



Rotary Chooses Child Witness Centre

The Child Witness Centre is absolutely thrilled to be chosen by the Kitchener-Conestoga Rotary Club as the charity to receive the proceeds from the 2011 Dream Home project. Staff were stunned and in tears when the announcement was made.

Fundraising is an everyday activity for the Child Witness Centre and the Rotary support couldn't have come at a better time. With the consolidation of the courthouses in Waterloo Region and the recent selling of the building we rented for the last 18 years, it became necessary for us to find a new home. We've been working to find a perfect solution and thanks to Rotary we have, by giving us the opportunity to purchase our very own home. This new home and the support from Rotary mark a huge milestone in the history of the agency.

The agency's new home, located at 111 Duke Street, kitty-corner to the new courthouse being built, is a beautiful home in which the children we assist will feel safe and secure. As well, it will provide some very necessary privacy for our caseworkers and will almost double our current space. Our services require us to be close to the courthouse because:

- Child victims wait at our agency on the day(s) they are in court (rather than waiting in the crowded halls of the courthouse, where they may encounter the accused). But they have to be



Thanks to Rotary, the Child Witness Centre was able to purchase a new home.

close enough to be able to get to the courtroom quickly when called.

- Child Witness Centre caseworkers arrange and attend meetings for the Crown with the children, and those meetings are often held in the more child-friendly facility that we provide.
- When preparing children for court, our caseworkers often take them into the courtroom.

Since 2004 our fundraising has generated a special reserve to fund facility costs. This reserve will cover about 50% of the cost of the new home. The other 50% will come from the proceeds of the

Dream Home. Because we do not charge families for our services, the Dream Home funding was critical.

Dating back to 1984, The Rotary Club of Kitchener-Conestoga has raised over 4 million dollars for charitable organizations in Waterloo Region through their Dream Home Project. Their goal is to make a significant contribution to a project that will have broad community impact and they have succeeded. Just look at some of the past recipients – Kidsability, K-W Community Foundation, Big Brothers & Sisters, Anselma House, and Lutherwood, to name a few.

We want to acknowledge the tremendous support of Aberdeen Homes and the Hallman family who are the builders for this year's dream home and in addition, generously donated the entire value of the lot! The home will be located in the Riverwood subdivision and located on Watervale Drive. The home will be 3,200 sq.ft with finished basement and walkout.

In addition to the Dream Home fundraiser, the Kitchener-Conestoga Rotary Club organizes two other major events each year. In 2008, the club adopted the House of Friendship's Christmas Hamper Project as an official fundraiser, and in 2009, they raised a whopping \$185,000. This provided hampers and turkeys to feed more than 9,500 people. The club is also hosting its 40th annual Lobsterfest at Bingeman's on Friday June 3rd, another major fundraiser benefiting the community. To find out more information on these events go to www.rotary-kc.ca.

Our sincere thanks go out to every Rotary member, each of whom contributes so much to the community – your support means so much to us and we can't thank you enough. For those who endorsed our application, it truly strengthened our request and is a vote of confidence to all involved with the Child Witness Centre.

It is a community effort, and the most vulnerable children and youth thank everyone involved!

A Heartfelt Act of Kindness

The Child Witness Centre was moved and very grateful to receive a custom-made doll house from K-W Habilitation Services, an organization providing support services to individuals with developmental disabilities. It took six months and thirteen people, supported by five staff, to harness their talents to transform the vintage doll house into

a doll house that other children could enjoy.

Our caseworkers assist more than 400 child victims each year. Many of those children now enjoy playing with this unique doll house. Our heartfelt thanks go out to all those who worked on this project. The Child Witness Centre's child-friendly facility is the perfect home for it.



Child Witness Centre presents SHAKE, RATTLE & RAISE

Join Us
Friday, June 10, 2011

Victoria Park Pavilion
80 Schneider Avenue
Kitchener
8:00 p.m.

Tickets \$30. Purchase them
by calling (519) 744-0904

Evening includes:
Live Music with the
Neil Murray Band
Yummy Eats
Silent Auction
Cash Bar
Dancing
Fun with Friends and Much More!



A Successful Pancake Luncheon in 2011

The 13th annual pancake luncheon held on Tuesday March 8 at the Delta Kitchener was a huge success, thanks to the 210 people who attended.

It provided an opportunity for people to enjoy a delicious buffet lunch of pancakes, bacon, ham, sausages, fresh fruit and tea/coffee/juice all for only \$11.

Many who attend make this a yearly tradition for getting together with colleagues and friends, while helping a worthy cause. Thanks again to those who support this event each year – Cowan, The Record, Sorbara Law, TD Waterhouse, Nordia, T C Group Americas, RV Football Guys, VWAP, Crown's Office, RIM, Waterloo Regional

Police Service, Guelph Police Services, BDO Dunwoody LLP, WALES, WSIB Claims, United Way – and everyone else who attended. We truly appreciate your support.

We announced our Dream Home funding at the event and were grateful to the many members of the Kitchener-Conestoga Rotary Club who attended.

Thanking a Volunteer

Although we normally highlight one volunteer, this time we want to give thanks to three wonderful directors who have reached their term limit and are leaving the board. Each has contributed immensely to the agency over the years.

Alexandra Hardy, originally from England, came to Canada in 1996. She is now a senior manager with BDO Dunwoody LLP and joined the board in 2002. With Alex's expertise, she became the Treasurer, chaired the Finance Committee for a number of years, was President of the Board from 2006-08, and has been Past President from 2008-2011. Alex has been passionate about the work of the agency. We are greatly indebted to her for her leadership and the immensely important role she has played.



Alexandra Hardy



Robin Decker



Craig Sullivan

Although Alex's term with the board is ending, she has agreed to remain on the Finance Committee, in a volunteer capacity.

Robin Decker is a human resources senior analyst with COM DEV. Robin has been a member of the Human Resources Committee since she joined the board in 2005, and has chaired the Committee since

March 2006. Her HR and general management experience resulted in a very significant contribution, and we're grateful to her for generously volunteering her time. She will be missed.

Craig Sullivan joined the board in 2005 after more than 27 years as a senior executive with Mutual Life/Clarica/SunLife in the insurance and real estate area. His breadth of experience and management skills contributed greatly to the Risk Management and Governance Committees. We are grateful that Craig has agreed to remain on the Governance Committee even though his term as a director has ended.

Sincere thanks to Alex, Robin and Craig for their generous and valued support over the years. All our volunteers are important to us and we could not do what we do without their help.

Over 3,000 Teens Benefit from Unique Event

There's no such thing as "can't". Accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative. Think of yourself as a leader even though you may not be labeled as one.

These are just a sampling of the powerful messages that more than 3,000 grade eight students heard when they attended the 8th annual Child Witness Centre Youth Symposium in April.

On April 13, Galaxy Cinemas on Woodlawn Road in Guelph was packed with more than 1,100 students from across Wellington County, and on April 14, 2,000 students from Waterloo Region filled Empire Theatres in Kitchener – attending the 8th annual Child Witness Centre Youth Symposium ...a very unique and potentially life-changing event.

"There are great risks for youth today," says Child Witness Centre Executive Director Jack Reynolds. "Heading into high school, students are facing situations and making choices that may have long-term impact. Our goal in hosting the symposium is to provide tools and strategies that will help youth in our region face those risks and challenges with confidence and success – and perhaps make the transition from grade eight to high school a little easier."

An inspiring line-up of speakers challenged, educated, and motivated students at a critical time in their life, to make the right choices, stand up and make a difference, and to be leaders. A small sampling of the broad line-up of speakers included:

- Cheryl-Ann Webster, using the findings of her Beautiful Women Project, helped students deal effectively with the bombardment of social messages that suggest "unless you look a certain way, you will not be loved, accepted or successful".
- Stu Saunders, founder and Executive Director of Youth Leadership Camps Canada provided a hilarious and inspirational look at the challenges that young people face, with tools students can use to make the right choices.



Students enjoy one of the many presentations



Scotiabank volunteers



Volunteers at Empire Theatres in Kitchener

- Mike Pearse, owner and director of Camp Tawingo, encouraged students to see just how simple it is to truly make a difference in the lives of others, in the life of their school and the community, and in their own lives.

To view the full line-up of speakers, go to www.childwitness.com and click on Youth Symposium, under Events.

"The youth symposium was an exceptional and thought provoking experience. It really changed

my perspective of my role in this world. I can make a bigger difference than I thought" said one student after the event. Another student said "It was an excellent and fun way to learn. Knowing that even at the worst, you can still rise and be a better person is one message I learned". These comments confirm why we organize this event.

The Youth Symposium is a community building initiative of the Child Witness Centre. Although the Child Witness Centre organizes the event, it is the support of the community that makes the event so successful. We are truly grateful to more than 50 volunteers who assisted at the events. We thank them for their time and commitment to ensure the symposium runs so smoothly.

We are truly grateful to our sponsors – The Co-operators, Scotiabank, and K-W Sertoma/LaSertoma (one of the oldest civic service clubs in North America), for helping youth to understand their ability to make a difference and to give them the tools to improve their life, and that of the community.

Thank you to the following volunteers who assisted us at the Youth Symposium

- Bud Adams
- Peggy Banks
- Kathy Braungart
- Teresa Briski
- Norma Chubb
- Robin Clark
- Lise Curran
- Deena Denton
- Josh Dills
- Ruth Farley
- Lindsay Feltis
- Nancy Finkle
- Bob Fletcher
- Mike Gatto
- Phyllis Haack
- Gerry Haack
- Gary Haack
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- Elaine Hume
- John Hume
- Mark Johnson
- Karl Kaufman
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- Dirk Kuemmling
- Pat Lepold
- Don Linkletter
- Roxy Linkletter
- Tom Litwiler
- Dave Martin
- Rowena Martin
- Patti McKague
- Virginia McQuay
- Debbie Miethig
- Marion Mutton
- Bob Reichard
- Lois Reichard
- Mary Reynolds
- Penny Richards
- Jennifer Robinson
- Gladys Robson
- Ron Robson
- Kris Schumacher
- Ray Seed
- Bill Spall
- Scott Strigley
- Patrick Stevens
- Craig Sullivan
- Trudy Vickers
- Cate Welsh
- Terry Wichman



Thank you



Child
Witness
Centre

Every donation helps us provide child victims and witnesses with the support they need through the difficult challenge of testifying in court.

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City: _____ Postal Code: _____

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Signature: _____

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E-mail: admin@childwitness.com
www.childwitness.com

*On average it costs \$350 per child to provide court support services

Donation amount: \$35 \$250

\$50 \$350

Tax receipt issued for
donations over \$10 \$100 \$500

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Witness Program operating expenses

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Donations can also be accepted online at www.childwitness.com/help.html

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