

# **Christmas Journal 2001**

Brendan Wood, Partners and Friends

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## I. A Christmas Story

Twenty-two years ago in early December three BWI 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. It 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 we realized that 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 room began to light up with all kinds of ideas. In fact, we had so many ideas to look into and causes to investigate that we completely forgot how broke we were. 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 BWI 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 the cash amongst the employees of BWI, our interviewers and some of our friends and ask them to seek out the best causes they could find and gather together for a great 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.

The Lazarus Project is the more formal year round continuation of this tradition.

## II. The Lazarus Project

What have we learned in twenty-two years?

There are **two great-unmet needs** in the world of giving.

1) *A thorough global analysis of the effectiveness of various agencies in coming to terms with fundamental problems affecting humans.* Who is truly making progress and what are they doing differently?

People are ready and willing to give, especially if they are certain that the agency receiving their gift will deliver results and have a high impact on the suffering. They are often far from certain that this will be the case. Charities with noble aspirations often have poor organizations with inadequate infrastructure to achieve them.

2) *Finding ways for people to personally participate.* Over the last twenty-two years we have learned how much people actually want to play a personal role, want to give on a 'hand-to-hand' basis. **Most can't find a place to start.** Many organized charitable institutions don't even offer an opportunity for personal involvement. Even fundraising has become more and more professional rather than volunteer driven. In looking hard at problems and opportunities one cannot ignore the immense resource or volunteerism, people seeking self-expression through acts of love.

We have learned, from our annual forays into the world of human need, that suffering and it's underlying causes cut across all geographic and societal lines. The pain will not be hemmed in or kept away by race, colour, creed, language, environment or even wealth. Spiritual poverty, drugs, family break-ups, rampant use of abortion, violence, crime, homelessness, racism and suicide levels comprise heart breaking testimony at proving that wealthy society is no defence. In many areas wealth seems part of the problem.

If the problems are global so perhaps are the solutions. **The Lazarus Project** is Brendan Wood's way of harnessing business capabilities, especially our investigative creativity and perseverance in the service of those who suffer. At Lazarus it is our mission to group causes on a global basis and thoroughly investigate the performance of any organizations and approaches which are achieving high impact on suffering. We also attempt to root out and develop opportunities for volunteers who want to give the ultimate gift, themselves.

If we do these two things well Lazarus will be able to tell givers where to give for maximum effect on the suffering client and we will be able to tell caring people how to get personally involved activating their prayers, mental energy, moral support, creativity, and labour.

This investigative approach, which has led BWI's intelligence business into some forty countries around the world, seems ideally suited to producing information clearly focused on agencies and approaches which produce highest levels of success. To do this job we need energetic missionaries who will dig hard and find the people who are doing the job best. Lazarus funds and underwrites such missionaries. As well, we ask other companies and friends to join us in doing so. Where appropriate we both fund and seek further support for scholarships focussed on studies related to advancing the wisdom and effectiveness of charity.

Lazarus helps corporations and individuals to select a portfolio of giving which meets their innermost priorities with confidence. Lazarus will eventually attempt to help striving charitable organizations improve their effectiveness by sharing the knowledge and expertise of "the best of the best" with them. Lazarus tries to give the poor and suffering the voice to tell us all what they need and who can fill that need best throughout the world. Please call if you want to help.

### *Why Lazarus?*

In the New Testament there are two important personalities named Lazarus. Our project is dedicated to both of them. **The first** Lazarus is the poor and wretched figure covered in sores who waits patiently at the gate of an opulent house owned by a very rich man given to feasting on a daily basis. Upon his lonely death, poor Lazarus is welcomed into heaven. The rich man who also dies is neither allowed to cross the abyss between eternal suffering and heaven, nor is he allowed to send Lazarus to earth to warn his brothers of the fate awaiting them. Abraham, in whose arms Lazarus is held, tells the rich man that his brothers on earth have Moses and the prophets to teach them. Failing that, even Lazarus returned from the dead will not convince them. **We chose** this Lazarus because it is his voice we want to hear and his sores we want to heal. He also reminds us not to behave like the rich man but to see our duty here on earth.

**The second** Lazarus is the dear friend so beloved that Jesus intervenes in his premature death. With a sigh and the miracle words “come out Lazarus”, Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead as if he were only sleeping. **We chose** this Lazarus because he reminds us that we can all be awakened even from the deepest sleep. He reminds us that love can raise us up and bring us to life again. That our love, albeit with help from the divine, can awaken the joy of life in others as well. He reminds us not to accept anything less than life, to the full for all.

Please call if you want to help.

If you are interested, the actual biblical stories of Lazarus can be found on page 40 of this journal.

### III. Introduction

Over the years, the Salvation Army has consistently received the highest level of confidence from our little “army” of Lazarus givers. While many individual charities capture a cause or break our hearts in a positive way, the Salvation Army attracts broader support than any other. We thought it may be useful to share with you some of the reasons why.

Those who have been to the last three dinners will remember two very stirring addresses by a guest speaker, Major Greg Simmonds. The first, a compelling story of his own life and why he personally chose to devote his life to the army. The second address from Greg presented his vision concerning the meaning and power of prayer. We asked him to write down some these thoughts on prayer which we printed in the 2000 Christmas Journal.

#### Excerpt from Greg’s Discourse on Prayer

*“To quote the Poet Laureate Tennyson: “More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of. Therefore, let thy voice rise like a fountain for me night and day.” These words are an eloquent reminder of the power of prayer. Prayer is one of the great adventures of life. It’s mysterious and mighty power knows no boundaries and admits no impossibilities except that which lies outside the will of God. Prayer brings into our lives the unlimited resources and grace of God. Prayer makes a difference within us. Henri Mouwen writes: “prayer is a radical conversion of all our mental processes because in prayer we move away from ourselves, our worries, preoccupations and self-gratification – and direct all that we recognize as ours to God.”*

Obviously Greg and his colleagues are steadfast believers in the fact that prayer is heard and answered. Because they believe they pray and because they pray they believe! We remember one of the unique ministries of Mother Theresa. She had assigned patients in hospitals, many completely paralysed, to the task of praying for a living missionary in the field. The invalids’ prayers fuelled the hope and love of the missionary being ‘prayed for’ and vice versa no doubt. To us prayers answered, or the claim that they are, asks us to believe in a miracle. Often perhaps we don’t. To the Salvationist prayer being answered is always a joy but never a surprise. The Salvationist lives in a world of spirit to which prayer is light and air. The role of the Salvation Army is a very serious and demanding one. How can they do so much of the “hands on” dirty work most of us wouldn’t or couldn’t dream of? It is perhaps because they live a different life, a spiritual life, born and sustained by prayer, a life of love. It is a life we trust. We know we can depend upon them. Christmas is the season we choose, as well we should, to let them know that they can depend on us.



*Major Greg Simmonds*

*“For some reason my vision of Christmas in a big city always includes a Salvation Army woman ringing a bell. Your gift and one from my family has gone to that woman and her bell.”*

- Ken Hight  
- Christmas 2000

Last Christmas one of our guest speakers was Captain Sandra Ryan, introduced by her Salvation Army colleague and husband, Captain Geoff Ryan. This couple, the first Salvation Army officers to work in Russia since 1922, has recently returned from 11 years ministering in the Soviet Union, the last 8 with their 3 kids in war torn in Chechnya. Their assignment in Toronto is a ministry in the heart of the Regent’s Park area. Theirs is an ambitious plan to create community within this problematic area. Typical features of the Regent’s Park landscape include crime, addiction, prostitution and domestic violence. So how do you make a community out of that?



*Father John Dobrosky, Geoff and Sandra Ryan*

Sandra explained, beginning with an astounding declaration of her own faith, how she and her fellow officers saw the job, the opportunity and the answers. In deafening silence Sandra provided us an insight into the Salvation Army’s codes of battle, beginning it seems with the “dignity of the person” they serve. Sandra’s message made sense. This highly uncommon sense conveys a wisdom, extraordinary insight arising from the fact that the Salvation Army officer doesn’t see a dereliction, failure or a disease so much as they see a soul and in that soul, the presence of God. We see how they embrace the sufferer and how with their weapons of faith, hope, love and prayer they achieve the apparently impossible. Yet it makes so much sense.

More recently, we visited Sandra, Geoff and some of their colleagues at their place of work in Regent Park. Rob Hines, Bob Acheson, Bruce Friesen and myself spent a couple of hours learning about the army’s “prayer walk” through the neighbourhood, asking folks if there is anything they’d like the walkers to pray for. The walk goes everywhere in the neighbourhood including bars, etc. We also met a young Salvationist, hardly twenty years old, who described a “one-by-one” program of companionship, moral and spiritual support called Starfish. I would gladly ask this youngster to help run my company. He’s got a bigger job already, I think would be his answer.

Inspiration, prayer, commitment, faith, hope, love, and wisdom seem to be the reasons we trust the Salvation Army. They don’t work for a cause. They work to liberate the soul and see suffering as yet another invitation from God to make that happen.

***A selection of stories ...***



*Anne and Brendan Wood*

This year Anne and I were deeply moved by three scenarios: one close to home, the others apparently far away, but in our now global village, distance is no barrier. China's expansion and policies on human rights, the struggle against bankrupt dictatorships hiding behind a distorted Muslim religion in Africa, and 9/11 in New York are all somehow on the same page. As Sandler O'Neill & Partners innocently conducting their high quality investment banking business on the 104<sup>th</sup> floor in the World Trade Tower sadly experienced, on the morning of September 11<sup>th</sup>, the enemy is at the gate!

### **Sandler O'Neill & Partners**

We were particularly impressed by the bravery of Jimmy Dunne, CEO and his partners at Sandler O'Neill. Within days of the terrible tragedy, this small firm rose to the occasion. Jimmy participated in countless funerals and all the responsibility which accompanies a terrible injustice of this kind. Yet, he and his partners steadfastly rebuilt their business, starting almost the next day, and it is now bigger than ever.

We were pleased to provide all of our BWI services to Sandler O'Neill without charge throughout the year following 9/11 (despite their frequent attempts to reciprocate). Over the year we came to refer to Sandler O'Neill as "client one". This experience helped us to feel connected and also a small part of a great victory. Our admiration for the Sandler O'Neill survivors' team is profound. Their bravery and grace under fire is proof to any business that character, kindness, and integrity are well within our reach. We won't forget their inspiration, and treasure their friendship, for all time, with pride. Thanks to all BWIers who contributed their services to our humble gift.

## Freedom

This year at a conference in Montreux, Switzerland amidst an agenda of brilliant presentations from around the world, there appeared a delegation of doctors from Red China. This group presented themselves with great pride as having achieved the “prevention” of some 75 million births. They went on to explain how much money the state had saved as a result of this “achievement”.

Later in this journal you will see a story by our beloved colleague, “Charles” Yang Zhendong, whose mother is in a Chinese jail for the crime of belonging to Falun Gong, the mission of which being Truthfulness, Compassion, and Tolerance. She, like millions of others, ran afoul of China’s policy.

Like Russia before it, we hope that China’s regime will eventually succumb to the power of prayer in its silent mysteries. Anne and I join Charles in supporting TCFAS (Truthfulness, Compassion, Forbearance Advocacy Society) in the campaign to liberate China from her behaviour concerning human dignity, freedom, and life. It took some fifty years for the power of prayer to overcome the godless regime of the Soviet Union. Many heroes and dissidents played a role in keeping us focussed on the injustice. Falun Gong, like the unarmed boy in front of the tank in Tianamen Square, are our heroes. Let us do all we can to shorten and lessen the burdens of their bravery.

## The Spiritans in Kenya

Father John Dobrosky brought us a couple of hundred hand made paintings from the parishioners of the Spiritan missionaries in Kenya. Many of these little paintings have been framed and look quite beautiful in peoples’ homes. It seems a bit strange that poverty stricken villagers whose major worries are food and water would send **us** gifts. Yet they did.

As in past years, we have supported the works of the Spiritans as they toil against over-whelming odds, to raise the education, freedom, and survival levels of an increasingly misled population. We always hold special hope that the Spiritans may nurture a “ leader of conscience” who may change the future for Kenyans.



*Brendan Wood and Father John Dobrosky*

#### **IV. The Salvation Army – Mission & History**

*The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in his name without discrimination.*

The Salvation Army began as a ministry to the underchurched in 1865, when a former Methodist minister named William Booth began to preach in the slums of London's East End. When converts from these meetings were sent to established churches, they felt ill at ease so Booth established Christian mission centers for them, which grew beyond expectations. The name, The Salvation Army, was adopted and military form of government was established, with uniforms and other distinctive features. Military terms have been used throughout the years to designate ranks of officers and to describe the activities of the organization.

In order to attract the multitudes who would not enter a place of worship, the Army organized street meetings and marches, using flags, brass bands and religious songs set to secular tunes. Those who became soldiers confessed their sins and accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior from sin, and exhibited a sense of responsibility to win others to the Christian faith.

The Red Shield – instantly recognizable to so many – is a true branding success story. The Sally Ann remains active and operates in 106 countries where it maintains religious and social services centers, including schools and hospitals. Officers and soldiers preach the gospel in more than 136 languages.

*Salvation Army (cont'd)*

I came across an article in a magazine one day, about a newborn girl being abandoned on the curb in China. The photos graphically depicted a newborn girl still reddish and covered with pasty coating, lying dead in the wedge of the pavement with no dignity. People walked by, as if it was nothing. The reason she was unwanted: she was born a girl. In some of the impecunious provinces in China, a household could receive a small amount of funding from the government for every boy born. Still in this day, it is a common act to desert a newborn girl because she holds no monetary value.

Not all children are as fortunate as we are. Too many of them are victims of abusive families. Children are vulnerable and defenseless against their most trusted people such as their parents. With the opportunity and the generosity of BWI, I have given the contribution to Salvation Army. I trust the organization and support that they provide shelters and psychiatric assistance to unfortunate children and abused women, to help them to stand on their own feet and to make better lives for them.

- Yolanda Li



*Yolanda Li, Eugene Chan and Diwakar Dahal*

Your donation made it into the hand's of the Salvation Army's Men Shelter. A good friend of our, Scott McCain, has hosted a mens' only fundraiser the past three years for the charity and invited me to attend. The first year the event raised \$200 and in the second - \$500. Lorraine and I increased the BWI donation to \$500 – a ripple effect- and the event raised close to \$5,000!

Your generosity sparked ours, and ours sparked others to ensure that the Men's Shelter programme generates much needed donations.

- Mark Weisdorff



*Mark Weisdorff and Lorraine Bell Weisdorff*

*Jas Singh* also made a contribution to the Salvation Army.

## V. Health, Well-Being and Medical Research

### *Henderson Hospital, Breast Cancer Unit*

As an alumnus of BWI, I was delighted to be invited to this year's holiday party, and really touched to be included in your giving campaign. Most importantly, I was reminded of a very important lesson in giving to others — that often the joy of doing good is greater than the deed itself.

Upon seeing the cheque, I immediately knew where to forward the money, and decided to match the firm's generosity from my own pocket. I have much to be thankful for and wanted to do my bit.

Three years ago, my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. To me, living in New York at the time, the news was devastating. Today, she is healthy and strong, and we are a very grateful family. The care she received at the cancer unit of Henderson Hospital in Hamilton, for which we will be forever thankful and for me, every extra day that my mother is alive is a cherished gift.

When I contacted the hospital about dropping off the cheque, Judy, the head nurse (who has since become friends with my mother) was enthusiastic and invited me over to the ward. When my mother started her treatments, I bought her a Discman, so that she could listen to soothing music to distract her from the sessions and make them more bearable. So, instead of cash, I bought a couple of CD players, extra headphones and an Enya CD. Sadly, Judy told me as I dropped off the cheque and my items, that hers is a growth area. They have just taken on 25 new patients, and are building an addition to the wing.

I am not ashamed to admit that when I left the hospital for the parking lot, I started to cry, as I briefly relived the whole experience my family—and especially my mother—lived through. If your gift and mine can in some way help even one person and make their ordeal more livable, then that is a blessing.

The joy of giving these gifts to a cause that is so personal and important to me and that is so deserving was wonderful.

Thank you for that.

- *David Parsons*



*Flora and Paul Wood and David Parsons*

### *Canadian Cancer Society*

I found your “Christmas Story” gave me a warm feeling inside about the true Spirit of Christmas. As we approach the holidays, it is thoughts, memories and stories like these that make the Christmas spirit so special. I have given the BWI donation to the Canadian Cancer Society, one of the charities that I contribute to most. The reasons for my choice are simple. Cancer has been and will continue to be a disease challenging all of us. We all must know someone who has fallen to cancer or someone who has fought back to beat cancer.

For myself, both my parents and a former girlfriend have fought and beaten cancer. I have friends who also fought cancer but who were not as fortunate. I believe that a donation to the Canadian Cancer Society is a worthy decision. As an individual who has the pleasure of meeting and working with many Biotech companies working towards therapeutics for cancer, I can say confidently that we will see much progress in the fight against cancer in the future.

- *Graham Saunders*

### *Meagan’s Walk*

Little Meagan was 4 years old when she was diagnosed with brain stem glioma, a cancerous brain tumour. Two weeks after her 5<sup>th</sup> birthday she passed away. The community where she lived (and where some very dear friends of mine live) has rallied to support her family in their mission to raise hope, awareness and research funding for pediatric brain tumours through a first of its kind event – Meagan’s Walk, Creating a Circle of Hope.



*Nora Turkevics*

The vision is to end the 5km non-competitive walk with a circle of hands around the Hospital for Sick Children – sharing one big hug with all the children and the families suffering within, as a tribute to Meagan and the legacy of hope she has created. All proceeds to benefit B.R.A.I.N child and the pediatric brain tumour research program at the Hospital for Sick Children.

- *Nora Turkevics*



*Claire Groome and Stewart Borden*



*Jas Singh, Tara Chetkowski, Eugene Chan, Flora Tan, Maryam Alefi*

### *Toronto People With Aids Foundation*

Last summer I again took on the challenge of riding my bike from Toronto to Montreal in support of the Toronto People With AIDS Foundation (TPWAF). The six-day, 660km bike ride continues to be a physically and mentally challenging experience for me. It was also one of the most important contributions I have made in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Each rider is required to raise a minimum of \$2,000. All costs associated with the rally are covered by corporate donations and sponsorships enabling 100% of the funds raised to make it to the end recipients (financially and physically disadvantaged men and women living with HIV/AIDS as well as their families.)

The Bike Rally, which raised \$300,000 last year has had an enormous impact on the TPWAF. Before the Bike Rally existed, TPWAF's largest fundraiser was a comedy festival which raised \$15,000. As a result, the Foundation has been able to improve its food bank, raise its financial assistance program by over 60% and provide additional support services previously unavailable.

The Foundation is also launching the first-ever meal delivery program for people living with HIV/AIDS, nutrition being a key problem for TPWAF clients. Using the Brendan Wood International donation as a seed, I have started a fund which helps those riders living with HIV/AIDS who can't quite raise \$2,000 get over the \$2,000 hurdle enabling them to ride and contribute.

*- Stewart Borden*

*The Kidney Foundation of Canada*

The Kidney Foundation of Canada is a national, volunteer organization dedicated to improving the health and quality of life of people living with kidney disease. My interest relates to the fact that my nephew suffers from nephritic syndrome. Unfortunately, I know a number of other children who also suffer from this somewhat rare disease.

The Foundation funds research and related clinical education; provides services for the special needs of individuals living with kidney disease; advocates for access to high quality health care; and, actively promotes awareness of and commitment to organ donation.

- *Irwin Greenblatt*



*Netta and Irwin Greenblatt*



*JoAnne Thibodeau, Rod and Nicolle Wisco*



*Melanie and Peter Gibson*

*Halton Recovery House*

*“We believe that every man is a good man, valued for his intrinsic worth as a human being and as a child of God.”*



*Don and Judy Pangman*

There's a home in North Oakville, which most residents of our community may not be aware exists. And why should they – it's a residential home, started in 1975, that helps those with an addiction to drugs or alcohol. And while many believe that this is not a disease that will affect them, family members at all levels of affluence and stature may not be immune to the threat of substance abuse.

My story starts with Terry Nippard, the Executive Director of Halton Recovery House. Terry is a compassionate human, who cares deeply about the problems of his residents. His clients are all male, ranging in age between 25 and 60, who suddenly somewhere along their paths to success, experienced a dramatic change, which led them to an addiction. Lawyers, ministers, corporate executives, teachers, and other professionals have been guests at

this home, and with their willingness to try to change, Terry has enabled these men and their families to reunite, and develop loving interactions and responsible behavior not only amongst their own family members, but within their community.

The rebuilding process isn't easy, as Terry will attest. Each client must be willing to accept a structured and intense program, and each must be physically and mentally able to participate in all aspects of the recovery program. Virtually all of Terry's clients "graduate" as success stories after this 90-day program. Each has established a new model of living, which moves them from personal isolation to healthy relationships and purposeful roles in the community.

Twelve years ago a gentleman was virtually dumped from the family car onto the parking lot at Halton Recovery house – a relationship had developed that was so strained by the hardship of substance abuse, that mother and children could no longer cope, and could see no other way out to dealing with this than to pass their "problem" on. That gentleman went on to recover, but he's still at Halton Recovery House – his name is Terry Nippard.

As Chair of the Board of United Way of Oakville, I have had the pleasure of speaking to corporate executives throughout our community during our Annual Campaign. Terry has very kindly joined me at these presentations, and has made our community more aware of problems that can exist next door, down the street, or in our own homes. I am indebted to Terry for taking the time to explain more about Halton Recovery House, and his sincere devotion to helping those who have been afflicted with substance abuse problems. The Brendan Wood gift, plus our matching donation will be given to Halton Recovery House. Thank you for allowing us to be part of this most worthwhile way of celebrating Christmas.

- *Don Pangman*

*Canadian Cancer Society*

We were honoured to receive another invitation to the annual BWI Christmas event. This year we made two separate donations. As in previous years, the first donation went to the Canadian Cancer Society, a worthy organization with the amazing aim to the complete eradication of cancer, and the improvement of the quality of life of those who suffer from cancer. Like many other Canadians, cancer has touched our lives through the illness of family members and friends. Someday a cure may be found, and we felt that one of the best ways to contribute was to this organization which works largely on a volunteer basis.



*Allison Godfrey, Ken Moore and Diane Wood*

Our second choice was...

*Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides*

Working under the theory of multiplying the money, we donated an equal amount to the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. While most people are familiar with the dogs that assist the visually impaired, dogs are now being trained to help Canadians with physical disabilities and hearing impairments. The physically disabled are now capable of living at home with specially trained dog that operate light switches, open doors and cupboards, and retrieve items. For the hearing impaired, the dogs are able to respond to noises and disturbances that the handler cannot hear, such as crying children, doorbells, and telephones. The dogs are also trained to respond to hand signals and limited sign language. These dogs allow their handlers to move in society with dignity, freedom, and confidence, and we were very pleased to be able to assist this foundation to continue their good work.

- *Ken Moore and Allison Godfrey*



*Michael Flynn*

*Alzheimer's Association*

This year I decided to make a donation to a combination of two causes that have significantly impacted my life in recent years. The first is The Alzheimer's Association, which has affected my family. The Alzheimer's Association, a national network of chapters, is the largest national voluntary health organization committed to finding a cure for Alzheimer's and helping those affected by the disease. Having awarded more than \$100 million in research grants, the Association ranks as the top private funder of research into the causes, treatments, prevention, and cure of Alzheimer's disease. The Association also provides education and support for people diagnosed with the condition, their families, and caregivers.

My second choice ...

*The Oo Family*

My second donation was to a family in Myanmar that I met years ago. The Oo family invited a friend and I into their home to spend Christmas. On an ongoing basis I try to help this family by funding medical care and education. The Oo family has four children who are all in elementary school and I hope to ensure that each of these children receive's a high school education.

- Trevor L. Torzsas



*Verla Moore and Michael Martin*



*Trevor Torzsas and Kathy Cheng*

## VI. Education and Learning

### *Regis College*

I had the pleasure of accepting a generous contribution to Regis College. It was passed along to me through Brendan Flynn, with the accompanying description of your holiday gift-giving. I write to thank you personally and to congratulate you and all in the company for a splendid idea. We are most grateful to be included in your generosity. Regis College is the small Jesuit Grade faculty of theology at the University of Toronto. We have been the Jesuit seminary in English speaking Canada for over seventy years, more recently combining in the federation of theological schools known as the Toronto School of Theology. A College like ours is completely dependant on the generosity of a few good friends; our alumni(ae) are almost all ministers of the gospel, many in far-off places around the world. Unlike most educational institutions, the alums are a source of great pride for us, but not, unfortunately a lot of financial assistance. So, again, on behalf of all of us here at Regis, let me thank you for your contribution to our ministry. Be assured of a continuing place in our thoughts and prayers for yourself and all whom you serve.

- *John Allan Loftus, S.J., Ph.D on behalf of Brendan Flynn*



*Madeline and Brendan Flynn*



*Rajie Ragbeer, Simon Yep, David Clements*

### *Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto*

I donated my cheque to Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto. This is the school my children attend. Tuition fees have been unaffordable for me and I was most happy to finally be able to give something back to the school in return for the enriching and challenging learning experiences to which my children are exposed in their education at this school. All of the teachers, principal, supervisors and support staff are extremely dedicated and caring people and I am sure the BWI donation is most appreciated and will be used in the best possible way.

- *Brenda Kastner*

## VII. Children and Youth

### *Inner City Youth Alive*

The world today is focused on international issues. Often in a situation like this, we can overlook the problems facing us in our own country. Crime, drugs, violence and gangs are a growing concern in specific areas such as the inner city of Winnipeg. Much has been written regarding the gang violence and unrest amongst these inner city kids and especially those of Native Heritage. Your gift has been directed to an organization addressing this situation.

Inner City Youth Alive is the organization to which I have chosen to donate the Brendan Wood and a matching gift. Sponsored by the Mennonite Church, ICYA's mission is *"Bringing hope and a future through Christ to youth and their families in the inner city."* ICYA seeks to apply Christian principles and values by striving to change the daily lives of inner city, disenfranchised youth. The ICYA's passion is to add value to lives experiencing a serious hope deficit.

- Bruce Friesen



### *Hands of Hope for Children*

In the summer of 1999, two teachers drove to Guatemala from Newmarket, Ontario. They left the vehicle there, donating it to a dentist. That vehicle became a mobile dental clinic. One of those teachers was Sean O'Connor. He had been teaching at a school in our community for several years. I was emotional when I heard of his adventure. He believed he could make a difference and he did. I believe that all children should have a chance in life. They should not be hungry, cold or deprived of medication or schooling. Hands of Hope for Children was created upon the teachers returning from Guatemala.

Many schools in our region are helping the project. Area residents are helping by making school kits, health kits and also contributing to the vitamin campaign. I love it that children are helping children. Hands of Hope for Children is helping many children and is giving them a chance at living a healthier life. This is why I chose to give your generous donation to this local organization that I am passionate about.

- *Lise Case*



*Lise and Brian Case*



*Fredrik Nilsson*

### *Sean Lynch Memorial Trust*

This is a trust fund that has been set up for the children of an options broker at Cantor Fitzgerald in NY, who perished on Sept.11. Sean was not my primary coverage but he worked closely with my broker and picked up the line every now and then. He had two children under three years old at the time of the attack, and his wife was seven months pregnant. She now has three kids under three, with very little financial means since Sean did not have any extra insurance. The fund will be used towards their education.

*Fredrik Nilsson*

*Talents Within*

My husband and I recently had the opportunity to meet Paula Schultz, the inspirational person behind "Talents Within". This Toronto based charity helps high-risk children develop a sense of self, discouraging them from pursuing avenues harmful to both themselves and others. Talents Within does this through helping the children develop a talent whether it be in the athletic, artistic or environmental arena. The forum for these activities is a six week long summer camp, a time where high-risk kids, without the constraints of school, can easily get distracted. This charity is a young one, and our donation, was received with much gratitude.

I hope the children of this summer's camp develop the "Talent Within" which makes the right decisions so much easier to see. And once again to Brendan Wood International, thank you so much for the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves.

*- Tamara Bassilios and Juan Graham*



*Tamara Bassilios and Juan Graham*

*Christian Children's Fund of Canada*

I've sent your \$250 cheque to the Christian Children's Fund Of Canada. It's a charity which I already support by "adopting" a needy child in the Third World and supporting that child on a monthly basis.

But in this case it's a special appeal to feed/care for kids in Afghanistan. And CIDA is matching donations received before year-end fourfold! So your \$250 is actually raising \$1,250 for Afghani work at this time.

*- Alfred Wirth*



*Alfred Wirth and Alison Dyer*



*Tiffany Case and Jeff Colley*

#### *YMCA Camp Kitchikewana's Sponsorship Fund*

When given the opportunity this past Christmas to make a contribution to a valued charity, I immediately decided to forward this generous gift to YMCA Camp Kitchikewana's Sponsorship Fund. Growing up, I was lucky enough to spend 13 summers as both a camper and staff at the camp and wanted to take this opportunity to give back to the camp that provided me with so many fond memories and experiences. The Kitchi Sponsorship Fund was created to

help send children to camp whose parents may be at an economic disadvantage. Over the last number of years, donations from camp alumni, local area business and other private individuals has helped to send an average of 50 kids to Kitchi for a summer camp experience they will likely never forget. The camp is located on Beausoleil Island near Honey Harbour, Ontario. Each summer more than 600 children participate in a memorable camping experience. As a YMCA facility, Camp Kitchikewana's programs are based on the YMCA mission of developing individuals and communities in spirit, mind and body. The mission of the camp is to facilitate personal growth, challenge campers to learn about themselves and others and promote acceptance among all participants.

*- Jeff Colley*



*Omar and Fowzia Bangash*

### *Centennial Infant and Child Centre*

I want to tell you about an amazing school for handicapped children, Centennial Infant and Child Centre which will receive the generous contribution from Brendan Wood International.

The Lazarus Fund is a very apt model for this school. This is a place of resurrection. A place where those otherwise ignored or disregarded find hope and a chance to develop.

Before it was founded in 1967, children born with Downs Syndrome, cystic fibrosis, and other physical and mental disabilities were more often than not considered a family burden, rather than a special gift. They were pushed into the background, often literally and very little was done for their mental and physical development. An amazing woman, Pat Littlejohn, to whom had been born a handicapped child, had nowhere to turn and could not find assistance anywhere so she started a very special school which in the intervening years has become a beacon of hope and enlightened development.

Each school year 25 children are enrolled in a tailor made curriculum cut to fit the individual needs of each child. There are speech therapists, physiotherapists and five specially trained teachers. What makes this school really unique are the volunteers. 125 incredible people are needed each week so that each child has a dedicated person to work with them. A weekly swim program in a therapeutic pool encourages physical and muscular development.

As important, and equally as innovative, is Centennial's Infant Program, a no charge "at home" service which last year attended to the special needs of 275 newborns and babies up to two years old. The Infant Program employs public health nurses, occupational therapists and special resource teachers to help parents of children at risk of being developmentally delayed due to low birth weight, genetic and chromosomal abnormalities, neurological impairments or

other conditions. Picture yourself fresh home from the hospital with a very special child and not knowing where to turn and one of Centennial's Infant Program specialists showing up at your door.

Money is always important. Volunteers are even more important. With each child requiring a one on one relationship we can never have too many dedicated people to help these very special children. Brendan Wood International's very generous donation will be well and efficiently used.

*- Ray Brackstone*



*Ilen and Ray Brackstone*

## VIII. The Homeless and Less Fortunate

### *Kerr Street Community Services*

A vision without toil is but a dream while toil without a vision is but drudgery. A vision, however, with toil is the hope of the future. Today, hope which represents a desire with expectation for fulfillment must be nurtured by those who are most able.

To this end, BWI's unconditional funds provided were doubled and given to Kerr Street Community Services (KSCS) in Oakville, ON. KSCS provides inexpensive good food (and if truly necessary free food) to the poor, along with free clothing and small household goods to needy homemakers. Its survival is through the faith of others who believe in this mission. Today, Kerr Street Ministries supports 400 households (850+ individuals) from Oakville, Burlington, Milton and Mississauga.



*Adrian Miles and Nora Turkevics*

Through prearranged terms, this monetary gift was used to buy quality recycled wool sweaters from Mercury Accessories Inc., which is a wholesaler of sunglasses and recycled clothing. The normal cost is \$7.50 plus GST for each sweater (which has a retail value of \$15.00 on the street). However through their faith and generosity the sweaters are transacted at \$3.50 plus GST to Kerr Street Community Services. One hundred and twenty sweaters will be distributed free to those in need, thus allowing those with bruised hope to better enjoy this festive season through an act of love.

*- Bob and Mary Catherine Acheson*



*Bob and Mary Catherine Acheson*

*Carver Center*

We have chosen the Carver Center, which serves hot meals to 50-75 needy people each Saturday in cooperation with Helping Hands for the Homeless and Hungry. We support the Carver Center because it helps underprivileged families in our own "backyard." The center is in the town of Port Chester, which is located between Rye, NY and Greenwich, CT, ironically two of the most affluent communities in the United States. It is also a place where our children have volunteered to work by helping children with homework and a variety of sporting activities. As such, it is more than simply a place to which we give money.

- Brian E. Walsh



*Brian and Angela Walsh*



*Tom and Laurel Ward*



*Henry Leung and Ling Tan*

*Shepherds of Good Hope*

Once again this year I am the recipient of the generous contribution of BWI toward a charity of my choice. On behalf of the Shepherds of Good Hope, please let me thank you for assisting me to continue helping the Shepherds with their good work. By matching your donation, I am able to give \$500 this year to feed the hungry and shelter the homeless. Last year, from April to the end of October, the Shepherds of Good Hope fed thousands of people, three meals a day, in a parking lot across from their premises while renovations were underway. The renovations were badly needed, the volunteer cooks found themselves in a dangerous situation with their feet falling through rotting floor boards, with the disintegrating wiring making cooking a hazard and dangerous situation every day. The work is now finished and people can once again be served indoors.

This year the Shepherds of Good Hope have taken on a new challenge—one of finding and expanding shelter for the homeless. Their current premises are inadequate to the need in many respects. Finding appropriate space at an affordable price, and in a neighbourhood that will be accepting, has been a great challenge. This contribution will assist them in their efforts, as will all our prayers.

*-Diane Wood*

*St. Clements*

My contribution went to help create food baskets through Family Baskets at St. Clements.

*- Rob Hines*

*Second Harvest*



*Rob and Sandra Hines*

I first became aware of Second Harvest when I assisted Bonnie Stern, the renowned cooking teacher and cookbook author, in launching “Taste of Toronto,” a charitable event benefiting this charity. This year, when I reached the 50-year milestone, I asked my friends not to give presents but to contribute to a charity instead. Bonnie reminded me of Second Harvest when she donated funds in my name. Now, with my Brendan Wood International cheque in hand, I thought of Second Harvest and have forwarded my contribution to the group. Second Harvest locates and collects surplus quality perishable food that would otherwise be wasted. Food is collected from donors including hotels and restaurants, grocery and specialty retailers, bakeries, food manufacturers—and from private and business functions, TV, film and photo shoots. Food is then distributed to 121 social service agencies in Metro Toronto that assist people in crisis. Recipients range from street people, runaways, ex-offenders, refugees and women and their children feeling violence in their homes. Last year, Second Harvest distributed 3.3 million pounds of food. It is an example of a group that is directly effective, serving its constituency with a minimum of overhead.

*- Richard Rotman and Gloria Stein*



*Gloria Stein and Richard Rotman*



*Paul Wood and Pat Wood*

### *Covenant House*

We donated to the Covenant House because at the time it was very cold outside and we felt that an organization like the Covenant House that provides food and shelter for Toronto's needy was one of the best of all causes. Also, because we have kids we feel an even stronger bond for the Covenant House, as its efforts are dedicated toward kids who are in need.

*- Patrick Wood*

## **IX. International Aid**

*Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)*

This is just a note to advise that I have forwarded your cheque together with a donation from myself to Doctors Without Borders, for relief aid to Afghanistan. While normally I believe that charity begins at home, this year the need elsewhere seems especially pressing.

- *Peter K. Guselle*

The charity I chose to donate to was Medecins Sans Frontieres. This is a globally recognized and respected organization that not only prides itself on its effectiveness, but also on the lack of politics both within the organization and in its dealings with governments. They often go into areas of conflict where no one else can, or will, go. They have my respect, admiration and support.

- *Diwakar Dahal*

I chose to donate to Doctors Without Borders. This organization delivers emergency aid to victims of armed conflict, epidemics, and natural and man-made disasters, and to others who lack health care due to social or geographical isolation.

With armed conflict increasing around the world, more and more innocent people are being adversely affected. Moreover, these conflicts make it difficult, if not impossible, for proper medical care to be administered. It is my hope that this money will help less fortunate people receive the medical attention that they need.

- *Amel Kurmally*

Deborah and I decided to support Médecins Sans Frontières with the BWI cheque and with an additional contribution. We chose this charity because of the important work that they do, believing that their contribution to peace and well being is appropriate for the Christmas season. I was proud to speak on behalf of this charity at your dinner, which we thoroughly enjoyed. Thank you.

- *Deborah and Tom Tutsch*



*Maryam Alefi and Amel Kurmally*



*Rob Posthumus*

*Windows of Hope Family Relief Fund*

Being a year which will go down in history as one of the most tragic, it was difficult to decide on which organization or charity would benefit the most from a monetary contribution. In the wake of the events of September 11, 2001, I was deeply touched by the way Americans, Canadians and the rest of the world banded together to help those affected by the World Trade Center disaster. Seeing the broadcasts on T.V., reading numerous stories in the newspapers and magazines, and hearing personal accounts and experiences from that horrific day, I felt that my contribution should go in some way to help the victims in New York.

A friend of mine introduced me to an organization called "Windows of Hope". This organization was started by a few restaurant owners/chefs in New York City to help provide financial support to the families of victims who worked in the food, beverage, and hospitality businesses in the World Trade Center.

Of the many victims of the World Trade Center, this is one group of people who perhaps received a little less attention compared to that received by many of the large financial services companies which were affected in the tragedy. The compassion and energy that went into creating this organization is an inspiration for many to follow. It began with individuals in the Food Services Industry donating at least 10% of their paycheques, and as word spread many companies, athletes, celebrities and the general public jumped on board. With almost 99 percent of all funds received going directly to the families of the victims, "Windows of Hope" provides financial aid, scholarship programs and funds to these families.

*- Rob Posthumus*

This year we are forwarding your generous donation to the Windows of Hope Family Relief Fund. This fund is directly helping the families of the 125 September 11<sup>th</sup> victims who were either employees of Windows of the World or were workers in other food establishments in the World Trade Center complex. The Fund has already distributed over \$2 million to the families and has paid for three years of health care benefits for each victim's family. Such programs as grief counselling, English as a second language classes and basic financial planning have also been established. Many of these workers had limited financial resources and little or no life insurance. Their families face enormous challenges in coping with their tragedy.

*- Lynda and Rob Mather*

### *Samaritan's Purse*

Once again, the Brendan Wood International Charity Event for 2001 challenged my husband Chris and I to evaluate a number of organizations that could best make use of this donation. After interviewing them directly, to see how these funds would be used, we selected the international organization of Samaritan's Purse.



*Rajie Ragbeer and Bernia Wheaton*

This organization is led by a Board of Directors, of which Franklin Graham (son of well known evangelist, Billy Graham) is the chairman. After reviewing their financial statements, and speaking with one of their representatives, we can assure you that ninety-one cents of every dollar reaches a person in need.

While their goal is to alleviate the suffering of individuals due to war, poverty, famine, or natural disaster, Samaritan's Purse considers their primary goal to be that of reaching people with the news of God's love through His Son, Jesus Christ. Samaritan's Purse operates a number of projects, throughout the world, including Children's Projects, Disaster Relief, World Medical Mission, and Operation Christmas Child. I encourage you to look at their web site to get a full look at their areas of operation. They can be found at [www.samaritanspurse.org/home.asp](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/home.asp).

We feel that this is such a worthy and successful organization, that we decided to match the BWI donation, in an effort to further their cause.

*- Bernia and Chris Wheaton*



*Brendan and Anne Wood and Neil Beube*

*Hands of Hope*

My donation was made to the "Hands of Hope" a non-profit organization that wants to help the rural people of Guatemala improve their lives. They provide medical care and medicine to those who are sick and do not have access to health care. Most of these people lack the basic necessities of living such as clean water and food. In some areas 50% of the children die before age seven. The Hands of Hope are currently building a medical centre in the mountain village of San Rafael. A former school teacher of my children has been involved with this charity since the beginning in 1998. In the summer of that year and every summer since, he has encouraged many of us to help in any way possible as he and others travel to Guatemala to deliver supplies to the poor. Thank you to Brendan Wood International for making this donation possible.

- Sue Perkins



*Sue and Ray Perkins*



*Jack & Marion Clements, Dave Clements and Sarah Mickle*



*Rob Posthumus, Kathy Cheng and Nadine Villasin*

*Truthfulness-Compassion-Forbearance Advocacy Society (TCFAS)*

TCFAS was registered as a charity in Ontario on 13 September 2001. Its Mission is to promote and work for the protection of human rights as stipulated in the UN instruments, with an emphasis on the human rights of Falun Gong practitioners in Canada and elsewhere, and to advance human rights education to the public.

Falun Gong is a traditional Chinese cultivation based on its core principle of Truthfulness, Compassion, and Tolerance. There were over 70 million practitioners in China and more than 50 other countries. The Chinese Government has banned this practice since July 1999 due to vast popularity among Chinese citizens. Since then, thousands of children, elderly, women and men lost their schools, jobs and houses. They were sent to jails, labour camps and mental hospitals for severely physical and mental abuse. Many of them were tortured to death openly and secretly. In the past 34 months, the known cases are over 416 already. These Falun Gong practitioners have been tortured to death in police custody. The Falun Gong Practitioners death toll reported from China is up on daily basis since June 2001.

As the persecution went up recently, I felt that my mother was in great danger to live in China as a practitioner, so I decided to take her to Canada. On December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2001, I was astonished to hear my mother was arrested in Beijing, China on her way home after applying for a passport. The Chinese police officer forced her to give up her faith of believing in Truthfulness-Compassion-Tolerance, the core principle of Falun Gong, however, my mother refused. In addition, she has been on hunger strike without taking water for at least eight days. After that, she was put into Tuanhe Labour Camp for 3 months and then was moved to Xinan Women's Labor Camp - a harsh re-education jail-like center for a 18 months sentence term without even any court trial in China.

If we don't stop this kind of crime against humanity, more innocent people will die. More families will be suffering. My case is not alone. Personally I know quite a few families in Toronto are in the same boat as me.

After talking with the officers from TCFAS in Ottawa and Toronto, I decided to donate this money to them and I hope they can help me to appeal to Chinese government to release my mother and other Falun Gong practitioners who are being imprisoned in labor camps and mental disease hospitals and suffering from the brutal mistreatment for their faith in Truthfulness, Compassion, Tolerance.

- *Yang Zhendong*



*Zhendong Yang and Haoming Wu*



*Kathy Cheng, Nadia and Tarik Sakoor*

*Nelson Mandela Children's Fund*

I donated the money to the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund since I have visited South Africa and have seen the poverty first hand. There are still many problems within the country which can only be eradicated if the future generation is not only cared for but also educated. Most importantly, South Africa is a country that has an extremely high AIDS rate. Twenty five percent of the population is infected with the disease, resulting in many young children being left without parents. South Africa is a country with great potential and great resources, I felt this charity would be a strong proponent in helping establish the future generations that live there.

*- Nadia Sakoor*

***Memories.....***

***Some of our favourite stories from years past***

### *Meals on Wheels*

On a recent Saturday, my wife and I took our children to the St. Christopher House to volunteer for the “Meals on Wheels” program. We were given a tour of the facility and were struck by the tremendous effort that’s involved in this community shelter.

The program is a particularly important service for those who are not capable of leaving their homes or preparing their own food. My children were moved by the people that we met and their very obvious difficult circumstances.

My wife and I believe that this has made a lasting impression on our children and we have signed on to become regular participants in the program. We are extremely pleased to offer this donation for such a worthy cause.

- *Gerald Throop*



*Gerald Throop and Nora Turkevics*

### *Pets for the Elderly*

The Baker Medical Research Institute of Brooklyn College and many other clinical studies have concluded that pet owners had significantly reduced levels of cardiovascular disease. Female and male pet owners had lower systolic blood pressure. According to the numerous clinical studies, the relationship of care and mutual love improves real healing and health, not to mention great happiness of senior citizens.

The Pets for The Elderly is more than a lovely idea. It is genuine health care for senior citizens. Many animals, dogs and cats in particular, are simply exterminated by animal shelters or pounds simply for lack of funds or space. Pets for The Elderly connects senior citizens in need with animals that need love.

The foundation works with animal shelters and local pounds that have dogs, cats and other pets who need a home. They then contact senior citizens or other organizations to determine which elderly people need pets but can't pay the costs. When a senior says “yes” to a pet, the foundation pays the fees charged by the shelter for registration, spaying or neutering, shots, ID tag, collar, start-up food and supplies.

This foundation is joining two friends together for life, often saving two lives, a lonely senior citizen and a helpless animal.

- *Allan Diamond*

*Mitropolit Stratimirovic 1926, Yugoslavia*

This Christmas I have forwarded my donation to Mitropolit Stratimirovic 1926, located in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia. Their goal is to broaden the overall cultural level in Yugoslavia through support to its emerging artists. Yugoslavia is a very poor country and supporting its pool of talent, especially during formal studies, is low on the list of priorities. There is no state financial assistance, and the university schedule makes it very difficult to hold a part-time job.

During my student years at the University of Novi Sad, Academy of Art, several times I witnessed crucial help being provided by Dr. Bozidar Kovacek, allowing them to continue their studies. Today, some of these students are well-known both nationally and internationally as writers, musicians, actors and directors. When I noticed Prof. Kovacek's name associated with this humanitarian society, I knew that this contribution would be handled with care. This sum is a lot of money by Yugoslav standards, and I hope that it will help someone's dream become a reality.

- *Ljubomir Radovanovic*



*Ljubomir Radovanovic*

*Street Teams Society of Calgary*

In Calgary, where we reside, the past year saw a great deal of public attention focussed upon teen prostitution – both male and female. Drugs, alcohol, physical and mental abuse, broken homes, poverty, ignorance, aboriginal issues and peer exclusion at school are some of the basic issues feeding this increasingly worrying cancer in a rapidly evolving complex but economically booming environment.

Funding is required to support a safe house within the tenderloin district of the city together with appropriate staffing. Funds to support street teams of young people working with their contemporaries, the victims, to attempt to bring them an understanding of and to offer an alternative course of action to the downward spiral of their existence, are also required. The BWI cheque together with ours went to support this program.

- *N. Gary Van Nest*

*Fargo's General Store*

We are so sorry not to be able to be with you tonight. A visual picture of the party's festive hall springs to mind. The fascinating setting, the food, especially the oyster bar, the fabulous music and above all the Warm Wood Welcome. We are so honoured to be handed the opportunity of adding to someone's enjoyment this wonderful Christmas season.

Fargo's General Store, is a grocery store on Wolfe Island, a small community opposite Kingston, ON. The money will be placed on account in this store for the use of a health care worker, who is a single parent with a son in grade 8 and a daughter in grade 10. They have been experiencing considerable difficulty in making ends meet.

- *John and Diana Weatherall*

### *Activate Summer Camp*

Our donation went to Activate, a summer camp started four years ago for physically challenged children who cannot attend a regular camp. Children get one-on-one counselling and can participate in traditional camp activities such as swimming and horseback riding.

We decided to contribute to this charity because Nicolle's aunt is one of the founders and her cousin Cody (who has cerebral palsy) is a camper there.

*- Rod and Nicolle Wisco*



*Nicolle and Rod Wisco*

### *Covenant House*

I first heard about Covenant House when my children were in high school. At Christmas their high school launched a fundraiser to support Covenant House. Since many of these kids were from affluent homes, helping young people in the community who were less fortunate was a natural choice for the project.

Covenant House provides food, shelter, clothing as well as countless forms of support for those in need, The Covenant House mission statement reads: ... to serve suffering children of the street, and to protect and safeguard all children ... with absolute respect and unconditional love.

*- Larry Himmelfarb*



*Frances and Larry Himmelfarb*

## XII. The Stories of Lazarus

Excerpted from The New Jerusalem Bible

### The parable of the rich man and Lazarus

Luke 16: 19-31

<sup>19</sup>There was a rich man who used to dress in purple and fine linen and feast magnificently every day. <sup>20</sup>And at his gate, there used to lie a poor man called Lazarus, covered with sores, <sup>21</sup>who longed to fill himself with what fell from the rich man's table. Even dogs came and licked his sores. <sup>22</sup>Now it happened that the poor man died and was carried away by the angels into Abraham's embrace. The rich man also died and was buried.

<sup>23</sup>In his torment in Hades he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off with Lazarus in his embrace. <sup>24</sup>So he cried out, "Father Abraham, pity me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames."

<sup>25</sup>Abraham said, "My son, remember that during your life you had your fill of good things, just as Lazarus his fill of bad. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony. <sup>26</sup>But that is not all: between us and you a great gulf has been fixed, to prevent those who want to cross from our side to yours or from your side to ours."

<sup>27</sup>So he said, "Father, I beg you then to send Lazarus to my father's house, <sup>28</sup>since I have five brothers, to give them warning so that they do not come to this place of torment too." <sup>29</sup>Abraham said, "They have Moses and the prophets, let them listen to them."

<sup>30</sup>The rich man replied, "Ah no, father Abraham, but if someone comes to them from the dead, they will repent." <sup>31</sup>Then Abraham said to him, "If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead."

### The resurrection of Lazarus

John 11:1-49

There was a man named Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister, Martha, and he was ill. <sup>2</sup>It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. <sup>3</sup>The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' <sup>4</sup>On receiving the message, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death, but it is for God's glory so that through it the Son of God may be glorified.'

<sup>5</sup>Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup>yet when he heard that he was ill he stayed where he was for two more days <sup>7</sup>before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go back to Judaea.' <sup>8</sup>The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews were trying to stone you; are you going back there again?' <sup>9</sup>Jesus replied:

Are there not twelve hours in the day?  
No one who walks in the daytime  
stumbles,  
having the light of this world to see by;  
<sup>10</sup>anyone who walks around at night  
stumbles,  
having no light as a guide.

<sup>11</sup>He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is at rest; I am going to wake him.'

<sup>12</sup>The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is at rest he will be saved.' <sup>13</sup>Jesus was speaking of the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep'; <sup>14</sup>so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; <sup>15</sup>and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.' <sup>16</sup>Then Thomas – known as the Twin – said to the other disciples, 'Let us also go to die with him.'

<sup>17</sup>On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. <sup>18</sup>Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, <sup>19</sup>and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. <sup>20</sup>When Martha heard that Jesus was coming she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. <sup>21</sup>Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died, <sup>22</sup>but even now I know that God will grant whatever you ask of him.' <sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' <sup>24</sup>Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' <sup>25</sup>Jesus said:

I am the resurrection.  
Anyone who believes in me,  
even though that person dies, will live,  
<sup>26</sup>and whoever lives and believes in me  
will never die  
Do you believe this?

<sup>27</sup>'Yes, Lord,' she said, 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

<sup>28</sup>When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' <sup>29</sup>Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup>Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup>When the Jews who were in the house comforting Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

<sup>32</sup>Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' <sup>33</sup>At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who had come with her, Jesus was greatly distressed, and with a profound sigh he said, <sup>34</sup>'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' <sup>35</sup>Jesus wept; <sup>36</sup>and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' <sup>37</sup>But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man. Could he not have prevented this man's death?' <sup>38</sup>Sighing again, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day since he died.' <sup>40</sup>Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' <sup>41</sup>So they took the stone away. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

Father, I thank you  
for hearing my prayer.  
<sup>42</sup>I myself knew that you hear me always,  
but I speak  
for the sake of all these  
who are standing around me,  
so that they may believe  
it was you who sent me.

<sup>43</sup>When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' <sup>44</sup>The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with strips of material, and a cloth over his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

## **XI. Directory of Contacts**

*Kerr Street Community Services*  
484 Kerr St,  
Oakville, ON, L6K 3C5  
905-845-7485  
www.kerrstreetministries.com  
[pcp@bserv.com](mailto:pcp@bserv.com)



*Inner City Youth Alive*  
418 Aberdeen Ave.  
Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2P 1V7  
Phone: 582-8779  
<http://www.innercityyouthalive.org/>  
[icya@mts.net](mailto:icya@mts.net)

*Henderson Hospital, Breast Cancer Unit*  
Henderson General Hospital  
711 Concession St.  
Hamilton, Ontario  
L8V 1C3  
905.527.4322

*Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)*  
6 E. 39th St., 8th floor  
New York, NY 10016  
(212) 679-6800  
<http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/>  
[doctors@newyork.msf.org](mailto:doctors@newyork.msf.org)

*Windows Of Hope Family Relief Fund*  
c/o Bloomberg, 499 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10022  
Tel: 212-893-3710  
<http://www.windowsofhope.org/>

*Canadian Cancer Society*  
National Office  
Suite 200, 10 Alcorn Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario M4V 3B1  
phone: 416-961-7223  
<http://www.cancer.ca/english/ContactUs.asp>  
[ccs@cancer.ca](mailto:ccs@cancer.ca)

*Christian Children's Fund of Canada*  
1027 McNicoll Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario M1W 3X2  
416-495-1174  
[http://www.ccfcanda.ca/](http://www.ccfcanda.ca/sponsors@ccfcanda.ca)  
[sponsors@ccfcanda.ca](mailto:sponsors@ccfcanda.ca)



*Carver Center*  
Port Chester Carver Center  
400 Westchester Avenue  
Port Chester, New York 10573  
Phone: (914) 939 - 4464

*Shepherds of Good Hope*  
233 Murray Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 5M9  
Telephone: (613) 789-8210  
shepherdsogoodhope@mail.com

*Regis College*  
15 St Mary Street  
Toronto ON M4Y 2R5  
Canada  
(416) 922.5474  
<http://www.utoronto.ca/regis>

*Talents Within*  
50 Quebec Avenue  
Toronto, ON  
M6P 4B4  
(416) 604-4161

*Meagan's Walk*  
[brain.child@sickkids.ca](mailto:brain.child@sickkids.ca)

*The Kidney Foundation of Canada*  
700-15 Gervais Dr.  
Toronto, ON  
M3C 1Y8  
Tel.: (416) 445-0373  
<http://www.kidney.ca/>  
[www.kidneycob.on.ca](http://www.kidneycob.on.ca)

*Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto*  
Danilack Education Centre  
6100 Leslie Street  
Willowdale, ON  
M2H 3J1  
(416) 494-7666

*Samaritan's Purse*  
Suite 102, 2816 11 Street NE  
Calgary, AB T2E 7S7  
(403) 250-6565  
[http://www.samaritanspurse.org/](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/canada@samaritan.org)  
[canada@samaritan.org](mailto:canada@samaritan.org)

*Hands of Hope*  
3500 Cleveland St.,  
Hollywood, FL  
33021  
<http://www.hands-of-hope.com>  
[info@Hands-of-Hope.com](mailto:info@Hands-of-Hope.com)

*Nelson Mandela Children's Fund (CANADA)*  
1063 McNicoll Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario, M1W 3W6  
(416) 496-8403  
<http://www.mandela-children.ca>  
[info@mandela-children.ca](mailto:info@mandela-children.ca)

*Sean Lynch Children's Memorial Trust*  
c/o Merrill Lynch  
51 JFK Parkway, 3rd floor  
Short Hills, NJ 07078  
Attn: The Kaufman Group

*Toronto People With Aids Foundation*  
399 Church Street, 2nd Floor  
Toronto, Ontario M5B 2J6  
(416) 506-1400  
<http://www.pwatoronto.org>  
[info@pwatoronto.org](mailto:info@pwatoronto.org)

*Second Harvest*  
1450 Lodestar Road, Unit 18  
Toronto, Ontario, M3J 3C1  
416-408-2594  
<http://www.secondharvest.ca/>  
[email@secondharvest.ca](mailto:email@secondharvest.ca)

*YMCA CAMP KITCHIKEWANA*  
P.O. Box 488, 560 Little Lake Park Road  
Midland Ontario  
L4R 4L3  
<http://www.kitchi.com>  
[camp@kitchi.com](mailto:camp@kitchi.com)

*Halton Recovery House*  
General Delivery,  
Hornby, Ontario, L0P 1E0  
(905) 878-1120  
<http://webhome.idirect.com/~hrh>  
[hrh@idirect.com](mailto:hrh@idirect.com)



*Covenant House Toronto*  
20 Gerrard Street East  
Toronto, Ontario M5B 2P3  
<http://www.covenanthouse.on.ca>

*Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides*  
P.O. Box 907  
Oakville, Ontario  
L6J 5E8  
(905) 842-2891  
<http://www.dogguides.com>

*Alzheimer Society of Canada*  
20 Eglinton Ave. W., Ste. 1200  
Toronto, ON  
M4R 1K8  
(416) 488-8772  
[www.alzheimer.ca](http://www.alzheimer.ca)  
[info@alzheimer.ca](mailto:info@alzheimer.ca)

*Centennial Infant and Child Centre*  
1580 Yonge Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4T 1Z8  
(416) 935-0200  
[cicc@cicc.on.ca](mailto:cicc@cicc.on.ca)

*Canadian Cancer Society*  
National Office  
Suite 200, 10 Alcorn Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario M4V 3B1  
phone: 416-961-7223  
<http://www.cancer.ca/english/ContactUs.asp>  
[ccs@cancer.ca](mailto:ccs@cancer.ca)

*Hands Of Hope For Children*  
140 Revell Rd.  
Newmarket, Ontario  
L3X 1S8  
905-895-2118  
<http://www.handsofhopeforchildren.org/>

*Salvation Army*  
2 Overlea Boulevard  
Toronto, ON M4H 1P4  
Tel: (416) 425-2111  
[www.salvationarmy.ca](http://www.salvationarmy.ca)

