available at the following locations: Merrifields Book Shop, Cowan Park, Lloyds Electric. If you can help us sell tickets to your friends / co-workers, please contact: Jordan Lavin (jlavin@nutrilawn.com, 416.525.4998). (I will drop them off to you, and pick up the cash once you have sold them), Bill Johnson (bill.johnson@hotmail.ca, 519.532.8066)*

We are collecting items for a great Silent Auction table for the event on the 26th and future events to support Gabriel's Goal / Jacob's Story. *With your help, and collection of your donations, we will create an outlet for fundraising that will be fun, and financially rewarding for the Smith family.* I am collection your donations at either of these 2 locations:

My home - 300 Borden Ct, Woodstock

My Office - Jordan Lavin - 25-1040 Martin Grove Rd., Toronto, ON. M9W 4W4

Item ideas to get you started:

Gift cards for services, dinners, golf, wine, plane rides, auto detailing, sports collectables, electronics, event tickets, gift baskets, theatre tickets, any item that you can get donated from your suppliers / friends and family that people would bid on in a silent auction setting!

When collecting items, here is something to help get you started: "I am collecting fundraising items for a silent auction to support Jacob's Story and Gabriel's Goal as the Smith family fights cancer with their 6 year old boy. As a donor you'll benefit from exposure of your company's name to those who attend the event. Donors will be listed on the event program, and the merchandise you give will be on display through the event. As a donor, you are invited to attend the event, so you'll be able to meet prospective customers and even possibly find a few bargains of your own"

You can donate cash online. Please www.jacobsstory.ca/jacobstory_gabesgoal.html and make a direct donation to The Smith Family via the Jacob's Story organization. Secure PayPal transactions and a tax receipt that you can print instantly.



Underprivileged School in Liberia, Costa Rica

Submitted by Erica Haas

Please tell us about the charity or initiative that you would pursue with a \$1000 Share the Green Donation.

This past March I had the opportunity to go to Liberia, Costa Rica, and work in an underprivileged school for a month. In this month I worked with children who were so happy to be able to play with soccer balls, colour with crayons, make crafts, and just have fun being a kid. One of the days I was in Costa Rica three children were colouring pictures on their recess. The school bell rang and they had to go back to class. One child was very upset because he had not finished his picture yet. One of the children with him told him to just finish it at home but he replied saying, "I can't, I don't have any of this at home." After hearing this, my friend, who was working at the school as well, gave each of the children 2 single crayons. Their faces lit up with joy and they were so thankful.

With a \$1000 Share the Green Donation I would be able to purchase supplies such as soccer balls, skipping ropes, crayons, markers, paper, toy cars, school supplies, etc. to take to the children and make a difference in other children's lives just like we did with that young boy. I would also be able to get the children essentials that they may not be able to afford.

Why is this meaningful to you? Are you connected any way to the cause?

This is very meaningful and connected to me because while I was working at the school for a month I was working with children who were experiencing or had experienced physical, emotional, or sexual abuse, as well as neglect, abandonment, or depression. With the supplies we were able to bring down we were able to give them some kinds of therapy and see the differences we were making even from the beginning of the month to the end of the month. The need for these supplies is ongoing.

How will this benefit other people?

This will benefit other people because it will provide children with materials to play with that are not normally available to them. It will provide teachers and other volunteers with materials that they can use to help the children release some of the pain they are holding inside. Providing these children with materials they can play with will help them to have fun and forget, at least for a few seconds, about the struggles they go through on a daily basis.

When would you be able to implement your initiative?

Ever since coming back from Costa Rica I have wanted to go back. Because of the amazing experience I had and the knowledge that I made a difference in the lives of the children at La Victoria School, I plan to return to work at this school in March 2013. At this time I will be able to purchase supplies and necessities to bring with me. I will be able to once again use the materials with therapy to make a difference in these children's lives.



Families in Economic Distress – Grand Erie District School Board

Submitted by: Rob & Jennifer Weber

Please tell us about the charity or initiative that you would pursue with a \$1000 Share the Green Donation.

My wife and I both work as Learning Resource Teachers (LRT's) in the Town of Simcoe for the Grand Erie District School Board. In this role, we are often privy to information and insights about the well-being of families that other people or organizations do not see. We often are the primary contact for arranging support for families in need. Over the years, our greatest frustration is seeing families in economic distress and not having any simple way to help. Specifically, toiletries and head lice shampoo are simple necessities that are often difficult for struggling families to afford. Consequently, their children are excluded from attending school due to the persistent presence of head lice. A bottle of such shampoo costs around \$20 and depending on how many members are in the family and how many times it needs to be administered, one infestation of head lice can cost a distressed family up to \$100.

Our plan is to use the \$1,000 donation to buy head lice shampoo to provide to families free of charge. There are three elementary, public schools in Simcoe; all of which have impoverished families. Our plan is to coordinate the funds through a joint committee of LRT's and principals so that families from all three schools have access to free lice shampoo.

Why is this meaningful to you? Are you connected any way to the cause?

As the LRT, I am not assigned a classroom of students but rather provide specific support to students and teachers in the entire building. I personally am in charge of conducting, supervising, and informing families if their children have head lice. I am witness to the financial hardship, frustration, humiliation that this situation imposes on their

families. I am also the individual who must insist that their children be louse-free before returning to school. The infestation of lice has not only imposed financial hardship but also becomes an obstacle for their children to attend school. Poverty is an issue of tremendous significance to me in my career as I firsthand witness how it perpetuates itself from generation to generation. I also feel the hypocrisy of being the middle-class representative who does little to help and forbids their children from attending school; thereby, ensuring another generation of impoverished people.

How will this benefit other people?

There is clearly a selfish desire within myself to see others benefit from my simple efforts. By definition, I am uncertain if this is selfishness or altruism. My primary concern is to see a population of people who are already disadvantaged, at least have the opportunity to purge their homes of head lice so their children can attend school without disruption or humiliation.

When would you be able to implement your initiative?

I have already secured the support of the required members in each of the schools. Once the donation has been confirmed, the funds can be released immediately as the needs so require.



Please add any other information that you feel would help explain your idea.

If it so happened that there were few cases of head lice that required subsidized products, the \$1,000 donation would be used to provide other toiletries, household cleaning products, clothing, winter wear through the “Wish Closet” already established at Elgin Ave. Public School in Simcoe. This is simply a place where families can access gently-used clothing and basic toiletries free of charge. This application is only one small part of our efforts to secure funds, donations, support from other community agencies to try and provide increased support for our disadvantaged families in Simcoe.

My wife and I specifically chose Green Financial as our investment Group because of this program that recognizes a deeper responsibility on all of us to help those who are less fortunate. We find ourselves in unique positions where a very simple provision of a product can have such a profound impact on a child's life. We are respectfully offering you the opportunity to participate in something simple and wonderful!



Mothers with a Heart for Ethiopia

Submitted by Linda Hutchison

Charity or initiative that you would pursue with a \$1,000 donation from Share the Green.

Mothers with a Heart for Ethiopia is an organization that was founded and developed by three adoptive mothers of Ethiopian born children. These women after being in Ethiopia and seeing the abject poverty and living conditions, have dedicated their lives to raising awareness and funds for women and children living in Ethiopia.

This organization is run completely by volunteers and has no overhead or administrative costs. They are raising funds through the sale of necklaces they import from Ethiopia and an event called Gems & Java. I attended the first Woodstock Gems & Java event and also volunteered my time to set up for the event. I saw many reminders through the event of Green Financial Group's support of Mothers with a Heart for Ethiopia. The event was a big success raising \$6,600.00 after expenses and raising awareness of some of the realities of life in Ethiopia.

The necklaces sold by Mothers with a Heart for Ethiopia are made by women who live in Korah which is a community within Addis Ababa. Korah is a community where the disenfranchised go to live. Orphans, the elderly, individuals with leprosy or HIV/AIDS and people with disabilities live in Korah.

Mothers with a Heart for Ethiopia is selling necklaces in Canada not only to raise money to support programs for women and children in Ethiopia but also to provide a source of income for the women in Korah so they can support themselves and their children.

Recently, the women who make the necklaces for Mothers with a Heart for Ethiopia were asked how their work environment could be improved to help them in their work. The women have indicated that they would like to have looms in order to weave scarves as an additional means to make an income. The women also said they would like to have a room with a concrete floor so the scarves would not become dirty. Currently, the shelter that the women work in has only dirt floors which would result in the woven scarves getting dirty. The concrete floor would allow the women to keep the scarves clean and improve the opportunities for selling their goods.

The goal of this request is to provide the financial means to help women make their own income to support themselves and their children. This gift of \$1,000 will continue to give back to the community of Korah for many, many years.

Income generation will not only provide the necessities of life but will also help to send the women's children to school. Education is a strong desire of these women and they want their children to be educated so that change in the circumstances of their living will happen. These women want a better life for their children.



Why is this meaningful to you? Are you connected in any way to the cause?

My friend, Jane Green and her daughter Shelley Green, went to Ethiopia in June of 2010 to bring Shelley's daughter home to Canada. My close relationship with both of these ladies has allowed me to better understand the need for Canadians to respond to the living conditions for millions of women and children in Ethiopia.

I have become involved as a volunteer with Mothers with a Heart for Ethiopia and assisted with the Woodstock Gems & Java event.

How will this benefit other people?

The women who make the necklaces we sell are just like you and me, they want to have the opportunity to support their family and to send their children to school. What these women lack are the resources to create employment opportunities for themselves.

The purchase of looms and a new concrete floor will allow for additional income.

When will you be able to implement the initiative?

Shelley Green has indicated that it would be possible to send the money to Ethiopia once we receive the donation and that the goal would be to have the looms purchase and the concrete floor finished within 3 months.

Other information to help further explain the initiative.

Ethiopia is one of the poorest countries in the world. 39% of the population lives below the international poverty line of \$1.25 a day.

Women in Ethiopia culture are not seen or treated as equals to men and in fact have very few rights.

Research has found that in poor and developing countries when women are given money, they will use it not on themselves but will invest the money to create an income generating opportunity. Research has found that women will use money to create beneficial change for their family and their communities. Ethiopian women need to be empowered and through this donation, we can make that happen.

Thank you for considering my application.



Bridge2Aid

Submitted by Jan Vicars

Bridge2Aid (B2A) is a charity working in the Mwanza region of North West Tanzania. B2A works closely with the Tanzanian Government to deliver aspects of their dental strategy, operates a not-for-profit dental clinic in the city of Mwanza, and has a Community Development program for the poor. My daughter, Tara, is in her fourth year of working for B2A.

B2A's Community Development program is centered around Bukumbi Care Centre (BCC). This centre was built in the 1970's with the idea to "cleanse" the streets of the city and place the homeless and poor away from the city. Many people are disabled or have had leprosy. B2A is committed to a long-term plan of improvements at Bukumbi and reintegration of its residents into the community.

Part of this plan involves the Education Program, aimed at breaking the cycle of poverty and ensuring that the children receive appropriate education, which will enable them to support themselves and their families in the future without being dependent on aid from the government and NGOs. B2A's Education Coordinator works with the children and their families to encourage them to go to school and supports them with things such as uniforms and school supplies. B2A also supports students who have graduated from primary school by funding their further education. There is also a close relationship with Kigongo School, the primary school that the majority of the children at Bukumbi attend.

In 2009 and 2010, Share the Green's award of \$1,000 helped to completely renovate two classrooms at Kigongo School.

This year, I would like to tell you about two children – a brother and sister – who grew up at Bukumbi Care Centre and attended Kigongo School. Jackson and Jackline Paulo finished primary school at the end of 2010. In January 2011 they started at the local Government secondary school close to Bukumbi. Unfortunately, the quality of teaching at the Government school leaves much to be desired, which sadly, is a very common situation in Tanzanian Government secondary schools. Too many students, too few teachers, and those few teachers rarely actually teach!

In spite of the poor quality of education, at the end of their first year of secondary school, Jackson and Jackline had proven they have the motivation, the intelligence and most importantly, the correct attitude toward getting an education. In light of these qualities, B2A arranged for Jackson and Jackline to take entrance exams for a private secondary school (Mesa Secondary) – they were both accepted and started at Mesa in January 2012. It should be explained that there is a huge difference in the confidence, attitudes and the achievements of students in private schools compared to those in the Government secondary schools in Tanzania. While it may seem unfair to 'hand pick' students for private education, it is strongly felt that those who are prepared to help themselves should be supported (while not 'providing everything on a plate' to them), which is why B2A encourages them through a year in a Government school first.



B2A managed to secure sponsorship to pay for Jackson and Jackline's remaining 3 years of secondary school. However, teachers at Mesa Secondary felt the two students should re-sit their first year because of the huge difference in their level of education as compared to those students who had done their first year at the private school. This left B2A short of a year's worth of sponsorship for Jackson and Jackline, as sponsorship had only been secured for their remaining 3 years of school. Therefore, another \$1,795 CAD remains to be found in sponsorship to fully cover their costs. Schooling in Tanzania requires students to cover all costs – including school fees, pens, paper, mattresses, sheets, bucket for clothes washing, medical contributions, travel, exam fees, even a hoe!

Jackson recently received his exam results (May 2012) and he came top of his year of 89 students, and Jackline is also in the top half of her year – amazing achievements! These two kids are working hard to prove they are worthy of support – and are both very appreciative of the opportunity they have been given to receive a good education.

If I am successful in being awarded the \$1,000 this year, I plan to put it toward helping to pay for Jackson and Jackline's fees to enable them to complete their secondary education at this private school. I plan to contribute the remaining \$795 myself.

Thank you so much for this opportunity to once again “Share the Green” with a needy world!

Youth-Quest Activity Centre (Formerly Why Not Youth Centre)

Submitted by Harvey & Conny Masson

Why is this meaningful to you? Are you connected any way to the cause?

As someone who works in the school system I see the many needs among our youth. Simply having somewhere safe, to belong, to be accepted and cared for is a powerful force to changing lives.

How will this benefit other people?

A drop-in centre for at-risk youth ages 13 – 18 Youth-Quest serves over 100 youth per week in downtown Woodstock.

When would you be able to implement your initiative?

Cooking Program – to teach youth how to prepare easy meals and develop basic cooking skills. This donation would help pay for equipment and grocery supplies.

Please add any other information that you feel would help explain your idea.

It is expected that approximately 50 youth will be involved in this program. It is not unusual to have youth come to the center who lack even basic skills. Teaching this important life skill contributes to the development of healthy relationships and respect among these at-risk youth.

