



Annual Corporate Golf Tournament June 15, 2010

Take Us to A Million!

It was twenty years ago that I became aware that foster children in Ontario, who had turned 18 years old were no longer eligible for support from the Provincial government. These young teenagers had no source of support – in many cases the foster family did not have the financial capacity to help and the government was not listening or funding. Today, the situation remains unchanged.

These teenagers are still left out in the cold. They lose the last support mechanism they have and some wind up losing their way. In many cases, these young people have the talent but no resources to pursue their educational goals. This is a travesty of great proportions. Imagine your own teenaged son or daughter not being able to pursue a post-secondary education. How could we as a society let our future and the future of our children be burdened by this terrible situation?

I am very proud and happy to tell you that our corporate golf tournament is celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year. Through your generosity, we have raised over \$900,000.00 to date. All of these funds have been used to fund the Hope for Children Foundation's scholarship program.

During the 1990's we expanded the scholarship program so that we could provide two basic types of bursaries: one for community college and one for university. No one is ever turned away since we try to ensure that all applicants receive a scholarship. Although the Hope for Children Foundation supports children and families of the Catholic Children's Aid Society, our scholarship recipients do not have to be Catholic.

The greatest reward that we receive is when one of these young adults comes back after graduation and tells their story at the event. There is not a dry eye in the house when the recipients are speaking from their hearts. They are so happy, so thankful, and so grateful. They have hope and they have a new opportunity. We must all try to share this dream – to provide them with support and give them hope. It is only through education that we can accomplish this. To allow them this opportunity will benefit *us* for the rest of our lives.

Please give generously this year. If you cannot support us financially, come and volunteer, but please give back and give back so that the future of these kids will be supported.

Many thanks for your support over the years.

Pat Byrne,
Golf Tournament Founder