

# donor dollars in action

Community Living Toronto  
Donor Stewardship Update



## Spring 2014

### A Beacon of LIGHTS

Celebrating four years since its launch, LIGHTS has already achieved so much success in improving innovative housing options for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Thanks to a recent million dollar contribution from the Li Ka-Shing Foundation, the Government of Ontario, and Community Living Toronto's partnership with donors and families, which included the Armstrong family's initial contribution and donation match, we have been able to accomplish the following:

- 88 families are receiving LIGHTS advisory services
- 24 families have moved into LIGHTS supported independent living
- 17 families are receiving LIGHTS funding

But the accomplishments of LIGHTS are much more than just statistics and figures. They have given individuals with intellectual disabilities a sense of pride, accomplishment and independence.

Take Alex, for instance. Wanting to move out of his parents' home just like his siblings had, Alex's family approached Community Living Toronto to start working on a plan. Once an ideal apartment was found, Alex adjusted gradually to this exciting change, first spending two days a week at his new home until he was comfortable and happy moving in full-time. Having now lived on his own since the summer, Alex can't imagine it any other way. He has blossomed into an independent young man, preparing his own meals, doing his own chores around his apartment, and living a very busy social life — he goes out dancing, takes guitar lessons and has dinner nights with friends who live in his building.

There are many individuals in the LIGHTS program whose stories echo that of Alex's. But there are also many other individuals who are waiting for their opportunity of success and independence. With your support, we can certainly help them achieve it!

### Inside You'll Find

- A Beacon of LIGHTS
- A Message from the President and CEO
- Choices that can Change Lives Fund
- Caring Communities
- Creating Opportunities and Experiences
- Dreams do Come True
- Long Standing Partnerships
- Save the Date!



Where choices change the lives  
of people with an intellectual disability

[www.communitylivingtoronto.ca](http://www.communitylivingtoronto.ca)

# From the PRESIDENT & CEO



As you will read in this issue of Donor Dollars, our donors impact the lives of people with an intellectual disability in meaningful and personal ways. From donating tickets to concerts, hockey games and wrestling matches to rallying colleagues to raise and donate funds to Community Living Toronto, our donors show their commitment, creativity and knowledge that a full life means full participation.

Our LIGHTS program continues to break new ground in helping families create innovative housing solutions for their family member. A recent landmark \$1million donation will have a huge impact by helping us to

leverage LIGHTS as a sustainable, viable solution to assisting families to create supported housing options for their family members while they wait for government funded residential supports.

The Choices that can Change Lives Fund continues to have a direct impact on the lives of people we support, and the value that many of our staff, who contribute to this fund, place on our commitment to change people's lives. In this issue, you can read how an iPad is helping Sophia work on her speech skills everywhere she goes in her busy schedule.

Large or small, your donations are important to us. They help us achieve our mission, but most importantly, they help to ensure that people with an intellectual disability have every opportunity to explore, learn and participate in their communities. And, rubbing elbows with Josh Groban is pretty cool too.

You can learn more about services and supports, and read more about some of the stories you see here by visiting our website, [www.communitylivingtoronto.ca](http://www.communitylivingtoronto.ca).

Thank you for your continued support.

A blue ink signature of David Layton, consisting of a large, stylized 'D' followed by a long horizontal line.

David Layton  
President

A blue ink signature of Garry Pruden, written in a cursive style.

Garry Pruden  
Chief Executive Officer

## Our Mission

Community Living Toronto changes the lives of people with an intellectual disability by giving them a voice, and supporting their choices where they live, learn, work and play.

# Investing in FUTURES



Part of the magic of LIGHTS is the perfect partnership between donors, volunteers, families, agencies and government. It ensures that every dollar raised goes directly to support individuals and their pursuit of a home.

**Trailblazer \$1,000,000 +**  
Robert and Mary Pat Armstrong  
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[www.LIGHTS.to](http://www.LIGHTS.to)

# Choices CHANGE LIVES

## CHOICES that can Change Lives Fund

Three years ago, the Choices that can Change Lives Fund was created to provide assistance in the form of grants to individuals and families as they pursue dreams and goals or access additional supports needed when all other resources have been exhausted.

Since then more than \$60,000 has been raised and 25 grants have been funded—all because of you!

Your support has helped provide small grants that provided big opportunities. You have helped provide:

- technology in the form of laptops and iPads to help children and youth with communication and developmental goals
- summer camp and support worker funding to help families with additional respite needs
- cooking classes and community outings to help adults gain self-esteem, skills and independence
- trips of a lifetime for young adults and families

And so much more...

### An iPad for Sophia



A grant from the Choices that can Change Lives Fund helped Sophia's family purchase a much-needed iPad to help with her development and communication skills. In addition, a partnership with Sophia's support staff helped raise extra funds to provide the apps and tools needed for the iPad. Sophia is now well on her way to achieving her development goals.

*"Thank you so much for the iPad for Sophia. As you can see in the photo, she loves it. We have put many speech programs on it and she really engages with the feature that records her voice when she attempts to say a sound or word. She often asks for the iPad by name asking for her iPop. We are very grateful for this program that allowed us to acquire this assistive technology to help Sophia improve her speech skills at home, daycare and in the classroom setting." Sophia's mom Maja.*

### Changing Lives

The Choices that can Change Lives Fund provides small grants of up to \$1,000 that offer big opportunities. Your gift to the Choices that can Change Lives Fund—big or small—makes a direct impact on individuals and families.

For more information contact Sylvie Labrosse 647.729.1180 or visit [www.choiceschangelives.ca](http://www.choiceschangelives.ca)

# Thank YOU!

Donations and partnerships are what make dreams come true and goals a reality. We are grateful for all of the donors and supporters who have contributed to the Choices that can Change Lives Fund.

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# Caring COMMUNITIES

## Steve Dangle Works his Game for Community Living Toronto



Meet Steve Glynn, aka Steve Dangle. A huge sports fan, Steve has his very own YouTube channel with over 3 million views where he discusses his thoughts on hockey and his love of the Toronto Maple Leafs.

This past summer, Microsoft held a contest featuring six influential Canadian social media personalities encouraging them to improve their golf score while competing for a donation to a charity of their choice. Steve was one of the personalities invited, and when asked which charity he would be competing for, he chose Community Living Toronto without hesitation.

Steve's younger sister Rachel has Autism. In a past blog-post - one of the few not related to sports - Steve wrote about the struggles his family has gone through raising a family member with an intellectual disability and the help they have received from Community Living Toronto. In that same blog post, Steve also talked about how lucky and grateful he is to have a sister with Autism, something all of us who know an individual with an intellectual disability can wholeheartedly relate to.

With Steve's dedication to the cause and his golf skills, it was no surprise that he was announced as a winner of Microsoft's 'Work Your Game' contest, helping Community Living Toronto secure \$2,000!

You can read Steve's post about his sister here: [www.stevedangle.com/rachels-christmas-gift](http://www.stevedangle.com/rachels-christmas-gift)

## Mark's Marathon



Thanks to Steve's inspiring story about his sister, he not only won \$2,000 for Community Living Toronto via Microsoft's contest, but he also inspired his colleagues to get involved as well.

After reading Steve's story, Mark Rackham, a UK sports blogger decided to donate the money he raised during his Toronto Scotiabank marathon to Community Living Toronto, as well.

Congratulations and thank you to Mark for running a successful race and in his efforts to raise awareness and funds for Community Living Toronto!

## Get Involved

We are always looking for leaders passionate about our cause to join our Committees, Regional Councils, and Board.

For more information, please visit the 'Get Involved' section of our website at:  
[www.communitylivingtoronto.ca](http://www.communitylivingtoronto.ca).

# Caring COMMUNITIES

## Nelson & the WWE

Community Living Toronto is fortunate to have the support of community leaders who want to make a huge difference in the lives of men, women and children with an intellectual disability—whether through monetary donations, gift of time or by providing the individuals we support with a once in a life time experience.

Recently, Nelson Raposo got the surprise of his life when long-time volunteer, donor and Patron Duncan Jackman surprised him with a pair of VIP tickets to the WWE. A huge wrestling fan, Nelson was excited beyond belief!

Below is Nelson's account of his experience:

*"It was absolutely awesome to be at the WWE because I never felt that ever. I wish most people could get a chance to experience the WWE in their lifetime like I did. I have been in arenas like that to see other shows but I never experienced the emotions the WWE brings out in people. When they put on shows and come to Toronto, they bring out enthusiasm and so much excitement in the fans of the WWE. And they never disappoint the fans; I know I did not get disappointed that night. I wish people like myself got to experience what I did because I know they would enjoy the live show. As a huge WWE fan, I have seen this show many times on TV but there's nothing like it when it's live. I wish people like me will experience that in their lifetime because most people like myself don't get the experience. **Thanks Duncan!**"*



## Celebrating a Life Lived Fully: John Shedden

John Shedden, an individual who lived in our Burnview Residence, touched the lives of many people and was the source of inspiration for his parents, Community Living Toronto advocates Cay and Jim Shedden, who fought hard for the rights of individuals with intellectual disabilities and are a prominent part of the Community Living movement.

Last spring, Community Living Toronto was deeply saddened by John's passing as he left a mark on everyone who was fortunate enough to meet him. In John's memory, the family asked that donations be made to Community Living Toronto and designated to the place John called home for so many years - Burnview Residence. An overwhelming \$4,000 was raised in John's loving memory, with which the residence was recently able to purchase a lift for one of the bedrooms, as well as a dining room set. John's memory will continue to live on in the hearts of many staff and residents who were lucky to have known him.



### Tribute Gifts

Tribute gifts are a great way to mark a special occasion, holiday or simply to say thanks. They are also a meaningful way to commemorate the life of a loved one. And when you make a gift in honour of a friend or loved one, we will send an acknowledgement card to the recipient.

**Contact Maryfelix Baldelomar at 647.729.1181 to find out how.**

# Creating OPPORTUNITIES

## A Concert Experience of a Lifetime



*Community Living Toronto employee Adrineh Bennet with Sarah and Josh Groban.*

Last fall, Community Living Toronto received an e-mail from the Kids Up Front Foundation - a charitable organization providing access to arts, culture, sport and recreation events for children who may not otherwise have the opportunity to experience such outings. The Foundation usually sends out emails to various charities throughout the city when they acquire ticket donations for various activities.

This particular e-mail was a donation of Josh Groban tickets to a few lucky fans. When an email was sent out to staff to inquire whether there were any individuals who are big Josh Groban fans, there were quite a few responses, with one in particular standing out— an individual named Sarah turned out to be a huge fan. The 17 year old had recently been going through quite a few hardships and the staff at the location

Sarah is currently residing at expressed how much happiness and comfort Josh Groban’s music has brought her.

After hearing Sarah’s story, the Kids Up Front Foundation - through a donation from TD Canada Trust - decided to provide her with quite the concert experience. Sarah, along with a few other individuals supported by Community Living Toronto were given premium tickets PLUS backstage passes to meet Josh Groban before the concert!

The lucky attendees met outside of the Air Canada Centre where a Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment employee hosted the group and brought them down to meet Josh Groban. The tickets and backstage passes provided the individuals who attended with the most unforgettable concert experience and memories to last a lifetime.



*David and Josh sharing a laugh*



*April with one of her favourite performers*

Meanwhile, the partnership between Community Living Toronto, Kids Up Front Foundation, as well as Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment, Live Nation and TD Canada Trust showcased the incredible impact our Community partners and donors have on the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities.

# And EXPERIENCES

## Go Leafs Go!

Last fall, Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment gave a couple of diehard Maple Leaf fans the thrill of a lifetime by inviting them to watch the home opener game in the luxury of a private suite.

Program Manager Michelle MacDonald accompanied the group to the game and wrote about the night:

*The experience that MLSE so graciously offered was a once in a lifetime opportunity for the people that I support on Saturday night at the Home Opener!*

*I attended the game with four people who live at Dan Leckie Way, a building residence that is a very convenient hop, skip, and a jump from the Air Canada Centre. I had arranged to meet the group early so that we could attend the Tail Gate party before the game but much to my surprise they had no interest as they anxiously awaited the moment they could finally get to their seats to watch the game; such was their anticipation!*

*Once we found our way to the VIP box, the group was absolutely fascinated by the atmosphere and the electricity in the building. Watching the people we support experience their very first Leafs game is something that I wish my colleagues could all experience.*

*Jerry, (below, second from right (glasses)) a lifelong Leaf fan who will turn 60 this year, never moved from his seat the entire game. He knew every player, and what trade they were acquired through. For him, being able to see the Leafs live for the first time in his life was enough excitement. But for the game to go into an overtime, and having the Toronto Maple Leafs win in a shootout was truly remarkable!*

A huge thank you to the Toronto Maple Leafs for the opportunity of a lifetime for these four lifelong fans!



With an AIR MILES Collector Card, you can turn everyday purchases like gas and groceries into tickets, gadgets, electronics and more for the individuals we support and events like the Shadow Lake Golf tournament.

To request your AIR MILES Collector Card(s) contact Elliott Port at 647.729.1255 or [elliott.port@cltoronto.ca](mailto:elliott.port@cltoronto.ca).

# Dreams do COME TRUE

## Tyler's Christmas Miracle



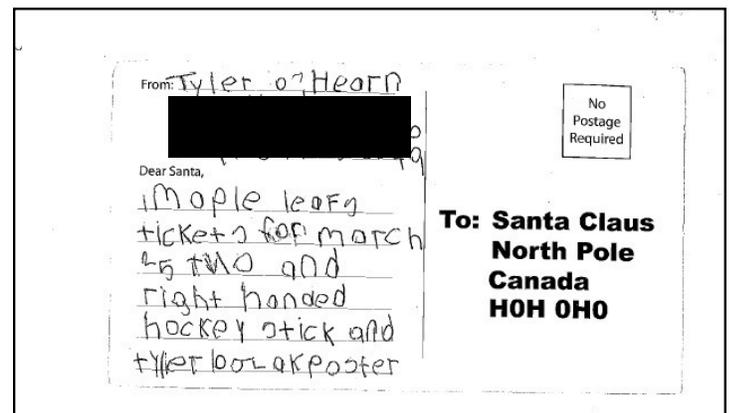
Although you would never know by his constantly cheerful disposition, these past few months have been a bit difficult for Tyler; he came into Community Living Toronto's care after his mom suffered an accident which left her recovering in a rehab facility.

In November, a group of children from Lawson's Children Respite program took a trip down to Toronto's Santa Claus parade. While there, Tyler picked up a Christmas postcard and filled it out asking Santa for a pair of tickets to see the Toronto Maple Leaf game for his birthday on March 25. Like many people who have grown up in Toronto, Tyler has been a huge fan of the Toronto Maple Leafs ever since he was a child.

A Community Living Toronto employee got a hold of the postcard and began contacting others in the organization to see if Tyler's Christmas wish could be granted. After a few e-mails and with the help of Facebook, Jon Sinden, an employee with the Toronto Maple Leafs was made aware of the situation and kindly donated a pair of tickets to the March 25th game!

Due to a huge snowstorm in Toronto around the holidays, Tyler's gift from Santa was delayed by a few days, which made the present - along with an apology note from Jolly Old St. Nick - that much more memorable. Community Living Toronto staff were able to film Tyler's genuinely surprised and ecstatic reaction to finding out his Christmas wish had come true!

On Monday, March 24, Tyler celebrated his 18th Birthday at Lawson with a Toronto Maple Leafs themed party. We will be doing a follow-up story about Tyler and his adventure at the Leafs game and posting it to our website: [www.cltoronto.ca](http://www.cltoronto.ca).



### Did you know?

If you can't use your theatre or sporting event tickets you can donate them to Community Living Toronto. We may be able to find an individual in support who can use them or use them as part of a special event auction or raffle.

For further information contact Elliott Port at 647.729.1255 or [elliott.port@cltoronto.ca](mailto:elliott.port@cltoronto.ca).

# Long Standing PARTNERSHIPS

## All-Staff Golf Tournament Raises \$3,000

From inviting us to participate in their Telus Days of Caring to helping us host events, communications corporation Telus is amongst a handful of community leaders that contributes to Community Living Toronto in a variety of meaningful ways.

Annually, Telus hosts an all-staff golf tournament where net proceeds are donated to a local charity.

After letting us host a very successful donor recognition event in their beautiful downtown Toronto space and finding out more about what our organization does, Telus employees chose Community Living Toronto as the charity of choice for the annual golf tournament.

The event successfully raised \$3,000, and we couldn't be more proud to continue fostering a wonderful relationship with an organization so committed to our cause.



*Telus employees Kevin MacGillivray (l) and Ami Anton (r) with Community Living Toronto's Jenna Martinuzzi.*

## Promoting Online Safety

In addition to Telus' generous contribution from funds raised at their annual staff golf tournament, the Association was also awarded with a \$20,000 grant to develop content on ConnectABILITY.ca.

This grant will assist individuals with intellectual disabilities in learning more about how to navigate the online world in a safe manner, while also gaining social development in real life - so that they can learn, make friends and find opportunities in their communities.

The topics which include Being Safe While Using the Internet, Online Gaming, How to Support Someone Using Social Media Safety are now available on the ConnectABILITY.ca website by searching Online Safety and Social Media.



### ConnectABILITY.ca

ConnectABILITY.ca is a virtual community focused on lifelong learning for individuals with an intellectual disability.

# Save the DATES



**Community Living Toronto**

**annual picnic**

**Games, activities & fun for the whole family!**

**SATURDAY  
JUNE 21, 2014  
11 AM – 3 PM**



The picnic will take place at our Lawson Site at **1712 Ellesmere Rd**, just a short walk from the McCowan subway stop. Parking is limited.

Don't forget to bring your lawn chair or blanket and sunscreen.

**Admission:** minimum donation of \$2 per person

**Let us know you're coming!**

**ETOBICOKE**

Eric Laimer  
647-729-0445  
elaimer@cltoronto.ca

**NORTH YORK**

Wendy Dyke  
647-729-3627  
wdyke@cltoronto.ca

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Felicita Zanatta  
647-729-1635  
fzanatta@cltoronto.ca

For more information and directions visit  
[www.communitylivingtoronto.ca](http://www.communitylivingtoronto.ca)

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Community Rocks 2014**  
featuring



**November 15, 2014**  
**Queen Elizabeth Theatre**  
**Exhibition Place**

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