



2010 Runners Of Compassion Funding

ROC has had a busy and very successful year for handing out funds. On some levels this may not be considered a good thing but as long as there is a need in the community, we plan to be there to make sure every kid has a chance to participate in physical activity. When ROC started out, a long time ago it seems, it was very difficult to get the word out to the community and especially the teachers and administrators of SD 68 that we were here and available to help with funding. Gradually, with much persistence, we have become more and better known throughout the school system. Requests for funding from the schools have doubled each year for the past two years and it is plausible, with the economic situation and cutbacks to the schools, they could double again in 2011.

To meet the need for funds ROC has relied on membership dues, race receipts from the old Harbour Half Marathon or the Gutbuster or the Fletcher's Challenge and some generous donations and fund raising from members like the Lairds, the Richardsons and Alex from Carrot on the Run. Last year the updated ROC Cookbook was a life saver, raising over \$7000 at a time when we did not take in any money from the Fletcher's Challenge. Many members sold up to twenty cookbooks and their efforts were very much appreciated but the true champions of selling cookbooks this year were Dee and Edwin. Yes, I know the cookbooks sell themselves, however people did have to make some real sort of effort.

ROC has a number of programs to disperse funds into the community. One of the oldest is our Shoes for Youth Program and the oldest form of this program involved giving a shoe certificate for a good pair or two of runners from Frontrunners to a teacher, parent or guardian who applied on behalf of a youth/s without proper footwear to participate in school or after school activities. The guys at Frontrunners always get the right shoes for the applicant and sell us the shoes at cost. Over the years, the number of kids at school needing proper footwear has grown to the point where a teacher doesn't need one or two pairs of shoes but ten or twenty or more pairs. Then we write a check for up to \$500 for the teachers to take to a store like Wal Mart and get as many pairs of shoes as they can. The last couple of years Frontrunners have also supplied us with a \$1000 worth of shoes at a discount rate to give to the School District to hand out to needy kids that come to their attention.

ROC's Youth Access to Sports Program funds items like registration fees for sports, travel fees or equipment for young people in financial need so they can participate in school or non school sports with their peers and get a chance at a healthy lifestyle. This year we have had requests on behalf of kids with financial and even physical or mental handicaps who are just modestly trying to have a good time and exercise and also on behalf of gifted young athletes with financial need so they could participate with their peers on a national level.

The Community Food Program and School Food Program provide funds to organizations like school lunch programs or the Loaves and Fishes and Hamperville. We have done this on the grounds that there is a lot of financial hardship in the community preventing families from getting proper food and nutrition and if kids don't get proper food then they are not going to be physically active. We are ready to provide another \$1000 to Hamperville this year. Barry Roscoe from Sysco and Dan Brady from Howard Johnson have been great in acquiring bulk supplies of food such as sugar or rice for Hamperville over the past years. In truth, some of the funding to Food Programs was because we had an embarrassment of money and not enough funding requests coming in. With the rise in demand for our traditional mission of shoes and access to sports, the funding for our Food Programs will probably drop as it did this year over 2009.

ROC will be depending on every bit of money from membership dues and race receipts to cover our funding this year as we cannot depend on financial windfalls such as the Cookbook as we did in 2010. I am sure that the great character and quality of our ROC members will shine in 2011 and make it the best year yet for the club.

January:

- **\$500** to South Wellington Elementary School for teachers to buy runners for students who lack proper footwear for physical activities.
- **\$1001.32** to Hamperville for the bulk purchase of food staples such as sugar or rice to put in Christmas food hampers for financially struggling families and individuals.
- **\$1000** to Allianza to provide health care and health education to underprivileged women and children in a remote and impoverished area of Guatemala. Rebecca Shoop, a local doctor who spearheads a lot of Allianza's operations on the ground in Guatemala, is helped by the logistical and fundraising efforts of local volunteers.

March:

- **\$150** to Nanaimo-Ladysmith School Foundation for two pairs of basketball shoes to allow two kids from financially disadvantaged families in the district to participate in league basketball.
- **\$500** to Georgia Avenue Elementary School for teachers to buy runners for students who lack proper footwear for physical activities.

April:

- **\$500** to the SD 68 Mini Olympics to purchase equipment, ribbons, food, etc. for a special day of sports for mentally and physically handicapped kids.
- **\$290** to Native Gymnastics, a sports and fitness program for Native kids, for gym rental for basketball league games.
- **\$500** to LA-Shiblish a VIU development aid project to Ghana. Brooke Guthrie asked for funding to buy 10 soccer balls and some runners for kids in the area where she was working.

May:

- **\$1000** to Harewood Family of Community Schools to purchase supplies and groceries for a six week summer kid's camp in an area of Nanaimo where kids would not normally be able to afford summer camp.
- **\$500** to Rutherford Elementary School to purchase runners for students in families with financial constraints and allow them to participate in physical activities.
- **\$500** to Rock City Elementary to purchase runners for students in families with financial difficulties and allow them to participate in physical activities.
- **\$500** to Wellington and Woodlands Secondary School to cover transportation, ribbons, etc for their Spring Fling, the culmination of a month's long learn to run program for all school's students.

June:

- **\$500** to Community Support Team Youth Group, a project of the Vancouver Island Health Authority that helps youths with mental illness by providing wellness and physical activities, for the purchase of recreation passes and gym rentals.
- **\$1000** to John Barsby Secondary School for travel funds for two football players from families with financial constraints to attend the Canada Cup in Ontario.

July:

- **\$540** to the Nanaimo Canoe and Kayak Club for travel funds for two teenage rowers in single parent families with financial constraints to attend the Western Canadian Championships in Calgary with their team mates.

- \$500 to a youth from a financially constrained family to pay for Nanaimo Minor League Soccer registration.

September:

- \$500 to Fairview Community School to purchase runners and socks for students with inadequate footwear for their Daily Physical Activity Program.
- \$338.60 to cover gymnastics class registration for a young girl from a single parent family with financial constraints.

October:

- \$500 to the Spuds and Duds program for food supplies to assist in helping the homeless.
- \$500 in gift certificates to two families who suffered devastating house fires to cover groceries, clothing and household goods.

November:

- \$250 to the Cedar Family of Community Schools for basketball tournament registration fees for two young girls from families with financial barriers.
- \$500 to Forest Park Elementary to purchase runners, shorts, socks and sports equipment for students to allow everyone regardless of financial ability to participate in school physical activities.
- \$250 to Coal Tye Elementary School to purchase runners and winter clothes for four boys in a struggling single parent family.
- \$200 to Uplands Elementary School to purchase runners and winter pants for kids from two families undergoing economic hardships.

December:

- \$150 to Coal Tye Elementary School to purchase runners for students in a large family with financial constraints.

\$12,679.92

Bursaries:

- \$2000 for two \$1000 bursaries for one male and one female graduating student going onto post secondary studies and who have proved financial need.

Shoe Certificates:

- We have handed out several shoe certificates this year for shoes at Frontrunners and two more have just been approved. I don't have the exact numbers but it should be over \$400.

Total Funding for 2010 – over \$15,000