

"MARCH KINDNESS"

(A Windsor Odd Fellows *Oddyssey*)

Almost everyone knows about "March Madness". The Windsor Odd Fellows (WOF) decided to put a little spin on the basketball. This year they showed their community what a little "March Kindness" looks like. It sounded a little "Odd", so why not?

"March Kindness" – *Oddyssey* #1



On Saturday, March 21 the WOF presented the local St. Baldrick's Fundraiser with a donation of \$200 dollars. The monies fund drug research for Kids with Cancer through pledges from individuals who are willing to have their heads shaved in public to support the cause. WOF's Noble Grand, Bill Fallis (*center*), presented the check to event organizers Matthew Joffe (*left*) and their own WOF brother, Dennis Rutkowski (*right*). Dennis, along with his 20-year-old daughter (*pictured with her dad above "after"*), were among the many that had their heads shaved that day raising thousands of dollars locally. Many of the WOF's Membership gave individual/personal pledges as well.

“March Kindness” – Oddysey #2



Then, to continue these Odd doings they call "March Kindness", a good number of WOF members attended a "Spaghetti Feed" fundraiser, being held at the Santa Rosa Odd Fellows Hall by the "Crossing the Jordan Foundation" (CTJ). This is a local organization whose mission is to rescue homeless, abused, and troubled women (*along with their children*).

WOF's Noble Grand, Bill Fallis (*right*) along with WOF Secretary, Denny Pedersen (*center-left*), presented two checks to Michael Bryant (President/Founder, *left*) and Dana Bryant (VP/ Founder, *center-right*). The first check from WOF was for \$500 and matched an equally generous donation from the Santa Rosa Odd Fellows. The second check was for an additional \$500 and came from WOF's "Cathy Cole Fallis Memorial Fund" established just last year in her memory by WOF Members.

“March Kindness” – *Oddyssey* #3



Lastly, to continue their "March Kindness" *Oddyssey*, a good number of the Windsor Odd Fellows gathered together on the beautiful and sunny morning of Sunday, March 29th to bag-up and organize what Jessica Andrews-Kunst (event organizer & future WOF member) calls her "BLESSING-BAGS". One of WOF's own, La Crystal Barrett, began helping Jessica in her Blessing-Bags giveaway a few years ago. Each bag contains things like bottled water, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soaps, granola bars, fruit cups, and much more. Volunteers then loaded up 150 plus of these Blessing-Bags, formed teams, and then branched out into the local areas of the community where the homeless and less fortunate are known to congregate. Sadly, it took very little time to find that many homeless and needy individuals. Once the bag-handout was exhausted the teams gathered together at the local Chevy's to share their experiences and enjoy a well-earned lunch. To a man, all agreed that every Blessing-Bag handed out was humbly accepted with an appreciative; "God Bless You! Thank You! Thank You so much".

Each of these "March Kindness" *Oddyssey*'s were a resounding success and helped a good cause but also helped show to the community just what being a Windsor Odd Fellow is all about.

The Windsor Odd Fellows are now, "Off on their next *Oddyssey*!"

- *Odyssey (Oddyssey) -noun*
 - : a long journey full of adventures
 - : a series of experiences that give knowledge and understanding to someone