



REALTORS in our community

BY JILL MUNROE

Caring – Sharing – Investing in our community; this is what the REALTORS® COMMUNITY FOUNDATION of Edmonton and Area is all about. The Foundation was “founded in 1986 to improve and enhance the image of realtors in the community...and to deal with all of the requests for money”, according to the organizations executive director, Jill Didow.

There are approximately 3000 realtors in the Edmonton area, many of whom donate money and time to the foundation on a regular basis. Jill points out the generosity of local REALTORS® has allowed the foundation to give more than 1.8 million dollars to local, grass roots charities since its inception. On

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average the foundation gives money to about 26 charities annually.

THE FOUNDATION HAS THREE MAIN FUND RAISING FUNCTIONS EACH YEAR:

1 | “WE CARE” PROGRAM - where realtors are encouraged to donate a portion of their sales to the foundation throughout the year. Close to \$40,000 was raised in 2008.

2 | RIDE FOR KIDS - established in 2005 when a group of REALTORS®, who were motorbike enthusiasts, decided to use their love of riding with raising money for kids. In just a few short years over \$175,000 has been raised.

3 | SANTA’S AUCTION – an annual event that brings out more than one thousand realtors and is held in conjunction with the REALTORS® Association of Edmonton Christmas Luncheon. Last year \$74,000 was raised in just one afternoon

The organization has developed a sizable endowment fund which provides interest revenue that is put towards the donation pool on an annual basis as well.

The goal of the foundation is, “To provide support to charities working with Shelter, Homelessness, Hunger, and Crime Prevention and Special Projects”. Jill says each year 10 REALTORS® are part of a funding allocation committee and spend an intense and grueling day going over

www.homebase.ca



LEFT The finished Habitat for Humanity home that was built in 14 days thanks to REALTORS® volunteer support.

TOP REALTOR® Dave Schroder helps build the REALTORS® Community Foundation 2009 Habitat for Humanity home.

BOTTOM Ride for KIDS Honorary Chair J'Lyn Nye and REALTORS® Ben Officer and Melanie Boles pose at the Bike Nites kick off in May with Stephanie from The Ranch Roadhouse.



the many applications before making a final decision on which charities receive grant money and in what amount.

The primary purpose of the Foundation is to act as a vehicle through which members of the REALTORS® ASSOCIATION OF EDMONTON can raise funds for various charities and other philanthropic purposes.

Fittingly one of the organizations that receive a sizeable donation from the foundation is Habitat for Humanity. REALTORS® has helped build two Habitat homes with countless volunteer hours in the actual building of these homes. The many other charities benefitting from the hard work and generosity of local
www.homebase.ca

REALTORS® include those who help homeless youth, women and children fleeing from domestic violence, men suffering from addictions, hot lunch programs, Paralympics sports, and children who suffer from stuttering.

In 2008, REALTORS® gave over \$300,000 to local charities through the Foundation. The Association is one of only a few organizations to have its own foundation. Jill hopes to continue to grow the foundation and "for it to become bigger and better than ever", she goes on to say, "I would love it if we could give out half a million dollars a year".

For more information please go to the Foundations website at:
www.realtorscommunityfoundation.com

HIGHLIGHTS OF MLS® SYSTEM ACTIVITY

July 2009 activity record for the month*
% change from July 2008

Total MLS® system sales this month
2,554, 25.40%

Value of total MLS® system sales - month
\$836 million, 19.10%

Value of total MLS® system sales - year
\$4.33 billion, -2.01%

Residential¹ sales this month
2,277*, 27.60%

Residential average price
\$324,847, -3.06%

SFD² average selling price - month
\$372,741, -1.71%

SFD median³ selling price
\$350,000, -3.30%

Condo average selling price
\$244,265, -3.78%

¹ Residential includes SFD, condos and duplex/trow houses.

² Single Family Dwelling

³ The middle figure in a list of all sales prices

*Average prices indicate market trends only. They do not reflect actual prices, which vary from house to house and area to area. For information on a specific area, contact your local REALTOR®.

*All information provided by REALTORS® Association of Edmonton