

Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board

Report of the Executive Director – June 20, 2007

York Regional Police Adopt a Mission Program

Recommendation

1. That the Board request that its financial contribution to the York Regional Police Adopt a Mission Program be used in support of The Little Lamb Children's Home in St. Andrew, Jamaica.

Background

York Regional Police Constable Davis Ahlowalia was tragically killed in a horrific motor accident on Saturday, January 6, 2007. Throughout his short life, Constable Ahlowalia enthusiastically offered his love and his time to the homeless, the disabled and the elderly. In his memory, funds are still being raised to provide food, clothing and shelter to poor children in Jamaica.

At its meeting on March 28, 2007, the Board received a presentation by the York Regional Police on "Cops with Hearts." Following this presentation, the Board authorized a donation of \$5,000.00 to the York Regional Police Adopt a Mission Program under the auspices of Friends of the Poor (Canada). Furthermore, the Board requested that the Executive Director prepare a report outlining proposed uses of this donation by the program.

The Executive Director consulted with Phyllis Chen of Friends of the Poor – Canada, who engaged the Very Reverend Father Richard Ho Lung, Founder and Superior General, Missionaries of the Poor, in Kingston, Jamaica, in this discussion.

Started in 1981, the Missionaries of the Poor is an international monastic order of Brothers whose mission is to be the presence of Jesus Christ in the world through service to the poorest of the poor. A total of 450 Brothers serves the poorest of the poor today in Jamaica, India, the Philippines, Haiti and Uganda.

Friends of the Poor (Canada) is an organization whose primary purpose is to support the work of the Missionaries of the Poor in Jamaica.

The Little Lamb Children's Home

On June 1, 2007, The Very Reverend Father Richard Ho Lung sent me an e-mail from Jamaica: "Our homes for homeless children and children with HIV-AIDS is pretty full and we have no more space for others." Obedient to their calling, the Missionaries of the Poor decided to build another home for suffering children and call it "The Little Lamb."

The Little Lamb Children's Home is currently under construction in rural St. Andrew in the hills near Iron River in Jamaica. The residents of St. Andrew are very poor. Scheduled to open its doors after July 13, 2007, the Little Lamb will become home to 40 to 50 children who are blind, deaf, crippled, mute and living with HIV-AIDS. In addition to housing, the Missionaries of the Poor will provide total care to the children, including all food, clothes, and medicine. Those children who are able to attend school will do so in an on-site building to be built and operated by the Missionaries of the Poor.

The Missionaries of the Poor receive no financial aid from the government. Their ministry to poor, physically disabled, and ill children is supported entirely by people whose kind and generous hearts move them to make charitable donations.

Summary

At its March 28, 2007 meeting, the Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board authorized a donation of \$5,000 to the York Regional Police Adopt a Mission Program and requested further information about how the money could be used.

It is proposed that the Board's donation would best be used to support the total care of the children at The Little Lamb Children's Home in poverty-stricken, rural St. Andrew, Jamaica.

Connie Phillipson
Executive Director

Attachment