

DONOR DOLLARS

IN ACTION

Community Living Toronto
Donor Stewardship Update



Fall 2017

Inside This Issue

1. A Family Connection
3. Public Relations & Fundraising Volunteers of the Year
4. LIGHTS
5. Brent's Legacy
6. Family Fun Fair Highlights
8. Summer Fun
9. Accountable to you
10. Donor Roll - Thank you!
16. Getting to Know Us



A Family Connection

Glenda Henry first came to Community Living Toronto many years ago when her children were young. First she was seeking support for her son Reynold, now 44. Then for her daughter Nicole, now 38.

Being the parent of two young children who have an intellectual disability isn't always easy. Glenda, like so many other families, dedicated much of her time to ensure that each of her children's needs would be met right through their school years and then as they transition into adulthood.

When Reynold was ready to leave high school, there were not as many community-based programs available as there are now. While his disability is greater than Nicole's, Glenda still hoped that her son would be able to take part in programs where he could socialize, learn new skills, or even take part in recreational activities like swimming.

As an advocate for her kids, Glenda did some research and found that there were a number of other adults who were finishing school at the same time as her son, and those families were also struggling to find suitable programs for their children. This is when the North York Parents Group was formed.

With the help of Community Living Toronto staff, they were able to connect with community groups. The local church provided them a meeting place to run classes and programs and the YMCA provided swimming programs. They were also able to organize outings to grocery stores where the participants would learn about shopping, budgeting and cooking.

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SMALL GRANTS

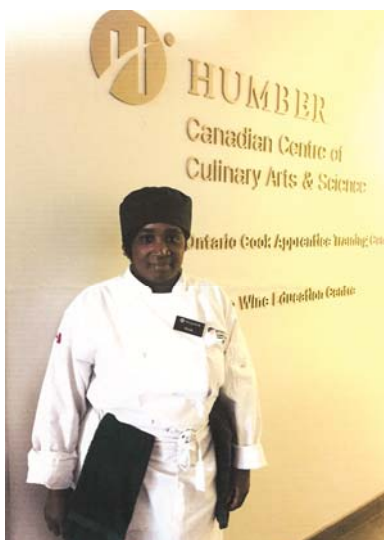
A Family Connection Continued...

Several years after, the North York Parents Group parted ways many people had left, and the remaining children are all now attending programs.

Having made some amazing friendships and connections, many of the families do still stay connected by phone and Glenda is committed to helping support other families like hers and continues to be part of this network.

Glenda is also an active member of the North York Region and a monthly donor. When we asked Glenda why she gives to Community Living Toronto she told us, ***“From day one Community Living was always approachable and out there in the community. I believe in the work that is being done and giving monthly is easy. It’s an investment and if I choose to give more throughout the year I can.”***

While Reynold no longer takes part in the group programs through the North York Parent Group, he continues to attend programs at our Jessie Manson location. As for Nicole, she’s more independent. She has taken part in our Youth 2 Work program, has participated in cooking and literacy classes, and after graduating high school worked in a cafeteria until the company she was working for lost their contract.



What her job at the cafeteria taught her was her love and passion for cooking. While she was looking for other jobs, she realized quite quickly that she would have to upgrade her skills if she was going to find another job doing what she loved.

With Glenda’s support, Nicole looked into a certificate program offered at Humber College. In conjunction with Christian Horizons, this program would train her in restaurants so that she could obtain the skills needed to find employment, build her confidence, and prepare her for the future possibility of living independently.

Armed with some savings and mom’s help with some program costs and transportation, Nicole applied and got into her program! Knowing that she would need help with the additional tuition costs, she applied to the **Choices that can Change Lives Fund** and received a grant of \$1,000.



Graduation Day!

In May, Glenda let us know that Nicole would be graduating soon and had some special news to share. ***“I have great news to pass on; Nicole was picked to be the VALEDICTORIAN of her class, I am so proud of her I am thankful and grateful to all who helped to make this possible.”***

Congratulations Nicole! We’re super proud of you too. When we spoke to Nicole in June, she was beginning to look for jobs and said that her goal was to get back to working in a cafeteria where she first developed her passion for cooking.

CREATE BIG OPPORTUNITIES

Public Relations & Fundraising Volunteers of the Year

As part of our annual celebration to recognize many of the amazing volunteers who help across our organization every day we provide awards in various categories.

This year for the Public Relations & Fundraising Volunteer category, we decided to nominate not just one but four people who help what we do in the area of fundraising and communications and are proud to tell you about the **Choices that can Change Lives Fund Advisory Group**.

Together, David Gleason, Dawn Lunan, Geraldine Stringer and Kathy Badeau are making dreams and goals come true with small grants that provide big opportunities through the **Choices that can Change Lives Fund**.

Their commitment and behind the scenes work makes them very special to us. Formally, they evaluate recommendations and make final funding decisions to provide successful applicants with grants of up to \$1,000.

Each also takes the time to review recommendations made by our staff group so that they are well prepared. In addition, they provide guidance and direction to ensure that we are accountable to our donors and that the Fund continues to be sustainable. And, have been known to research additional resources and add little extras such as gift cards or tickets to help make dreams and goals that much better.

David, Dawn, Geraldine and Kathy are not only volunteers; they are donors, cheerleaders and champions. They are out in the community standing up for people with an intellectual disability and engaging people to support Community Living Toronto.



Left to right: David Gleason, Dawn Lunan, Geraldine Stringer and Kathy Badeau

Grants of up to \$1,000 help dreams and goals come true for individuals and families who are members and receiving service or in programs at Community Living Toronto,

2 calls for applications annually - March and September

First reviewed by our internal staff Review Group, then by our Advisory Group.

Want to know more about the Choices Fund visit choiceschangelives.ca or contact Sylvie Labrosse at Sylvie.labrosse@cltoronto.ca or 647-729-1180



LIGHTS PERSPECTIVE

LIGHTS a Facilitator's Perspective

Remember that feeling when you got the keys to your first home? It was exciting and it was scary and it was an, oh so wonderful rollercoaster ride - But it was YOUR rollercoaster ride! That's what LIGHTS is all about - giving the men and women we support the chance to make this dream come true.

Being a LIGHTS Facilitator is an amazing experience and if it weren't for our donors, we just wouldn't get to do what we do! We host information sessions, guide families, make connections and ultimately be part of a team that builds amazing living arrangements. We spend our time meeting with families who all have one thing in common – they all have a family member who they care deeply about and want to give them the opportunity to be their own person, in a home of their own. Moving out is a rite of passage that everyone looks forward to and expects to happen one day.



Left to right: Jenna Martinuzzi and Zoe Kariunas, Senior Facilitator -LIGHTS

As a facilitator, our job is to listen and to help individuals and families find their voices to talk about what they want and what they need. We encourage them to dream a little, in a world where many doors have closed and waiting lists are long. We encourage them to take on barriers, problem solve and think creatively about what resources are available to them and what partnerships can be developed. We respect that families are dynamic, with rich histories. We honour and value their diversity as they guide us through their stories and we share stories of success and sometimes, failure too. We do it together. This is the most important part of what we do as LIGHTS Facilitators because the families are the people who are cheering on their loved one through the whole process, especially after they move out. Every family is unique, and we respect that.

After lots of planning, talking and looking in every corner, sometimes the plan that will ensure that this man or woman will live happy and safely in the community is beyond all the resources we've uncovered. They just can't put their plan into place without some help. This is also where our LIGHTS donors are so important to the success of each person. This is where some LIGHTS funding can come in, and for some families, without it, they wouldn't be able to make this dream reality.

When you meet a person supported by LIGHTS, you know immediately how important every donated dollar is. It's the price of realizing their dream - the price of helping that one person to find a place that they call home.



A gift to LIGHTS will help provide funding for those in need and seeking a home of their own.

For more info visit: **LIGHTS.to**

BRENT'S LEGACY

Brent Becigneul Bursary



Kathy and Brent enjoying a day out

Brent Becigneul who was diagnosed with a developmental disability at birth grew up at the Huronia Regional Centre but maintained a connection with his family through outings which also included a two week visit at the family cottage in Stoney Lake each summer.

For many years, Brent also attended camp at Shadow Lake Centre for two weeks over the summer. It was one of his very favourite places. When he would arrive at camp, he was thrilled! He'd grab his bag and run out of the car with no goodbyes and when his camp stay ended he would be sad, and often be silent on the ride home thinking about his time at Shadow Lake and looking forward to the next year.

Brent received a sum of money from the settlement for those who were at Huronia. Kathy had hoped to take Brent on an amazing trip to Walt Disney World. However, in June of 2015 Brent passed away.

In memory of her brother, Kathy created the Brent Becigneul Bursary to provide two annual opportunities to cover the cost of a 1-week's stay at Shadow Lake camp for two individuals supported by Community Living Toronto.

To date, three people have received a Brent Becigneul Bursary. John, the most recent recipient had just come back from camp when we started writing this story. John had never had a camp experience and was hesitant to go. Thanks to Brent's legacy, John had an experience of a lifetime and is hoping to attend again in the future.

In his thank you note to Kathy, John says: ***"This year because of your generous donation, I was able to go to the best camp ever. Shadow Lake summer camp changed my life. Thank you for this gift."***



John and camp staff member, Jennifer, enjoying some afternoon paddle boating.

Want to find out how you too can set up a fund in honour or memory of someone?
Contact Sylvie Labrosse at sylvie.labrosse@cltoronto.ca or 647-729-1180



CELEBRATING COMMUNITY

Family Fun Fair Highlights!



On Saturday June 10th, we held our Family Fun Fair (formerly the Annual Picnic) at our Lawson location in Scarborough. With just over 1000 people in attendance, it was our biggest year yet!

This is an important day in our calendar, where people of all ages and abilities, staff, volunteers, donors, families and community members come together for a fun-filled day of games, food, live music, and more. If you were there, you may have seen or run into MPs Salma Zahid, Shaun Chen, and Gary Anandasangaree. Snapd Scarborough was also there taking photos and later they posted an album on their website!

All of our Regions, Councils, and donors come together in order to make this a successful day, we couldn't do it without everyone working together and pitching in. Our friends at TELUS had an amazing crew of volunteers that ran the Bouncy Obstacle Course, and this year we had over 90 Volunteers! In addition, the Etobicoke Region Council generously covered the cost of a shuttle bus to the event from the west end of the city, which proved especially helpful due to TTC closure on the day of the Fair. Thank you to everyone that helped out and donated! We couldn't have done it without you!



TELUS Volunteer Team hard at work!



Left to right: MP Gary Anandasangaree, Sue Lynch, Regional Director Scarborough Region and MP Shaun Chen



MP Salma Zahid

The Annual Family Fun Fair always takes place on the 2nd Saturday in June—Rain or Shine!
Mark you calendar today!

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Donations Big and Small

As a kick-off to the summer, the Family Fun Fair can get really hot — especially if you are not in the shade.

Thankfully, “Eagle Tents” has donated big tents to our event for over 4 years and have become one of our biggest supporters.

Our first connection to Eagles Tents was meeting Cassandra Eagle many years ago, when she was working at State Street (another one of our longtime supporters). Cassandra quickly became a champion of ours and volunteered as a member of our Community Rocks Sponsorship Committee. Shortly after her time at State Street, Cassandra and her husband Ryan started their company and the rest is history! This year, Cassandra, Ryan, their adorable son Jasper, and their super cute dogs came and hung out with us. Thank you for your support Eagle Tents!



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Do you collect Shoppers Optimum Points?



You can help us by donating some (or all) of your point to help us purchase items for next year's Family Fun Fair!

To donate your points visit the Shoppers Drug Mart website and log into your Shoppers Optimum account and click “Donate your points”.

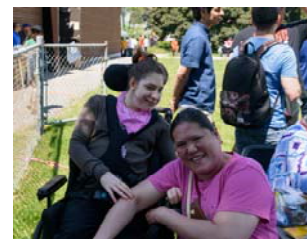
Need more info?

Contact:

Alex Pryse

alex.pryse@cltoronto.ca

416-271-6456



SUMMER FUN

Resort Adventures

Adventures are a great way to mark the summer months. Everyone deserves to be able to escape the city for a while, see some new sites, breathe in fresh air and unwind with their friends, but not everyone can afford to leave the city and stay somewhere where they can explore and have fun.

For the last four years the residents from our Dale and Guildcrest homes have shared a week long adventure at Carriage Hills Resort, in **Shanty Bay at a timeshare apartment that has been generously donated**. This escape is something that they all look forward to every year. It's a great change from the ordinary.

The week is away filled with fun excursions to Orillia and Barrie where they explore the waterfront, try out different restaurants, and see what smaller cities have to offer. The indoor and outdoor pools are favourite things that everyone enjoys at the resort and on some nights they even participate in the arts and crafts night. One of the residents says about this trip, "I like to go and swim and watch movies and be away from here".

The rooms are larger than a typical hotel and are wheelchair accessible. This makes it comfortable and everyone enjoys their rooms without feeling cramped.

A big **THANK YOU** goes out to the wonderful donors who make this amazing annual summer vacation possible!



ACCOUNTABLE TO YOU

The Fundraising Picture — 2016-2017

At Community Living Toronto we are accountable to you, our donors. Through fundraising dollars we are able to support innovative programs like LIGHTS or the Choices that can Change Lives Fund. Through dollars raised regionally and with membership donations, we are able to provide additional recreational activities or skills building programs like cooking classes or literacy programs and so much more.

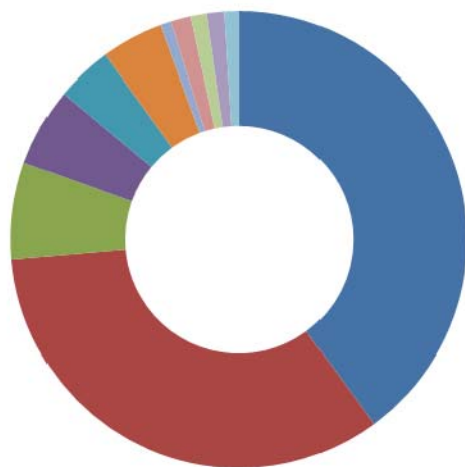
In 2016-2017 more than \$1.2 million was raised thanks to people like you. Whether you participated in an event, gave as part of a mailing, or in honour of a loved one thank you!

Fundraising Revenue	\$1,824,484.00
Direct Fundraising Expenses	<u>\$544,028.00 *</u>
Net Revenue	\$1,280,456.00

** in a Community Rocks year, expenses where higher.*

Expenses to Fundraising Revenue: 30 % for every dollar donated.
.70 cents went directly towards programs and services to help children, youth, adults and families in our service.

Sources of Fundraising Revenue



■ LIGHTS Fund - 40%	■ Special Events - 34%
■ In-Honour/Memorials Giving - 7%	■ Individual Giving - 6%
■ Foundations and Grants - 4%	■ Planned Giving/Estates - 4%
■ Choices Fund - 1%	■ Direct Mail - 1%
■ Membership Giving - 1%	■ Monthly Giving - 1%
■ Online Giving - 1%	

COMMUNITY ROCKS

Community Rocks in 2018 is a DISCO theme!

Saturday November 10th, 2018

The Queen Elizabeth Theatre

190 Princes' Blvd, Toronto

6PM

The event will bring together more than 1,200 business leaders, supporters, family members, staff and people supported by Community Living Toronto.

If you would like more information and to see past Community Rocks photos and videos you can visit:

COMMUNITYROCKS.CA

DONOR LOVE



Thank you for being a part of our Community Living Family. Your donations make an incredible difference. This donor listing recognizes all gifts received in the 2016—2017 fiscal year from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017.

\$1 - \$499

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Betty Jean Achue
Marcia Acker
Christina Acsai
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Rocco Addorisio
Esther Afryie
Mohammed Ahsan
Ruby Aitken
Margaret Jane Aitken
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Donor Dollars in Action is produced twice-annually with the annual donor listing in the Fall issue. Our apologies for any errors or omissions. Contact: Sylvie Labrosse, Manager of Fundraising at 647-729-1180 or sylvie.labrosse@cltoronto.ca

GETTING TO KNOW US

Meet Karla



Left to right: Karla and Shineeca at Duncan's Farm Day!

With each issue of Donor Dollars you see the names of the many of our staff who are working hard to ensure that every dollar you donate goes directly to help the people we support.

Meet Karla Dendrinis. Karla is our Public Relations and Marketing Coordinator. She works on various aspects of our communications and marketing strategies including ensuring that we have great content and stories for our social media pages and website, collecting stories for the Annual Report and Donor Dollars, and supporting the fundraising team with their efforts.

Karla has been with Community Living Toronto since November 2016 when she jumped right in to help out with Community Rocks, but this wasn't her first time as a member of the Community Living Toronto family - 6 years ago she completed an internship with the **ConnectABILITY.ca** team as well as volunteered at various events.

Do you have an idea for a great article for Donor Dollars?

Karla would love to hear from you!

You can contact her at **647.501.2075** or **karla.dendrinis@cltoronto.ca**.

CONTACT US

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