

MEDIA RELEASE:

For Immediate Release

For release: April 5, 2017

Optimist Teddy Bear Toss!

The Optimist Club of Simcoe and District held its Teddy Bear Toss on Saturday March 25 at the Pt. Dover Arena in support of the Volunteer Association to Norfolk General Hospital & Norfolk Hospital Nursing Home Share Bear program. "This is the 3rd year for the "toss" as part our Fun Day tournament. The players and families really look forward to it" said Wayne King Fun Day Convener. Delivery of the stuffed toys to the NGH Emergency Department happened March 30.



The Simcoe & District Minor Hockey Association's Optimist Beginner Fun Day, now in its 21 year, brings together young players 3-6 years old from Simcoe, Pt. Dover, Waterford, Hagersville, Cayuga and Tillsonburg to face off for a non-competitive day of hockey where goals are announced but not kept. In between the first and second series of games for the fun of it, kids, families and fans were asked to toss the teddy bears onto centre ice. The youngest of players then collected the teddy bears to donate to the Volunteer Association's Share Bear program. Dozens of bears have been donated to the program. King said "everyone gets to touch the puck, gets to play and in a way touches the life of another child during a sometimes difficult time visiting the hospital's emergency department."

Gerry Hamill Communication Specialist NGH and Foundation thanked the Optimists and the hockey families saying "your small gesture today will make a big difference to a child being cared for in our ED." The teddy bears are distributed by hospital volunteers and staff to children in care of the NGH Emergency Department helping the child through a sad or difficult time. For more information on the Share Bear program call 519-426-0130 ext. 2100

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Leigh-Anne Cowan NGH ED Ward Clerk takes delivery of the “Teddy Bear Toss” from Paul Maletta, Optimist past president and Wayne King Fun Day Convener.

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Gerry Hamill
Communication Specialist
519-426-0130 ext. 2454
ghamill@ngh.on.ca

“Our mission is to relieve illness and suffering, and help people live healthier lives.”

