



Golf for a Cause knocking at De Mazenod Door Outreach program

HGCC ladies' charity day set for August 1st



When our ladies tee it up for the 14th Annual Golf for a Cause charity fundraiser in August, they will be opening a door to the necessities of life for hundreds of homeless, working poor, refugees and marginalized people living in lower Hamilton.

In the month of May, De Mazenod Door Outreach, which operates out of the former staff room at St. Patrick's Elementary school

adjacent to St. Patrick's Church on King Street East, served a record number of breakfasts and lunches to 9,016 adults and children.

"We either have lots of food or we have no food," says HGCC member Cathy Sullivan, who is co-chairing Golf for a Cause with good friend Deb Cacioppo. "We never close. The centre is open 365 days a year from

9 am to 11 am for breakfast and from 11 am to 1 pm for lunch."

At the beginning of the month when their customers receive welfare and government assistance cheques the lines aren't as long, but by the end of a month or for weekly Friday BBQs, where everyone receives a hot dog, hamburger, bag of chips and pop hundred of people will line up for the



necessities – food and water. A handful of times each year, those who are in need, are invited into the school gymnasium for a hot meal at Pentecost, Thanksgiving and New Year's but it's the day-to-operation...

Sponsors are needed to support the Friday BBQs – the cost is \$400 per week or two people can donate \$200 each.

"We had our busiest day ever this past Mother's Day with 445 people dropping by for something to eat," Sullivan says, noting that De Mazenod Door has seen an explosion of need in the past few months since it moved from a small room in the church's rectory to the neighbouring school.

Cathy, who attended St. Patrick's Elementary school as a youngster, has been volunteering at The Door for the past 18 months making chicken soup once a week & serving it every Monday. She calls it, "an eye-opening humbling & rewarding experience." Her call to serving happened when Cathy reconnected with a long-time friend from the neighbourhood who introduced her to the program and there has been no turning back.

One thing led to another and Cathy and Deb, who have been friends for 25 years, decided last October they would co-chair the HGCC ladies' charity day, Golf for a Cause and selected De Mazenod Door as the charity of choice for 2017 and 2018. This compassionate ministry also works with established social agencies to help those who need assistance with clothing, housing, medical support and counselling.

"We are just so fortunate to be able to golf at this wonderful club and to be connected to so many caring friends in the Ladies Section, yet 15 minutes from here there is this great need in our city and we believe the ladies and the HGCC Foundation can make an enormous difference in the lives of people who are often forgotten," Deb adds.

Deb and Cathy needed and prayed for an event sponsor and along came HGCC member, David Carruth, President and CEO of ONE For Freight. "The De Mazenod Door Outreach Program, and its volunteers go about their business of providing meals and comfort to those most in need. They genuinely care about the people that they assist on a day-to-day basis, and they do all of this with absolutely no bravado or self-promotion," he says.

"At ONE For Freight we continuously support the communities that we live and work in. We choose charities that give most, if not all, of the funds they raise directly back into their programs to assist the people in the greatest need. For us, it is all about how we can help positively impact other peoples lives around us, and we want our modest contributions to have the most impact that they can. It is very simple, assisting the De Mazenod Door Outreach Program accomplishes both of the these for us," Dave adds.

Named De Mazenod Door after St. Eugene de Mazenod, the founder of the Oblates and the patron saint and intercessor for the poor, the church ministry was created to provide sustenance for anyone, all denominations, all races, who comes knocking for help.

Cathy and Deb are excited for the charity day because it will be the first major fundraiser for De Mazenod Door, so this will break new ground and allow the program to evolve even further. "When I started volunteering here in 2016, we would get 50 people a day and if we had 90 we thought it was a busy day, but now we get 300-plus people daily and that number is growing as word spreads among the needy in downtown Hamilton."

In 2015 and 2016, the HGCC Ladies' Section Charity Day supported Food 4 Kids with donations totalling \$70,500. Last year, 103 members teed it up in Golf for a Cause and this year, the co-chairs are planning for more with a goal of exceeding 120 spots so the event can be played over the entire 27-hole layout at HGCC.

"We really want to get as many ladies signed up and committed to play in June, so they have it on their calendars," Deb says, noting that registration has been opened to juniors and ladies in the Spousal and Intro to Golf programs. "We are still looking for a few sponsors, but we have been blessed by so much amazing support so far that we are really excited to see what the day brings as our ladies come together to support a program that alleviates poverty in the heart of the City of Hamilton."

7 am - Registration
Breakfast (Coffee & Muffins)
Silent auction opens
8:30 am - Shotgun Start
12:30 pm - Cocktails & Lunch

