

KSM must pay off \$100,000 deficit by end of August

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Di Sabatino said summer is an expensive time for Kerr Street Ministries, which expends considerable resources sending low-income children and youth in Oakville to summer camp.

The summer camp program gives children a fun and engaging set of educational activities during the summer months and also gives these children's parents the ability to remain employed during the time school is out for the summer.

This year saw the summer camp serve 150 campers.

Sabatino said summer is also traditionally not a good time for donations, but this summer has been worse due to the recent recession.

Add all these expenses and shortfalls together and you get a \$100,000 deficit that must be dealt with quickly.

Di Sabatino said he would have called for assistance sooner, but he only took his position at Kerr Street Ministries on July 18.

He said some of larger donations that were expected this month did not materialize.

This left Di Sabatino with little time to raise the needed funds.

"A week and a half, or whatever it is, that is not a buffer I am really comfortable with, but it is reality," he said.

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Di Sabatino said the deficit exists despite the recent Mayor's Invitational (Softball) Tournament, which succeeded in raising around \$100,000 to support Kerr Street Ministries and Community Living Oakville in early July.

"We shared those resources and those were already forecast into our budget," said Di Sabatino.

"You try to forecast and you try to set up enough reserve, but the powers that be change it up for you, so you have to adjust and

that is what we are trying to do."

The Kerr Street Ministries' fundraiser is off to a fairly good start with three partners pledging a total of \$3,000 by Monday.

This rate of around one pledge a day, however, will have to increase considerably if Kerr Street Ministries is to raise \$100,000 by the end of the month.

Not reaching this goal will have consequences, said Di Sabatino.

"I don't even want to talk about that," he said.

"The ability for us to help our people would be immensely diminished. We don't want that

to be an option. We don't want to think about it. We do need to raise this support immediately. Forgive me for being blunt, but not being able to do this would harm us in a big way."

Anyone interested in becoming one of Kerr Street Ministries' 100 partners can make his or her \$1,000 donation on the Kerr Street Ministries website at www.kerrstreet.com or call 905-845-7485.

Kerr Street Ministries serves more than 5,000 people by providing holistic support and care, particularly to children and youth and low income families.



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Source: Ministry of Education, 2011.

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