



Youth in Philanthropy participants with Tammy Reimer, Sage House (second from left).

ABOVE AND BEYOND

Earlier this year, Winnipeg's 24 Youth in Philanthropy (YiP) committees granted a total of \$120,000 to local charities – more than any other year in the history of the extracurricular program that engages high school students as grantmakers. But, for students at Garden City and Vincent Massey Collegiates, that support didn't go far enough.

YiP participants at the two schools – which are separated by almost 15 kilometers – decided to work together to raise funds for Sage House, a program of Mount Carmel Clinic that provides resources and services to street-involved women.

"Sage House especially stuck out for Garden City because the majority of our YiP committee was made up of girls and their mission was relatable," says Tanya Tran, a recent graduate who took part in YiP for four years. She says her committee saw an opportunity for action beyond grantmaking.

"Building on our mandate to encourage youth to become philanthropists and compassionate, active volunteers in their local community, we saw it best that we do something substantial for the girls at Sage House. We wanted to learn more about their organization and did not want to leave the issue at the donation stage," says Tran.

To raise funds, the committee held a student auction that saw star players from school sports teams carry books, clean lockers and pick up litter for the highest bidders. In addition to bringing in cash for a great cause, the event helped raise awareness of Sage House and its work in the community, says Tran.

The Garden City committee pooled resources with their colleagues at Vincent Massey Collegiate who also held fundraisers. Together, they purchased more than \$300 worth of toiletries and snacks from Sage House's wish list.

"It was a very valuable donation," says Tammy Reimer, Manager of Sage House. "Women who access Sage House often have very basic needs: shower, laundry, food and personal hygiene. The gifts given by the students of Vincent Massey and Garden City helped to support these needs."

Sage House had already received a YiP grant this year (\$800 from the committee at Kelvin High School to be used toward a washer and dryer), so Reimer was surprised to receive the call about an additional gift.

"To me this was a true show of character and that the students had not only met their obligations as Yippers but embodied the spirit of giving," says Reimer.

For more information about Youth in Philanthropy, visit www.wpgfdnyip.org