

**ROSE CHARITIES CANADA**  
**CHAIR'S REPORT 2016**  
**(November 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 to October 31<sup>st</sup> 2016)**

I am very pleased to report on another successful year in the life of Rose Charities Canada.

The past year has seen events and ongoing conflicts in the world that can leave us feeling disheartened by the lack of compassion and humanitarianism.

That said, there are individuals and organizations such as Rose Charities Canada that continue to demonstrate the best in human qualities. This includes our volunteers, donors, project leaders, service recipients and all those who take the time to be involved here in Canada and on the ground overseas with a common goal of helping people in need.

In reviewing the annual reports of all the different projects, I am amazed at how much is achieved and how despite the challenges of funding from year to year the projects continue to thrive and enhance their local communities.

Some themes stand out this year including the push for scholarships to help disadvantaged students move from primary to secondary and college level training. In many cases students are learning vocational skills that will set them up for future employment.

Education is a major factor in helping people move out of poverty and increase their well being whether by learning to play a musical instrument, run a poultry keeping project or how to breastfeed. It is a crucial component of all our projects.

Construction of buildings has also been important for the projects this year including a new classroom, school dormitories, latrine, and basic housing for those people that lost their homes in earthquake and hurricane impacted areas.

In all the projects there are countless unsung heroes who may have few resources but work tirelessly for their families and their communities. In Nepal, where a remote village was devastated by the earthquake, an elderly woman made it her job to give manicures and pedicures to other elderly people whose nails she noticed were looking in very poor shape.

Haiti, one of the poorest countries in the world, suffered the devastation of Hurricane Matthew this year. A brave volunteer managed to find a way to carry money raised by RCC to a remote village in the mountains. His actions resulted in 170 families receiving rice, oil and spaghetti for a week.

There are many examples of these "unsung" heroes who selflessly respond to people in need. They are the backbone of our organization and make us all proud to belong to this community.

Here are some highlights from the projects this year:

**AFRICA**

Stand Tall Construction of a new library/classroom building; a new program with the Girls Education Challenge to build support for the education of girls; continuing successful relationship with UBC Faculty of Education with 4 students a year at the project one of whom, Tami Sandhu, won the Community Experience Award for outstanding contribution; continuing scholarship program, vocational training including animal husbandry, vegetable garden, making liquid soap and volunteering in the community desilting the local well.

Volset Continues to support 275 children in primary school at low cost; construction of a new dormitory which will house 80 girls; a latrine; introduction of poultry keeping; continued sponsorship of students

**Rose International Conference** held this year in Uganda was a great success with the involvement of the local community and our projects based there. Nicole Schouela, project leader of Stand Tall and a board member of RCC was the recipient of the Rose Charities Award for Outstanding Humanitarian Assistance for Those in Need.

**Brighter Smiles** Continued scholarship program; vocational/apprentice program including a successful used car program for students; school gardens with one school adding an entrepreneurial component making snack foods from orange sweet potatoes, a nutritional food source of Vitamin A. Malaria Project(funded through HMEF – Hillman Medical Education Fund- instruction given to teachers on how to test for malaria on all children who become sick at school. Correct treatment then given to those who test positive resulting in a drop in the number of days absent from school. A Photo Essay of this project was published in the International Journal of Epidemiology.

**Smiles** Student scholarships this year have been supported through successful fundraisers in the UK and Uganda.

Malambo St Vincent School continued scholarships, purchase of sweaters for children; running an incubator and selling baby quails and chickens; vegetable gardening projects. **Ngome Dulce** a change of structure auditioning for a smaller number of students with a guaranteed 5 years of tuition enabling students to learn the guitar, cello, piano and drums to an advanced level.

Kenya HMEF supported the Smart Moms Affair World Breastfeeding Week with focus groups of 98 women in a hospital in Kenya.

**Madagascar** Continues to support the Mahastara School in a remote area. Provides education for over 300 children.

## **CENTRAL AMERICA**

Ecuador- Uno a Uno Project In their first year 348 students were registered for classes including English programs for adults, children and young adults; a tutoring program; a summer program for children; recruiting local expats to look after administration. After just one year Uno a Uno has become a vibrant learning centre and a unique part of the community.

Guatemala Safe Motherhood Project has continued to train further “comodrones” (traditional birth attendants) in small remote towns; hands on classes to “comodrones”, paramedics, firemen and nurses. The program has been so successful that they have been asked by the Ministry of Health to go to another remote area where there are no health facilities for women in labour.

**Mayan Health and Education** Continues to support a junior high school in a remote area in the highlands of Guatemala. The project is hoping to receive funding next year from the local Mayan Association.

Costa Rica Continues to provide free classes, scholarships and job training to rural Costa Ricans who have little access to opportunities; an expanded English program in 3 schools this year; expansion of Amigos Inglos program by recruiting more volunteers – 25 students benefited from 1:1 practice; provision of computer skills to 2 communities.

Haiti Children and Youth Organized their 4<sup>th</sup> annual Soccer Camp in February before the devastation of Hurricane Matthew. 225 children from 5 communities attended 75 of whom were orphans. Children were also taught to make bracelets and necklaces as a means of income. 37 orphans were provided with a donated goat enabling them to have the finances to attend school.

**Neonatal Resuscitation Education** Another successful training given to 62 healthcare professionals by 2 pediatricians and 1 nurse educator from Canada. The team also provided 75 French language healthcare text books to 6 healthcare facilities. This education and training is crucial for the well being of babies in a country with few resources.

## **SOUTH EAST ASIA**

Cambodia Eye Hospital run by Dr Vra has been in operation since 1998 and has treated over half a million people with many thousands having had their sight restored or blindness prevented. In 2016 the Rose Clinic moved into their new premises with a new structure where paid surgeries will help to cover the cost of free services.

**HMEF(Hillman Medical Education Fund)** In addition to the Smart Moms Affair and Malaria project above HMEF has supported individual scholarships including a young woman attending nursing school; the Cambodian Physical Therapy which provides much needed physiotherapy services; Ebola preparedness project. Continues to support **Tabish in Afghanistan** which provides training to Traditional Birth Attendants in IDP camps. A proposal from Rose Charities Canada has been submitted to Grand Challenges focussing on the use of mobile cinema to encourage attitude change in men towards allowing their wives access to midwives.

Thailand A joint fundraiser evening at a local restaurant organized by RCC and CIAF raised about \$69,000 for a Princess Sirindhort project in a remote northern community of Thailand. The funds supported the construction of a school dormitory to enable children from a wide area to attend school.

Vietnam Donations enabled the purchase of a generator for Mai Hoa Aids Hospice.

**Sri Lanka** Has continued this year with its very successful social enterprise program.

## **EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

RCC has responded to devastating natural disasters in Nepal, Ecuador, Japan and Haiti.

Nepal Support to unreached people in a remote village where many homes were destroyed. Warm materials and lamps provided to 104 families. 3 houses built. Involvement of all the community in the construction including the project leader's 89 year old mother. Rutsuko Yamagishi Concert in Vancouver, a wonderful evening with a brilliant pianist donating her performance for free. Funds raised went to Japan for acupuncture and moxibustion treatments to 300 to 400 traumatized people living in shelters

and to Ecuador for food supplies organized by Uno a Uno. Haiti Donations for a remote village. Volunteers rebuilding homes and replanting seeds.

Alongside the activities of the projects the Board of Directors, our book keeper Kevin Simpson and other volunteers continue to provide unwavering support for the operational and governance side of Rose Charities Canada.

The board has worked on various governance issues including revising an Ethical Investment Policy which will meet our values as an organization. Emily McCance was approved as our Treasurer this year. A new Director- Frank Tharakan – has also joined the Board bringing a wealth of skills. A Financial Committee has been formed to be responsible for reviewing investments and other financial matters. The members include Tim Maguire, Frank Tharakan, Galib Kara and Emily McCance. At one board meeting this year we were also introduced to Joy Hayden – someone with considerable knowledge of fundraising and who has given us ideas to pursue in this area.

The Project Forum was held in February providing an opportunity to showcase the projects and hear about their wonderful work during the year.

A Business Meeting with project leaders reviewed a number of issues including the incidence of fraud, nurturing donors and promoting the work of their projects.

The Accountability Committee has continued to meet regularly throughout the year to review operational matters and develop policies and procedures. Some of the topics covered this year include succession planning, budget templates, fraud, scholarships, publicity and the use of photographic images. Members of this committee include Linda Roberts, Josie de Freitas, Annie Grut and Maggie Francis.

The work that goes on behind the scenes is crucial to the operation of Rose Charities Canada and ensures that we meet the standards of the Canadian Revenue Agency(CRA). The Board appreciates all the countless volunteer hours that people provide to keep the organization alive.

And we are also thankful for all the donors that see it in their hearts to give to our projects. We receive many notes of gratitude from the recipients in the projects for the kindness of people here in Canada.

All of us on the Board are so impressed by what is achieved in the projects and how a little goes a long way. It is, however, the individual stories that inspire us and help us truly understand the impact of the projects in peoples' lives.

A young orphan in Haiti was enabled to attend the Soccer Camp and subsequently helped to attend school. He was provided with a goat to give him some income. He started to volunteer at the Soccer Camp and developed leadership skills. He is now on the Haiti Project Committee.

His life would have been very different had he not had the opportunity provided by the Haiti project.

It is people such as this young man that are the heroes in all of this.

To conclude, all of us on the Board thank everyone for their commitment and contributions to Rose Charities Canada and its project members over the past year. We hope this will continue into the New Year and beyond.

Maggie Francis

Chair

Board of Directors

December 20, 2016