

EDMONTON GALA BREAKS RECORD

While the final figure isn't yet confirmed, this year's Edmonton Pond Blue Goose Charity Gala exceeded previous years' totals and easily surpassed our fundraising goal for this year. The April 27th event was the 4th annual gala held by the Edmonton Pond at the Edmonton Marriott at River Cree Resort.

In 1999 the Edmonton Pond held its first, of what would become an annual, charity luncheon. In 2010 the format was changed to an evening gala. Previous to this year's event, the lunches and galas had raised over \$130,000 for various charities.



The charity chosen as the beneficiary of this year's gala is [YOUCAN Youth Services](#). The goal for the gala was to raise \$33,000 to purchase a Jeep to be used by YOUCAN Relentless Youth Workers in their work with at-risk youth in Edmonton. The Relentless Youth Workers at YOUCAN Youth Services use Jeeps to support and engage youth with transportation to meetings and appointments required to remove them from harm's way and maintain a healthy life style. Each year one vehicle can support up to 200 at-risk youth.

A non-profit charitable organization, YOUCAN Youth Services is dedicated to empowering youth so they have the knowledge, support and

skills to remove themselves from harm's way. They assist young people in transitioning into employment or back into education, reducing youth violence and participating actively in youth issues.



YOUCAN Executive Director Kyle Dubé outlined the work they do and explained why a Jeep is so important to their operations. He then turned the mike over to one of their many successes. Lenore J. shared her very personal story of an early life of abuse, foster homes, homelessness, and alcohol addiction that has been turned around by YOUCAN to the point where she is now employed and is working on setting up her own business.



The Edmonton Pond received tremendous support from the insurance community through Platinum Sponsorships and donated auction items. Renowned artist Lewis Lavoie created a painting during the evening which was then auctioned off. CTV's Graham Neil was the evening's MC.

Summing up the event, Committee Chair Chris Miller stated: "This year's gala was a tremendous success. Thanks to the generosity of the insurance community we succeeded in



raising enough funds to purchase a Jeep for YOUCAN Youth Services. This Jeep is not simply a vehicle to drive around city streets, it is a vehicle by which YOUCAN's Relentless Youth Workers hope to change the lives of at-risk youth in Edmonton through engagement, positive influence, life skills, and lasting change. The Gala Committee would like to acknowledge and thank all attendees, donors, and sponsors for their generous support."



Gala Photos can be viewed on our website:

www.edmontonpond.com/gallery