

Barrhaven Legion Branch # 641 Collects 16,000 Pairs of Socks for the Homeless

It takes many people to facilitate giving 16,000 pairs of socks to homeless men, women and children in our community. These people donate socks, the volunteers gather, organize and package socks and community service organizations pass the socks along to their clients. For many, being able to open a drawer and choose a pair of dry, warm, clean socks is taken for granted. For many others, this is a comfort they do not enjoy.

This is the third year that David and Marion Rattray have spearheaded the Barrhaven Legion Branch #641 community initiative and the second year that they have been joined as partners in this endeavour by fellow Branch members, Dave and Debi Sereda. With a very late start in the first year, less than 1,000 pairs of socks were collected. In 2016 the goal of 5,000 was surpassed and 12,000 pairs were collected. This year, the team was thrilled to collect more than 16,000 pairs of socks. Representatives from the Ottawa Mission, Shepherds of Good Hope, Operation Come Home, Ottawa Innerscity Ministries, St. Joe's Women's Centre, Youville Centre, Cornerstone and the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health were on hand to receive their socks donations. Each representative provided a brief presentation on their work in the community and expressed their gratitude for the donations. In addition, hundreds of socks were also collected for several women's shelters and they have been delivered separately and privately.

The team was pleased to welcome Giant Tiger this year as a corporate sponsor. Senior Manager, Brand Communications for Giant Tiger, Alison Scarlett attended the event which was held on Monday, December 18 at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #641. Alison shared how proud she and Giant Tiger were to be supporters of this important Legion community project.



David and Marion Rattray, Councillor Jan Harder, Giant Tiger, Alison Scarlett, Barrhaven Legion President Bert Boehme, Debi and Dave Sereda and Councillor Michael Qaqish



For more information, you can go to the Socks for the Homeless website
<http://www.rcl641.ca/Socks4homeless>