

Teresa Group In Touch

CSI, Hockey Legends and Stanley Cup a Winning Combination

The Mississauga Convention Centre was the place to be on November 30th, 2006, for the 5th Annual Toy Auction. Committee Chair, Don Cameron, waved his magic wand over the crowd of 750 Teresa Group supporters and produced the most financially successful auction since the inception of this amazing event.

Canadian recording artist Snow entertained the crowd as they mingled and bid on silent auction items prior to the delicious sit down dinner. There wasn't a dry eye in the audience when Chrissie Cameron shared her heart wrenching testimonial as to why the Cameron family is so supportive of The Teresa Group. Chrissie is living proof that miracles do happen!

Then it was on to the live auction as auctioneer extraordinaire Steve Morris and CSI actor, Robert David Hall took to the stage with a signed Rolling Stones guitar. They coaxed an amazing \$10,000 bid for this item and set the tone for what was to follow.

Next on stage was special guest Anthony E. Zuiker, creator of the popular TV series CSI Las Vegas, Miami and New York. Mr. Zuiker shared the story of his incredible rise to fame from Las Vegas bus driver to television mogul. Things really heated up as Anthony took to the floor with Steve Morris to generate bids on an expense paid trip and walk on role on CSI: NY. Talk about exciting! When all the dust had settled, Mr. Zuiker had actually given away 3 trips to CSI New York and had raised an astounding \$52,500 for The Teresa Group. >>>

Anthony Zuiker & Robert David Hall with Executive Director Karen Vance-Wallace



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Top: Anthony Zuicker working his magic on the floor
Middle: Johnnie Bower, Ron Ellis and fan with The Stanley Cup
Bottom: Teresa Group Board members and Bobby Baun



CSI, Hockey Legends and Stanley Cup a Winning Combination contd.

Then the moment that many had been waiting for - the arrival of The Stanley Cup. That's right, the real Stanley Cup complete with Johnny Bower, Ron Ellis and Bobby Baun the heroes of the 1967 Toronto Maple Leafs' cup winning team. The crowd couldn't get enough of this dynamic threesome as they posed for picture after picture and signed autographs galore.

We were delighted to see our old friend WWE Diva, Victoria at the auction. This was Victoria's fourth appearance at The Holiday Auction and she did a masterful job of promoting a live auction item of a trip to WrestleMania 23 in Detroit, Michigan.

One of NASCAR's living legends, Bobby Allison was also in attendance and one lucky person bid on a live auction item that included passes, accommodation and air fare to any 2007 NASCAR race.

Robert Miller of Studio Licensing made a special presentation to the Teresa Group on behalf of Nickelodeon. Their gift was an Executive Box at the Air Canada Centre for a group of 50 children and families to see a Raptors game in March. It included the tickets, free refreshments and gift bags for every person and was valued at over \$13,000.

In addition to the many live auction items, over 280 Silent Auction items were up for grabs. Everything from game tickets, and sports memorabilia through to diamonds, watches and trips. What a fabulous night!

Heartfelt thanks to Don Cameron, Joanne Baker, Steve Morris, the Toy Event Planning Committee members, Teresa Group volunteers and the many wonderful donors whose auction items made this event such a resounding success. Can you believe that over \$289,000 was raised in a few short hours? This will have such an incredible impact on our ability to deliver high quality programs and services to the hundreds children and families we now serve.



**“Serving Children and their families living
with or affected by HIV/AIDS”**



Hot off the Press: CSI Adventure

Laura Cochrane one of the winners of the CSI packages at the Toy Auction offers these comments –

“The overall experience was absolutely fabulous. You guys were extremely accommodating in coordinating our travel arrangements, which were somewhat complicated, and certainly required flexibility on your part. Unfortunately, we were only able to tour CSI NY (and not CSI Las Vegas, as per the auction agreement) due to film conflicts with the other two CSI properties. However, we were invited to come back to do the second tour at a mutually convenient time. All four persons in our group participated in walk-on roles (to air on CSI NY on April 18) which was a nice surprise. We were also personally introduced to lead actor Gary Sinise which was another special touch. We were scheduled to meet with Anthony E. Zuiker but his wife delivered their third baby prematurely, prohibiting him from being in LA on the days we were there. Orlin Dobreff, Executive Assistant to Zuiker, was beyond exceptional. In fact, we all have such a big crush on him. I think we’ll bid on the package again next year, if one is made available. Orlin treated us with such warmth that he is going to give people in the TV business in LA a “good” name. Orlin personally oversaw all aspects of our experience there including making recommendations for the day we were not on set.”

Striving for Excellence

The Provincial Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health at the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario recently awarded The Teresa Group a grant to evaluate its innovative Leading the Way Program. Pioneered in 1995, Leading the Way is a group therapy program offering support to children/youth affected by HIV and AIDS. For two nine week sessions a year, children in the Greater Toronto Area come together for this unique support program.

Child/youth adaptation to HIV and AIDS remains an understudied area in spite of tremendous medical breakthroughs improving the life expectancy of HIV positive people. In particular there is very little research on the impact of group therapy on this population, and sparse comparisons of the psychosocial functioning of children who are disclosed to and those who are not disclosed to.

Due to the stigma associated with HIV and AIDS, children affected by this disease are virtually an invisible population, yet clinical experience in the Leading the Way program reveals that living in a family where HIV or AIDS is present can pose a serious threat to a child/youth’s emotional, social and psychological well being. The experiences of these affected children/youth plus the invisibility of their issues places them at risk of discrimination, depression, school failure, criminal behaviour and experimentation with drugs/alcohol.

The results of the evaluation will be used to help diminish stigma and improve the ability of professionals to facilitate adaptive responses to families affected by this disease. As evaluative outcomes become available, they will be utilized by The Teresa Group staff to assess current program guidelines and inform necessary revisions to ensure the best possible outcome for children and their families who are affected by HIV and AIDS.



LEADING THE WAY TAKES TO THE GARDEN



The beginning of spring always marks the start of another Leading the Way program. Since 1995, the program has supported children and youth affected by HIV and AIDS. Throughout the years, the facilitators have found many innovative ways to work with the kids as they struggle to understand and cope with the impact of HIV and AIDS on their daily lives. Two wonderful books, a quilt, raps, masks, artwork, to name just a few things, have been produced by the groups. The results chronicle their own emotional journeys and serve as educational tools to other children and youth who perhaps do not have access to this type of support system.

During this Leading the Way series, the children and youth will work on the creation of a therapeutic garden. Thanks to the generosity of Riverdale Farm, the program has been given some land to plant in. The concepts of being connected to the earth, renewal and growth will be particularly significant to the kids who have lost a family member to AIDS.

Elaisha Stokes, a recently recruited Teresa Group volunteer, will be joining the program and lending us her expertise on gardening, farming, the environment and sustainable resources. Elaisha has a wealth of information on

the therapeutic and restorative value of plants. She will be bringing a variety of plants to the group that the kids can also take home and watch grow such as lemon balm (has properties that inhibit bacteria and viruses), lavender (commonly used in aromatherapy for its pleasant fragrance), rosemary (contains antimicrobial properties to help prevent infections and treat skin conditions), and mint (especially used to treat aches and pains).

The kids will likely be able to relate their own experiences to the characteristics and use of some of the plants that we will be working with such as the pansy – while its name brings an image of a frail, delicate flower, the pansy is actually one of the hardiest plants found in the garden and can withstand the harshest of conditions. Marigolds will be planted around the perimeter of the garden since they ward off predators and protect the contents of the garden. Dandelions, known as weeds, will be rediscovered in the form of an edible flower.

Many of the children in the Leading the Way program do not have access to gardens, or may not know how their contents can restore and heal. We look forward to getting dirty and watching the kids and the garden grow and blossom.

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Hair Magic

Below: Jake Gold, Sitara Hewitt & Steve Roy
Right: Stylists at Work



The 9th Annual Mane Event was held at 6 hair salons throughout the GTA on Sunday October 22nd, 2006. The weather outside was wet and cool, however, inside the participating salons there was sunshine and support for The Teresa Group. Canadian Idol judge, Jake Gold showed his support of the event by visiting the salons throughout the day. He was joined by local celebrity Sitara Hewitt from the Comedy Network.

Thirty stylists donated all proceeds from this day to assisting children and families served by The Teresa Group. To Solo Bace, Space Hair Craft, Hair by David, Lift Salon, Salon Escape and Now Salon, to all the stylists who donated their time and talent for this day, and to the many businesses that made this day possible, a very special Thank You!

Our special thanks go out to Steve Roy of Solo Bace for creating and organizing this event for the past nine years and to The Teresa Group volunteers for meeting/greeting the clients at the various salons.

Schwarzkopf Professional has been the lead sponsor of The Mane Event since the event's inception. Tawnya Hallman of Schwarzkopf Professional shared why they have been so involved with The Mane Event. "For

Schwarzkopf Professional, The Mane Event is a natural fit on many levels. First and foremost, the founder, Steve Roy is a dear friend of Schwarzkopf's and we were determined to support his vision right from the start.

Secondly, the day focuses on hair, celebrates the volunteerism of hairstylists and engages fashion-conscious people in supporting an important cause. For all of the above reasons, we continue to stay involved. Truth be told, the day is just as enjoyable for us as it is for the people who leave the salons with a smile on their face and a gift bag in hand. We are very proud to contribute to such an important cause and look forward to many more years of partnership with Steve and The Teresa Group".

The 2006 Mane Event was the most successful year to date as \$27,000 was raised in 6 hours!! Over \$180,000 has been generated for The Teresa Group by The Mane Event over the past nine years.

Steve Roy and the Organizing Committee are busy getting ready for the 10th Anniversary of The Mane Event to be held on Sunday October 21st. Circle this date on your calendar and plan to bring a friend to this year's Anniversary event. Remember to book your appointment early!!





Unsung Heroes

What would we do without the amazing efforts of our devoted volunteers? Whether it's being a buddy to a child or family, assisting with a special event, serving on the board or driving children to groups, you are always there with an abundance of energy and a smile on your face. The Volunteer Program was the first program established at The Teresa Group and 17 years later it is still the cornerstone of how we operate. We would like to take this opportunity to say Thank You "from the bottom of our hearts" to all of you dedicated volunteers who rise to the occasion each time we are in need of assistance.

Long time volunteer Jean Haffner offered these comments, "I volunteer with the Teresa Group because I believe the organization fills a very special need in our community and does it with such dedication, compassion and diligence. I have the greatest respect for the staff and value my association with them over the years. I enjoy helping with the Holiday event because it is such a happy occasion for all of us and packing the gift bags makes use of my ability to organize!"

To commemorate this special work being done by our volunteers, The Teresa Group hosted a special Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at the Hot House Café on April 18, during National Volunteer Week. For your continued commitment and support to The Teresa Group we Thank You!! Together we truly are making a difference in the lives of The Teresa Group's children and their families.

Oh What a Party!

The Teresa Group staff and volunteers take great pleasure in reporting that the 2006 Holiday Party for the children and their families was the "best ever" with a record number of families attending.

Amazing food, air brush tattoos for the kids, characters Barbie, Dora the Explorer, Diego the Rescue Ranger, Pablo the Penguin, Sponge Bob, TMX Elmo, Jack Sparrow and the Pirates of the Caribbean booth, fabulous music, an ice cream sundae bar, cookie decorating, picture frame creating, the list goes on and on...

What a joy to see the kids' faces as they danced the Macarena with Sponge Bob and Dora. The sparkle in their eyes as they had their pictures taken with the characters!! To celebrate the season, the highlight of The Holiday Party was at the end of the day when the children were given a bag full of gifts for the whole family!!

The Teresa Group is so grateful to the toy industry, local businesses and individuals who donated prizes, food, gifts and the fun loving characters to The Holiday Party. The children and their families truly had a "party".

Marcel Watier, Chair 2006 Holiday Party Committee and his team of seasoned volunteers did an amazing job to ensure the kids had a fun-filled afternoon. Thank you to Marcel and to the volunteers who worked behind the scenes and on-site, for their dedication and hard work to make this a memorable event.

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Postcards from Ukraine



Dobryi dem (Greetings) from Ukraine!

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, The Teresa Group is part of a team of paediatric professionals being sponsored by the Canadian Society for International Health to carry out a training project in Ukraine. Family Support Coordinator, Jennifer Kindy-McPherson is representing The Teresa Group and sends us an overview of her experience thus far.

I had an amazing opportunity to spend some time in three regions, Sevastopol, Zaporizhia, and Donetsk finishing in Kiev. The purpose of the first trip was to learn about the various NGO's, medical facilities and AIDS organizations and also gain insight to what their possible training needs were. The first of several trainings was held in Kiev in late January.

Our Ukrainian counter-parts and participants welcomed us with open arms and an eagerness to get down to business. My role was to facilitate training sessions on the psychosocial issues related to HIV/AIDS and discuss our experiences working with children and families who are living with and affected by HIV. Since Ukraine is about

20 years behind us in the fight against this disease, many children are being diagnosed with unfortunately a very grim prognosis. Children and adults are dying everyday in Ukraine. Therefore, it was necessary to arm front-line workers with as much knowledge about these issues as possible. Some of the training themes and topics were grief and loss, disclosure, stigma, isolation and discrimination, best practices, multidisciplinary approaches and how to organize and program for group therapy.

Not only was the training a success, it also formed the beginning of an incredible international partnership. I am due to return to Zaporizhia in late May to receive homework assignments that were assigned to the participants. Their assignments were to implement what was taught and then report on it for the next training. I am sure that everyone will receive an A+. It has truly been an honour to represent The Teresa Group in Ukraine. I feel that I have been forever enriched by this experience both professionally and personally.

Spasibo! (Thank-you), Jennifer.



IN MEMORIAM: DR. BEVERLEY ANTLE January 24, 1959 – November 11, 2006

It was with great sadness that The Teresa Group learned of the sudden death of Beverley Antle, a great friend and supporter of our organization.

Beverley was a leader and a visionary. Over eleven years ago when few people recognized the need for support services for children affected by HIV and AIDS, Beverley listened. She spearheaded an innovative program called 'Leading the Way', providing compassion and understanding to this underserved and often unheard group. She led The Teresa Group in the establishment of this important program and continued to be a leader in her ongoing support of the organization. 'Leading the Way' is really what Beverley did in all facets of her life.

Beverley's support included working closely with Teresa Group staff on several research projects. This work was undertaken because of her commitment to the agency and the clients and her desire to reduce the stigma and discrimination often associated with families living with HIV and AIDS.

She led the research team forward with her wisdom and knowledge, always having time to answer questions.

The Teresa Group and all of the families who knew her cherish Beverley's memory and will always be thankful for her outstanding leadership.



Kids Helping Kids

...a group of 6 young kids who care about kids affected by HIV and AIDS.

To care about Cancer, to care about family, to care about charity, poverty and racism. By picking one thing to care about you could change the world! We picked HIV and AIDS to care about. We care because worldwide AIDS related illnesses have caused more than 20 MILLION deaths and millions more people, including children are living with the disease. We know that we are so lucky to have food to eat, clothes to wear, and a family that can take care of us. Some kids don't and we feel very bad, and if everyone cared as much as us, or even if people cared a little bit more they could save millions of lives. Over the last couple of months we have been raising money towards the cause. So far we have raised over \$100 for The Teresa Group and we still aren't done. We would like to thank all the people that donated money and helped the cause!

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Deeds that Make a Difference

Often times we forget just how much of a difference simple and thoughtful acts of kindness can make in the lives of the children and families at The Teresa Group. We celebrate and thank the many unsung heroes who have helped us along the way.

Most recently we thank -

The **Leo Baeck Day School Junior kindergarten** children for the decorated winter toques for TTG kids and the hand knit winter items from the older children - The graduating grade 8 classes at **Leo Baeck** who are busily at work selling chocolate bars in aid of The Teresa Group - **Studio Fontana** for regularly donating toys, clothes and cash donations collected at their reception desk - **Nancy Cameron, Bea Almas, Helen Cameron, Mary Murray,** and **a group of ladies organized by Marjorie Monahan** who have donated beautiful hand knit/crochet hats, mitts, scarves, comforters and baby afghans - The congregation of **Manor Road United Church** who regularly donate boxes of non perishable food items for our families - The **Church of the Incarnation Anglican Women's Group** for their donation of cash and diapers - Black Tulip Administrative Services for their donation of canned goods - **Employees of HOK Canada** who spontaneously raised money for The Teresa Group with a Valentine's Day in-house collection - **Frontier College** for donating a selection of new books for children of all ages - **Ayses Dunya** and a group of musicians and dancers who raised money for The Teresa Group at a recent variety event at Sneaky Dee's.

March Break Fun!

During this year's break, on Wednesday March 14 we had a visit from Miracle Max the magician. The kids loved it. Max was wacky, crazy hilarious and the kids loved him. He had everyone laughing hysterically and everyone wanted him to return again. One of the children was intent on "figuring out his tricks..." while others simply enjoyed eating the pizza, chips and soft drinks and laughing together. One child said, "I haven't laughed so hard since I was a baby." Goodness knows we love laughter at The Teresa Group. What a great way to spend an afternoon.

The next day the kids gathered for a visit from "Mad Science". With the help of the 'mad scientist', the kids learned about creating sound effects for movies. At the end the presentation, the scientist taught the kids how to illustrate moving pictures. Each child created their own moving image. Some created an image of a basket ball player shooting hoops, while others created images of themselves doing something active like kicking a ball. One child noted that "while it is too much like school, it was great that we were all together to have fun."



NICKELODEON Scores a Slam Dunk

Thanks to an incredibly generous donation from Nickelodeon, we were able to bring 14 families, that's 50 people to a recent Toronto Raptors game. Raptors were facing the Sonics and won in over-time 120 – 119.

What a game!

Since Nickelodeon donated an executive box, the families were treated to as much food and soft drinks as they could physically consume. In addition, Nickelodeon outfitted each person with Dora and Sponge Bob paraphernalia. The children and their families were sent home with huge bags full of Dora t-shirts, Sponge Bob and Dora back packs, bedding and much more.

At last, the moment that many were waiting for , a visit from... DORA! The fans went wild. Teresa Group families had the luxury of having a private visit from Dora, Diego and Sponge Bob. The kids will never forget that! ..." One child noted, "I loved the game and I was so excited when I saw Dora come into the box. I felt like crying."

It wasn't only the kids who had fun, the parents got just as excited. One mother who attended the game with her children said, "I never get the chance to let loose. My kids keep telling me to sit down and relax. I just tell them that it is my day to have fun too." What an amazing experience for everyone! Thanks so much Nickelodeon for your ongoing support of The Teresa Group.

2007 Very Important Dates

June 20th – Annual General Meeting

Sunday October 21st – The Mane Event

Sunday November 25th – The Holiday Party

Thursday November 29th – The Toy Auction

Malaysia Bound

Over 700 early childhood leaders, practitioners, public officials, and advocates from 80 countries will gather in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for the World Forum on Early Care and Education on May 15-18. At this seventh World Forum, delegates will exchange a multitude of ideas about the quality of services for young children in diverse settings.

One of the priorities for the World Forum is the issue of HIV and AIDS and its impact on young children around the world. Prior to the start of the Forum an important two day strategy session will take place focusing on HIV/AIDS and the young child.

We are extremely pleased that Teresa Group Executive Director, Karen Vance-Wallace has been invited to be part of a team of international analysts who will capture the key ideas from the strategy session for presentation to the larger World Forum. The analysis report of the strategy session or 'Action Tank' as it being called will also be shared with the broader early childhood community, many of whom would not be able to attend the Forum.

The opportunity to collaborate with early childhood professionals from other parts of the world and share ideas and experiences working with HIV affected young children is of particular interest to The Teresa Group not only because of our own early childhood programs but also because we are in the process of planning the Envisioning the Future Symposium 2008 in Mexico City.

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