



SEVEN OAKS
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Foundation

NEWS

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The Foundations of the Seven Oaks Education Foundation 2

Volunteering is something many do... but the reasons why are unique as the people themselves.

Case in point? When Seven Oaks Education Foundation (SOEF) Board of Directors are asked what motivates

them to volunteer their time to making scholarships possible.

The answers say as much about the person as they do about the Foundation itself.

Margaret Brett

After having been a Seven Oaks teacher, vice-principal and administrator for more than 30 years, retirement simply meant Margaret Brett would continue to give back in a different way.

“When I retired in 2003, I was asked to consider organizing a gala dinner with proceeds going to the SOEF,” Margaret recalls. “That evening was a great success, not only raising about \$20,000 for scholarships but also allowing us to showcase our very talented grads in musical selections.”

Ultimately, her absolute belief in the values of the Seven Oaks School Division, along with her personal experiences over a long career led Margaret to continue giving back and contributing through the Seven Oaks Education Foundation,”

Margaret and her husband enjoy travelling. In fact, she had two very interesting trips to China while her daughter was teaching there. Now these visits are a little closer as Megan teaches in Seven Oaks School Division (another incentive for Margaret’s Foundation work.) She works with the Children’s Hospital Guild and another private foundation. And, of course, she always makes time for their three grandchildren.

But SOEF holds a special place in her heart. Over the years, Margaret has



served as Dinner Chair, Secretary and President of the SOEF Board.

“It has been such a rewarding experience, and it’s allowed me to continue my connection with former colleagues and students. Moreover, I live in this community and enjoy being part of it,” she says.

“I have been asked what keeps me working with this Board. Obviously, I embrace the belief in importance of post secondary education and the access of all students to this. This is important work and needs a working group that will support this,”

Margaret wants to see the community becoming more active in education, in support of SOEF and its efforts.

“My hope would be a greater community involvement, particularly in our business sector,” she says.

“We live, work and support the greater Seven Oaks community and I would welcome the day that any graduate of Seven Oaks would have the skills and financial stability to attain their dreams!”

Cory Juan

Cory Juan is adamant one of the greatest strengths of the SOEF Board of Directors is how it reflects the community it serves.

“It consists of vibrant members that represents the multicultural groups of the Seven Oaks community,” says Cory. “We all put our talent, time and sometimes treasure to make things happen, with great respect and dignity for families as well as schools.”

Cory actually pulls double duty with the Division, also serving as a Seven Oaks School Division Trustee. Volunteerism is a passion that she credits her parents for instilling within her.

“I came from the Philippines and in the olden days I remember vividly in our village when a family needed help,

either for harvesting or planting time in their fields, people would take time to go and help.”

A retired Winnipeg School Division Administrator, Cory doesn’t limit her volunteering time to the SOEF Board. She is a commissioner of the Residential Tenancies Appeal Board, a Manitoba School Board Association (MSBA) Director, and facilitates Marriage and Baptismal Preparations at St. Peter’s Church and St. Anthony of Padua churches. She’s even founded charitable organizations of her own, including the Filipino Volunteers Without Borders, San Agustin Isabela Association.

She says it’s all about making a difference – something she sees SOEF doing for students year after year.

“To award a student during convocation time means a lot to parents and students,” says Cory. “Parents are motivated to encourage their children to apply for assistance to help them start their post secondary education. Students have a great opportunity to follow their dreams and aspirations. “

She would like to see awareness of what SOEF does raised among the community, and has a few ideas on how to do so.

“Perhaps parents and previous students as motivational speakers during fund-raising events so they can inspire other parents and students in the Seven Oaks community.

“This way everybody can have the motivation to help fund-raise for the Foundation.”

Fran Taylor

For Fran Taylor, her involvement with SOEF began when she wanted to shake up the way she volunteered.

“About 7 years ago I had volunteered to start Seven Oaks Had Talent at the SOEF Bud Spud fundraiser that happens in February,” recalls Fran. “As

a vice principal at Maples Collegiate, I knew we had many staff members with musical talent.”

“I love performing and thought to spice the fundraiser up a bit we’d offer live music with staff performing from around the school division. “

Needless to say, the idea was a huge success. To the most recent event featured 13 extremely talented acts from various schools in Seven Oaks. It was, however, that initial success that led to Fran’s involvement with the SOEF Board.

“After a couple of years doing that I was asked to join the Board and thought it was a wonderful way to give back to this great Seven Oaks community and the hard working students who attend our schools and win our SOEF scholarships,” she says.

Today, Fran is the Director/Principal of the Seven Oaks Adult Learning Centre as well as Settlement Services for new Canadians in the Seven Oaks area. But she always has time for the Seven Oaks Education Foundation.

As she puts it, “My work with the foundation is really not that time consuming given the benefits to the community,”

“It is supporting great children who are trying their best in school and knowing for many, the money they will receive through scholarships may be the difference between them attending post secondary or not. “

Like her fellow Board members, Fran is pleased with the support SOEF offers to students, but also wants to see the Foundation evolve so it can continue its work.

“I think we do a lot but there is always room for improvement,” says Fran. “I’d like to get the students involved in a fundraiser for SOEF - maybe a ‘Seven Oaks Students Have Talent’ show at each of the high schools.”

Lorena Galante

Sometimes, volunteering starts with the simple act of discovery. That's actually the case with SOEF Board member, Lorena Galante.

Lorena is a Manager with the Royal Bank and had been working at a branch closer to Goulet and Tache. When she was transferred in July, the previous manager told her that her name had

also been put forward to replace him on the SOEF Board.

"When I attended the first meeting, I was quite unaware of the function of the Seven Oaks Education Foundation," recalls Lorena. "Obviously, that's changed considerably!"

Seeing what the Foundation does and what the work means for students as

well as their families, Lorena was more than happy to continue on for a second term on the board.

"I live in the area, my children attended school in the area and - hopefully - my grandchildren will attend school in the area," she says. "Those connections were the deciding factor for me to serve another term."

Thank-You Bernie Gowryluk and Ted Ash (retiring members)

All good things do end – it's a bittersweet truth.

With that thought in mind, we would like to take a moment to acknowledge our colleagues who are now retiring after years spent helping the Seven Oaks Foundation thrive.

Bernie Gowryluk



Bernie Gowryluk will be leaving the Seven Oaks Education Foundation Board at the Annual General Meeting this year due to conflicting time commitments.

Long before he was a Board member, Bernie had been a teacher, vice principal and principal in the Division. He retired in 2008 but returned to serve the community and Division as a board member in 2009.

Bernie joined to support the Foundation

commitment to helping create accessible post secondary education for our students. As someone who had spent years working with graduating students, Bernie has long been a knowledgeable advocate for our mandate. He has seen the difference scholarships and financial awards can make in encouraging young people to pursue their dreams.

The entire Board thanks Bernie for his years of service to SOEF, and we welcome his continued involvement both with the Foundation and with the community he's served so well.

Ted Ash



Ted joined the Seven Oaks Education Foundation Board in March, 2008 after his retirement from a long career with Cargill Limited and work with The United Way of Winnipeg.

A long time resident of West Kildonan and the Maples Ted has always had a strong commitment to serving his community. He has been on the board of the Maples Community Club, the Maples Youth Justice Committee, and served as an elder at both St. John's Cathedral and St. Anne's Anglican churches.

In keeping with the Seven Oaks School Division's motto, "Community Begins Here," Ted willingly became an SOEF director to help the Foundation plan and strategize ways of building funding for scholarships for graduating students.

For six years he has served on the Fundraising Committee, canvassing businesses in the community, sharing information about the Foundation at malls, encouraging donations through payroll deductions, and helping with activities such as the annual "Seven Oaks Got Talent" night.

Although Ted is retiring from the SOEF Board, he will continue to assist the Board in future fund raising activities – because when a sense of commitment runs that deep, it's impossible to walk away entirely.

Thank you Ted for your invaluable contribution to SOEF, past, present and future.

Seven Oaks Got Talent 2014

Who doesn't love great food and great music – especially when proceeds go to a great cause?

February 7 saw a return of the favorite fundraiser, "Seven Oaks Got Talent" – one of the most anticipated nights of the year as colleagues from throughout the Division gather to swap stories, share talents and raise money for the Foundation.

It didn't seem possible, but this year's was even bigger and better than before, with a larger-than-ever crowd packing Essence Nightclub to hear 11 groups of teachers and staff combine tunes and good times.

The evening featured performances by:

- Victory Secret – Victory School
- Jupiter and the Bull Featuring Bruno Malis
- James Nisbet Lianne Fournier – Riverbend
- Forest Park Ho Hey's
- Jordan Laidlaw – Forest Park
- Swing Wright – A. E. Wright
- The Partridge Family – Edmund Partridge
- SO Fiddle Band – Multi-School
- YipeskinFreeze Trio – Edmund Partridge
- Lewis and the Lips – West Kildonan
- Adults Only – Adult Learning Center
- Robert Allan Wrigley – West Kildonan
- West Kildonan All Star Band Featuring PJ Burton

How will they top this one? The only way to find out is to attend the NEXT one!



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Visit 7oakseducationfoundation.org for more information on how to donate or to make an online contribution.

The Foundation provides tax receipts for donations of \$10 or more.