

The staff and students of Oak Bay High School are proud to announce that they will be the recipients of the Secondary School Youth in Philanthropy Award for 2009 from the National Philanthropy Day Committee.

The students of Oak Bay High School engage in a wide range of activities to benefit others. Some of these include *Club Mengo*, *CAP AIDS Bike-a-thon*, *Agents of Change* and *The 28 Hour Famine*. The primary philanthropic campaign the students of Oak Bay get involved with is raising money for the Cops for Cancer Tour de Rock. For the past 8 years, the school has begun each September with an enthusiastic response to raise funds and awareness for this worthy cause. Oak Bay High School is very proud of the amount we have contributed (including \$25,000 in 2009, \$18,000 in 2008, \$15,000 in 2007 and \$12,000 in 2006). One of the things that we are most proud of is the *involvement* of the students at the school. It is clear from the outset of each campaign that the emphasis at Oak Bay High School that this is a *student* led project. A ‘Cops for Cancer Student Leadership Group’ steps forward each year to coordinate the campaign at Oak Bay High School. This group typically includes a mix of students from grades nine through twelve and is charged with the responsibility of encouraging our entire student population (over 1,200 students) to help other young people that are coping with cancer. They truly benefit from this leadership role outside of their familiar school environment. One of the things that is most impressive about Cops for Cancer at Oak Bay is the enthusiasm and positive attitude that the students demonstrate towards helping other young people dealing with cancer. It is truly generous, infectious and contagious.

Cops for Cancer at Oak Bay High School has been built around a culture of “inclusion and invitation.” The school passionately believes that our fundraising and awareness campaign will excel if all our students are given the opportunity to get involved. Each year we invite all students to take on a leadership role for the upcoming Cops for Cancer campaign. The school emphasizes the involvement of students from grades 9 through 12 as well as reinforcing the importance of getting the involvement of kids from different peer groups within the school community.

A cornerstone belief that drives the campaign is a belief that we are “doing it for them” - to raise money to benefit other kids who are dealing with cancer. Each year it is very clear that our students realize they are in a fortunate position and recognize their opportunity to help other kids on Vancouver Island.

Lastly, Cops for Cancer is not the only philanthropic campaign we run at the school. The students were also involved in the following campaigns for the 2008/2009 school year:

CAP – Aids Bike-a-thon:

For the past 3 years the students of Oak Bay have continued to run the Victoria ride of the CAP Aids Bike-a-thon. This campaign raises money to buy nurses bikes in Africa so they are able to reach more needy people in their busy day. Last year over 30 of our students were involved with organizing and marshalling the event. The students canvassed the community for draw prizes as well as held a BBQ to greet the riders at the end of the event. The riders rode from Mattick’s Farm to the Selkirk Trestle and back. It was a

great day with close to 100 riders taking part. The Victoria portion of the ride brought in \$11,500.

Club Mengo:

Club Mengo was created at Oak Bay a few years ago to support an orphanage/hospital in Kampala, Uganda. The club organizes activities and sells African crafts to raise funds and awareness for the people in Uganda. Last year the students organized a benefit concert with the Vic High Rhythm and Blues band performing as well as selling crafts. The club was able to raise over \$5000 for the hospital in Uganda.

28 hr Famine:

Oak Bay's Leadership Class continues to develop the 28-hour famine for the benefit of people around the world. Last year over 80 students participated and were able to raise over \$4,000. Representatives from "AIDS Angels" presented during the famine event and students spent part of their evening building "AIDS Angel" ornaments. They also attended a presentation on a girls school in Malawi helped promote the need of higher education for women in Africa to improve gender equality, reduced birth rates, help build a stronger economy, and improve primary education for all.

Agents of Change:

This was a new philanthropy group at Oak Bay last year. Their mission was to give support and education on the people of Lesotho, a small mountainous African country. The students fundraised throughout the year to support educators going over and teaching in Lesotho, which has been devastated by HIV/AIDs, resulting in a poorly trained workforce.