



SPRING 2020

Rossbrook



House Circle



"No child who does not want to be alone, should ever have to be" -Sister Geraldine MacNamara

COVID-19 APPEAL

We are living through a time that is especially tough on those living in poverty, those who are homeless and the most vulnerable.

Our response? We will keep our **doors open** at Rossbrook House as we focus on the basics of shelter, food, and a safe place to go when so many doors are now closed. At the same time, we will balance our need to keep the children and youth, as well as our staff and community, safe.

Many have asked what they can do to help out in times like this. We deeply appreciate those who have already sent their support. You too can make a donation online by clicking **Donate** on rossbrookhouse.ca. Or send a cheque payable to the Rossbrook House Foundation using the enclosed reply card.

Recently many supporters expressed concern when they heard that the City of Winnipeg cut funding to Rossbrook House by \$25,000. Now the COVID-19 Pandemic has compounded the need and the challenge to serve children and youth in our community.

It is second nature for the Rossbrook staff to keep the doors open and this is made possible because of your concern and generosity. We will flatten the curve of this pandemic together and move out of isolation, as we continue to live in hope that: *"no child who does not want to be alone, should ever have to be."*

Take care and stay connected through our shared humanity!

Phil Chiappetta



The annual Rossbrook House Pow Wow scheduled for May has been canceled. **We look forward to sharing this amazing event with you again in the future!**

COVID-19 is an ever-evolving situation, please visit rossbrookhouse.ca for up-to-date information on Rossbrook's response to keeping participants and staff safe.

If you'd rather receive the newsletter via Email only, please subscribe using the button on rossbrookhouse.ca

FROM THE FOUNDATION

Thank you to all who came out to support Rossbrook House Foundation at the *Paint Night* event in January and painted this winter scene. It was a fun evening with many of the guests painting for the first time.

The Foundation's other fundraising endeavours have included a Ladies' Lunch (November) and Giving Tuesday and an upcoming Men's Lunch in September. A **No Child Alone dinner** is being planned for early next year. More details will be provided soon.

The Rossbrook House Foundation recently appointed **Phil Chiappetta** as its Executive Director. Phil takes on this role alongside his duties as ED of Rossbrook House.

May is Leave a Legacy™ Month. Consider making a planned gift to Rossbrook House. For more information, visit rossbrookhouse.ca/foundation/planned-giving



MAKING SCIENCE FUN!



Four times a year, for the past two years, children from Rossbrook House have been participating in a special after-school program at the RBC Youth BIO Lab Jeunesse at the St. Boniface Hospital Albrechtsen Research Centre. The Youth BIO Lab is a unique learning experience, designed as a space for students and teachers in grades 5-12 to explore and experience real biomedical science in a world-class research centre.

Shona Connelly and Karen Fowler (Donor Relations, St Boniface Hospital Foundation) were only too happy to reach out to a donor to help to create this experience for the Rossbrook participants.

"The children are learning something and it's our pleasure to work with our donor, Bingo Palace and help provide that learning experience for them," said Vince Barletta, President & CEO of St. Boniface Hospital Foundation.

Steve Jones (Director, RBC Youth BIO Lab) and Meghan Kynoch (Program Coordinator, RBC Youth BIO Lab) are used to creating programs that are unique to each school group. Providing a program for these 6-11 year olds wasn't difficult for them. The children have hands-on learning, using equipment like microscopes, related to medical research and science.

"Each time they do something different. Last Halloween they looked at skeletons. They've also dissected the heart to learn more about heart cells. One activity each child got a baseball cap to draw the brain onto it," Shona explained.

They have also learned about the lungs, cells and to treat organs with respect. Steve advises the children to resist the urge to say "ew" or "gross". Instead he tells them to say; "Oh that's very interesting."

"You hear a lot of 'oh that's interesting' in the room during a session," Karen said.

Everyone is thrilled with how these visits have gone - from the organizers to the children themselves. The donor, other foundation staff... anyone who drops in to visit can see how much the children enjoy this type of learning.

"The kids are interested, they're inquisitive," Karen said. "During the couple of hours they are with us they are an enthusiastic group."

"Chocolate milk is always a favourite," Karen added. The kids start off the evening with a meal provided by Sorrento's on Ellice.

We are practicing social distancing and not going on outings at this time. We look forward to future visits to the RBC Youth BIO Lab again in the future.



Rossbrook House stayed true to its mission that *no child who does not want to be alone should ever have to be* as we keep our doors open, 24 hours, during the province-wide school closures.

THANK YOU to all of our supporters who reached out with encouraging messages and donations. Our hearts are full.



Participants enjoyed the **4th annual Cold City, Warm Hearts event** with our friends from IRCOM at **FortWhyte Alive!** The gleeful squeals bounced off the trees as the children played outdoors for the evening. Thank you to **Pizza Pizza** for providing the meal.



The children and youth celebrated winter during the annual **Winter Games**. It's a week filled with competition, games and sports. The highlight for the Energy Plus participants is the **blanket toss**.



The **Sons and Daughters of Italy, Garibaldi Lodge**, hosted a **Christmas Eve Feast** at Rossbrook House. Thank you to all of their wonderful and generous volunteers for providing a delicious meal, gifts and hospitality to our community.

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