

Feather in Your Hat Awards - 2022

(Provincial Membership Committee)

The “**Feather in Your Hat**” Award for Branch ingenuity have been increased to include small, medium and large Branch categories this year!

Small Branch

Warton

The “**Senior Centre Without Walls**” Project gathered Community Grants to make all programs free to participants! Popular activities included; Yoga, fitness, weekly trivia, local speakers, teleconferencing, webinars, zoom contracts and power point slides - all beneficial and received in the safety of participants’ homes. Due to COVID restrictions, this project evolved into a program that reached many seniors beyond the Warton RWTO Branch in Area 1, including RTO (Retired Teachers of Ontario), District 10. The RWTO members were willing volunteers whenever needed.

Medium-Sized Branches

Brantford Branch (and Brant County) have had a long-term sponsorship of their Women’s shelter, **Nova Vita**, to help women and children in their community. COVID prevented the collection of toys and gifts this year but they were still able to have their annual **Elfin Tea Fundraiser at Glenhyrst Gardens’, The Golden Teapot**. A HEPA filter ran the whole time and the room was aired and sanitized after each of 4 sittings of 12 ladies. They all sang, “All I want for Christmas is for Covid to Go Away”! Their generous contributions were stretched even further by corporate support!

Niagara Falls

The “**United Way Back to School**” Project received \$250 and many hours of packing pencil cases with supplies for kids in their Community. Students chose their own backpacks with gift certificates. Branch President, Diane Ewen, arranged and was interviewed by 2 local newspapers - in print and online – describing the project and ending with an invitation to all retired women teachers to join RWTO!

Niagara South

The “**PJ’s and Books Donation Drive**” gave 101 pairs of PJs and many books to the Region of Niagara Social Services Department before Christmas - the most of any donating organization!!

One thank you said, “Now we are all excited for this Christmas! We never thought we’d ever have a good Christmas but you have made it better for us to be a family.”

Large Branches

Haldimand

The ongoing **“Remembrance Day Wreaths” Project** has created 5 beautiful wreaths and have plans for 2 more. Volunteer RWTO members attended local services to lay them, be recognized and honour our Canadian veterans!

Hamilton-Wentworth

“The Baby Snuggle Project” was created by the Knitting and Crocheting Interest Group who have been donating afghans to charity for years. By adding an “I Love You to the Moon and Back” illustrated board book with the blanket, 21 young mothers, through the Salvation Army’s Grace Haven enjoyed Christmas! RWTO stickers were on the inside front cover and a booklet to explain the importance of reading to babies was included. (Mothers also receive schooling and parental support at Grace Haven)

St. Catharines

The **“Niagara Workers Welcome” Project** provided 500 farmworkers from the Caribbean and Mexico with “Welcome Kits” including personal and work wear from organized clothing drives, picnics and concerts! They distributed 75 Welcome Bags including masks, sanitizer, granola bars, soups, bandaids, toothpaste and brushes etc.

They also gave \$11,00. To the local “Community Care” at Christmas.