

Charity Auction benefits Frank Flaman Foundation



The Flaman family celebrates and supports Frank's vision.

On Friday, March 30th, the first annual Frank Flaman Foundation Charity Benefit Dinner and Auction was held at the Chateau Lacombe Crown Plaza in Edmonton. A sold out crowd of 350 attended the event, which raised approximately \$58,000 for the Foundation's humanitarian efforts.

Funds were raised through both live and silent auctions. The live auction featured a dozen big-ticket items (including a multi-item home fitness center, a diamond earring/necklace set, and a big screen TV) donated by the Flaman Group of Companies, and selected Flaman suppliers and supporters. Over 150 additional items were available via the silent auction. Gracious thanks are extended to all the businesses and individuals that provided auction items.

The event wasn't just about raising money, but also about showing attendees how their money would make a difference. Representatives from a number of charitable organizations were invited to receive donations of \$10,000 apiece. The beneficiaries of these contributions were: Kids Kottage, Operation Eyesight, Win House, World Vision, Change for Children, the Alberta Diabetes Foundation, Lurana Shelter, Amnesty International and the Mennonite Central Committee. All the recipients expressed their deep appreciation for the support, and for the ongoing efforts of the Frank Flaman Foundation in fighting poverty and suffering at home and across the world.

A presentation by some of the Flaman staff members who took part in the recent trip to Nicaragua (see sidebar) provided further information on the Foundation and its initiatives. By night's end, everyone had embraced the spirit of giving, making the event an outstanding success and ensuring that next year's version will come with higher expectations.

Frank Flaman Foundation brings aid to less fortunate

For over 15 years, Frank Flaman has personally funded and helped countless charities, both locally and around the globe. In 2005, he formally established the Frank Flaman Foundation to expand these philanthropic efforts, and in only two years of existence, it has already brought aid to thousands worldwide.

The Frank Flaman Foundation is funded by Frank's share of the profits from the Flaman Group of Companies, and by private donations. The number of organizations that have received support from the Foundation is too long to list, but includes both local and global charities – to Frank, a needy person is a needy person, whether they live just down the street or thousands of miles away.



Frank and David Sundlie stand near a new water well.

One example of the Foundation's more distant initiatives is its work

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with the Children for Change Association in Nicaragua. In January of this year, Frank and 11 of his staff traveled to the poor Central American country to see firsthand how their efforts are translating into better lives for the people. The group visited five rural communities (out of 70 total) where Community Water Projects are currently bringing safe, potable water to communities too long deprived of this basic necessity of life.

“Frank is a humanitarian. Everything he works for and everything he does, it always has to go to help someone else.” Hrynchyshyn

“Water is something that we all just take for granted,” said Kurt Flaman, Frank’s grandson, during a stop in one remote village. “It’s so humbling to be here right now.”

“It was an awesome experience to be here, and to see the difference that we as a company, we as a team, can make in these communities,” agreed Flaman employee David Sundlie.

The trip opened the eyes of everyone involved, and the participants all singled out Frank for thanks and praise. Kevin Hrynchyshyn, another company employee, summed up this shared sentiment.

“Frank is a humanitarian. Everything he works for and everything he does, it always has to go to help someone else. I don’t know anyone else like him on the planet.”



Taylor and David sit with children at a village school.



Water runs for the first time in this joyfull village.



Frank and Kevin pump water from a well 200 ft. deep.



Crystal talks with school kids.



Frank and Crystal stand with a village matriarch.