



CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter for Volunteers Issue #2-2017

PINEHURST CLUB BREAKFAST

THURS MAY 11, 2017
7 am to 9 am

- Royal York Hotel
- Keynote: Ken Dryden
- Funds raised go to the legacy left by Murray and Margaret to ensure that 100% of all bedkit donations go directly to the children
- Tickets can be ordered from scaw.org/pinehurst-club

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

(by Dave Dryden)

We have the most amazing volunteers... so skilled, talented and passionate. Your efforts have made it possible for over 62,000 children to receive bedkits in 2017... an increase of 2000 children from 2016. These added bedkit numbers lead to more hours of work for our current administrative volunteers. Over the past few years we have found that rather than one volunteer assuming a specific task/responsibility it is most productive and rewarding if 2 or more volunteers work together as a team. This will be our focus in 2017. We need to find volunteers willing to share the load and the joy of projects and committee membership/leadership. As you plan for 2017 think of the opportunities that Sleeping Children provides.

SPREADING THE WORD

LUNCH AND LEARN....NEW!

Interested in learning some tips and hints for your Sleeping Children presentations? Join us on **Saturday, March 25, 2017** from 10:00 to 12:30 at Pinehurst to share ideas with **Grant Clark**, a seasoned leader in making effective presentations. The session will be informative and interactive. **RSVP by March 1, 2017** to Linda at info@scaw.org.

MORE WAYS TO HELP – Cindy and Peggy

In 2015, we asked ourselves what we could do to provide more bedkits to more children. Our answer: A community garage sale with **all proceeds** going for SCAW bedkits. We asked for the help of other SCAW volunteers in our area. So many answered the call, keen to help. From our first planning session to clean up, SCAW volunteers were there. A local church, aware of the good work of SCAW, offered their premises. Family, friends and neighbours were asked to donate items they no longer needed. The response was overwhelming. Garages belonging to volunteers began filling up with donations. In the first two years, we raised \$10,000, enough for 285 bedkits.—truly wonderful! But there were other welcome benefits: More people became aware of SCAW. Some have become donors and volunteers. Neighbours got to know each other. New friendships formed. We are now onto our 3rd annual community garage sale. It will take place on **May 27, 2017** at **Grace Lutheran Church in Oakville**. There is so much joy and satisfaction in knowing our efforts have provided more children with a good night's sleep. If you are interested in starting your own community garage sale, please contact us. We have lots of helpful hints and wonderful tips to share. We'd love to help you get started.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT – Laura Harper

Where does one begin to describe Laura's dedication? She is an inspiration, an exceptional role model and recipient of the Caring Canadian Award for her work with SCAW. After 30 years and well over 20 distributions, she continues to support SCAW's fundraising events and is tireless in her efforts to encourage others to become involved. Laura says, "SCAW has widened my horizons, opened my eyes to other cultures

and given me a feeling of usefulness in my retirement years." One of her most memorable experiences is the special distribution to celebrate the year of the one-millionth bed kit. The harrowing journey to the Spiti Valley in Northern India's Himalayan mountains was, in her words, "special, just getting there!" She beams as she recalls the jarring jeep trek, the high-altitude climb and the frightening hairpin turns. Laura has retired from SCAW and no longer does distributions but her quest for adventure and her belief in life-long learning continues. In a gentler fashion, she checks off the travel destinations on her bucket list. She heads an adult discussion group at her church and is looking for other opportunities to volunteer, especially with school-age children. No doubt she will inspire many of them to follow in her very big footsteps.

