

Philanthropy



2022 IWC GRANTS

In May we had a board meeting to review the applications we received from local charities for the 2021-2022 IWC Grant.

Earlier in the year we did an outreach to our membership to recommend charities that they felt were deserving of funds. We received seven recommendations and after reviewing each application and contacting the respective charities, we shortlisted four of the charities.

We then did a deeper dive into each charity, their financial position, their needs and how their programs matched our criteria. It was a difficult task since there is so much need and so many worthy charities, but after much deliberation, we selected **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bermuda for a \$12,000 donation.**

The board felt that with the increase in anti-social behaviour and violence in our community, we wanted to support programs that addressed the problems we are facing on our island. The

Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters has a passion for this charity and the children which translates into some of the great success stories they can boast about.

The charity has two programs that we are supporting. Boys 2 Men provides mentoring and counselling services to young men to divert them from a life of crime in gangs. And Girl Power empowers our young women to find confidence and self-care that will point them in the right direction in life. The grant will be divided between them.

We will be presenting a celebratory cheque to the Executive Director Patrina O'Connor Paynter, at the President's Coffee in June and then will have the pleasure of having her speak about the good work Big Brothers Big Sisters is doing at one of the upcoming luncheons in the fall.

RELAY FOR LIFE

On May 13th and 14th, we participated in the 9th Annual Relay for Life in support of Bermuda Cancer and Health. The IWC team of 20, known as Island Without Cancer, was comprised of members and a few spouses who stepped up to the plate and really helped us make a difference.

The event was an 18-hour relay, where we had a member of the team walking at all times. Many of us came out for the opening ceremony which included the survivors walk and stuck around for the Luminaria Ceremony which celebrated the lives lost to cancers, people currently undergoing treatment and survivors.

We had our own Luminaria display at our tent to celebrate and honour our members who have survived, or who are dealing with cancer. A big thank you to everyone who participated as walkers, and to the committee members who donated their time and resources to create one of the sunniest and happiest tents at the event!

We had a goal of raising \$3000 and through online donations from Relay team members and IWC members, sales of Luminaria bags, along with a few fundraising events we had over the past couple of months, we busted it. **We raised \$4,300!**

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to our success! Once again, the ladies of the IWC went above and beyond with their kindness and generosity to help us not just achieve, but exceed our goal.