



## CARING AND SHARING

St. Catharines RWTO has a long history of fundraising for charities and we continue to have this as a yearly focus. This website will begin documenting the charities that we work with from 2017.

This Year's Initiative:

[Niagara Workers Welcome](#)

We are excited to start a new charity this year. It is called Niagara Works Welcome.

Niagara Workers Welcome is a grass roots initiative in which Welcome Kits containing helpful items are assembled and distributed to farm workers when they arrive. Every year Niagara Region welcomes about 700 farm workers from other countries.

Until last year people could pick up empty bags to be filled at locations such as the library and return them filled. The group then worked with the farmers to arrange delivery times according to when workers arrive throughout the season. We will follow the direction from this group on how best to help this year.

Welcome Kits/Bags can include:

Heavy duty work gloves Thermal work socks  
Mask, small hand sanitizer New washcloth, hand towel Toothbrush

Toothpaste  
Roll of toilet paper  
Tylenol travel pack  
Chicken soup packages  
Granola bar  
Band aids

A personal welcome note is always a special touch.

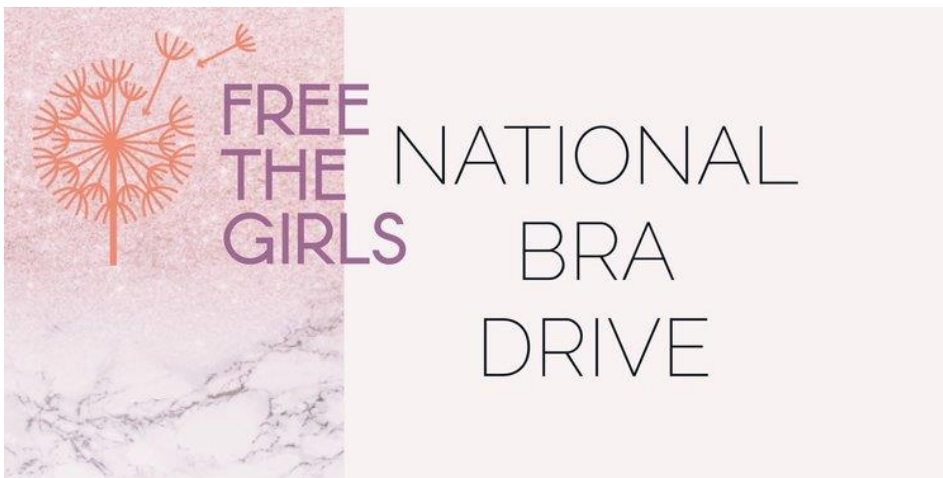
We hope to collect items and prepare the Kits/Bags. If this is not possible because of Covid protocols, we could fund raise and donate to the organization.

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From 2017-2020: Please feel free to look at all our past initiatives!

### **2017-2018**

Free the Girls Campaign: Our branch collected gently used bras to help free women in third world countries from the sex trade. This charity won our first “Feather in Our Cap” award.



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Rankin Run: A group of walkers participated in the large community fundraiser called Rankin Cancer Run.

Community Care: Our branch donates to Community Care at Christmas time with a monetary donation and also helps out with the Toy Bureau.

Arthritis Society: Members of our branch wrap presents for shoppers at the Fairview Mall and their donations go to the Arthritis Society.

## 2018-2019



Start Me Up Niagara: Susan McLaughlin and Kathleen Bradley started our Outreach Initiative by collecting items such as toiletry items from the St. Catharines members. These kits were given to Start Me Up Niagara who then distributed them to those in need. This initiative also won a Feather in Your Cap Award.

Arthritis Society: During the month of December the Arthritis Society raise funds for their cause by wrapping gifts in the shopping malls. St. Catharines RWTO participate in this fundraiser by wrapping presents for shoppers. The ladies find this a fun way to raise funds and get in the Christmas spirit.

Rankin Run: May 2019 was a very wet but successful fundraiser for Cancer research and treatment facilities in the Niagara region. Our branch raised \$5,230.



Community Care: Our members generously donated \$8000.00 to Community Care.

Habitat for Humanity: Our President, Patti Malkiewich arranged to have a lunch prepared by Eastdale S.S. students and delivered it to hard working women volunteers at WomenBuild, Habitat for Humanity Niagara.

## 2019-2020

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Community Care: A donation of \$8,000 was raised at the Christmas Luncheon for Community Care. This money goes to their Food Drive.

Toy Bureau: Members assisted with the distribution of toys for needy children in association with Community Care.

"We've Got Your Back": Susan Lewis coordinated a group of ladies to knit lap blankets and shawls as gifts for members (as identified through our Goodwill member). These shawls and lap blankets were taken to someone in need with a visit from one of our members.

Repurposing of Tote Bags from the Convention- Susan Lewis coordinated this initiative to fill tote bags from the Convention with grooming items which were distributed to Shaver hospital patients by our executives. Ladies from our branch donated these grooming items at a couple of our luncheons. This initiative was recognized with A Feather In Your Hat award in 2020. This award was very special as it was the third year in a row that our Branch won this award! Congratulations to all that made it a successful Outreach Program.

## 2020-2021

Community Care – Niagara: Past President Janis Harlos and other Executive members, Kathie Dussome and Violette Hagerty initiated a fundraiser to assist families who need help during the Thanksgiving season. Through email and phone calls the St. Catharines members were asked to donate to this worthy cause. We were pleased with the generous donations totalling over \$10,000. The Branch Executive contributed more funds to bring the total amount to \$12,000.

Soles4Souls: Linda Gaudet, Second VP informed the Executive of a new fundraising campaign called Soles4Souls which provides used shoes to those less fortunate locally and abroad.

This program distributes new shoes to underprivileged children in schools and orphanages and provides disaster relief.

Gently used shoes are placed in a micro-enterprise program, creating employment for women in developing countries and empowering them to lift themselves and their families out of poverty. This creates a sustainable hand-UP, versus a hand-out.

BioPed Footcare operates this program with an annual shoe distribution trip to Haiti. They have delivered 163,000 pairs of shoes to people in need and has kept these used shoes out of the landfill.

This year we will be asking St. Catharines RWTO member to donated gently used shoes which will be counted and then donated to BioPed Footwear.

