



2008 Commitment to Care & Service awards

## A beating heart in the community

Father and son duo: Ray and Ryan Murphy

Driven by the philosophy that there is more to health and well-being than medication alone, **Murphy's Pharmacies** in Charlottetown, P.E.I., has stood as a staunch supporter of local volunteer and charitable organizations, and as the force behind a recreation centre that bolsters community-based services for all ages.

For more than 27 years, the Murphy family has been putting into practice their belief that good health comes through physical, social, intellectual, spiritual and emotional means, garnering them this year's Commitment to Care & Service Award for Charitable Work.

Murphy's Pharmacies have dedicated time and resources to a long list of organizations such as Big Brothers, Big Sisters, the Canadian Mental Health Association, the United Way, Students Against Drunk Driving, Knights of Columbus, 4H Clubs, Catholic Family Services, Alanon, the Special Olympics and the Heart & Stroke Foundation. Murphy's also sponsors events like the Seniors Christmas Dinner, where

600 senior citizens are treated to a three-course meal, caroling and entertainment.

Perhaps Murphy's largest contribution to Charlottetown came in 2006 when they purchased what was formerly known as The Basilica Recreation Centre. Now called Murphy's Community Centre, the 60,000 sq. ft. facility is a venue for nearly 90 different not-for-profit groups to hold fundraising events, community health programs and support group meetings. It has also become known as a safe haven for the youth of the Charlottetown area. Kids can, for example, make use of the bowling alley or the gymnasium, which includes a stage for concerts and other arts events. In addition, the facility houses a provincially funded daycare centre for children of low-income families.

"... The hearts of many people are being energized, from the very young to those who are more advanced in age," writes Sister Kathleen Bolger, General Secretary of Sisters of St. Martha of Prince Edward Island in a letter of support. "A centre

may speak of being the heart of active entertainment, but more importantly it can speak of being the heart of spiritual growth. Murphy's Community Centre captures both these aspects."

Most recently, Murphy's Community Centre has become a gathering place for new residents and immigrants to P.E.I. Weekly courses in English as a Second Language, events hosted by the P.E.I. Chinese Community on Chinese Heritage, Chinese New Year celebrations and many other multicultural and religious gatherings are now taking place at the facility. All this, and Murphy's Pharmacies runs the centre not-for-profit, and as the sole provider of funding to aid in its operation. Last year, in fact, Murphy's Pharmacies provided donations in rental space at the facility valued at an estimated \$50,000.

"Such dedication to charitable work is unprecedented," says one Commitment to Care & Service Awards judge. "I can only stand in awe of all they have done."

— Kristan Wolfe

SPONSORED BY

**PURDUE**