# DONOR DOLLARS

# IN ACTION Community Living Toronto Donor Stewardship Update



Joshua Splude and Jenna Martinuzzi participating in Travel Training.

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Supporting Rights & Choices

# **Travel Training Pilot**

The Travel Training Pilot project is for people 18 years and older with an intellectual or developmental disability who are ready to learn how to safely take public transit on their own. Whether if its to get to school, work, or a favourite community activity, this project is designed to get more people out traveling independently. In class, the students learn many things including; how to take the TTC, how to pay a fare, how to plan your trip, street safety, problem solving, and what to do if you lose your pass or get robbed. The coordinators use a mix of guizzes, games, and role play throughout the in-class time to make sure that all students understand the lessons.

Continued on next page...

### The Launch of Our New Multi-Sensory Room

At Lawson Children's Respite, we host 200 children between the ages of 2-17 each year. They might stay with us for a few hours or a few days. It's a camp-like environment, with an outdoor playground, indoor gymnasium, movies, arts and crafts, games, and community outings. While their children

are at Lawson, parents can take a well-deserved break from the challenges of caregiving.

In 2016, we started to plan for the addition of a multi-sensory room at Lawson. It was a big dream, with a total cost of \$50,000. But over the course of a 2 year fundraising campaign, with the help of the McCormick/ Morrison family, the Scarborough Regional Council, program staff, and our generous donors, we opened the doors to our new multi-sensory room on March 8, 2018.

Thank you everyone who helped to make this dream a reality!

Continued on Page 5...



From Left to Right: John McCormick, Susan McCormick, Sylvia McCormick, Bob McCormick, and Jan McCrae. At the Multi-Sensory Room launch!

### **LARGE GRANTS**

# **Travel Training Continued...**

After the student successfully finishes the in-class curriculum, they proceed to the personalized route training. Participants can choose what route they want to learn – for example, getting to work. The route training consists of 35 hours of 1-on-1 training with a coordinator. During the 35 hours, the coordinators use a shadow model. First the coordinators go along with the individual side by side on their route. Slowly, they pull back as the individual gets comfortable, starting with sitting a few seats back and so on. Once they have taken 3 trips without

Coordinator and Michelle comparing the digital and printed TTC schedule.

any errors, they move on to the final step, which is taking the TTC independently and meeting their coordinator at the destination.

This project kicked off in September 2017 after receiving a grant of \$674,000 from the Ministry of Children. Community and Social Services' **Employment and Modernization Fund**. The program has been created in partnership with Toronto Transit Commission, Geneva Centre for Autism. Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, Kerry's Place Autism Services, Salvation Army Lawson Ministries, Community Access to Transportation Hamilton, and project lead, Community Living Toronto.

Once the Travel Training pilot is completed we will add it to our fee-for-service listings on MyCommunityHub.ca and share the licensed curriculum to other organizations so that we can help more and more people gain independence and get out into the community on their own.

One of the participants, Amanda, has successfully completed the travel training program. Amanda has a job in downtown Toronto and wanted to be a part of

the Travel Training program to teach her how to get to work on her own. Since June 4<sup>th</sup>, she has been able to ride

the TTC independently to get to work. Sometimes she does meet her mother on the trip home, mainly for the company, as she is confident to now travel on her own. A few weeks into her independent travel, the Bloor line on the subway system had a half hour delay where passengers had to wait on the platform until an issue was fixed. She did admit to a few tears as she knew she would be late for work, but with the skills she was taught, Amanda remembered to keep calm and focus on her breathing. Once she calmed herself down, she remembered to text her work supervisor and mother to let them know that she will be late for work. Through the kindness of strangers, another passenger asked if she was okay, and Amanda responded that she was! Congratulations Amanda on your new found independence!



Michelle entering the TTC on her own!

If you would like more information on our Travel Training program contact us at TravelTraining@cltoronto.ca | (647)-245-8364

### **ACHIEVING DREAMS AND GOALS**

### **Meet Melissa and Her Family**

For most people a family trip is an annual thing, but for many of the people supported by Community Living Toronto, vacations aren't financially possible. Last year, while working with her support team, Melissa identified the desire to take her family on a trip. They had never been on a trip together and she wanted it to be something special that the whole family would enjoy. She began to plan and chose Great Wolf Lodge in Niagara Falls as the destination. She knew she could save some money towards the trip, but with a limited income she'd need some help. That's when she applied to the Choices that can Change Lives Fund.

Through the Choices Fund, Melissa was awarded a grant that helped her cover most of the cost of a two night's stay at Great Wolf Lodge. With her savings and the help of her support team, she was able to cover the additional costs like the GO Train, taxis, snacks and meals.

The family went on their adventure last April and here's what Melissa had to say: "The Choices Fund helped us go on our first family trip. My children have always wanted to go away with me and my partner but we never had enough money to do so. The children got to experience swimming at the water park and sleeping at a hotel. This meant the world to us, and my children continue to talk about the experience."

When Melissa was asked what the family enjoyed the most about their trip the answer was simple... Everything! They loved swimming in the water park, going on water slides and playing various arcade games. The children also took part in group activities such as a sing along and story-telling all—of which were about animals.



Melissa and her family at Great Wolf Lodge!



The indoor waterpark at Great Wolf Lodge

This was truly an experience of lifetime for this family! Through the Choices that can Change Lives Fund, grants are provided to children, youth, adults, and families who have been working towards a dream or goal and need that extra little bit of help. One hundred percent funded through the generosity of people like you, we've been able to provide help for classes and tutoring, summer camp, travel assistance, technology and communication tools, and so much more. Thank you!



Contact Sylvie Labrosse for more information about the **Choices that can Change Lives Fund**: Email: sylvie.labrosse@cltoronto.ca | Phone: 647-588-9465 | or visit: choiceschangelives.ca



### **FACTS & FIGURES**



People have moved into independent living after LIGHTS facilitation.

Families have moved on from LIGHTS.

Families have chosen LIGHTS funding.

Families have received advisory services.

Presentations to date, reaching more than 3,000 attendees.

LIGHTS was founded in 2011 by a group of concerned community members and families.

### Partnerships

- Government of Ontario (Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services)
- Community Living Toronto
- Community donors (foundations, corporations, individuals)

### Funds Raised To Date

\$6.3M

- Over 6.3 million pledged to date
- Funding from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services for Facilitators

### Funding to Families

\$20,000/yr

Variable of approximately \$20K annually per family funded. Some families do not need funding but still benefit from LIGHTS facilitation.

### Operating Costs

\$5.000

Our only salaried positions are paid for by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services and the majority of other costs are a gift-in-kind partnership with Community Living Toronto. Printing, some communications materials and brokerage fees are less than \$5,000 per

### Result

A cost effective program that enables about 98% of our private donations to leverage our government funding for the staff who create the opportunity for person-directed living arrangements that would not otherwise exist.

Through LIGHTS, there has been increased parental job productivity and a broad increase in quality of life for both individuals with an intellectual disability and members of their family. In addition there has been an opportunity for developmental services staff to learn and build an innovative program while providing person-directed supports to individuals with an intellectual disability. Because of LIGHTS, long term societal opportunities for inclusion and a more fulfilling life are increasing for these individuals, and costs to society are decreasing.

A gift to LIGHTS will help provide funding for those in need and seeking a home of their own. For more info visit: www.LIGHTS.to

### **CREATE BIG OPPORTUNITIES**

# **Our New Multi-Sensory Room**





Here is Mallory Morrison testing our new Multi-Sensory room!

Our new multi-sensory room offers some amazing features, including:

#### A Leaf Chair

- Hanging from the ceiling, this chair cradles the entire length of the person and offers a gentle, relaxing swaying motion
- Can help restore things like balancing, climbing stairs, walking, and adjusting to changing levels in the environment

#### **UV Fluorescent Fibre Optic Tails**

- Encourages depth perception, fine motor skills, and colour identification
- The bright lights are accessible for people with low vision

#### 3 kinds of Bubble Tubes

- An air tube that can be used with aromatherapy oils
- A water tube with "fish" that gives off a low grade vibration that can be soothing to touch
- A bubble wall that looks like it is really deep
- These can help with visual tracking, gross and fine motor skills, and communication

#### **Multi-Sensory Environment Genie**

- A free app that anyone can download on an Apple product
- From the app, visitors can change the colour of certain features such as the bubble wall, play sounds and music, and more
- Also offers eye gaze technology so visitors can make changes to their environment just by looking at one of the options

#### What is a Multi-Sensory Room?

A multi-sensory room is a therapeutic space that promotes sensory modulation and positive change.

Multi-sensory rooms can help people:

- Learn new skills
- Participate in therapeutic activities
- Feel relaxed and safe.
- Interact socially
- Experience an appropriate level of sensory stimulation
- Gain a sense of agency by controlling their environment
- Enjoy using their creativity



The benefits are rolling in: One 5-year old boy recently came to Lawson for a 4-hour trial visit. He was having a very difficult time after his mom left. The unfamiliar space and all the new people can be intimidating. But when he went into the multi-sensory room he became distracted and started to relax. He spent the majority of his visit exploring the multi-sensory room, only leaving to have a snack. When his mom came to pick him up he didn't want to leave!

### **CELEBRATING COMMUNITY**

## **Family Fun Fair Highlights!**

On Saturday June 9<sup>th</sup> we hosted our Annual Family Fun Fair. Filled with games, entertainment, food, and excitement, fun was had by all! There was face painting, nail art, henna tattoos, snow cones, popcorn, burgers, hot dogs, carnival games, bouncy castles, a live band, and more for only \$4!

There were so many games and prizes, most people left with a bag full of treats and goodies to take home with them. MP Shaun Chen of Scarborough North attended again this year, and he brought us an official personal letter on a plaque praising us for the work that we do and how the Annual Family Fun Fair is a great event that celebrates inclusion in our communities. Thank you MP Shaun Chen!

A big **THANK YOU** goes out to the Etobicoke/York Council that funded the cost of a bus for people to take from the west end of the city, to our Lawson location in Scarborough, where the Family Fun Fare was held.





















Samantha Odo, Donna Odo's granddaughter at this year's Family Fun Fair.

After the event, we received a nice little thank you from Donna Odo.

Donna came to the event with her granddaughter and had a blast! Here is what she said:

"I have to send this little memo to thank you so very much for informing us about the free bus and the family fair. The girls and I went and they had an absolute ball - the whole set up was so well done and the volunteers were great with all the participants. I loved the music - the band and singers were very good and it was my kind of music. All in all it was a wonderful day and please pass on my thanks to all involved."

#### -Donna Odo

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

### **IN MEMORY**

### **David Ross Layton**



It is with great sadness that we share news of the passing of our friend and colleague David Layton. David had been battling cancer for many months and passed away, peacefully, at home with his family by his side.

In April 2018, David was awarded Community Living Toronto's highest recognition, the Jim Turner Award, at our Leaders in Philanthropy celebration.

As a volunteer David was devoted to inclusiveness for those with disabilities. inspired by his daughter Erin. David was President of the Board for Community Living Toronto. During his tenure on the Board, he served on a number of committees - Chair of the Real Estate Committee, a member of our Finance and Audit Committee, and our Nominating Committee. David had been volunteering with us for over 10 years! What he enjoyed most about volunteering was the ability to help improve the quality of life for the people that we support.

David also was a founding family member of the West Toronto KEYS to INclusion. that provides day programs for adults with intellectual disabilities, a member of the Geography Department Advisory Council at Ryerson University, and a long-time volunteer for the Out-of-the-Cold program at the All Saints Kingsway Church in Etobicoke.

To date, we have received over \$3,000 in donations in memory of David Layton.

Our deepest sympathies go out to David's wife Carol and his daughters Erin and Beth, and the rest of their family.



Here is Erin receiving the Jim Turner Award on behalf of her father, David.

Want to find out how you can set up a fund in memory of someone? Contact Sylvie Labrosse at Sylvie.labrosse@cltoronto.ca or 647-288-9465

### **WHY I GIVE**

# **Bettyjane Wylie**



Bettyjane with her son, Matthew.

Bettyjane is a distinguished author, playwright, and screenwriter, who has given annually to Community Living Toronto for 33 years.

A two-time Gemini Award-winner, she has written for Maclean's, Chatelaine, the Globe and Mail, and the Toronto Star, received a University of Manitoba Alumni Association's Alumni Jubilee Award in 1989, a YWCA Women of Distinction Award in 1999, and was named to the Order of Canada in 2003.

Her son, Matthew, has an intellectual disability. He is 57 years old and is supported by our residential and community participation programs.

#### Q & A with Bettyjane Wylie

#### 1. How did you come to be involved with Community shoppers have told me that he is very friendly and polite **Living Toronto?**

Matthew's father died suddenly of a heart attack when he was 12. He is the youngest of my four children, and once his siblings had gone off to university, I couldn't take care of him on my own. I was going on book tours, trying to write at home, and had meetings all over the city. That's when I started looking into group homes at Community Living Toronto.

#### 2. How was the transition to independent living for Matthew?

I will always remember one New Year's Day all my kids and their friends were gathered at my apartment. We were having a good time, with drinks and food. Matthew was there and he suddenly announced that he was "going home." Community Living Toronto gave Matthew a chance to call a place, and his life, his own.

#### 3. What's Matthew up to now?

He lives in an apartment with a roommate and has a job at Loblaws. His co-workers and even some grocery

at work. He does his own laundry and buys his own clothes, but I think he lets his roommate do most of the cooking. We still see each other at least once a week. I always wanted him to be an independent person. I didn't want him to be a burden to his siblings - I wanted him to be a welcome guest.

#### 4. How has Community Living Toronto impacted your life?

It gave me peace of mind, a network of professionals to talk things over with, and the time to work on my writing. A lot of my work has been inspired by my life - awful things as well as breakthroughs and little miracles. I have actually written a book, a chamber opera, a film, and a play about Matthew.

#### 5. Why do you continue to give each year?

I'm grateful for the help Matthew's had. It's just such a good program. You've got to pay it forward as they say.

"I can't tell you how comforting it is to be able to discuss Matt, his plans, his problems, and his future with someone else, particularly when that someone is equipped and trained to help, and has knowledge of and access to programs and aids I wouldn't even know about."

-Bettyjane Wylie, The Book of Matthew: The Story of a Learning Disabled Child, 1984.p. 150

### **ACCOUNTABLE TO YOU**

### The Fundraising Picture — 2017-2018

Through fundraising dollars, people are reaching their goals and dreams.

In the 2017-2018 fiscal year \$1.4 million was raised thanks to people like you. Whether you took part in an event, gave as part of a mailing, in honour or memory of a loved one, or through a special campaign - THANK YOU!

Fundraising Revenue

\$1,481,576

Direct Fundraising Expenses

\$185,671

**Net Revenue** 

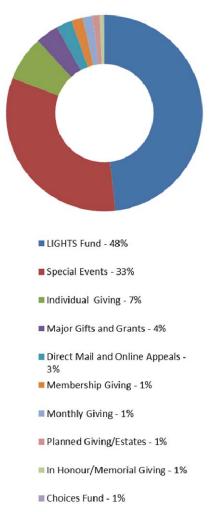
\$1,295,907

% of Expenses to Fundraising Revenue: 13%

For every dollar donated .87 cents went directly to support children, youth and adults who have an intellectual disability supported by Community Living Toronto.



#### Sources of Fundraising Revenue



### **DONOR LOVE**



Thank you for being a part of our community. Your generosity is helping people live to their fullest potential. This listing recognizes donors with gifts received in between April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018.

#### \$1 - \$499

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This list recognizes donors who made gift between April 1, 2017 and March 31, 2018. Our apologies for any errors or omissions.

Contact Sylvie Labrosse, Manager of Fundraising at 647-588-9465 or sylvie.labrosse@cltoronto.ca for questions or further information.

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To Purchase your ticket, visit

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