

CHAPTER FIVE

Getting and Giving

The Calgary Real Estate Board takes pride in its well-earned position as an integral part of the city of the foothills and the people who dwell therein. To further cement that relationship, an organization named the Calgary Real Estate Board Charitable Foundation was formed in 1987. The philosophical basis of its activities are stated in their motto:

*"We make a living by what we get,
We make a life by what we give."*

The civic affairs committee of C.R.E.B. found that attempts to carry out charitable work in the name of the Board and its members exacted a heavy burden in terms of moral and physical responsibilities. So, with Realtor Pat Rowland as one of the enthusiastic sparkplugs behind the idea of having Realtors donate to charity, a Foundation Committee was organized.

Following a series of meetings under the broad umbrella of C.R.E.B., the Foundation, complete with its own elected Board of Governors, came into being. The president during the initial year was Dorothy Larson, followed in 1989 by Karen Gammie, Harvey Gamble in 1990, Suzanne Mathews in 1991 and Ann Kavanagh in 1992.

The Foundation's goal is to give financial help to carefully chosen Calgary charitable organizations and the requests for aid are legion. The Foundation's mandate is to focus on shelter related projects as our industry is shelter related. The initial money came from C.R.E.B. and continuing on an annual basis, it supports the group's fund-raising efforts.

The Foundation carries out year-round money-raising activities, some of which have become almost

traditional. There is a Christmas Draw, a Fun Run, and an Annual Auction, all three of which raise up to \$ 50,000 and require the dedication of more than 100 volunteer members.



Ongoing fund raisers are the two donor walls located in the lobby of the Calgary Real Estate Board building. The individual Donor Wall comprises 1,012 plaques, available for a \$ 100 donation, to Calgarians who want permanent recognition of their friends and acquaintances, or to mark a special personal occasion. Also, a plaque on the Individual Donor Wall can be donated as a memorial to a loved one. To date, more than two-thirds of the plaques bear inscriptions.

The Corporate Contributors' Wall is accumulating an impressive array of platinum, gold, silver and bronze plaques recognizing the degree of business firms' support for the Foundation's work.

From its beginning, the still young Foundation has made an annual donation to Discovery House, a Calgary haven for abused women and their children. This long term shelter, consisting of 13 apartments, assists the women and children in finding their way back into society from the trauma of violence. The Foundation has supported Wood's Homes for

The Annual Fun Run has raised as much as \$13,000 for the Charitable Foundation and draws a large number of participants, both runner and walkers (left). Right, even dogs participate in the Fun Run, clocking a respectable 50:47.

troubled young people, one of Calgary's venerable institutions.

Among the myriad of demands over the years, the Foundation has given financial assistance to The Children's Cottage, a temporary shelter for children in crisis during their first seven years of life. Also, it has helped the Connection Housing Society and the Accessible Housing Society which assists disabled Calgarians find or modify a home to handle their needs, or to renovate an existing house. The William Roper Hull Child & Family Services has received Foundation funds to assist in the rebuilding of the



The William Roper Hull Child and Family Services is but one of the many charities who benefit from Charitable Foundation Endowment Fund.

long-term Chronic Care Cottage #1 Residence.

The Realtors who conduct the business of the Foundation are very proud of the fact that donated funds go into the Endowment Fund, as do all

donations received for the Donor Walls.

All members of the Calgary Real Estate Board are members of the Charitable Foundation. Members are elected annually to sit on the Board of Governors. Once elected, they decide the various projects that will be required during the year to raise the committed amount of money. In addition to the governors, the organization selects high-profile Calgarians as Honorary Governors. The very personal role played by every individual and company member in the real estate profession in the Calgary community has resulted in multi-faceted gestures. The Karen Gammie Memorial Fund is one of them.

The Karen Gammie Memorial Trophy for the fastest man in the Fun Run is on display at the C.R.E.B. offices. The same applies to the fastest woman in the annual contest, it being the Realty World - Tempo trophy in memory of another accomplished Realtor, and the power behind the Foundation's formation, Patricia Rowland.

By the end of the 1991 - 92 year, the Calgary Real Estate Board's Foundation has achieved more than 65% of its financial goal, a remarkable accomplishment in so short a time. A significant and tempting incentive is in place - a spur for those who give so very generously of their time, effort, and enthusiasm to this public service endeavour. The Foundation has set itself a goal of \$ 1,000,000 by 1995. Upon reaching that million dollar mark, all the interest earned by the fund will be distributed annually to shelter related projects, a laudable target for this professional organization which has only existed since 1987.



Karen Gammie, B.Ed.



Pat Rowland