

donor dollars in action

Community Living Toronto
Donor Stewardship Update



Spring 2015

To Serve and Protect: Toronto Police Officers Lend a Helping Hand

In recent months, one of Community Living Toronto's programs in the Scarborough region had an issue with their building being vandalized with graffiti. Frustrated with the continuous problem and unable to keep up with the vandalism, Program Supervisor Ryan Hodgson contacted the 43rd Division of the Toronto Police for their suggestions on how to deal with the issue.

The Police Officers at Toronto's 43rd Division went to work immediately creating an environmental design audit and coming up with a number of helpful solutions. One of them included commissioning an artist to paint the outdoor walls of the Scarborough building with the hope that other street artists would respect the code of conduct between taggers and no longer vandalize the property.

Thanks to this idea and the help of the Police Officers, the City of Toronto is currently considering funding a small project in partnership with 43 Division. If successful, this initiative could create a number of wonderful opportunities, including employing local Scarborough artists and vendors to collaborate with children and artists supported by Community Living Toronto. This would help reflect the work of the Association, as well showcase the incredible artistic talents of some of the individuals Community Living Toronto supports. We are very excited about the possible outcome of this initiative and will continue to update you on our progress!

However, this project is not the only initiative the 43rd Division of the Toronto Police has become involved with at Community Living Toronto. This past December, after becoming aware of the various services and supports Community Living Toronto offers, Police Officers at 43 Division decided to host a holiday luncheon and turkey drive at our Children's Respite Centre.

Inside You'll Find

- To Serve and Protect
- A Message from the President and CEO
- Choices Change Lives
- Investing in Futures
- Community Rocks
- Meeting Needs
- Celebrating Donors
- Save the Date!

www.communitylivingtoronto.ca



Where choices change the lives
of people with an intellectual disability

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From the PRESIDENT & CEO



From Police Officers working hard in ensuring our safety and security, to the many donors we recognize at our annual stewardship event, our members and community partners offer a great deal of support to the individuals supported by Community Living Toronto.

As you flip through the pages of this issue of Donor Dollars, you will see the tremendous impact you have on the lives of individuals with an intellectual disability, and you will read about the incredible ways our donors are showing their commitment, compassion and creativity in enhancing the lives of so many people.

Your donations are crucial in ensuring each individual supported by our Association can lead a fulfilling life meaningful to them. From Dominique's cottage adventure to Karen and Krystal sharing their very own home, you are helping people with an intellectual disability have the opportunity to fully immerse in their communities; through learning, exploring, and participating.

If you would like more information on the services and supports Community Living Toronto offers, as well as some of the programs and initiatives featured in this issue of Donor Dollars, visit our website at: www.communitylivingtoronto.ca.

Thank you so much for your incredible generosity.

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.

Lending a HELPING HAND

continued from page 1

Instead of holding their annual Kris Kringle gift exchange, the Police Officers used the money they would normally spend on each other to purchase gifts for children who attend our respite program. On December 22, a group of very eager and excited children met a few of their heroes from 43 Division who came bearing presents. The luncheon served as a lovely get together to reflect on the incredible community friendship and support we have received from the Police Officers at 43 Division last year. Below are some of the photos taken during the luncheon. We'd like to thank the Police Officers at 43 Division for their incredible work in the community and their continuous support of Community Living Toronto.



Stay Connected

Donor Dollars and all our publications can be found online at <http://www.communitylivingtoronto.ca> , so you can share them with a friend.

Choices CHANGE LIVES

CHOICES
that can
Change
Lives Fund

Through the Choices that can Change Lives Fund, small grants provide big opportunities. Over the last few years, we've seen just how much of a difference these grants have made—especially for families who sometimes just need a little boost to get a break from daily stresses;



Dominique, family members and her support worker enjoying a breezy day on the beach.

Sometimes it just helps to connect with family to energize and focus.

This past summer, with the help of the Choices Fund, the Dias family were able to cover the cost of a support worker to join them on a family vacation to a cottage.

Dominique requires 24 hour care and without the additional help, the family would not have been able to be together. The grant received provided the family with a much needed break which included Dominique. It also provided Dominique the opportunity to participate in all the activities like going to the beach, taking a hike and just hanging out by the camp fire. This was a much needed vacation and the family was thrilled that Dominique could be included.

For Anthony, a grant from the Choices Fund provided him with the opportunity to connect with family and visit with his 94 year old grandmother in Trinidad.

This trip had been a goal of Anthony's for some time. He had been saving and planning for the trip but still didn't have quite enough for the airfare. Given his grandmother's age, he wasn't sure if he was ever going to be able to see her again.

This small grant has invigorated Anthony! He came back ready to take on the world. With the help of his support worker, Anthony found employment and went back to school. Who knew that the price of a plane ticket could have such an amazing impact!



Anthony and his grandmother enjoying their time together.

Changing Lives

The Choices that can Change Lives Fund provides small grants of up to \$1,000 that offer big opportunities. With the help of donors we are now able to accept applications two times per year!

**For more information or to make a gift contact Sylvie Labrosse 647.729.1180
or visit www.choiceschangelives.ca**

A Home of Their Own

This year, LIGHTS is celebrating five years since its launch. Feeling proud of many accomplishments in these few short years, we can't help but feel proudest when LIGHTS recipients complete their final phase and find a home to call their own. Most recently, this incredible achievement occurred to Karen and Krystal.

Having casually known each other through the Developmental Services Sector, Karen and Krystal's mothers - Margaret and Madeleine - came up with the plan to have their daughters move in together at a LIGHTS parent networking meeting where they both discovered both Karen and Krystal were ready for independent living.

After many facilitated meetings and planning sessions, the young women decided they wanted a mentor roommate to help them navigate this huge step to independence. They found that in Maggie, a 24 year old Masters student from York University. The three women began their apartment hunt immediately, and it wasn't long until they found their perfect home; a two-floor duplex apartment on the Danforth.

With the guidance of Maggie, all three ladies conduct weekly household meetings that include the division of chores and dinner preparation discussions. Pub night planning sessions and downtime activities are also regularly scheduled in, and are a favourite!

Both Karen and Krystal, who recently held a housewarming party to show off their beautiful new home, are extremely excited and proud of their recent transition; "I don't think my dream to move out would ever have happened without LIGHTS. I love it here." Karen said. Meanwhile, Krystal, who had been slightly hesitant about moving out is adjusting very well to her independence; "It felt scary to leave home and packing up made me emotional," she says, "But it feels much better without my mother around always giving me reminders. And I'm doing things differently now." Congratulations Karen, Krystal, and Maggie!



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Filling the Gap

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

For more information visit www.LIGHTS.to

Community ROCKS



Our Community Truly Rocks—thank you!

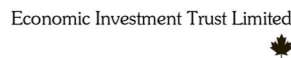
This past November, Community Living Toronto staff, members, donors and friends filled the Queen Elizabeth Theatre for a Party with a Purpose!

Hosted by Ben Mulrone and featuring performances by Canadian legends Trooper, spoken word artist Aria Tesolin, musicians The Good Acoustics and Dj Raptor Marc, the Canadiana-themed party turned out to be a huge success raising over \$570,000. The money raised will help us reach out and provide supports to even more individuals by providing supports and services which will include helping youth make the transition from school to employment and community activities, as well as helping parents plan for their child's safe and supported future.

Our sincere thanks to everyone who came out, as well as the numerous sponsors who made this evening possible. A complete listing can be found on: www.communityrocks.ca

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Special Thanks

Jason Maher of Shiny Paper for communityrocks.ca

Community Rocks

Community Rocks is Community Living Toronto's signature fundraising event that takes place every two years. Our next party with a purpose will take place in 2016. For information or inquiries contact Sylvie Labrosse at 647-729-1180 or Sylvie.labrosse@cltoronto.ca

Visit www.communityrocks.ca for ongoing event updates

Party with a PURPOSE

We partied the night away!



Check out more photos from the evening at: www.communityrocks.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.

Meeting NEEDS

Campaign Kick-off

To meet the needs of individuals of all ages and abilities, modernization projects are being undertaken at Community Living Toronto sites across the City.

In Etobicoke, we are working on 3 year, \$350,000 fundraising campaign that will help renovate the Employment Training Services (ETS) site located on Judson Street. Recently launched, the campaign has already raised over \$20,000, with a plan that will include opportunities for donors at all levels to be involved.

Funds raised as part of this exciting campaign will help create a more inclusive and welcoming space for the individuals who currently take part in ETS programs and activities, all while thinking of future generations. Plans includes a fully accessible washrooms and kitchen, a new computer lab and internet cafe, sports and activities area, arts and crafts centre, a sensory room and so much more!

Watch out for more details and news about our Open House this Spring! To find out more about this project, contact Sylvie Labrosse, Manager, Fundraising at 647-729-1180 or sylvie.labrosse@cltoronto.ca, or Brad Saunders, Regional Executive Director, Etobicoke/North York at 647-729-0466 or brad.saunders@cltoronto.ca

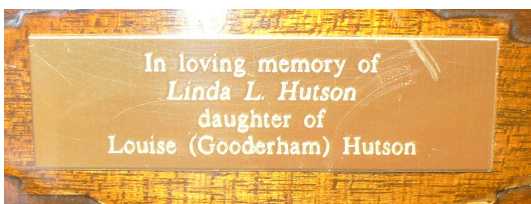


A Musical Legacy

Giving comes in so many ways. This past year, our Gooderham site was the beneficiary of a wonderful piano left to us as part of an estate.

The family wanted it to go to a good home where it would go on to entertain for years to come. Seemed fitting, given that the deceased's maiden name was Gooderham.

Our many thanks to this wonderful family—your gift is bringing joy!



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.

Celebrating our DONORS

Each fall, we celebrate the incredible generosity of the individuals, foundations and corporate partners who are committed to improving the lives of people with an intellectual disability and their families.

Through their ongoing contributions, they have helped create some of the most innovative opportunities for so many individuals supported by Community Living Toronto.

This past October at the top of the TD Tower overlooking Lake Ontario (home of Torys LLP), we recognized the outstanding contributions of five of our closest allies at our Donor Celebration Evening:



Left to right: Lisa Tuckwell presenting a special token to Chris and Geraldine

Chris and Geraldine Stringer have been supporters of Community Living Toronto since 2006. As Past President of our Association, Chris remains incredibly dedicated as a member of our Finance and Audit Committee, while Geraldine is a member of the Choices that can Change Lives Advisory Group. Geraldine also volunteers her time at our Lawson site, providing cooking lessons for individuals in service who are interested in improving their kitchen skills.



Left to right: Community Living Toronto, CEO, Garry Pruden, Keetha Mercer, Manager, Violence Prevention at the Canadian Women's Foundation and Community Living Toronto Board President, David Layton

The Canadian Women's Foundation has played an instrumental role in the success 'Safety Includes Me', a community safety initiative lead by Community Living Toronto's Adult Protective Service Workers. This special workshop helps women living with an intellectual disability to understand and practice safe choices within their everyday life. Realizing the importance of this initiative, the Canadian Women's Foundation has twice funded the workshop and thanks to their generosity, over 100 women have taken part!

Did you know?

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For further information contact Elliott Port at 647.729.1255 or elliott.port@cltoronto.ca.



Left to right: Garry Pruden, The Spano brothers (Ed, Gino and Paul) are all smiles as they receive their award, Community Rocks Chair, Mark Johnson and David Layton


A partner at Torys LLP, Don Roger has been providing legal advice to Community Living Toronto since the beginning of his career, over 34 years ago. He has fully immersed himself into the Community Living Toronto family, lending his expertise to our cause. As the Sponsorship Chair of Community Rocks, Don helped raise over \$570,000 this past year—a tremendous achievement. Most recently, Don accepted a role as a member of our Patron’s Council.



Left to right: Aon Hewitt’s Carol O’Leary, Lisa Tuckwell, Denise Fernandes and Kent Lum

Seventh Heaven Event Catering is the catering company behind the delicious food and amazing ambiance at Community Rocks. They first came on board as our caterers at a 2009 photography exhibit, and quickly became an integral part of our Community Living Toronto family. Ed and his team go above and beyond the call of a caterer, as volunteers and donors and sponsors of many of our events including the Annual Picnic and Community Rocks.

Aon Hewitt is Community Living Toronto’s benefits and pension consultants. They are also passionate about supporting organizations where they do business. For more than 10 years, we have been able to count on their generosity on a variety of projects, including their sponsorship of the Shadow Lake Centre Golf Tournament and Community Rocks.



Are you a BMO MasterCard holder? Well with Changelit you can automatically round up your purchases and donate the difference to Community Living Toronto right at the checkout! Sign up with your existing BMO MasterCard today at Changelit.com. For more information please contact Elliott Port on 647.729.1255 or at elliott.port@cltoronto.ca.

Save the DATE!



Lawson Site
**SATURDAY
JUNE 13th, 2015
11AM-3PM**

Community Living Toronto
**annual
picnic**



**Community
Living
Toronto**

The picnic will take place at our Lawson Site at **1712 Ellesmere Rd.**, just a short walk from the McCowan subway stop. Wheelchair-accessible parking only.

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

Admission: \$2 per person. Additional donations welcome.

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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Matt Poirier
647-729-1210
matthew.poirier@cltoronto.ca

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

For more information and directions visit
www.communitylivingtoronto.ca

Contact US

COMMUNITY LIVING TORONTO PUBLIC RELATIONS AND FUNDRAISING

20 Spadina Road, Toronto, ON M5R 2S7
416.968.0650
fundraising@cltoronto.ca



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