**Notes from Awards Ceremony and 40th Anniversary Event.**

**Theresa Randles, April 10, 2019**

Welcome and introductions were offered by emcees Deb and Danielle. Our charter members were recognized.

The 40th anniversary presentation by Theresa, began with the showing of the club video from our 25th Anniversary, to represent the club’s past, our present-day work being represented by the Awards Ceremony itself and moving forward represented by recognizing program donors, and the Hamilton Community Foundation for expanding the Live Your Dream program.

A Congratulatory message from ECR was delivered by ECR Governor Tanna Edwards.

**Presentations:**

Pat described the set-up of Regina’s Place and how it is unique. She presented to Jennifer Jewer of Regina’s Place, Good Shepherd. Jennifer described programs such as child care provided so that the moms could attend school. She referred to milestones that these young women were achieving and how learning life-skills, building resilience and self-esteem were so important, (which is why the Young Women Empowered program that we finance is so valuable). Very moving was her story of the young woman who, in participating in a Vision Board exercise, decided to apply to college for photography and is now volunteering.

Doreen presented to Tony Del Monaco of the Hamilton Public Library. Naomi Brun then spoke of the importance of the Summer Reading program that we support, in keeping up literacy skills and encouraging the love of reading. She also spoke of programs to build leadership skills, team work in voting for best books, contests such as Tiny Tales, in which winners receive VIP passes to meet authors.

Sylvia made the presentation to Gisele Rottaris of Out Of the Cold, and to Doris Khes of City Kidz. Doris gave a very impassioned talk about the situation for children living in poverty, and how important the Saturday programs and weekly mentor visits were for these children.

Pat explained that our McMaster Midwifery Bursary (in its 4th year) provides financial support for women when they go out on assignments at their own expense.

We then had a break, and members served cake to guests.

President’s Appeal - Pat referred to our international involvement by mentioning the President’s Appeal, ‘Women, Water and Leadership’, then our club’s twinning with SI Fukuyama, Japan.

Danielle gave an outline of the LYD program, then invited Grace Diffey from the Hamilton Community Foundation to come up and speak. Grace gave background on Edith H. Turner, explained how the Edith H. Turner Foundation was established in 1974, and how support for capital projects in the Hamilton community was unique and very important to the city. In 1997 the Foundation was turned over to the Hamilton Community Foundation, which has operated as an endowment based charity, investing funds which continue to grow so that the Edith H. Turner Foundation Fund will continue to support programs in art, education, health, environment … Especially important today is providing education/learning for marginalized families and women living in poverty, which is why the HCF has provided the grant to expand our LYD program.