Aurora Seniors take on the spirit of giving by making Christmas boxes for others

By Angela Gismondi

Members of the Aurora Seniors Centre are in the giving spirit.

Every year, the Seniors' Centre chooses a charity to donate to at Christmas time. This year, members of Let's Create, a program at the Aurora Seniors' Centre, decided they wanted to ?Fill-a-box for shut-in seniors.?

Thanks to generous donations, the club was able to fill and donate 75 gift boxes to Community and Home Assistance to Seniors (CHATS).
They presented the gift boxes to CHATS on November 27 at the Seniors' Centre.

?We had an amazing response from our members?absolutely over the top amazing, ? said Carol Hedenberg, vice president of the Aurora Seniors Association, adding over $1,000 was collected to purchase things to fill the boxes. ?This is probably the best response we've had for one of our charities because we can all relate to it. We are all seniors here.?

CHATS will distribute the gift boxes among those seniors in most need.

?We chose CHATS because we wanted to connect with shut-ins and their caregivers,? said Ms. Hedenberg. ?They will give them to seniors who need it the most and will appreciate them.?

The gift boxes are filled with necessities and goodies including socks, a toothbrush and toothpaste, a flashlight and batteries, candies, cookies, a night light, puzzles, a pen and pad of paper, a mug with tea and coffee, a lotto scratch ticket and a bag full of granola bars and raisins. Each box also contained a treasure gift such as bracelets or a deck of cards.

In addition to the 75 boxes, organizers were able to put together small gift bags of goodies for 22 residents of Cobblestone Rest Home. Any items that did not fit in the boxes or bags were sent to the food bank and Blue Door Shelter.

Let's Create decorated the boxes and gave up their Wednesday afternoons to sort and fill the boxes.

?In the end we were able to help out a lot of people that might not have received anything for Christmas,? concluded Hedenberg.