

HEROES' BIOGRAPHIES

ROTARY CLUB OF TORONTO WEST HERO – DAVID LOCKETT

David Lockett is a visionary, leader, Rotarian and true social entrepreneur who has spent half of his working life volunteering to identify, design, develop and fund innovative and cost effective programs and strategies to address the underlying facts that lead to family and domestic violence, poverty and youth crime in Toronto.

30 years ago, David co-founded The Redwood Shelter and was the driving force in the building of its crisis care centre. The Redwood offers safety, healing and opportunities for growth for women and their children escaping abusive and violent environments.

Mr. Lockett was also the co-founder and is the President of PACT and its parent organization, the Canadian Foundation for the Prevention of Family Violence. Mr. Lockett's intense passion, dedication and perseverance has made it possible for the charity to continue to serve thousands of underserved and at-risk youth, as well as low income and vulnerable families, individuals and seniors each year. Under PACT's Urban Peace Program, Mr. Lockett has helped at-risk youth referred from the courts, schools and other partner agencies across Toronto to remain crime free, to reach their potential and engage productively with their communities.



In response to the COVID pandemic, David Lockett pivoted PACT's Grow to Learn urban farming schoolyard program to continue to feed over 350 low income individuals, families and seniors-in-need in the Lawrence Heights community and to deliver 3400 bags of fresh produce and ready-made meals weekly from May to October 2020.

MEAGAN'S HUG HERO – DR. ERIC BOUFFET

In 2000, Dr. Bouffet came to Toronto's SickKids as Director of Neuro-oncology to develop and lead a multi-disciplinary neuro-oncology program. He is the Garron Family Chair in Childhood Cancer Research, a Professor of Paediatrics at the University of Toronto and the current Chair of the Canadian Brain Tumour Consortium.

Dr. Bouffet is a strong advocate for a collaborative approach in research and patient care and has a keen interest in the development of paediatric neuro-oncology programs in low and middle-income countries. He is well-respected internationally and with colleagues from several countries around the world, including China, Ukraine, Malaysia-Singapore, Jordan and Pakistan, he is able to consult monthly regarding patients.



Dr. Eric Bouffet has been an avid and engaged supporter of Meagan's Hug and its mission since 2001. As a volunteer, he is often a featured keynote speaker on behalf of the organization, and participates in its annual Walk & signature HUG, as well as other events, such as the Meagan's Hug Crane Ceremony.

Kind and empathetic care is the hallmark of Dr. Bouffet's medical practice.

TORONTO POLICE SERVICES HEROES – POLICE CONSTABLES JULIE ROWE AND LEANNA GILL

Toronto Police officers Julie Rowe and Leanna Gill represent a dynamic duo within our police force. Working out of 43 Division, they look after 60 elementary schools as part of the Division's Community School Liaison Officers department. For the past six years, they have delivered many presentations to each grade level between grades 1 and 8 on topics which include Community Helper, Safety, Bullying, Peer Pressure, Youth and the Law, and Internet Safety. They have also delivered their presentations to parents and teachers and have become pillars within the school system, where they have become involved in dealing and assisting with student issues and giving advice to youth.

Constables Rowe and Gill have conducted many follow up school checks and have made home visits, where necessary, to connect families with numerous agencies for assistance and referrals to the 43 Division FOCUS table. FOCUS is a community safety and well-being initiative co-led by the Toronto Police Service, United Way and City of Toronto that aims to reduce risk, harm, and victimization, and improve well-being with support from community resources and agencies.

Through their mentoring, many youth have realized their potential and have been able to make positive decisions which ultimately, indirectly changed the course of their path toward a brighter future.



Officers Gill and Rowe have positively represented the Toronto Police Service. From a young age, many children and youth have grown to know these two dedicated officers and to form a positive bond with them. Gill and Rowe made themselves available for local summer camps, and have helped to organize youth sporting events and tournaments.

Officers Gill and Rowe have demonstrated a passion and positive attitude in bringing youth together and making youth the leaders of tomorrow.