



Several members of Georgetown District High School's Social Justice League will be in Costa Rica for 10 days this summer helping to build two houses as volunteers with Habitat for Humanity in an impoverished area of the country. Members of the league include standing from left: teacher Karamjit Sangha-Bosland, teacher Kyle O'Neil, Ryan Switzer, Iain Page, teacher Laura Edge, and Leah Avery. Seated, from left, are Tom Beedham and Suzanne Thibodeau. The group is raising money for the trip. O'Neil and Switzer will not be going to Costa Rica.

Photo by Lisa Tallyn

Local teens share social justice

LISA TALLYN
Staff Writer

A group of Georgetown District High School students will spend part of their summer in Costa Rica but it won't be a vacation for the teens.

Instead, they will be helping to build two homes as part of a Habitat for Humanity project in that country.

The six students who will be making the trip this July are members of the school's Social Justice League. They are Adam Thrush, Iain Page, Tom Beedham, Leah Avery, Suzanne Thibodeau and Sam Morton— all senior GDHS students. They will be accompanied by two of their teachers, Karamjit Sangha-Bosland and Laura Edge.

This is the first year for the Social Justice League and the Costa Rica Habitat build is the group's first project.

The group will spend 10 days helping other volunteers and local construction workers build two cinder block homes for families in an impoverished area of the country. They will be making cement and doing as much as they can while they are there.

They are looking forward to being able to help. "I want to make a difference," said Avery.

Thibodeau said she and other area residents are lucky to live in such an affluent part of the world.

"We're really isolated. We're all so fortunate. It will be an eye-opening experience," said Thibodeau.

Edge, who teaches social science at the school,

said the project should help to give the students a more "global perspective."

"The focus is opening the students' eyes to cultural diversity," said Edge.

The students need to raise \$16,000, which covers the cost of their trip and their donation of building supplies for the Habitat project. They are hoping for some corporate sponsorship as well as individual donations, and are raising funds through a variety of events including a Multicultural Fashion Show tonight (Wednesday, May 23) in Georgetown High School's cafeteria from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10, and available at the door. Everyone is welcome.

The students are also doing a door-to-door bottle drive on Saturday, May 26 when they will be collecting beer and wine bottles. They are also holding a yard sale that day at 40 Harding St. starting at 8:30 a.m. Bottles may also be dropped off at that address.

They are also in need of donations of safety shoes and construction clothes, which they plan to leave behind in Costa Rica for the people of the area. Other fundraising events that were held earlier include Insomnifest and a Global Village Fundraiser Event in Brampton earlier this month.

Anyone interested in providing a donation to the group is asked to call teachers Sangha-Bosland, Edge or Kyle O'Neil at 905-877-6966 or through e-mail at sanghaboslk@hdsb.ca. Donations of \$20 or more are tax-deductible.

(Lisa Tallyn can be reached at ltallyn@independentfreepress.com)

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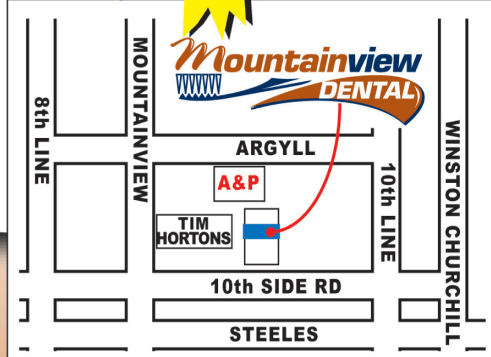


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