



ABOUT MAY COURT

Registered Charity # 11924-4614 RR00001



Founded in Ottawa in 1898, May Court is the oldest service club in Canada. The Club is managed by a volunteer Board of Directors. While our record of donations over the past 54 years is impressive – it is not the whole story. May Court is all about making a positive impact on our community.

Mission Statement

The May Court Club of Oakville is a volunteer women's organization that gives service to and raises funds for the community; as well as fostering friendship among its members

Vision Statement

The May Court Club of Oakville will be a role model for volunteerism and community service

Leadership – A history of identifying and addressing needs before they become popular causes.

In 1959, we awarded our first scholarship. Since then, May Court's **Scholarship program** has continued to develop and grow. Currently, we award scholarships to high school students with demonstrated and significant financial need, an active commitment to community service, and acceptance to a post-secondary institution. In 1962, the Oakville branch of the Canadian **Arthritis and Rheumatism Society** was formed with a \$5,000 donation from the May Court Club. In 1965, we undertook another major project, a Cheshire group home in the Halton Region to provide accommodation with support **services for young adults with physical disabilities**; and in 1977, **Carey House** was opened in Burlington. We have had a member on the Carey House Board ever since and continue to give financial support –over \$100,000 in the last 20 years. In 1982, May Court initiated a project to offer **Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation** to the community. In the following year, the Halton Board of Education accepted \$15,000 as well as volunteers from our Club to establish C.P.R. courses in the four Oakville high schools. The final step in the development of the program came in 1990, when all the schools in Halton Region had access to C.P.R. in their Grade XI physical education program. May Court subsequently handed over the training and equipment to the Board of Education. In 2007, May Court gave \$50,000, and in 2008 gave a further \$50,000 to **Home Suite Hope** to establish transitional housing in Oakville for families needing help getting back to self reliance after becoming homeless. Also in 2008, May Court gave \$37,000 to fund a local **Salvation Army Emergency Family Shelter**.

Children – Much of our work has focused on society's most vulnerable, the children.

In 1959, May Court partnered with the Board of Education to establish a **Child Guidance Clinic** to provide psychiatric service for the Oakville public schools. And in 1967 the Club purchased a house on Thomas Street, hired a staff of five, and opened the first **day care** centre in Oakville. After eight successful years, operations were handed over to the Halton Region. It continues today under the name Sedgewick' Child Care Centre. In 1972, May Court began a visual screening program in local nursery schools. This program expanded to include audio screening in 1973. The **Audio-Visual Testing** initiative continued until 1995. During this time, our volunteers tested thousands of small children and assisted in the early detection of many hearing and sight problems. The May Court Puppeteers' first production was the Red Cross **Water Safety Play** in 1980. Today's puppet volunteers perform plays in local schools on timely topics like **street safety** and **bullying**. Launched in 1991, **May Court's Lunch Box Program** continues to grow. Our volunteers now discreetly **provide nutritious snacks** for identified children in **46 elementary schools in Oakville and Burlington**. In 1995, we pledged \$22,000 to help establish the Miriam Group which provides support of all kinds to **HIV infected and affected children** and their families. Since that time, the Club has had a member on the Miriam Group Board and has donated an additional \$51,300. [Miriam Group ceased operations in 2009.](#)

Community – Over the last half century, the May Court Club of Oakville has donated countless hours and significant dollars in Oakville and neighbouring communities.

We are known to many for **The May Court Nearly New Shop**, a consignment shop which opened in 1957 on Church Street, now 33 years in its Kerr Street location. Staffed by volunteers, it provides a continuing source of revenue and a service to the community. In the last 20 years, May Court has invested over \$1,100,000 in our community, including over \$239,000 for the VON Halton Hospice Program, raised through the annual **Festival of Trees**, and a Community Challenge in the mid-1990s. May Court partnered with VON Halton to provide \$60,000 for their Alzheimer's Support Services at Sheridan College. For ten years the annual juried **Art and Artisans by the Lake** raised more than \$93,000 in support of Halton Women's Place and Breast Cancer Support Services.

Currently May Court holds an **Annual "Cap & Gown" Dinner** to finance our local **Scholarship Program**. We operate two major service projects, The **Lunch Box** and the May Court **Puppeteers**. We serve on the Boards of **Carey House** and **Home Suite Hope** Shared Living Corp. Members volunteer at **Wellspring** Cancer Support Centre of Halton/Peel, and **S.E.N.A.C.A.** a Senior Day Program. Funds are raised at **The Nearly New Shop** and our special fundraisers. Our first **Oakville Cuvée**, in May 2009, showcased local wine and food, and was held at our Sponsor's location Mercedes-Benz Oakville Autohaus [this is now an annual exquisite event](#). In October 2010 our third successful Fashion Show "**Mirror Mirror**" [took the runway in style to benefit Halton Down Syndrome new Learning Resource Centre](#).

The organizations we have donated funds to include:

- Acclaim Health (formerly VON Halton)
- ATHENA Oakville CFO Scholarship Fund
- [Bereaved Families of Halton/Peel](#)
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Halton
- Big Sisters of Oakville
- Breast Cancer Support Services
- Bruce Lyn School
- Burlington Breast Cancer
- Canadian Cancer Society
- Canine Vision
- Care-A-Van
- Carey House
- Child Find Ontario
- Clothing Works of Oakville
- CNIB
- Community Living Oakville
- Connect Care
- Courage to Change
- Credit Valley Treatment Centre
- D.A.R.E.
- Even Start
- Erin Oak Kids Independent Living Program
- Fareshare Food Bank
- [Food For Life](#)
- Halton Adolescent Support Services
- Halton Board of Education (including
- Child Guidance and C.P.R.)
- Halton Centre of the Autism Society
- Halton Children's Aid
- Halton Down Syndrome Association
- Halton Family Services
- Halton Helping Hands
- Halton Rape Crisis Centre
- Halton Women's Centre
- Halton Women's Place
- [HIPPY Oakville \(Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters\)](#)
- Home Suite Hope
- Ian Anderson House
- [Lighthouse Program for Grieving Children](#)
- Kerr Street Ministries
- MADD
- Miriam Group
- Multiple Sclerosis Society, Oakville
- New Vista School
- Oak Park Mom's and Tots
- Oakville Adult Training Centre
- Oakville Aquatic Club
- Oakville Bone Centre
- Oakville Distress Centre
- Oakville Galleries
- Oakville Historical Society
- Oakville Multicultural Society
- Oakville Parent-Child Centre
- Oakville Red Cross
- Oakville Re-Entry Homes
- Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital
- Oakville Transit (including the Care-A-Van Charter Fund and the Community Bus Project)
- Oakville YMCA
- Oakville Youth Development Centre
- Osteoporosis Support Group, Oakville
- Over Fifty Unemployed
- Peter Pan Nursery School
- PC Cops
- Salvation Army, Oakville
- Schizophrenia Society of Ontario
- Sedgewick Regional Child Care Centre
- S.E.N.E.C.A.
- [St. John's Ambulance](#)
- Transitions for Youth
- [Wellspring Halton/Peel Programs for Children Living with Cancer](#)
- Youth Aiding Youth

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