

Shielding COVID-19: Trevor Harding 3D Prints Face Shields for Healthcare Workers

When Meter Reader Trevor Harding purchased his first 3D printer, it was meant to be a fun learning activity for his family – printing Star Wars figurines and chip bag clips, and experimenting with different designs. He never thought he would be printing hundreds of face shields during a global pandemic for healthcare workers across North America.

“My 14 year old son and I were just playing around with the 3D printer for fun, but I noticed in the media that other people with 3D printers were making PPE and face shields for healthcare workers in the States. I looked up the design online and we started making them too,” said Trevor.

Trevor and his son got to work, and sent free face shields to healthcare workers in the United States. Their original printer was small and not fast enough to keep up with demand. So, Trevor purchased a bigger printer that allows him to print the shields much faster, at about one shield per hour.

Now Trevor and his son with the support from Shop3D.ca, a Canadian based 3D printer distributor, print face shields for Island healthcare workers, and are also sending shipments to Ontario and BC. They are also printing face shields for Maritime Electric employees. The printer is working almost 24 hours a day.

Trevor buys the equipment and supplies himself to print the face shields, and donates them to healthcare workers. That said, he is grateful for PEI’s local Staples and Princess Auto stores, that both offered discounts on the printing supplies when they heard about the project.

“It is a lot of work, but it’s such a great learning experience for my son,” said Trevor. “This is something we get to do together, and help out however we can.”

