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May Your Holiday Season be filled with joy and may you be surrounded by the warmth of family and good friends !

EAST NEWS

The Early Riser

President Brian's Christmas Wish

Brian Martin

December is Family Month in the Rotary calendar. It is also the time when we celebrate family as the festive season provides us the opportunity to get together with our loved ones. Whether it is sharing in long held family traditions, reminiscing about old times or creating new memories, Christmas is a time of joy. To steal a line from RI President Bill Boyd: **“Family is what makes a place home. Family is what’s really important in life. Rotary is an organization of people who care — about their homes, their communities, and each other. And caring is what family is all about.”**

As Rotarians, all of us are working toward the same goals of better communities and a better world. We all know that we accomplish more when we have the support of each other and our families. And we can be very proud of our accomplishments over the past six months; A tremendously successful Wheels and Deals; the Read-A-Long Program has been growing in leaps and bounds and is blossoming into a truly district wide initiative; the Adopt-A-School Project is providing vital support to the students, families and teachers of Bishop Abraham ; The Christmas Hamper project has started with a bang and will also bring the joy of Christmas to a number of needy

families; Through our Foundation, we will be sponsoring two international projects to the tune of approximately \$15,000 and have distributed almost \$85,000 dollars to local charities.

As we approach the Christmas season and the mid point of this Rotary year, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to extend our sincere gratitude to our members and their families for their efforts in helping to make a difference to so many of the less fortunate in our community and beyond.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.



Our Exchange Student, Melanie Moxhet, in the Santa Parade



Jeff Peddle... Businessperson Volunteer of the Year!

Gary Lane

Congratulations to Club member Jeff Peddle who was named the St. John's Board of Trade Businessperson Volunteer of the Year. Jeff was recognized for his tremendous contributions including the creation of the Rotary Read-a-Long program and his active (and we mean ACTIVE) involvement with Meals on Wheels, Crimestoppers, NOIA, St. John's Board of Trade, the St. John Ambulance Dog Therapy program, Candle Lighters Association, Cops for Cancer, Junior Achievement, and raising donation for Christmas hampers. We suspect there are many other groups that have felt the "touch" of this man who takes our motto "Service Above Self" to a whole new level. I'm certain that Jeff's motto is "We can do this!"

Remember the Family Breakfast!

Terry Reardon

Our annual **FAMILY DAY** is scheduled for Friday Dec 29th, 8:45 am for a 9:00am start and it's at the **Cabot Club**. The breakfast will be the regular price for members and adult guests; \$10.99 for kids. (Infants are free).

If you're planning to attend, please let **Terry Reardon** know as soon as possible since we're putting loot bags together for the kids. We have a magician booked, so it should be fun for kids of all ages.

A Small Gesture With a Big Impact

Jill Osmond – November 27

Just wanted to share a nice Rotary feel good that took place recently.

I had a large corporate gig at the Convention Centre for Petro Canada this past Friday afternoon. Well, after noticing that about 70 people hadn't showed of the 400, I approached one of the top execs and asked if I could donate the leftover meals to the Iris Kirby House on their behalf. He was very humbled to say the least - so the Delta packed up 70 hot prime rib meals with all the fixings and I loaded up my van and drove to Iris Kirby House. When I got there and spoke to one of the ladies - I thought she was going to cry - she was a little overwhelmed to say the least when all the food starting coming in. Anyhow, when I returned to the Petro Canada function and found the contact - he was deeply moved.

It might have been a small gesture to such a large company like Petro Canada - but he was deeply moved - and so was I.

Santa Lives in Reconditioned Cars

Jeff Peddle

Hats off to Glenn Hickey who again this year donated a Saturn car to a single mother with 3 kids. He gave everything from the gifts, tires, Insurance and most of all peace of mind that she now has a dependable car. That's good for at least 5 make-ups. *(and a real good feeling in your heart - editor)*

Christmas Hamper Project A Huge Success

Brian Martin

On Tuesday evening of this week, Rotarians and their Families along with the staff at Bishop Abraham gathered at the school to pack hampers. Wednesday was delivery day and it provided those involved the opportunity to meet the recipients. I for one was deeply moved by the experience and the project once again demonstrated the good work we are doing. Thanks to Miriam MacLeod, Terry, Liam and Alanna Reardon, Dave, Andrew and Michelle Taylor, Jill Osmond, Tara Power, Bonnie Thompson and Margaret Butt. And a big thank you to all who contributed financially towards this great project.