

DONOR DOLLARS

IN ACTION

Community Living Toronto
Donor Stewardship Update



A Summer Camp for All

In 1965, Community Living Toronto purchased the Shadow Lake property and offered its first eight-week summer camp program. Over the years we've expanded programs, upgraded facilities and have made it possible to rent the property to local community groups and schools during the winter months.

We've relied on the dedication and support of wonderful volunteers and donors right from the beginning, always with a focus on ensuring that the camp be accessible for all who attend.

We were first introduced to the GJ Garden of Life Foundation in 2015, and through the generosity of their Trustees, we've been able to continue moving forward with our focus on creating even more accessible spaces for all.

As a result of their wonderful support, the camp playground has been upgraded with the addition of wheelchair accessible swings. The picnic area and shelter was made more accessible with the installation of interlocking brick, and new picnic tables were added to make it easier for campers who use wheelchairs or other mobile devices to enjoy picnics and outdoor activities under the shelter. Just last year, their amazing support came through once again – this time to help make the fire pit more accessible to people with mobility devices. Now everyone can get close enough to roast marshmallows and be a part of the group!

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Spring 2018

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Community
Living
Toronto



ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL

A Summer Camp for All (Continued)...

Mark Ayles of **Ayles Electric** is no stranger to Community Living Toronto. He has generously supported the swim program in our Scarborough region since 2013, when he found out some of the people in his brother Paul's program could no longer attend due to a lack of finances. Since then Mark has ensured that everyone has the opportunity to participate; 90 people so far have attended the swim program thanks to Mark's generosity.

This past summer, Mark reached out to see if anything was needed at Shadow Lake Centre as his brother had attended the camp in the past. When he found out that Mobi Chairs were on our wish list - he wanted to help. He knew the joy they would bring to campers with limited mobility to get into the water. ***"I have always believed that most people regardless of disabilities are equal when in the water – and most people love to swim."*** said Mark.



Two Camp Guests trying out the Mobi-Chairs

When asked why he donates, Mark said - ***"I think in our busy lives we sometimes forget to stop and remember how lucky we are. If more small companies could make small financial gestures it would go a long way in improving the daily lives of so many."***

When the Mobi-Chairs arrived at the camp, our staff discovered that they are also great for rough terrain! Now, people with limited mobility can enjoy cooling off in the lake and be included in those fun nature hikes!

Kinch Family Fundraiser

One of Darcy Kinch's favourite places is Shadow Lake Centre, where she's attended camp for the last 5 years. She loves it there and her family loves that they were able to find a special place for her. This fall, Darcy's mom Pat contacted us to see how she could help raise funds to support the needs of the camp.

"Shadow Lake Centre is an important place for so many families like ours" said Pat. ***"Community Living Toronto with the help of its supporters has worked hard so that the camp is accessible to everyone and we want to be a part of that"***

It's expensive to maintain a camp and Pat's family has committed to helping make sure that Shadow Lake Centre continues to be a safe and special place for everyone. They have committed to raising **\$10,000** and invite you to join them on their journey!



Darcy and a camp counsellor at Camp

To support the Kinch Family fundraising efforts, please visit : shadowlakecentre.ca
or contact Sylvie Labrosse at 647-588-9465 or sylvie.labrosse@cltoronto.ca



CHANGING LIVES

This past June, one of our Choices Fund grantee families was able to take the trip of a lifetime. Armed with savings, a \$1,000 grant from the Choices Fund, a donated RV— and lots of excitement, Alexandra and her family headed off on their adventure. Alexandra reported back with lots of great pictures and information to share. We knew we couldn't do it justice and asked her to share her story with you. Here's what she had to say:

Alexandra's Incredible Travel



"We started our trip in Portland, Oregon. Where we saw the Daylight Train - a big steam train from the 1940's - it's my sons favourite. We then headed along the Pacific coast which was beautiful to see all of the ocean. I started looking for seashells to collect as keepsakes on each beach as we travelled along the coast. I found many types. The drive was so beautiful and the sand was so nice to put our feet in. Then we crossed the border into California and stopped at "The Redwood Forest". The trees are so big, beautiful and unique to see. They are so tall and wide that you can stand inside them! As we headed south in California we got to see lots of mountains and forests.

We finally reached Anaheim and Disneyland. We went on a ride called Space Mountain. My son really liked it. We went on lots of rides in different areas. My favourite was Splash Mountain. We all got to meet Mickey Mouse at his house and saw all the stores on Main Street USA. It was a great experience and we enjoyed it very much. After Disneyland, we explored more of the beautiful state of California, all the way down to the Mexican border and towards Arizona to see the Grand Canyon. I have never seen anything so unique and beautiful. It had so many different spots to view and every place looked different. The next morning we went to see the sunrise and saw two rainbows going from the sky into the bottom of the Grand Canyon. It was amazing! They say you can't see the rainbows end, but we did!

Afterwards we headed to Flagstaff, Arizona. We drove along a famous road called Route 66 and stopped at the Roadkill Cafe. I had the Elk Melt sandwich (Philly beef and Swiss) and my son had the Poached Bambi Burger (hamburger and fries). They were delicious! We stopped at many more places along our way before we headed back home to Canada.

It was a trip of a lifetime and something I will remember for the rest of my life. My family and I are so grateful to the Choices that Can Change Lives Fund for contributing \$1,000 to my wonderful experience and to the donors who make this possible. Thank you!"

Want to know more about the Choices that can Change Lives Fund?

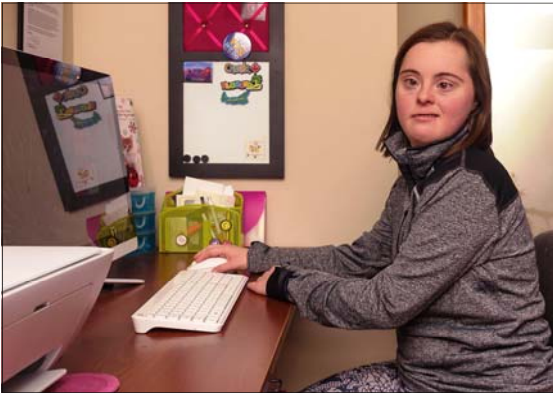
Visit choiceschangelives.ca

or contact Sylvie Labrosse at 647-588-9465 or sylvie.labrosse@cltoronto.ca

CHOICES
that can
Change
Lives Fund

A HOME OF JENNA'S OWN

Since 2010, donations of more than \$5.6 million have given 67 people new lives, living outside their parents' home, working and contributing to their communities. In addition, 274 more families have signed up with LIGHTS and another 59 families are currently in the process of securing an independent future for their loved ones. LIGHTS has made an impact in the lives of many, especially Jenna - who wanted to share her story with you:



Jenna at her desk in her very own home!

"Growing up, I always thought I'd have my own place. As I got older that seemed kind of hard, but four years ago the real journey to living on my own began. I had achieved many milestones like graduating from Humber College, getting a job and volunteering at a recreation centre. These all gave me confidence and I learned things like being patient, flexible and to communicate better.

I wanted to live on my own but was worried. My family told me that I was always welcome in their home but as a grown woman, I wanted to move out. We took some time to plan and research what it actually meant to move out. I attended 'Steps to Independence' where I learned about cleaning and cooking. My parents also had a

great idea to try things out by living in their basement apartment. I learned a lot about how much work it is to keep things clean, take care of myself, and spend free time by myself. At first it was kind of weird, and sometimes lonely, but with my parents upstairs I felt safe and after a while it started to feel good. Then my parents told me that they had sold the house and were looking at places to move. I thought to myself, I'm going to lose my apartment and I don't want to move in with them. I like my independence!

I had been chatting with Laura Starret, a Program Manager at Community Living Toronto, about LIGHTS so I called her and she connected me with Zoe, the Senior LIGHTS Facilitator. Zoe said she would help me find roommates. I was so excited to find out that my friend Sophia, and her friend Karen, were looking for another roommate! After we met a few times, we decided what kind of place we wanted to live in and started looking. Even our moms got together and we all worked with Baker Real Estate who has partnered with LIGHTS. We looked really hard to choose an apartment in a neighborhood we liked. We found a place close to the subway so that we can travel to work and see our friends and family easily—I was really happy because I grew up just down the street!

When I signed my name on the lease I felt both happy and nervous. Moving out was scary! Zoe and all of the LIGHTS support we received was great. She answered all of my questions – I had a lot! I was even able to apply for a start-up grant through the Webster Capital Resource Fund, which helped me get some things for the apartment. Our apartment looks beautiful because we all work hard to keep it clean and organized. The thing I like most is the gym that has a pool and a hot tub. We are pretty lucky. Every day we are learning how to do things ourselves and what we need support with.

I miss my parents a lot. And I know that's okay. I have them over for visits and I visit them too. I don't think I would have been able to move out so soon without all of the support of everyone involved with LIGHTS; not only me, but my roommates too. Thank you."

A gift to LIGHTS helps provide funding for those in need and seeking a home of their own. For more info visit: [LIGHTS.to](https://lights.to)



A LEGACY OF GIVING

This past year we lost a piece of our history, a member of our community, and a member of our Community Living Toronto family - Cay Shedden. Her legacy will live on as we continue our work towards creating a society where everyone belongs.

Before her son John was born, Cay described herself as a fairly quiet person, a good friend and neighbour who taught Sunday school in her local church. When Cay and her husband Jim approached Community Living Toronto for their son John, who had severe and complex disabilities, the only real option at the time was long term care in an institution. Cay and Jim made a decision that John would never be placed in an institution, but would live in the community, just like their other children.

In the 1960's, that was a radical idea. It took a lot of courage and Cay was soon speaking at government meetings, approaching elected officials, and bringing together other parents who shared the same dream of inclusion.

After years of work, funds were provided for a trial program called Project 81. This was a group home that was located in the community, which offered day programs and a lot of family contact. It was such a success that it *still* serves as a model for supporting individuals with complex needs.

Over the years, Cay served as a volunteer in many capacities. She was a member of Community Living Toronto's Board of Directors and sat as Board President from 1982 to 1984. Cay was also an active member of our Scarborough Region Council. She served on the Board of Directors for the Canadian Association for Community Living and was also active as a member of Community Living Ontario.

Cay built strong and strategic relationships with politicians, and was an amazing public speaker, motivator, and persuader. Cay would often talk about how her efforts on John's behalf expanded her world. Because of John, she became involved with the Community Living movement at local, provincial, and national levels. She chaired conferences and meetings across Canada, and worked with families to support their struggles and give them hope. She was compassionate with other parents and let them know they were not alone.

One of Cay's strongest beliefs was that when families come together to advocate for their children, they are capable of creating great change. She was right!

As strong supporters of our Association going as far back as 1958, Cay and Jim have given back in many ways, including Cay's recent gift of life insurance. It was important to Cay that she leave a legacy upon her passing. When asked why, Cay simply stated:

"Because Community Living Toronto made John's life absolutely wonderful."



"Cay's priority was to build strong communities where there was a place for everyone, and she networked like no other. She was never one to just lament an injustice or an unmet need – she went into action to correct the situation."

Garry Pruden, former
Chief Executive Officer,
Community Living Toronto



CELEBRATING OUR DONORS

Donor Celebration Event

Each year we come together to celebrate donors like you. Your leadership and commitment help inspire us to do the critical work that Community Living Toronto does every day. Being able to count on your partnership and generosity has allowed us to continue to create some incredible opportunities for those who use our services. We are proud that you have chosen Community Living Toronto to put your trust in. Because of you we are leaders in our field, always thinking of how we can better support people, where they live, learn, work and play. Your commitment challenges us to see the bigger picture, and inspires us to do more.

In October, we recognized the following individual and corporate donors for their outstanding contributions:



Garry and Linda Pruden were recognized for their generous support over many years.

Gloria Kline has invested as a monthly donor since 2004. She was not able to make the celebration this year.



Susan Seller, past Board President, and volunteer received an award and was recognized for her support.



Oliver Murray and Colleen Donnelly have been sponsoring Community Rocks for the past 7 years at Community Celebrator Level.



First National has been a donor and partner since 2010. Lisa White accepted their award.

Sandra Upjohn has been a donor since 1995. She was not able to join us.

At Community Living Toronto, we are very fortunate to have donors and funders who go above and beyond, and exceed all of our expectations. We honored: **CIBC, the Toronto Star—Fresh Air Fund, and the United Way Toronto and York Region** with a very special recognition award for truly taking philanthropy and generosity to a whole other level.



Yvonne Yang and Heather McArdle accepted the award on behalf of **Northbridge Insurance**.



Mark Johnson from **CIBC** received the award.



Bob Hepburn represented the **Toronto Star Fresh Air Fund**.



Ruth Crammond and Rhonda Leeson accepted the gift on behalf of **The United Way Toronto & York Region**.

THANK YOU



EXPERIENCES AND MEMORIES

Michael Ward - The Trip Guy



The gang at Jimmy John's Field last summer

It all started 17 years ago at a Detroit Tigers Baseball game. Michael was sitting in his seat, when the gentleman in front of him struck up a conversation. It turns out that this was our very own Bruce Walling - an individual supported by Community Living Toronto, and the inspiration for this annual trip.

Sadly, Bruce passed away in 2013, but Michael still lets people know that it was Bruce who started it all, and makes a point during each trip to say a word about Bruce and have everyone send a special "cheer" in his honour.

Sometimes experiences are the best gifts, and what could be more fun than a cross border road trip to take in a game and stay in a hotel?

Michael Ward (also known as The Trip Guy) has been giving the gift of experiences to people supported by Community Living Toronto.

With the help of his wife Deb, they fundraise through their networks so that a group of more than 30 people can take part in this amazing annual road trip to Detroit to see a big game - hockey, football, basketball or sometimes baseball, stay in a hotel, dine in different restaurants and have a few extra surprises along the way.

Many of the people who participate each year have never been outside of Canada or on a road trip before! Even those who have look forward to it every year.



Receiving "Olympic" medals



Watching the game at Jimmy John's field



Michael Ward, Bruce Walling and Rick Mahorn, (former NBA player), 2005

The trip is planned so that everything is covered from the moment everyone leaves Etobicoke, where they hop on buses, right until they return home. This includes custom t-shirts, hotel accommodations, tickets to the game, meals and lots of surprises along the way - Michael makes sure nothing is missed.

For this year's trip, the gang went to Jimmy John's Field in Utica to see the Birmingham Bloomfield Beavers play the Westside Woolly Mammoths. The Hyatt Place Hotel generously provided accommodations for everyone and one of the many surprises included a few local Special Olympic Athletes who attended the game with the group!

Everyone also received their own "Olympic" medals that they wore at the game donated by "Medals for Mettles"! And, the surprises kept on going – before heading home, there was one last stop at Target where everyone received a goodie bag full of snacks for the trip home - all donated by Target.

Michael works year round with his friends and family, local businesses hotels and sports teams to arrange every aspect of the annual trip. Everything is thoughtfully planned and organized thanks to everyone involved.

THANK YOU Michael and Deb for keeping this inspiration going after 17 years, and for putting smiles on the faces of hundreds of people for so many years!



Some of the 2012 crew



Cheering on the Tigers in 2005

If you would like to help Michael Ward sponsor this trip, you can contact him at:
Michaelward@cttsbi.com or (586) 677-8300.

AGING IN PLACE

Jim's sweet ride!

For many years Jim has called Community Living Toronto's Exford Residence home.

But as he ages, he's losing the ability to climb the stairs to his room, his family and support staff have been worried that he'd need to move and face the reality of living in a nursing home away from his friends and his beloved Exford. In addition, his house mates, who are also aging, would likely experience these difficulties as well.

The staff knew that a good solution for keeping everyone at Exford would be to install a chair lift. However, the equipment and installation costs were prohibitive, so five years ago they decided they would tackle this challenge with a fundraising campaign and by reaching out to friends, family members and colleagues.



Jim, taking the inaugural ride up the stairs.

This past year, with 5 years of fundraising under their belt, and with the support of many, enough money had been raised, and the chair lift was finally ordered and installed in June.

To celebrate, the home hosted a big BBQ party and many tried out the lift - to make sure it was in complete working order. It was a blast!

Of course Jim was the first to take a ride. Jim doesn't speak, but a staff member at the house reported back to say that ***"Jim had the biggest smile on his face when he saw the chair lift. He kept signing 'yes, yes!' As he was coming back down on his very first ride! Now, he goes and tells us when he wants to use it, and if we don't get the remote fast enough for him he lets us know!"***

The dream of a chair lift first came up to meet the needs of one individual, but then grew knowing it would benefit everyone in the household as they age or become less mobile.

Sadly Jim's housemate Bill was just diagnosed with cancer. Prior to the installation, he would have had to move to a home where his mobility needs could be met. Fortunately, because of the chair lift he can now stay at home where he is comfortable and among his friends and family.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this chair lift dream a reality! Because of you, the people who live at Exford will be able to age in a place, comfortable in their own home.

Get Involved

We're always looking for new people passionate about our cause to join our Committees, Regional Councils, and Board of Directors. For more information, visit: communitylivingtoronto.ca/volunteers

SAVE THE DATE



Family Fun Fair

Saturday June 9th

11am—3pm

1712 Ellesmere Road

A short walk from
McCowan
Subway Station

- Only Wheelchair-accessible parking on site
- Pay parking is across the street
- Bring a lawn chair or blanket and sunscreen

Come one, come all!

Party with a purpose!



**COMMUNITY
ROCKS**

The Queen Elizabeth Theatre
Saturday November 10th
communityrocks.ca

Get your dancing shoes ready to dance at the DISCO!

GETTING TO KNOW US

Meet Angela



L-R: Angela, Nelson Raposo and Elliott Port

Many of you already know Angela Bradley as she's been a member of the Community Living Toronto team for over 15 years. For those of you who don't, we'd like to introduce you to her.

Angela Bradley is the Director of Resource Development and Marketing.

She's been involved with the not-for-profit sector both personally and professionally for most of her life.

Angela is energetic and very committed to the causes she dedicates her time to. As a volunteer she has provided support and counsel to organizations seeking advice on their event management, governance structure, fundraising and marketing strategies, government relations and communications plans.

If you would like to contact Angela, you can email her at abradley@cltoronto.ca or by phone 647-509-1596

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