

Community Matters

Robert Nearing Boys & Girls Club Fund

Robert (Bob) Nearing grew up in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. For many years, he was the Associate Dealer of the local Canadian Tire in the Thunder Centre but took ownership of a Canadian Tire store in Kingston, Ontario, and moved there last month. Before his departure to Southern Ontario, Bob wanted to leave his legacy in Thunder Bay by creating the **Robert Nearing Boys & Girls Club Fund** through the Thunder Bay Community Foundation. This fund was created to support the Boys & Girls Clubs of Thunder Bay into perpetuity for programs and initiatives that require additional financial assistance. For over 50 years, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Thunder Bay has been providing programming for youth ages 4-18 that promotes inclusion, empowerment, and self-esteem.

"With Bob's donation, he has made a permanent investment in our leaders of tomorrow. A true philanthropist – Bob sees the good in all people and the potential that lies within our youth. Opportunity Changes Everything! On behalf of our Membership, Board of Directors, Staff and Volunteers – Thank You," says Albert Aiello, CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Thunder Bay.

Robert is a true philanthropist who supports various non-profit organizations alongside the Boys & Girls Clubs of Thunder Bay such as Camp Quality and World Vision. In September 2022, a collaboration between Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities and Robert Nearing brought the power of inclusive play to Boulevard Park by creating a play space that includes barrier and transfer-free equipment suitable for children of all ages and abilities. This outdoor hub is the largest inclusive play space in Thunder Bay, creating a stronger community for children, families, and citizens in the city. Robert also worked with World Vision to build a school for over 300 students in Haiti.

"The Thunder Bay Community Foundation is extremely grateful and would like to thank Bob from the bottom of our hearts for his generous donation. The creation of the Robert Nearing Boys & Girls Club Fund enables his support to be there for children in perpetuity. In making his donation, Mr. Nearing's not just giving to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Thunder Bay – he is buying meals for children who might not otherwise eat, he's providing a safe, supportive place where children and youth can experience new opportunities, overcome barriers, build positive relationships and develop confidence and skills for life. Bob has supported the community of Thunder Bay through various charities over the years. He cares about Thunder Bay and does his best to make it a better place for everyone. Mr. Nearing's legacy will continue on in the lives of the children who use the Boys & Girls Clubs of Thunder Bay and will have a positive impact in our community," says Athena Kreiner, CEO of the Thunder Bay Community Foundation.

Donations to the *Robert Nearing Boys & Girls Club Fund* can be made online by visiting tbcf.org, or with a cheque to the Thunder Bay Community Foundation. Tax receipts will be provided for all donations. For more information, please call the Thunder Bay Community Foundation at (807) 475-7279.



Pictured from Left to Right: Athena Kreiner, CEO of the Thunder Bay Community Foundation, Robert Nearing, Albert Aiello, CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Thunder Bay, Mike Larizza, Trustee (Boys & Girls Clubs of Thunder Bay and the Thunder Bay Community Foundation)

Passionate about our Community?

Consider starting a Fund at the Thunder Bay Community Foundation!

- Support organizations and areas of need that are important to you.
- Give students the gift of education by establishing a scholarship or bursary.

Visit tbcf.org or call (807) 475-7279 for more information



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