

SDCF brings donors and recipients together for a common cause



Everyone got something out of the ‘I Care About A Cause’ event, including this little one from Onashiwini Aboriginal Head Start, who listened in on a story at the Reading Tent.

A tent full of kids’ books and a giant light bright provided the perfect backdrop to the Selkirk & District Community Foundation’s first ‘I Care About A Cause’ event at the Gaynor Family Regional Library Friday morning.

The cause – learning, kids and youth – also meant the event could serve as a celebration of I Love to Read month, which wraps at the end of February.

The event brought together donors that support learning and youth and grant recipients in an intimate setting to learn more about each other.

A small group of donors listened in as four grant recipients talked about their programs. David Thorne, SDCF board member, said bringing the two groups together strengthens the bond that already exists and gives both parties a better understanding of each other.

“The donors specifically choose literacy as a cause they want to support and the grant recipients provide programming and resources that make literacy accessible to all,” Thorne said.

“Bringing them together, sharing a cup of coffee and being in a more informal setting with a couple of little kids running around was really nice for both parties.”

Representatives from Game On with Lord Selkirk School Division Student Services, Selkirk Community Renewal Corporation (SCRC), Lord Selkirk Education Centre (LSEC) and United for Literacy spoke to the donors about what their gifts have allowed them to do.

Debbie Grant explained that Game On is a program run at four division schools with student gamers and helps them discover their own emotional threshold and when to release or de-elevate stress.

The SCRC’s Ashley Monkman provided details about the summer and girls wellness programming they provide and Owen Schofield, representing LSEC, lit up the crowd with his details on how they came up with the idea to build an oversized light bright for Holiday Alley.

Sandra Ross talked about United for Literacy and its summer reading tent, which travels to underserved areas and helps ward off summer reading loss. The tent was on display and at the end of the presentation the young people in the room – from Onashiwini Aboriginal Head Start – got to select a book to take home.

Though the reading tent’s main objective is to help kids keep up their reading skills during the summer months, Ross explained a secondary benefit it provided.

“Our summer reading intern Tazlyn, from Selkirk, is a future educator, and she explained to us that the experience that she’s gained working for us at the reading tent has been so beneficial to her education,” Ross said, noting Tazlyn is in her second year of education.

“Specifically she told us...how she’s had to think about creative ways to get learners excited about reading. That was something that she really enjoyed and something she feels she will take with her for her career.”

Selkirk Rotary’s Jean Oliver and Sharon Moolchan also provided an update on the club’s Nutrition on the Weekend (NOW) program that has received funding from SDCF. Oliver said without the Foundation’s donors, NOW would not exist.

For Lena Kublick, a donor and community leader, the chance to connect with grant recipients and hear the countless ways SDCF helps the organizations was invaluable.

“As a school trustee I see and hear firsthand the projects and initiatives that SDCF supports in our schools,” Kublick said.

“But having a panel present the tangible ways funds are used to meet needs, like tires on the Head Start bus, but also enrich the community, like teaching girls beading and drumming and promoting literacy at every age, is proof positive that SDCF is here for good!”