

THE ANGELS' TREE OF LIGHT GATHERS US TOGETHER

Once again a large crowd gathered at the Durham District Board of Education building for our annual Angels' Tree of Light Ceremony held on November 27, 2014. The angels and clear lights in their splendour adorned our tree to honour our loved ones and remember those who have died.

I would like to sincerely thank the BFO-Durham Region Board for their contribution towards the printing cost of the programs in memory of Ria Nyland, who was a long-time member of our Angel Tree Committee and who hand-crafted thousands of delicate white angels for our tree over the years; Magda and John Zoelman for their contribution towards refreshments in memory of their son, Dennis John Zoelman; Joyce and Paul Smith for their contribution of refreshments in memory of their daughter, Paula Marie Smith; and Tara Rekker-Giesbrecht for her donation of the beautiful poinsettias' in loving memory of her son, Aiden Rekker-Giesbrecht.

The memorial service began with Executive Director, Sharon Sears welcoming all who were present. We were honoured to have Fran King give the opening remarks. She spoke about grief and getting through the holidays. Chris Garvey gave a heartwarming dedication in memory of his son, Blake Garvey. The honour of lighting the tree this year in memory of their sister and aunt, Sara Young, were Meghan, Ian, Malcom, Rosalynn, and Nathanael Patterson. Ten year old Kalista Wilson sang beautifully, *Some Where Over the Rainbow*, in memory of her sister, Alleya Wilson. Nancy Raby and Nicole Cacciatore led the responsive reading in memory of daughter, Melissa Raby, and son, Antonio Cacciatore, respectfully. Fred Cacciotti softly played guitar music in memory of Kevin James Charewicz. After the ceremony, light refreshments were served providing an opportunity for all to mingle.

To the Durham District Board of Education and M&M Meat Shops (Michelle Taylor, Joyce and Paul Smith), thank you for your continued support of our evening.

Over 1,000 volunteer hours goes into putting on this event from mailings, answering the phone, taking angel requests, computer work, cutting ribbons, printing the Angels' name on the ribbon, programs, decorating the tree to the night of the event.

For their generosity of time and the many acts of kindness in memory of their child(ren)/sister, my sincere thanks and appreciation go to committee members: Debbie Brown, Beth Bryan, Bev Campbell, Jane Carter, Jennifer Carter, Marlene Charewicz, Anita Fellows, Kelly Greig, Caroline Goswell, Bonnie Lane, Wendy Marshall, Jan McLean, Nancy Raby, Marian Rehr, Lauren Sears, Joyce Smith, Jan Waterman, Magda Zoelman, Sharon Sears and Denise Love. It was also wonderful to see so many young volunteers who worked in the background. Special thanks to everyone who helped out before, during and after the event with our tree and food preparations.

The Angels' Tree of Light is truly a special event for all of us at BFO-Durham Region and the community as a whole. Your contribution and continued support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Angela S. White
Chair