

Team Remax Wins Big

By Debra Kreewin

Dale Bowal and Remax Realty are enthusiastic players in a large team consisting of about 340 volunteers, who deliver approximately 5,900 meals yearly with the local Meals on Wheels program. As Owner of Remax Realty, Bowal's role in modelling community involvement is significant.

All sales staff committed one week every 3 months, for meal delivery. Bowal notes, "It is very easy for us as we know the city like the back of our hands."

Bowal says, "There is no downside to our collective community contribution and it only takes about an hour to deliver the meals." A formal policy does not exist for Remax, but members are encouraged to volunteer as a group, and individually with programs important to them. Bowal has volunteered for more than 25 years, understands the necessity of giving back to the community. He feels that businesses can appreciate the benefits of employer-supported volunteering, like building positive community relations, strengthening team relationships and nurturing employee happiness. Volunteering in a group fosters team spirit valued by employees and employers.

Remax "steps up to the plate" by giving time and other support such as financial backing to various local groups or purchasing hockey jerseys for a neighbourhood team. Corporately, Remax gives to the Children's Miracle Network and a percentage of every transaction is donated to the Stollery Children's Hospital.

Meals on Wheels have received Remax's involvement for more than six years. Various church groups and business organizations also deliver nourishing meals essential in helping individuals live independently. "There is a great need to get further support for this program from other organizations," Bowal notes. He is concerned about "a change in focus these days, as people are so involved in their lives and so busy, they just don't find the time to volunteer." Bowal believes that Meals on Wheels provides a valuable opportunity for corporate team building and that the benefits outweigh the costs. The commitment required for meal delivery gives the team the chance to "make someone's life better than it was."

Dale Bowal would gladly share Remax's experience with employee volunteerism. Contact the Volunteer Centre for print and electronic resources to help develop an employer-supported volunteer program.