

Teresa Group InTouch

LEGENDS GALORE AT THIS YEAR'S TOY AUCTION



Top The Teresa Group Board President, Bob Lamont and Academy Award Winning actor Jon Voight
Above Hockey legend Jean Beliveau and guest

Just when you thought the Toy Auction couldn't get any better, it did. On November 29th, 2007 the Mississauga Convention Centre was buzzing with excitement as the sold-out crowd gathered to support the work of The Teresa Group. It was an evening not easily forgotten as guests had the opportunity to rub shoulders with the likes of Academy Award winning actor Jon Voight, NHL Hockey legends Jean Beliveau and Frank Mahovlich, NASCAR star Ashley Taws, the CFL's legendary quarterback, Matt Dunigan and WWE wrestler CM Punk. And oh yes, The Stanley Cup was there in all its glory.

Always the gentleman, actor Jon Voight made it his business to walk about the hall following his speech and personally thank all of the volunteers for their efforts. Comedian Gerry Dee had everyone laughing as he joked about his years as a schoolteacher. We were even lucky enough to have two of the lovely models from Deal or No Deal Canada, Kylee Evans and Lilette Wien to help us sell tickets for a chance to win a fabulous diamond tennis bracelet valued at over \$11,000.

Our wonderful auctioneer, Steve Morris did an outstanding job of coaxing some incredible bids out of the crowd. Wonderful trip and box seat packages proved very popular with the crowd, as did Nickelodeon's 6 night Florida package and KML Foods' Disney package which fetched in the \$5,000 range. Steve's best efforts came with the two MGA 'Be a Bratz Designer for a Day' packages >>>

WHAT'S INSIDE

- PAGE 1 LEGENDS GALORE AT THIS YEAR'S TOY AUCTION
- PAGE 2 SO MUCH FUN - THE HOLIDAY PARTY
- PAGE 3 MAKING A DIFFERENCE THROUGH CREATIVITY
- PAGE 3 LET'S GO RAPTORS
- PAGE 4 ACTION NOW, ACTION HOW CHILDREN'S SYMPOSIUM IN HIGH GEAR
- PAGE 5 CRITTERS GALORE
- PAGE 6 "GO THE DISTANCE" FOR THE TERESA GROUP
- PAGE 7 UKRAINIANS TORONTO BOUND!
- PAGE 8 CHATELAINE HONORS THE TERESA GROUP
- PAGE 8 TERESA GROUP BECOMES A CODE BUILDER



TOY AUCTION RAFFLE WINNERS
First Prize: Lisa Shurman
Second Prize: Ann Abbandonato
Third Prize: Michael Carnie

that included dinner with actor Jon Voight and brought in an amazing \$13,000. All told there were over 300 silent and 20 live auction items bid on, not to mention the hundreds of amazing Baker Bags for sale.

Heartfelt thanks to the 2007 Toy Auction Committee – Don Cameron, Steve Morris, Chrissie Cameron Boschart, Joanne and Jeff Baker, Robert Miller, Graham Mottrom, Janine Brisbois, Jeff Hurst, John Till, Dave Charbonneau, Dave Koteff, George Ward and Wendy Firth for planning and organizing another miracle for The Teresa Group’s children and families. We also thank the generous corporate donors who made so many auction items possible as well as the legion of dedicated volunteers who worked tirelessly on this event. It is hard to believe that on one night in November we raised over \$287,000.

Over the past six years The Toy Auction has contributed an amazing \$961,855 to support and enhance Teresa Group programs and services. Mark your calendar early for this year’s event scheduled for November 19, 2008 at the Mississauga Convention Centre.

Kylee Evans from Deal or No Deal, Lisa Shurman, Winner of The Toy Auction Raffle, Lillette Wiens from Deal or No Deal.



SOOOOO MUCH FUN

The Holiday Party Sunday November 25th, 2007

Squeals of excitement and thunderous laughter bounced out the doors of the Party Room on November 25th, 2007 when the Annual Holiday Party was held for Teresa Group children and families.

Heads were spinning from the array of activities to choose from. Games, cookie decorating, personalizing picture frames, Body Art by Tribus, out of your seat and onto the dance floor music by famous DJ Lance Romance, and a visit from Special Guests Dora, Diego, Barbie, Picachou and Shrek.

Thank you to The Teresa Group's amazing volunteers who prepared over 200 gift bags for the children and families; were buzzing between the kitchen and hall ensuring there was a vast array of dishes on the food table; and guiding the children through the crafts and games!

Heartfelt thanks to the dedicated, caring donors of gifts for The Holiday Party bags and the many restaurants and companies for their food donations to ensure The Teresa Group children enjoyed a few hours of friendship and fun in a safe, celebratory atmosphere.

THE TERESA GROUP IS GOING GREEN!
If you would prefer to receive your copy of Teresa Group In Touch via email, please visit www.teresagroup.ca and click on the newsletter link to add your email address. No email? Don't worry we will continue to send you a paper copy. Questions? Please call Wendy at 416-596-7703.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE THROUGH CREATIVITY



As a child Aliya Daniels recalls her mother and a very close personal friend being involved with a fundraiser in support of a charitable organization called The Teresa Group. Now a teenager at Branksome Hall Aliya is enrolled in The International Baccalaureate Program that requires a student to complete a Personal Project on any topic of their choice with the outcome of completing a project/fundraiser that was meaningful to them!

Fifteen year old Aliya commented, “In this project, I have two specific goals. Firstly, to raise awareness about the topic of HIV and AIDS and what the Teresa Group does to help. Secondly, to raise money for the Teresa Group and their services and programs aimed at supporting children affected by HIV and AIDS. I was familiar with the goals and objectives of the organization, and was drawn in by their focus on children. While researching, I immediately

found that the Teresa Group truly 'hears the voices of children', and knew that they were the perfect agency to raise funds for.”

Aliya has always found t-shirts to be an effective method of raising awareness and funds for a cause. With the encouragement of Teresa Group staff, Aliya set out to create a t-shirt design that would promote The Teresa Group as well as the topic of HIV and AIDS. Her plan is to sell the t-shirts with proceeds of sales donated to the agency.

What an amazing accomplishment for Aliya. The Teresa Group thanks Aliya for the time and energy committed to this project.

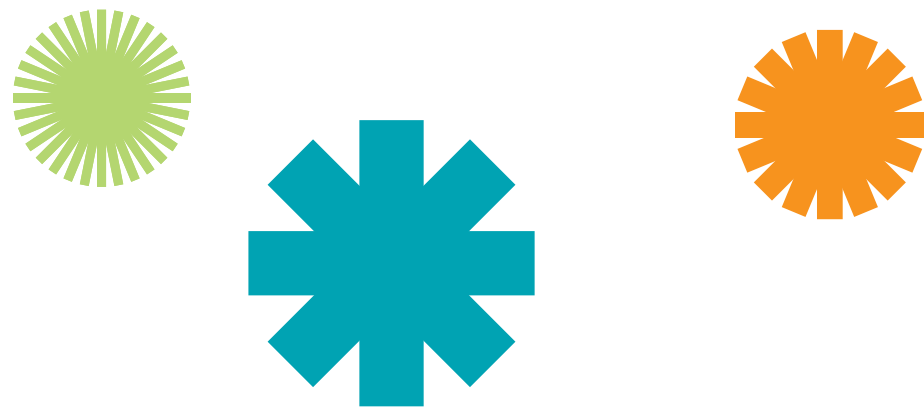
For details on how you can support Aliya’s T-shirt fundraiser please contact: Constance at volunteer.support@on.aibn.com or T: 416-596-7703.

LET'S GO RAPTORS

Thanks to the generosity of Nickelodeon on March 9th fifty kids and parents packed a private box at the Air Canada Centre to root for the Toronto Raptors. Not only was the box filled with cheering fans, homemade signs, and happy faces, there was also an abundance of delicious food and beverages (dessert included!). To top it all off, each person was given a gift bag to take home, loaded with goodies from Nickelodeon. An enthusiastic 9 year old fan said, “I love the basketball and pizza. Can we come to the next game too?” While his parent commented, “We feel like royalty sitting up here! He is going to be talking about this for weeks!”

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





Action Now, Action How Children's Symposium in High Gear

The stage is set for what promises to be an exceptional symposium on children affected by HIV and AIDS in Mexico City on August 1 and 2. Notices have gone out to over 3,000 organizations and to date over 400 people have registered to attend. This is very exciting given that there are still a number of months left before registration closes.

The symposium, jointly hosted by The Teresa Group, La Casa de la Sal and the Coalition on Children Affected by AIDS will provide a two-day forum for information sharing, collaboration and networking in order to strengthen the response to children's needs. It will bring together service providers, donors, researchers, advocates and policy leaders working within affected communities and on national, regional and global platforms. And it will increase opportunities for stronger linkages between program design and implementation, policy, research, and advocacy efforts, while never forgetting that the most effective, responsive and far-reaching interventions are led by front-line organizations in collaboration with national governments.

Meetings in Mexico City last month went a long way towards ironing out some of the logistical details with Hotel NIKKO for the meeting space as well as giving us the

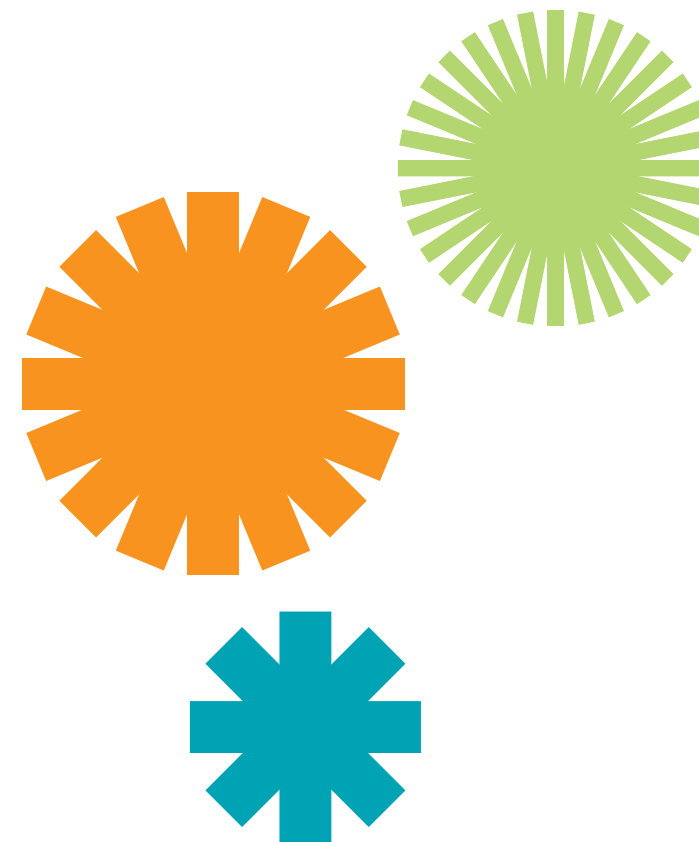
opportunity to collaborate with our partner organization, La Casa de la Sal. We are delighted to report that our scholarship fund is larger this year and will hopefully provide more opportunities for international delegates to attend from developing countries and countries in transition.

The Program Planning Committee has been working diligently to confirm speakers for the three main tracks of the symposium which are 1/ Knowledge & skills exchange:

Front-line organizations & Institutions growing stronger through evidence-based practice 2/ Models that can work right now: In-country responses that can support children & families 3/ Global cooperation to support in-country efforts: International efforts, funding & research to support in-country agendas. Over 40 plenary, sub plenary and break out sessions will take place during the 2 days of the symposium and the array of high caliber moderators and speakers is quite impressive.

We are hopeful that Margarita Zavala de Calderon, the First Lady of Mexico will be on hand to officially open the symposium. Elizabeth Mataka, the new United Nations Special Envoy on AIDS in Africa will give the keynote address followed by an inspiring plenary session in the

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



CRITTERS GALORE



afternoon with Dr. Mphu Ramatlapeng, Minister of Health & Social Welfare, Lesotho and Professor (Dr.) Sheila Tlou, former Minister of Health, Botswana. On the second day of the symposium distinguished panelists Professor Linda Richter, Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa, Dr. Jim Kim, Harvard University and Dr. Geoff Foster, Consultant, Government of Zimbabwe will discuss new evidence for action on children's wellbeing. The final speaker of the symposium will be Canada's own Stephen Lewis, past UN Special Envoy on AIDS in Africa and the current co director of AIDS-Free World.

The organizing committee was delighted to find out recently that the First Lady of Lesotho, Mrs. Mathato Mosisisli will be attending the symposium. We encourage you to visit the symposium website at www.teresagroup.ca/mexico for more information on the program or to register.

If you had stopped by The Teresa Group program room during March Break, you may have thought you had arrived at the Toronto Zoo! Sixteen kids and six adults had the chance to experience a variety of animals up close and personal, as Critter World presented animals ranging from snakes to ferrets to parrots. Not only was it an educational show, but it also provided a rare opportunity for the children to interact with unusual animals in a positive and fun way. Squeals of laughter erupted throughout the show and many fears of snakes and spiders were conquered!

Since one day full of laughter is not enough during March Break, The Teresa Group took a group of fourteen kids and six adults to see some more critters in the movie Alvin and the Chipmunks! There was excitement in the air as it was a first time movie theatre experience for many of the kids. Kids and adults alike were overtaken by laughter throughout the movie. One young movie-goer commented, “That was awesome! I laughed so hard.”



“Without HIV or AIDS, your family could have more fun. The person with HIV or AIDS might be able to do more things, like take walks, go bike riding, play sports and go on trips”.

- Quote from child affected by HIV and AIDS.



“Go The Distance” for The Teresa Group

Top Five Reasons for You To Run or Walk 5 K. in the Scotiabank Charity Challenge on Sunday September 28th, 2008!

5. Have fun
4. Get fit and enjoy the great outdoors
3. Create the work/life balance you so desperately need
2. Spend a morning with friends
1. Make a difference in the lives of The Teresa Group children

Support the Teresa Group!

The Teresa Group has been accepted into the Scotiabank Charity Challenge 5 K. Run/Walk on Sunday September 28th, 2008. We have an opportunity to not only keep our muscles limber and enjoy the great outdoors but to collect pledges in support of the Teresa Group's early childhood programs.

In families affected by HIV and AIDS, the capacity to provide the necessary stimulation for adequate cognitive and social/emotional development is often reduced due to illness and poverty. The Teresa Group provides quality pre-school programming and services to the hundred's of young children who are affected by HIV and AIDS.

The Teresa Group needs you to gather your family,

friends, coworkers and neighbors to join the Teresa Group Team of walkers/runners in downtown Toronto on Sunday September 28th, 2008 to raise much needed funding for these children's programs and services.

Your support is required to ensure these quality programs and services continue to meet the needs of The Teresa Group children. For details on the event please visit: www.torontowaterfrontmarathon.com

Click: Scotiabank Charity Challenge and see what an exciting event this will be!

Walk or run the 5 K., collect pledges and 100% of the funds go directly to The Teresa Group. Tax receipts are issued for donations over \$10.

Join The Teresa Group Team Now! Together we can make a difference in the lives of children affected by HIV and AIDS.

Please contact Constance to Register for The Teresa Group Team.

T: 416-596-7703

E: volunteer.support@on.aibn.com

W: www.teresagroup.ca

These little feet can't walk or run yet, but you can!

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

Ukrainians Toronto Bound!



Jennifer Kindy-McPherson, family support worker at The Teresa Group, has been part of The Positive Children's Project in Ukraine since September 2006. The Project teams focus is to train professionals in Ukraine in working with children who are infected and affected by HIV and AIDS.

During the week of March 10 – 14, six Ukrainian social workers, a field supervisor from The Canadian Society for International Health and a translator spent the week visiting The Teresa Group and several other AIDS service organizations including The Hospital for Sick Children. They were thrilled and appreciative to have been able to see these organizations.

The participants spent three days at The Teresa Group observing and discussing The New Mom's and the prenatal group, which was extremely beneficial for them. In previous trainings group facilitation was discussed so it was great for them to be able to see how the groups are facilitated here. Time was also spent discussing cases and planning the next training in Ukraine. Since many of these women work with children, they wanted to build a repertoire of activities and learn how to use them in a group session. After the groups were finished, it was clear that they were excited and full of

new and fresh ideas, and anxious to take their ideas back and implement and create their own programs. One of the participants said, “you have talked so much about the importance of group work – but to see it in action and to see how happy people were when they were in the groups’, shows us how important it is for us to coordinate groups.”

These six incredible women and many others are working exceptionally hard in their own organizations to meet the varying and challenging needs of the children and families they serve. Since the training began, participants have been working diligently creating and implementing new and innovative programming ideas learned from the trainings. Some have been able to coordinate New Mom's Groups, children's support groups and children's rooms.

Lots of positive feedback has been received about the study tour indicating that it was a valuable experience. Even though they enjoyed and learned a lot from the trainings, they strongly believed that seeing how The Teresa Group office runs and how groups were facilitated gave them a stronger sense of direction for their future planning. Jennifer will be returning to Ukraine in June, stay tuned for future updates.



TERESA GROUP BECOMES A CODE BUILDER



Chatelaine Honors The Teresa Group

For the past 80 years Chatelaine has sung the praises of remarkable women. To celebrate their 80th anniversary, Chatelaine has recognized Teresa Group staff member, Simone Shindler, as one of 80 'amazing Canadian women to watch'. The honour recognizes The Teresa Group as a Toronto charity offering innovative programming and supports for children and families affected by HIV and AIDS.

Save the Date

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday June 18th, 2008, 124 Merton Street, Suite 402

Fundraisers

Sunday September 28th, 2008 Scotiabank Charity Challenge 5 K. Walk/Run, Nathan Phillips Square 8:15 a.m. For details please contact Constance Nobes 416.596.7703

The Mane Event – Hair Cutting Extravaganza

Sunday October 26, 2008 For details please contact Constance Nobes 416.596.7703

The Toy Auction

Wednesday November 19th, 2008
Mississauga Convention Centre

When Imagine Canada launched its new Ethical Code this past January, The Teresa Group was eager to become involved. In 2003, The Teresa Group voluntarily signed on to the Ethical Fundraising and Financial Accountability Code. The code set out transparent management and reporting standards for handling and reporting the organization's financial affairs especially as they pertain to fundraising. But by 2006 the code was in need of a review and what emerged was a strengthened version that focused on improving clarity as well as setting out good practice for such things as face-to-face solicitations, on line fundraising, misleading or exploitative marketing, fundraising costs and cause-related marketing. Compliance and oversight of the new code will rest with Imagine Canada's board that will rely on the advice of an Accountability Reference Group and an arms length Ethical Code Committee.

In February of this year The Teresa Group's board of directors adopted the new document and in so doing became one of a select group of organizations who are being called 'Code Builders'. As an early adopter of the code, The Teresa Group will be recognized on Imagine Canada's website and other materials as a Code Builder. We will be allowed to use the Ethical Code Trustmark on our print materials and website. Use of the trustmark will demonstrate our commitment to the responsible management and accounting of the funds that donors entrust us with.

As a member of Imagine Canada and its predecessor the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy for many years, The Teresa Group knows the importance of belonging to an organization that works so diligently to put the non-profit sector on the map. Not only do non profits gain through the use of Imagine Canada's online tools, resources and networking opportunities but they also gain as a result of the large scale research and public policy engagement that is undertaken on their behalf.

Look for information on Imagine Canada's new ethical code in a special insert in a spring edition of McLeans magazine.

The Teresa Group

124 Merton Street, Suite 300, Toronto, Ontario Canada M4S 2Z2
Phone 416.596.7703 Facsimile 416.596.7910
theteresagroup@on.aibn.com www.teresagroup.ca

