

Memories

From Bev Macdougall, October 30th, 2021

I don't have personal memories of Soroptimist Conference travels though I did travel to 28 countries with my husband Barry over the years.

My treasured memories with Soroptimist evolve instead around the many hands-on projects achieved together during the early years of my membership with many wonderful Soroptimist women ... We truly were "women helping women" through annual golf fund raising over many years. I distinctly recall attending my first dinner with our late former member, Joan Sparrow... I was greeted by the hostess, Margie Cahill, with "Hi, how are you, would you like to be on my golf prize committee?" I answered sure but don't you think I should join first?" We had a good laugh over that ... I continued from that day on to gather 100 golf gifts/prizes for many years In those days everyone who played got a gift .!

For me personally, the most fulfilling achievement was using some of our hard-earned golf funds to barter a deal with Stradwicks to install a new living room floor for the residents of Cameron House on Thanksgiving week, 2015! The one and only Common Room resulted in a warm, homey gathering place to foster friendships for women in need.

There were numerous other hands-on projects such as E. Fry Xmas gift parties, St Patrick lunches at Cameron House, grocery pick ups from Costco by the "Happy Gang" with delivery to Crossroads, Cameron House, One Roof at St John's Church, Y E S Shelter ... yes, there were dinners with silent auctions, Fashion Shows, Xmas cookie basket auction ... I remember there was such a great sense of camaraderie, dedication and just good old-fashioned fun fulfilling our community commitments to help those who needed help it was just so rewarding! The methods of fund raising have changed in recent years and made more difficult due to Covid restraints, but Soroptimist Peterborough members met the challenge to find new ideas to fulfill their commitment to their community. Fundraising now is mainly thru Bingo "staffing", gift cards, socials, etc. But we're still able to support our chosen charitable programmes with generosity.

I often think of the old adage, "You may not remember what someone said, but you do remember the way they made you feel." Soroptimists make others feel good, worthy, cared for by sacrificing their time, offering smiles and continuing good works. I'm proud to be part of this team of wonderful, caring women.

P.S.

I intended to mention the kindness of everyone during my hospital stay a couple of years ago ... many cards and some visits from Soroptimists. Also, Bernice & Linda Skilton supported me from the very start and throughout my illness.