

Bolton TD branch leading the way to help SickKids

By Bill Rea

The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto has been benefitting for some years from the efforts of TD Canada Trust.

The TD branch at Regional Road 50 and McEwan Drive in Bolton has been a big part of that.

The branch has been involved in the fund-raising effort at SickKids for five years, and in that time, staff and customers there have raised almost \$130,000. This year's effort brought in more than \$36,000.

It was part of a month-long effort in June in support of the Children's Miracle Network member hospitals, of which SickKids is one. The bank branch hosted a celebration of the success recently.

'Together, with the community, we come together to help children,' Branch Manager Marisa Kennedy commented.

She added TD Canada Trust is able to make a large difference, largely thanks to the bank's customers.

'Thank you so much to each and every one of you,' she added. 'This is truly a top-notch team.'

Dufferin-Caledon MP David Tilson observed this is the top fundraising branch in Canada.

'There's so much to celebrate,' he declared, adding TD Canada Trust has been supporting this cause for 21 years, supporting children all over the country who depend on care from children's hospitals. 'Our community and country deeply appreciates your extraordinary work on behalf of children across Canada.'

Caledon Councillor Annette Groves stressed the need to thank the customers for the contributions they made to the cause.

She also said she has a personal connection with SickKids, as her son Tyler had to have hearty surgery there when he was just two days old.

'SickKids is a hospital that's really near and dear to my heart,' she remarked.

John Hartman, chief operations officer with Children's Miracle Network Canada, commented that TD Canada Trust has helped to raise more than \$66 million over the last 21 years, and \$1.7 million this year alone. And this has gone to help some 4,900 kids who rely on one of the 12 hospitals in the network.

'It's an absolutely unmeasurable impact,' he declared.

Seanna Dempsey, vice-president of corporate partnerships with the SickKids Foundation, commented the average TD Canada Trust branch sets a goal of raising \$13,000, so what's been accomplished in Bolton has been pretty impressive.

She added TD Canada Trust is the largest corporate sponsor of SickKids, meaning it's a very important part of the fabric at the hospital.

Ashley Bernier of Newmarket was on hand with her six-year-old son Hartley, a SickKids patient ambassador. Hartley has a rare disorder, Hirschsprung's disease, which causes motility issues in his bowels. It has already required him to undergo about 10 surgical procedures and receive very specialized treatment. Bernier added the team at SickKids has also trained the family to care for Hartley at home.

Local resident Meghan Zaremba was on hand as well. She was in a bad accident some years ago and left brain dead. She spent three months in SickKids and after 16 brain operations was able to recover, with the help of music, which helped rewire her brain. Her recovery was recognized recently when she was chosen to be one of the bearers of the Pan American Games Torch.

Lesly Tayles, vice-president of branch banking in the Greater Toronto region for TD Canada Trust, expressed her pride in working with people who generously give of their time and energies.

'The most important currency I find is our time,' she commented.

'It's all about kids for me,' remarked Chantelle Nicholls, district vice-president for TD Canada Trust. 'It's humans dealing with humans. That's what it's all about.'

'Because you give a little, the kids get a lot,' she added.

'This is what Caledon's all about,' Mayor Allan Thompson said. 'We've got a wonderful community with a big heart.'



This group was celebrating the fact the local TD Canada Trust branch raised \$36,500.



Ashley Bernier addressed the audience, accompanied by her six-year-old son Hartley, a SickKids patient ambassador.