Grand Nest Charity Report – SLC Convention (July 23-27, 2014)

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The Grand Nest Charity Committee for 2013-2014 is as follows:

Grand Nest Advisor: Linda Meik, Grand Guardian of the Nest

Edmonton Pond Committee members:

Neil Miller

Keegan McLennan

Cheryl Gardiner

Edmonton Pond at the Quebec Grand Nest Convention was the winner of the Gordon Crowther Charity Award.

In December, I highlighted to the committee what had occurred in the previous year with collecting data on our charitable endeavors. I noted, that not every Pond responds on what they do for charity, so obtaining a complete picture of what we as a collective organization do is a challenge. I also noted that this is truly our greatest success story and that we need to look at ways to capitalize on this success.

In response to my note, Neil Miller sent the following message:

“I think the more we can publicize the good work of the Order the higher our profile becomes both in the minds of our ganders as well as non-members.  So I commend your efforts in trying to publicize this more.

One question that comes to mind is, are the non-reporting ponds active ponds?  Were they "non-reporting" as they had nothing to report or did they just not get around to reporting?  Perhaps this is something the DMLGG's can take a more active role in investigating.  There is a deadline for submitting the report.  Maybe once the deadline has passed a message should go the DMLGG for each non-reporting pond asking them to contact the pond and follow up.

Did they not report as perhaps they thought their activities weren't important enough?  Maybe they are a small pond that only donated a small amount to some organization?  If that's the case we need to get the message to them that every dollar, every activity is important.

Would it be worthwhile to send a questionnaire in the next month or so to each of the ponds that didn't report to get some insight into why they didn't report?  It's hard to really come up with ideas to address this issue without knowing why we didn't get the reports.

On the grander scale, any publicizing of all of the charitable activities our ponds are involved in can only be a good idea.  Right now that publicity is probably regional at best.  Some activities are reported on Facebook or on Linkedin but not everything is publicized.   This information not only raises our profile, as I mentioned above, but also gives other ponds some ideas as to the kind of activities they might get involved in.

One thing of which our pond has been guilty and I suspect we have lots of company, is not publicizing our activities in the news media, in particular the trade news.  For the first time ever I sent a press release about our Charity Gala last spring off to two of the Canadian trade publications and it was published.  The news release is on our website, under the "News" tab ( [www.edmontonpond.com](http://www.edmontonpond.com/) ).  We need to do more of that but it does take a little effort to write the release.

Those are some of my "off the top of my head" thoughts.  I look forward to any additional thoughts that Harvey, Keegan or Cheryl might have.

Neil”

I think Neil’s message has some key elements that we need to explore further:

1. Why is there not a report from every Pond?
2. Do we make too much of doing something BIG, that we forget it is the SMALL things that may count?
3. Should we devise a method for the small player to come together with another small player and build synergy that way?
4. How about highlighting a Region a month on the website about their charity activities?

As I review what I have been able to collect from everyone at mid-year and now at year-end, you can see not every Pond responded. I believe Grand Nest Officers must encourage their respective Ponds to shout out what they are doing…this is a huge success story for Blue Goose.

I am wondering if we should not have a representative from each Region on the Charity Committee. Still allow the winners of the award make the next selection, but somehow we need to push this story to the forefront and make the small guy feel important in their efforts.

Below is a grid of the Ponds within a Region that reported charity activity either at mid-year or year-end. What is so striking about this information is all the various charities that Blue Goose has touched. I hope the names of the organizations presented give others ideas on what they may undertake for charity.

**Canadian Region**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Pond | Charity | Dollars | Donation Items | Time |
| Edmonton | YOUCAN Youth Services, MacEwan University Insurance & Risk Management Program’s Top Student | $34,250 |  |  |
| Manitoba | Special Olympics, Manitoba Dragon Boat (CancerCare Ctr.) Shriners Hospital for Children, Christmas Cheerboard, Insurance Institute, Special Olympics | $11,050 |  |  |
| Alberta | Alberta Cancer Foundation, Brown Bagging for Calgary Kids, Animal Rescue Foundation, Calgary Food bank, an IISA program candidate, Women In Need | $4,618 |  | 16 hrs. volunteer time @ Salvation Army Toy Mountain Drive |
| Nova Scotia | Insurance Institute of Nova Scotia, Special Olympics, a Food Bank | $4,000 |  |  |
| British Columbia | Christmas Toy Drive |  | Toys – filled a van |  |
| Regina | Saskatchewan Abilities Council, Insurance Institute of Saskatchewan | $11,950 | Barb-e-que and Christmas Dinner |  |
| Saskatchewan | Saskatoon Food Bank, The Bridge on 20th, Ronald McDonald House Saskatchewan | $3,600 |  |  |
| Total |  | $69,468 |  |  |

**Western Region**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Pond | Charity | Dollars | Donation Items | Time |
| Utah | The Road Home ( homeless shelter) | $800 |  |  |
| Colorado | Toys for Tots, The Gathering Place (a domestic shelter) |  | Toys (they invited 2 marines to luncheon to pick up toys); approx. 400 lbs of non-perishable food items, used clothing, trial size hotel sample soaps & shampoos |  |
| Arizona | Salvation AZ Ponderosa Children’s Camp, Sunshine Acres Children’s Home, St, Mary’s Westside Food Bank Alliance, Season For Sharing/AZ Republic, John C. Lincoln Health Foundation – Desert Mission | $5,000 (Note over the last 25 years AZ has donated $122,500 to these organizations) |  |  |
| Total |  | $5,800 |  |  |

**Eastern Region**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Pond | Charity | Dollars | Donation Items | Time |
| Penn | Big Brothers Big Sisters | $2,000 |  |  |
| New York | Wounded Warrior Project, St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital, 1/Cpl R. J. Slattery Det 206 MCL, Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund, A Day for Dez, WTC Memorial Fund | $8,600 |  |  |
| Westchester | Rosary Hill (Hospice patient ctr.) |  | Provided a Holiday part with food and entertainment. |  |
| Hartford | Feeding Empty Little Tummies, A Kid’s Place of Tampa Bay, Prudence Crandall Center, Immaculate Conception Shelter, Autism Services & Resources Connecticut, The Arthur C. Luf Children’s Burn Camp, Salvation Army, Doreen Nylund Fund, Special Olympics of CT, Donate Life Connecticut, Treasured Time, North Haven Food Pantry, Comprehensive Community Action Program, Ronald McDonald House of CT, Operation Stand Down Rhode Island, Carolyn’s Place, Pond Scholarships | $20,100 | Women & children’s clothing, men’s clothing, toys, nonperishable food, personal care items, baby clothes & supplies |  |
| National Capital | House of Ruth, Children’s National Medical Center, DC Firefighters Burn Foundation, A Day for Dez, The Friends of Quite Waters – Garrett White Foundation, Red Cross | $21,230 | Toys for the Children’s Hospital |  |
| Total |  | $51,930 |  |  |

**Southern Region**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Pond | Charity | Dollars | Donation Items | Time |
| Alabama | Women’s Shelter |  | Clothing, toiletries & cell phones |  |
| Florida | A Kid’s Place of Tampa Bay | $50 | Shampoo, cold & flu medicine, trash bags, toothpaste and tooth brushes |  |
| Kentucky |  |  |  |  |
| Louisiana | Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans | $1,500 | Nonperishable food, gifts to adopted families |  |
| Tennessee | Special Olympics of Tennessee, Salvation Army | $1,500 |  |  |
| Texas | North Texas Food Bank, Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, Feeding Empty Little Tummies | $7,437.20 | Collection of nonperishable food, books, videos & CDs for kids |  |
| Virginia | YMCA Shelter Program, Comfort Zone Camp, Edmarc Children’s Hospice, Richmond SPCA, Crime Solvers, , Boys & Girls Club, Salvation Army, Mechanicsville United Methodist Church, Faith Mission, Richmond International Airport USO Center, Foundation for Rehabilitation Equipment & Endowment, The Virginia Home, Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network, Kid’s Chance of VA, ASK-Childhood Cancer Foundation, Pilmoor Food Pantry, United Way, Kevin Edie Foundation, | $10,328.16 | Sets of sheets and pillow cases, snacks, chap stick, personnel items – travel size, individual care packages, | 5K & Fun Walk – raised $3,000 for ASK, Assisted Edmarc – Hospice for Children prepare for their 1st Bachelor & Bachelorette Charity Auction – raised $26,000 |
| Total |  | $20,815.36 |  |  |

**Central Region**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Pond | Charity | Dollars | Donation Items | Time |
| Ohio | Faith Mission, Cure Tay Sachs Foundation, “Manna Café” ( a soup kitchen), Holiday Wish Toy drive | $5,500 | toys | Members volunteer one night per month |
| Columbus | ALS/Lou Gehrig’s walk & donation, adopted 3 families @ Christmas, | $600 | Presents for families, food & money (approx.. = $1,500) |  |
| Heart of America | Camp Quality, Christmas in October, ‘Birdie for Bailey” | $7,000 = 2013 $1,500 = 2014 | Building materials & supplies | Donated/ volunteer time to rehab a house |
| Michigan | Lyman Foundation, Toys for Tots, VFW Children’s Home, Facundo Element, Women’s Shelter of SE Michigan, Humane Society, VFW Children’s Home, WKAR Talking Books, Gateway Community Services, Ferris State Univ. Scholarship, Special Olympics, God’s Kitchen, Kid’s Food basket, Crohns & Collis Foundation, Go the Distance Ministries, West Michigan Therapy Dogs, The Manna Food Project, Bountiful Harvest, Guardian Gals, Coasts for Kids, Otsego Wildlife Legacy, Graying Schools SOS Fund, Old Newsboys Goodfellow’s Fund, Capital Area Humane Society, Donation to an uninsured fire loss victim, Convention Donations, scholarships | $41,313 | 78 gift of toys | 12 hours of volunteer time |
| Total |  | $55,913 |  |  |

At the mid-year point, what has been reported to-date was approximately $87,000+ in funds collected and donated to various charitable organizations’. By year end our total reported cash donations reached a magnificent level of $203,926.36.

In 2012 -2103 from what had been reported our donation per Blue Goose member to charity was $45.00, and today I am pleased to say our 2013-2014 charitable cash donation equates to $53.09 per Blue Goose member.

Adding in the various items plus time donations we have hit a great milestone of over a Quarter of a Million dollars in value for charitable endeavors.

Note, the Grand Nest is not listed here and it is my understanding that a check for $500 is given to Special Olympics.

So where do we go for 2014-2015??? Well, here are the goals:

1. Keep up the awesome charitable endeavors.
2. Let’s have every Pond/Puddle from every Region send in a report. Remember the smallest charitable action often provides the greatest rewards. I request that every Grand Nest Officer and their DMLGGs reach out to each of the Ponds within their Region and encourage them to submit a report.
3. Every Pond to provide 3 – 5 pictures of their charitable event, with a description of how, when, where, why, who for each picture. (Please no more than 5) Let’s assemble a Charity Scrape Book!

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Meik

Grand Guardian of the Nest

Chairman of the Charity Committee