

Local firm gives back to the community, locally and globally

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A Port Williams accounting firm is helping do its part in giving back to the community, both locally and on a more global basis.

Not only are Todd and Carrie Jones of T.C. Jones Chartered Accountants donating a portion of every tax return they prepare this tax season to local food banks, they are also helping to spearhead a national fundraising effort.

The Joneses are part of – and helped to organize – the Accountants Who Care charity initiative sponsored by 20-20 Canada, the national organization for independent accountants.

Todd and Carrie, both of whom are Acadia graduates, started their home-based Port Williams business in August 2007.

“Working from home isn’t something you can do everywhere in the world and be accepted,” Todd says, “but here in the Valley it has been great.”

Carrie added, “when we started, one thing we wanted to do was give something back to the community. Many of our clients are small business owners who also work from home, so it has been a good match.”

Challenge other firms

A year ago, when they did their 2007 tax returns, the Joneses donated \$10 per return to the Valley Care Pregnancy Centre in Kentville. This year, their local charity choice are food banks in their local area.

As well, Carrie says, “when we started,

we became part of 20-20 Canada, the Canadian arm of an international organization also called 20-20.

“We wanted to challenge other independent firms to work together toward a common goal and see what we could accomplish,” she says. “We decided to call our initiative Accountants Who Care.”

As part of the initiative, half of what is raised through similar initiatives across Canada – the half that isn’t given to local charities – “will be sent overseas through Opportunities International.”

The money will, in turn, “be used to provide micro-financing for small independent businesses in Third World countries.”

According to Todd, the national initiative “connected really well with what we were trying to do locally to help small businesses. The other half of what’s raised stays local. This year, our choice is local food banks.”

Goal this year: \$40,000

Their goal is to raise \$40,000 this year: “\$20,000 local and \$20,000 global,” and according to Carrie, “the response so far has been great.”

“We kicked it off at our national conference in Toronto last October. Terry Kelly was the guest speaker and talked about giving back. Todd followed him with our idea, which was very well received because it fit in so well.”

Todd and Carrie are “the only 20-20 members from east of Quebec. We’d love to see more members, especially from this region,” not to mention more small

accounting businesses like theirs choosing to take part.

Not only would this “provide a greater resource base for businesses with similar needs, but as well, by coming together, we can make a larger impact than we ever could individually.” Not to mention the chance to make a difference, locally and on a global basis.

The Joneses say, “the nicest thing has been seeing all the excitement from the other members. It’s not always easy to be part of change,” they say, but “the sky’s the limit.”

“We gave \$4,600 to the pregnancy centre last year by ourselves, so \$40,000 isn’t that lofty a goal for the whole country.”



Port Williams independent accountants Carrie and Todd Jones are committed to giving something back to the community, both locally and on a more global basis.
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