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ECHO

Moorelands

Because every kid deserves a childhood

A helping hand!

Christmas is just around the corner and everyone knows that there is just no way that Santa could fulfill the wishes of every boy and girl without the help of his trusty elves. Well, the same is true here at Moorelands. Without the assistance of our many helpers, our programs just wouldn't be as successful as they are. Our Moorelands elves share so much of their time and energy throughout the year and we would like to thank and acknowledge them.

Share and share alike.

Renny MacKinnon has been sharing her time with Moorelands for the last three years packing food hampers for our Christmas Sharing program. Renny has assembled a crew from her workplace at Loblaw Brands and together they pack over 250 food hampers in just one day! They call themselves the "Small Miracles" but we think they're being too modest with the "small" part.

Our workroom becomes a veritable beehive of activity with Pickers and Packers working in teams to sort out food and supplies. Bees were never this organized!

In a spirit that is true of so many of our Moorelands volunteers, the atmosphere created by these "miracles" is joyful and fun. There is laughter and music and each year more and more



volunteers bring their children to share in the enjoyment and experience a sense of doing something for others.

Renny's dedication is unwavering, so we asked her where her motivation comes from. Renny told us that she is part of a chain linking back to her parents' emigration to Canada from Holland in the 1950's. Her family arrived with very little and was able to get on their feet only with the help and generosity of strangers. One of these strangers asked that rather than try to thank him, the family continue to pass on the kindness to others. He told Renny's family that they were his "investment in humanity" and so her sharing continues.

Everyone at Moorelands and those who receive the food hampers would like to thank Renny and her crew for their time and spirit of sharing at this busy time of the year.

Mission most possible

Since 1912 we have worked with children and youth who live in poverty in Toronto to develop their self-esteem and life skills, and to assist them to become responsible members of the community. This is achieved through a summer wilderness experience at Moorelands Camp and year-round support in a variety of city programs.

Magnanimously Anonymous

Another one of our long-standing contributors, who has supported hundreds of children to attend Moorelands Camp, summed up his reasons for staying involved with Moorelands as follows:

"The most pleasure that you can get in life is in knowing that you have been able to make someone else better because of something that you have done. The things that I do for Moorelands are not from a wish to be thanked or even for a sense of reward. I believe that if even one child has changed for the better then my contribution has been worth while. Our job as a community is to help build better people".

Anonymous

We couldn't agree more. And while we know that none of our hundreds of volunteers expect thanks for their efforts, we would still like to acknowledge every member of our Moorelands family and thank them for making a difference to the lives of people in need.



Bundles to share

The members of the St. James Cathedral, York Group Anglican Church Women have been sharing their care and concern for babies and women living in poverty by holding a huge baby shower every spring for the Moorelands Baby Bundles program. These dedicated women spend all year knitting clothes and blankets and gathering money and baby items to help give new babies and moms a decent start.

We spoke with Jane Jeffrey, a member of the group, and asked her about her involvement in the program. Jane told us that she's helped organize the baby showers for more than ten years because she recognizes that she has had a privileged life and that there are so many who are less privileged. Jane feels that the baby showers are her way of helping in a "tiny way". Well, Jane we've got news for you. There is no such thing as a "tiny way". Every person who shares their time or expertise strengthens the whole Moorelands community and the lives of the families it serves.

The Snowball

I made myself a snowball,
As perfect as could be,
I thought I'd keep it as a pet,
And let it sleep with me.

I made it some pajamas,
And a pillow for its head,
Then last night it ran away,
But first - it wet the bed!



Sharing a laugh!

Have you ever noticed
how infectious a child's laughter is?

One minute you're distracted by the rigors of everyday, the next you are laughing too.

When you work with children as we do at Moorelands, be it at camp or in our city programs, the reward for many of us is the hope our kids represent and the joy they so freely share. We'd like to thank the children for the gifts they share with us so readily every day, the gifts of love and caring and that priceless infectious laughter.



The Annual General Meeting

Come join us at our A.G.M. as we celebrate another successful year at Moorelands.

Everyone is welcome.

Date:

Thursday,
February 26, 2004

Time:

Reception 5:30 p.m.
Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Location:

'Upstairs At Loblaws',
that's the third floor in
the community room.
10 Lower Jarvis Street.
(Queens Quay and
Jarvis Street).
*(there is plenty
of parking)*

**For more information
and to RSVP call us at:
416.466.9987
ext. 300**

Sharing the wealth

The Moorelands City Programs have had a real boost from Dave Williams, a former board member whose generosity and attitude has made a genuine impact. Dave has shared his time with Moorelands for many years in many capacities. Not least of all as a financial planner and process guru.

Last year Dave heard that we were having a hard time coming up with appropriate Christmas gifts for youth aged 12 and up. (Anyone with teenagers on their Christmas list knows how challenging this can be!) Dave came to our rescue by purchasing several hundred copies of a book called *7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*. Boy, was that a hit! It proved to be so successful with teens that it has been incorporated in our leadership programs.

Dave recognized that kids didn't really need another CD (although it's usually at the top of the wish list). What they did need were tools to help them cope with the many challenges they face in trying to establish their own identity. The book looks at problems facing teens objectively and offers real solutions and sage advice. "I could have used it myself", Dave says.

Dave's philosophy and approach to Moorelands is simple. In his own words he says that "we should treat each other as if we truly are brothers and sisters and give something back to each other. We all have gifts that have been given to us to share. Some of us have money, talent, expertise, but we have all been given these gifts not to distinguish ourselves from each other but to help bolster each other".

Dave's involvement with Moorelands helps us financially of course, but we also benefit greatly from his wealth of experience and expertise too.

**Those who share
so generously.**

Supervising Elves

Terry Couttie
President

Shiraz Bharmal
*Vice-President &
Secretary*

Laura Bowes

Bill Barnett

Michie Garland

Louise Greig

Barbara King Rea

Sam Levene

Lorna McKay

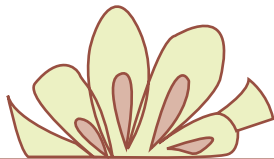
Margaret Robbins

Robert Ross

Peter Seybold

Brigitte Shim

David Young



Give a Special Christmas Gift

Make a donation to
Moorelands in the
name of the people
you care about.

Gift announcements
will be sent to your
friends and family.

A tax receipt will
be sent to you.

**Return the enclosed
donor card by
December 12th.**

Caring Is Sharing!

Christmas is just around the corner and Santa needs extra help this year to get things off the ground. We need volunteer helpers to meet our deadlines and make Christmas extra special for some extra special families. If you and your family would like to help out between November 24th and December 19th, get on the blower and give Nellie (Head Elf) a call at 416.466.9987 x 310. Nellie will be able to give you details and tell you where your help would be appreciated the most.

**Here are just a few other ways
in which you can share in the
Christmas spirit.**

Goodies

Bring unwrapped non-perishable gifts, toys, electronics etc, to Moorelands Community Services, 250 Merton St., Ste. 501 Toronto ON M4S 1B1 no later than December 5th.

Adopt a family

...and go on a magnificent shopping spree on their behalf. Help meet the wishes of a particular family and make this holiday a special time they will never forget. You'll receive the first names, ages, and interests of the children of the family you adopt.

Donate

The children who receive your thoughtful gifts are 0-16 years of age and are always grateful for new items such as toys, dolls, games, gifts, journals, slippers, candy, sports equipment, non-perishable food items, and Christmas wrapping. This year we have more young people 11 to 14 years of age than ever before!

Please note that we no longer provide clothing in our Christmas Hampers except for gloves and mittens, hats/headbands, scarves, and socks. In our new location, we simply do not have the space to sort and store the quantity of clothing we need for the program.

Make a financial contribution

It costs about \$360 to fill a Christmas hamper for a family of four. This year we hope to fill more than 200 hampers. All contributions are welcome and official receipts for income tax purposes will be issued.

Give a Special Christmas Gift

(See details at left)

Thank you!



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