



Jenifer Klatt and Beth Steel of 100 Women Who Care 1,000 Islands would love to have you join them



LOCAL WOMEN MAKING WISHES COME TRUE \$100 AT A TIME

By Lorraine Payette

What can you do nowadays with \$100 over a three month period? It isn't enough to buy coffee every day. However, if you have \$100 and your friend has \$100, and a lot of other friends each have \$100, it adds up.

Mary Mansworth, Sue Steele, and Corinna Smith Gatcke of Brockville had heard about a program called "100 Women Who Care".

"It started in the United States and has grown throughout the world," said Steele. "A few of us decided to check it out. We went to Ottawa to attend one of their Chapter meetings. It was held after work in a pub and in the short time of two hours, over \$10,000 was raised. It was awesome to see just how easy it was and how much fun it was as well."

When they got home, they decided to set up a chapter in the Leeds and Grenville area. They felt confident about the generosity of women in Brockville and area, and discovered they were right.

"Since that start in 2016 and to date, we have raised over \$100,000," said Steele.

The group meets for an hour four times a year. Each member commits to donate \$100 at each meeting (\$400 per annum). Members research local charities, what they do and what they want to achieve, then each member brings the name of one charity she would like to support written on a slip of paper. The slips are collected and put into a container and when everyone has arrived, three names are drawn. The women who nominated those charities each give a five minute presentation on why they believe theirs is the best one to support. They are also given five minutes to answer any questions the other members might have. The group casts ballots to decide which group will benefit from the evening's fund raising. It is a simple majority rule, and each woman writes a \$100 cheque to the winning charity (with receipts being issued by the charity to each of the donors).

"At the next meeting, a representative from the successful charity comes to report on the impact our money will make," said Steel. "One of the most inspiring aspects of this

group is hearing what that impact will be. Some of our winners have been the Brockville Food bank, Alzheimer Society, Interval House, BGH Cardio Rehab Centre, South Grenville Food Bank, Refugee Fund, YM/ YWCA, Leeds and Grenville Addictions and Mental Health, 'Slinky Bees Musical Group', South Grenville Food Bank, Loaves and Fishes and Employment and Education Centre (Homeward Bound Program)."

Top - Bottom: Giving from the heart feels so good – the City of Brockville Refugee Fund gained by \$9,600 from the 100 Women Who Care 1,000 Islands in February, 2016; One-hundred-eight women with \$100 with which to do anything they wanted were able to give Sherwood Park Manor a cheque for \$10, 800 in May of 2016; In October, 2015, the Brockville and Area Food Bank benefitted with a \$9,200 donation

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Groups are springing up throughout the area, including 100 Women Who Care North Grenville and Wish 1,000 in Gananoque. There is even a men's group, 100 Men Who Care Brockville. All follow the same basic rules and all are reaching out to assist grass roots charities in their area. More and more people are joining every day, reaching out to support those in need. To learn more about or join the group in your area, go to <http://100womenwhocareburlington.com/chapters/> and select your community. They will help you connect. **For more on Wish 1,000, go to <http://www.wish1000.ca/home.html>, and for 100 Men Who Care go to <https://www.facebook.com/100-Men-Who-Care-Brockville-131374820758194/>.** If you have \$100 to share every three months, you can make a world of difference. **LH**