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From 1st October 2015 to 31st March 2016

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THE CANADIAN CHILDREN’S OPTIMIST FOUNDATION
RESPONDS TO THE CALL

The Essex Optimist Club grant, awarded from the Canadian Children’s Optimist Foundation, was used for a Youth Appreciation event. 47 young persons were selected by their youth-serving organizations to be honored for “making a positive difference” in their organization or youth group. The event called “Thanks for Making a Difference” was held on Tuesday, April 21 at Holy Name Parish Hall in Essex, Ontario.

Local community leaders were asked to serve the youth for a night of celebration. Served at the meal included the town mayor and members of the town council, local firefighters, police, the community policing safety officer, the municipal chief administrative officer, representatives from the Rotary Club, the Lions Club and the Knights of Columbus and various other leaders. Their task was to serve the youth and their parents/guardians a full meal including salad, drinks, pasta and dessert. The youth’s wish was their command.

When the local dignitaries were done serving the meal, the youth were each presented with a certificate from the Federal Member of Parliament, a certificate from the Provincial Member of Parliament and a gift from the Essex Optimist Club. As they were presented their gifts, their host read a summary of why each individual was chosen to receive this honor, listing their volunteer efforts both in their organization and in our community. Each volunteer server received a wooden Optimist Creed plaque. A representative of the organization the student came from was seated at each table.

Each Essex Optimist Member was asked to network with representatives from the various community organizations and the volunteer servers. The Club was able to recruit two new Members at the event! The impact of this event is a positive awareness of the Essex Optimist Club, building positive relationships with schools and youth-serving organizations and other service clubs, as well as the municipal leaders of Essex.