

SERVICE PROJECT DESCRIPTION – Orillia Lions Club

The following section should be filled out by the club service chairperson (Lions clubs) or Leo club president (Leo clubs). Please type and attach additional sheets if necessary.

What was unique, outstanding or innovative about this service project that met or surpassed the goals of the global cause?

- Orillia Lions have been supporting the local Orillia Youth Centre (OYC) for 20 years prior to the pandemic through financial and service contributions. As the Youth centre was shut down during stages 1 and 2 of the Pandemic, the need for both financial and providing service became critical. Since many of the youth experience mental health issues and/or homelessness, the Orillia Lions felt the need to step up our support. All OYC were laid off but continued to do their job via phone chats; virtual meetings; working with school officials and children's aid workers to check on high risk youth; and distributing food which was supplied by many local restaurants and the community. Orillia Lions provided gift cards to help with their delivery costs. Two Orillia Lions provided food hampers and gift cards for 4 families for the Lions Day of Service activity. In total for this report there has been \$700 (Cn) donated, 1,000 people served with approximately 4 Lion members giving an approximate total of 28 hours during 8 activities.
- The Centre provides a safe and supervised drop-in programming environment for youth ages 11-17. All programming is free of charge for youth and some programming is open to youth of all ages. The centre offers recreational entertainment, workshops to support Self-esteem, Youth employment and Life-Skills, Teen Pregnancy, Group and Computer Workshops. The Orillia Youth Centre objectives are to reduce the factors in our community that place youth at risk by providing opportunities for both structured and unstructured activities.

Why is this service project important in your community?

- Supporting the vulnerable youth and at-risk youth and their families with nutritious meals along with the knowledge that they have the Mental health support they need from their community. The Youth are our future and providing opportunities for the youth in the community will help continue to foster partnerships with the service organizations and local businesses. Many of these same youth have given back to our community by donating their time to Lions activities such as roadside cleanups as well as fundraising and service events with our Lions family.
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Which local partnerships helped make this project possible, if any?

- Local businesses and restaurants helped provide food and financial support.

Were any resources from LCI such as the Service Toolkit or Service Project Planners used to plan and execute this project?

- No

Additional Comments.

- Having the ability to lend a hand during these unprecedented times, the motto 'We Serve' gives our members and community so much more meaning.