

DONOR DOLLARS

IN ACTION

COMMUNITY LIVING
Toronto



SPRING/FALL 2020

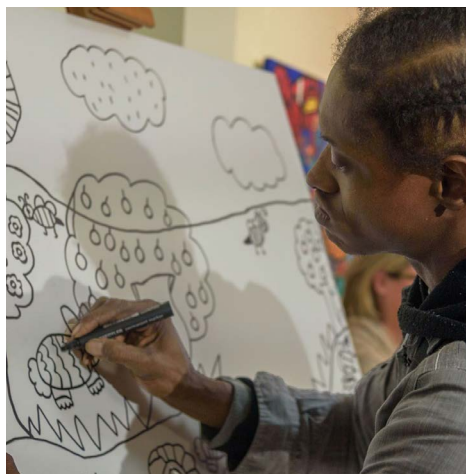
Islington Middle School Gives Back to Their Community

Before the winter holidays last year, a class at Islington Junior Middle School wanted to do something special and find a way to give back to their community. The students, who all have a diagnosis of autism, started a “Teacher Tea Cart” where they would sell tea and goodies once a week to the school’s staff.

They raised over \$125! Luckily for us, they donated that money to Creative Village Studio, our community-based art studio in Islington Village.

The students dropped by to present their donation and got to tour the studio, where they had the opportunity to see some of the amazing artwork by our community-based artists. With their generous donation, Creative Village Studio was able to purchase new supplies such as paint and canvases.

Thank you, Islington Junior Middle School!



One of our community-based artists working on a piece at Creative Village Studio



Islington Junior Middle School class at Creative Village Studio

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NEIGHBOURHOOD CONNECTIONS

Janina Coulthard, a Community Living Toronto member and volunteer, was chatting with her neighbour Mr. McDougall about the programs her daughter attends in Etobicoke.

Mr. McDougall, a member of the Knights of Columbus was inspired. The Knights of Columbus fundraise for many community organizations. And, luckily for us, they were looking for another local organization to support, after raising a whopping \$2,000 through their bingo night!

This generous donation helped our Judson site staff run some new and exciting programs.

They were able to bring in an adaptive wellness instructor to run a 12-week yoga class, as well as Hands on Exotics, an organization that brings in exotic animals for people to interact with. Previously, a kangaroo and a lynx have come to visit! These new



Judson members enjoying an adapted wellness yoga class.

programs were specifically chosen by people who attend programs at Judson.

This June, amidst the pandemic, the Knights of Columbus donated an extra \$1,000 to support our COVID-19 efforts. With this donation, our staff team at Judson, put together fun activity boxes and special

birthday deliveries to help make the most of this often-gloomy time.

None of this would have been possible without a friendly chat between neighbours.

A big THANK YOU to Mr. McDougall and The Knights of Columbus.



Lisa, Adam, Jennifer (Left to Right) interacting with the delightful animals brought in by Hands on Exotics

We love working with service clubs!

Over the years, club members have helped fund many things like camp programs, housing initiatives and employment programs. Are you a member of a service club?

We'd love to hear from you! Contact Sylvie Labrosse at 647-588-9465.

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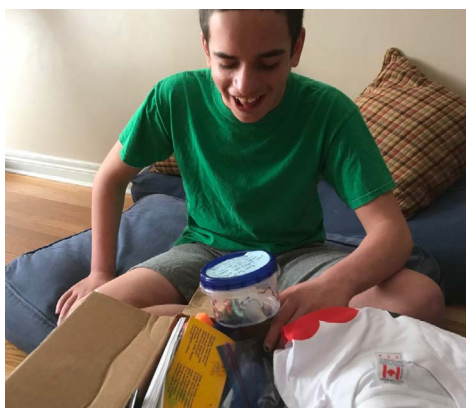
SUMMER CAMP IS FOR EVERYONE

Summer Camp is for Everyone!

Maria is a 9-year-old girl who had never been to an overnight camp before. Last summer, with the help of a grant from the Choices that can Change Lives Fund along with a family contribution, Maria was able to attend Camp Kennebec in Arden, Ontario, for a whole week!

At camp, Maria pushed the boundaries out of her comfort zone, participating in new activities such as waterskiing, horseback riding, and photography. Her favourite activities were around water, like swimming, tubing, and canoeing.

Maria's counselors said that she settled into camp quickly and had a really great time. This experience has helped improve her independence and social skills. When her mother Anna picked her up, she noticed how relaxed and calm her daughter was after such a fun week.



Some very excited campers receiving their virtual camp kits

Maria's experience with summer camp is not unique. For many, camp is the highlight of their year. Playing with friends, arts n' crafts, and learning from councillors is the best thing about summer.

This year, due to the pandemic, residential summer camps have been closed — including our very own Shadow Lake Centre, which is why, we created Virtual Camp at Shadow Lake. Designed with fun themed weeks with both large and small group activities, virtual camp gave people the amazing camp experience they love, right from their own home.

Through the generosity of people like you, subsidies were provided to help those who wanted to attend virtual camp the opportunity of a fun filled week.

Many thanks to the Kiwanis Club of Toronto for the \$10,000 grant. This grant ensured that every Virtual Camp participant was provided with a Camp Kit that included a Camp T-shirt and journal, tuck shop snacks, stickers, art supplies, board games, and so much more.



Maria enjoying a day out

“It is so hard to find a camp that can accommodate

Maria and being able to afford it. We are very happy Maria had that experience last summer.

She is such a sweet little girl. We are now getting a few words from her and her vocabulary is increasing. It practically never happened before.”

— Maria's mother Anna

We're also grateful to the students of Greenwood College School in Toronto who won a \$5,000 grant from YPI (Youth Philanthropy Initiative), as a result of their Community Living Toronto project.

These funds were also used to support our Virtual Camp program at Shadow Lake to help provide additional entertainment such as super heroes, magicians, yoga and sports instructors.

Through the **Choices Fund** small grants of up to **\$1,000** help make goals and dreams possible. **Visit choiceschangelives.ca**

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TRIBUTE TO CAITLYN

Caitlyn attended Lawson Respite Services (Lawson) for many years.

Her favourite activity was the sensory room. The music, interesting colours, light movements, and textures helped create a calm and relaxing environment. Over the past eight years, Caitlyn enjoyed the activities at Lawson with her twin brother, Connor.

Sadly, Caitlyn passed away last summer. In her memory, her family decided to do something wonderful to celebrate her young life.

Instead of flowers, the family had asked for donations to be made in memory of Caitlyn to help improve the space she loved most.

Through the many generous donations made, \$1230 was raised!

With these funds, new indoor tent swings, a hammock pod, and multiple musical instruments were purchased. This will allow for the lounge, outside the sensory room, to be transformed into a glorious music room that will be enjoyed by many people for years to come.

On February 29th, what would have been Caitlyn's birthday, friends, family and staff joined at Lawson to celebrate Caitlyn and see the space made possible by her legacy.

“[Lawson] was a godsend because for many years

it was the only time, we got a weekend off. They even worked with us to allow us to take a vacation, our first in 14 years!

The staff have been wonderful! There's never been a question in my mind that our kids were safe while being there and the staff took time to actually get to know them. Quite a few of them even came to Caitlyn's celebration of life, which was wonderful!”

— Melissa (Caitlyn's Mother)



Caitlyn in her favourite hat

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. To find out more contact us at 647-588-9465



Photos are of the Sensory Room at Lawson Respite

TRIBUTE TO DONNA

Remembering Donna Britten

This past year we lost Donna Britten, a Community Living Toronto legacy!

Donna's journey as an advocate with the developmental services sector began when her son David suffered from an uncontrolled seizure disorder that resulted in an intellectual disability. Her hope was that David, like his sisters, would have the opportunity to live on his own as an adult, getting to engage with his community! It was this desire for David's independence, and our FamilyLink program (then called Pilot Parents) that brought Donna into the Community Living Toronto family over 45 years ago!

Over these past many years, Donna was not only an advocate for individuals with an intellectual disability, but she was a dedicated volunteer on Scarborough's council, a CLTO board member and even our very own Board President, along with being on the board of directors at OASIS. Donna became a sought-after voice for the sector, always seeking change, offering feedback and giving wise advice across the province. She always found a way to pair these amazing qualities with an incredible sense of humour.



Donna with her late husband Jim Britten

Donna once said that her favourite thing about being a part of the Community Living Toronto family was the fact that it is the **“most wonderful circle of support”** and we will need that support now more than ever. Donna, you will be terribly missed but you leave behind a legacy of dedication, compassion, and laughter.

Make a donation in honour
Donna and her incredible
support of our sector at
www.cltoronto.ca/donate



Donna Britten

Donor Dollars in Action

LIGHTS PROGRAM**LIGHTS is now in its tenth year of operation and that's something to celebrate!****Meet Derek and Peter: two of the first people to sign on with LIGHTS.**

Derek, Peter and their moms, Lindsay and Susan, came to LIGHTS in 2011. Derek was 32, Peter was 26. They had been living together, independently, for about five months, and had applied for government funding but had been turned down. Lindsay and Susan quickly realized their sons living scenario wasn't financially self-sustainable and feared their sons would have to move back home. Then they heard about LIGHTS and applied. Their application was accepted. Family fears dissipated, and Derek and Peter thrived.



When a small sum of Innovative Residential Funding from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services opened up a couple of years later, the two families re-applied for permanent financing, mindful of what they had learned from LIGHTS. Their budgets were reasonable and effective; their living situation had proven sustainable. There were only a few funding opportunities available, and the boys' families were granted two of them.

Derek and Peter's transition to living independently not only changed their lives, but the lives of everyone around them. When comparing their sons capabilities ten years ago versus what they are today, Lindsay

and Susan are as astonished as they are thrilled. Both say the changes in their sons are remarkable: huge increases in self-esteem, a new sense of empowerment, and a deep confidence that each is his own person, not just an extension of his parents.

When asked about how their sons independence had helped them, the answers were just as revealing. One mom indicated that while she's still very involved with certain aspects of her son's life, she has **100% more independence now.** The other mom experienced the gift of emotional freedom: her son's independence has lifted much of the responsibility she always carried as her own burden.



Donor Dollars in Action

LIGHTS PROGRAM

Both moms emphasized that none of this would have been possible without early financial support from LIGHTS. ***“LIGHTS is unique and hones in on the true needs of these individuals,”*** one of the mothers concluded. In other words,

the initial financial support and guidance to Derek, Peter and their families led to the eventual success of their funding proposal, and to the Ministry granting them long-term individualized residential grants.



Derek and Peter going about their daily lives

And that is the story of just one residence. LIGHTS continues to be a leader in the challenge to help families of the intellectually disabled develop residential support in their communities. The LIGHTS model is efficient, innovative and flexible. It lets individuals and families develop plans that meet their own needs, rather than the needs of the system.

For further information about LIGHTS or to make a donation visit **LIGHT.to** or contact **Sylvie Labrosse at 647-588-9495 or sylvie.labrosse@cltoronto.ca**

Friendly Connections



If you or someone you know, with an intellectual disability, are struggling with social isolation, sign up for these fun deliveries. You can receive a postcard, letter in the mail, email, a FaceTime or Zoom chat, or get fun activity sheets delivered to you! (Canada Wide)

Sign up today on **Connect***ABILITY.ca* !

Social isolation can be scary and sad for all of us. Staying connected to people we care about keeps us happy, healthy, and safe.



To support this campaign visit **LIGHTS.to** or contact **Sylvie Labrosse at 647-588-9465 or sylvie.labrosse@cltoronto.ca**

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FOSTER CONNECTIONS

Harry ‘Red’ Foster was a Canadian broadcasting legend and successful advertising executive who helped create and build the Community Living movement.

Toronto born, Foster was a life-long advocate for people with intellectual disabilities and a proponent of inclusive communities. Foster had a brother affectionately known as Jackie, who had an intellectual disability and was blind. He didn’t want his brother to feel left out in society and wanted him to feel included in everyday living, with the same opportunities as everyone else.

He established the Harry E. Foster Charitable Foundation, a non-profit charity that provides funding for organizations that support people with intellectual disabilities. After starting the foundation, he opened the Harry E. Foster Employment Training Centre, operated by the

Metro Toronto Association for Community Living, which is now Community Living Toronto.

The training centre provided skill training and employment for those with intellectual disabilities. This made it possible for many people with intellectual disabilities to gain the job skills required for different industries such as retail and food service.

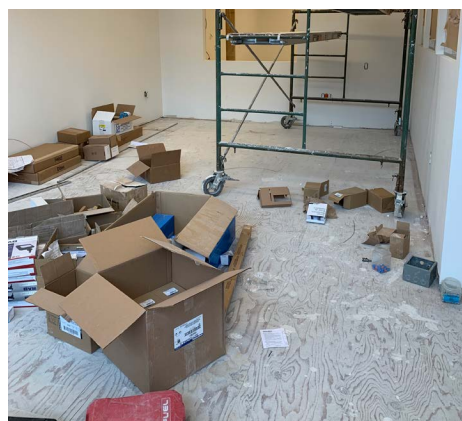
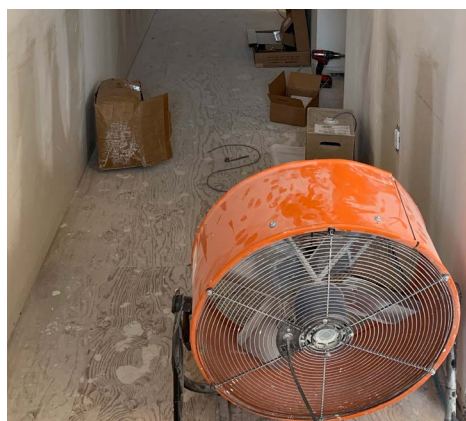
Throughout his life, he was involved with creating awareness of those with intellectual disabilities, dedicating his time to fundraise, and create accessible programs. He was a great advocate.

To date, through his family foundation - The Harry E. Foster Charitable Foundation has generously donated close to \$1 million to Community Living Toronto. Harry’s legacy has had an impact on people of all ages and abilities.



Photo of Harry ‘Red’ Foster provided by harryefosterfoundation.org

For these reasons - and so many more - we have named our newest site location “Foster Connections” in Harry ‘Red’ Foster’s honour. Thank you, Harry “Red” Foster and the Harry E. Foster Foundation, for all your support over the years!



Photos of the construction of the new Foster Connections location

Donor Dollars in Action

FOSTER CONNECTIONS

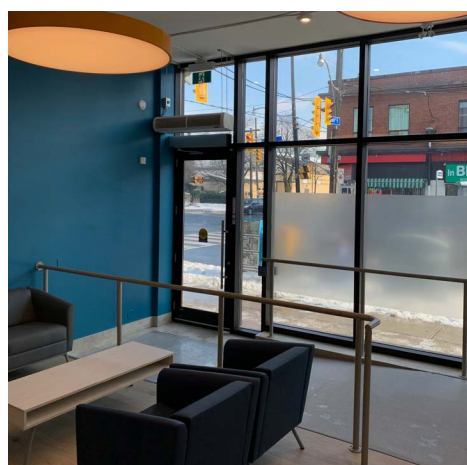
What was once an old bank at Gerrard and Main is now the home of our new Foster Connections location. This newly renovated space is beautiful with big windows that provide lots of natural light. It is also entirely accessible!

The real beauty of this new site, however, is the location. With the streetcar right out front, the subway less than a five-minute walk away, and even a GO station down the road, we couldn't have dreamed of a more transit-friendly location.

The building itself is divided into two sections, each with its own unique purpose. The first floor is specifically designated for our programs, mainly our adult development program (ADP). From Monday to Friday, this ADP offers various activities such as arts and crafts, music, yoga, and life and social skills.

The second floor is used for staff. It houses offices for three of our independent living workers, who support approximately thirty individuals and two adult protective service workers who support fifty individuals. This space is also home to ConnectABILITY.ca and "hoteling" desks for any Community Living Toronto staff that would like to work there for the day. There is even a large multipurpose room perfect for meetings or program activities.

Though everyone's moved in, we have had to pause our in-person programming and limit the number of people working out of the office, due to Covid-19. However, we hope to re-open our doors as soon as we can do so, safely. We can't wait for everyone to be back and to enjoy this beautiful new space.



Photos of our new completed Foster Connections location

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A&W RESTAURANT RAISES MONEY FOR COMMUNITY JUNCTION

Sometimes great things start with a burger. When A&W moved to the Junction neighborhood at Keele and Dundas, the staff and individuals taking classes at Community Junction would pop over for lunch – a lot. Over time, the staff at A&W learned more about Community Junction and a relationship began.

So, when the team at A&W were looking to support an organization in their local community, they didn't need to look much further than down the street. The past two years, A&W has held an annual fundraising event at the Summer Solstice street festival.

They would set up a table at the festival with a coin box for donations and contributed \$1 for every teen burger served that weekend. They also handed out Community Living Toronto materials, including Donor Dollars, our Annual Report, brochures, and Community Junction's class schedule. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 this year's festival has been postponed until 2021.

Last summer, A&W raised \$380 dollars. That's 150% more than the year before! Their donation will be used to purchase instruments



Table set up outside of the Keele and Dundas A&W during the Summer Solstice Festival

to enhance Community Junction's music classes, which will help create more sensory-engaging programming.

Community Junction provides community-based activities for people with an intellectual disability and their families living in Toronto's west end. Working with community partners, neighbourhood groups and parent-run organizations, Community Junction coordinates affordable, meaningful opportunities for inclusion, skill-building, and recreation.



Our members enjoying a zumba class at Community Junction

To make a donation to support Community Junction visit cltoronto.ca

If you're interested in learning more about Community Junction please contact **Paris Gray** at paris.gray@cltoronto.ca. Community Junction is located at 2934 Dundas St W, Toronto.



Donor Dollars in Action

ACCOUNTABLE TO YOU

In the 2019/2020 fiscal year \$1.1 million was raised – THANK YOU!

Fundraising Revenue	\$1,134,235
Direct Fundraising Expenses	\$258,626
Net Revenue	\$875,609

Areas of Support



27%
Community & Participation Supports

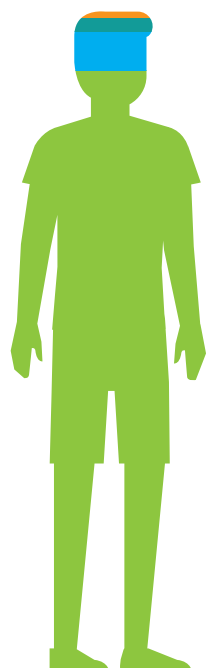
6%
Employment Supports

20%
Greatest Needs

37%
Housing

10%
Respite

Who our donors are



1%
Service/Religious Organizations

2%
Foundations

6%
Corporations

91%
Individuals

YOU are helping people live independently and reach their goals.



Fundraising Programs



45%
Individual Giving

16%
Major Giving

20%
Community Giving

16%
Special Events

2%
Planned Giving

YOU are making job readiness training programs available for those who seek employment.



Donor Dollars in Action

DONOR LISTING

**Thank you for being a part
of our caring community
with your generosity.**

This donor roll reflects cumulative
donations of \$250 + received in
the 2019/2020 fiscal year from
April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020.

Many other donors have generously
contributed, including those who
prefer to remain anonymous.

\$250 – \$499

Elsie and David Andrews
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Nicholas Peter Bayley
Paul and Kaye Beeston
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Minda Bojin
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Carolyn Vasely
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*A&W Restaurants
Cedar Beach Variety Store
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\$5,000 – \$9,999

Don Roger
Rita Spano
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Chris and Geraldine Stringer

ABC Life Literacy Canada
Bridgehouse Asset Managers
H & R REIT
ME & Lau Family Foundation
The Fred and Donna Leslie Foundation
Toronto Star Fresh Air Fund
Trillium Support Services

\$10,000 – \$49,000

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GJ Garden of Life Foundation
Nelson Arthur Hyland Foundation

\$50,000 +

Harry E. Foster Charitable Foundation
State Street Foundation



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Kopas Family Foundation
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Rogers Cable Communications
SDI Marketing
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DONOR LISTING

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Garry Melville
Theresa Metcalfe

Estates

Estate of Hugh Morris
Estate of M. Evelyn Turner

Tributes in Honour of:

Martha Byrt
Carol Latimer
Paul McCormack
Phil and Joanne Taylor's birthdays

Tributes in Memory of:

Georgina Bolton (Murless)
Dr. Federick
James Brooks-Hill
Heather Butt
Margaret E. Chiles
Jo Di Giovanni
Matthew DiGiovanni
Douglas M. Gare
Debbie Gordon
Caitlyn Maclellan
In memory Jim Neustaedter
Diane Louise Perna (Cecy)
David Ramsey
Joan Elizabeth Scott
James Shedden
Jocelyn Ann Ukrainetz
Louis (Lou) Troiano Wise

Helping people is only possible with the support of many. Donate online today at communitylivingtoronto.ca or contact **Sylvie Labrosse**, Manager of Fundraising at **647-588-9465** or sylvie.labrosse@cltoronto.ca.

POSTPONED TO 2021



Theme:
BEACH PARTY!

Watch your email for details over the next few months.



communityrocks.ca

Donor Dollars in Action

CONGRATS PETER!

Congratulations Peter Wakayama

On April 29th the Japanese Government awarded Peter Wakayama with the Order of the Rising Sun.

An honor awarded to those who have made distinguished achievements in international relations, promotion of Japanese culture, advancements in their field, or preservation of the environment.

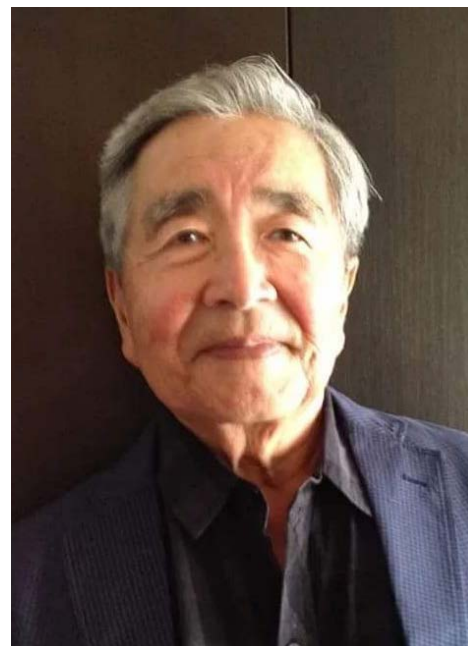
Peter worked as an architect for over 35 years, working on many high-profile projects such as Toronto's Eaton Centre, Ontario Place, Princess Margaret Hospital and the Atrium at Sick Kids. Peter is now retired but he still manages to stay busy. He is a member of Community Living Toronto, volunteers on the board of the Japanese Canadian

Cultural Centre and various other committees.

Peter, and his late wife Ethel, became involved with Community Living Toronto back in 1992 when their son Paul started attending our day programs at Manson. Since then, Peter has been a member and an advocate for individuals with an intellectual disability who actively supports all our events and initiatives. He has also facilitated the use of the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre for our Spring Fling/ Silent Auction and other events.

Peter has left his mark not only on the architecture of Toronto but on the lives of all those who have encountered him!

Congratulations Peter!



Peter Wakayama

COMMUNITY LIVING
Toronto

Public Relations & Fundraising

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fundraising@cltoronto.ca
647-588-9465

Charitable registration number : 10769 4143 RR0001

CONTACT US



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