

DONOR DOLLARS

IN ACTION

Community Living Toronto
Donor Stewardship Update



Students of Sir Oliver Mowat Collegiate presenting a cheque to Shadow Lake Centre staff.

Spring 2019

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Students raise \$12,250!

Every year during the holiday season, Sir Oliver Mowat Collegiate Institute, a high school in Scarborough, holds a fundraising campaign for a different organization. In 2018, our year-round recreation facility, Shadow Lake Centre, had the honour of being chosen as their cause.

Throughout the month of December, the students put on various events to raise money. A couple of them were fun takes on popular reality shows - think “Mowat” Idol and So You Think You Can Dance. They held a pancake breakfast, a lip-sync battle, and “buy-out opportunities”, where students could “buy” themselves out of class to attend an event together.

For example, each student donated \$2 to watch a basketball game instead of being in class. A few members of the Shadow Lake team attended the school’s Christmas Market on December 14th, where students sold homemade baked goods, raffle tickets, books, and crafts. ...



Shadow Lake Centre staff at the Christmas Market

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CHOICES CHANGE LIVES

Since 2012, the Choices Fund has provided assistance in the form of small grants of up to \$1,000 to individuals and families as they pursue dreams and goals when all other resources have been exhausted. To date close to \$160,000 has been raised and 92 grants have been funded — **all because of people like you!**

Through Choices we fund everything from trips, summer camp, music lessons, and so much more! Everyone deserves a chance to reach their goals despite their abilities or resources.

Speaking of impact—here are some stories from some of our recent fund recipients.

Berg Takes a Trip of a Lifetime



Berg enjoying the pool on his sunny vacation in Cuba!

It's always been a dream of Berg's to fly somewhere warm in the winter. 2017 had been a particularly stressful for year, so when his support staff suggested that the family apply to the Choices Fund for help in making Berg's dream come true, they jumped at the chance.

With some financial help of friends and family as well as his uncle Mike, it only made sense to help fund this young man's dream with a grant of \$1,000.

It wasn't long before Berg and his uncle Mike were off to Cuba and Berg had a trip he will never forget.



Berg with some new friends he met on his trip!

"Thank you for making Berg's dream come true. He danced every day for hours. He loved every day and didn't want to come back to Canada" - uncle Mike.

He had the trip of a lifetime full of dancing, making friends with the staff and other vacationers, and lots of swimming. This trip even helped him get over his fear of the water!

Berg came home super relaxed from his much-deserved getaway.



For more information about the Choices that can Change Lives Fund visit choiceschangelives.ca or contact sylvie.labrosse@cltoronto.ca | 647-588-9465

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

Adaptive Music Education Lessons for Kurt



Kurt with his instructor

One of Kurt's goals was to further develop his keyboard and piano skills. Having shown an interest in music at school and at the suggestion of teachers, Kurt had been taking Adapted Music Education classes at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital and was showing great progress on the piano. Unfortunately the costs were becoming prohibitive and the family wanted to help Kurt continue. With family savings and a grant of \$650 from the Choices Fund Kurt was able continue with his lessons. This helped him continue developing skills like following directions, and build on his fine motor skills, sensory and motor coordination, as well as his psycho-social function.

By having the ability to keep up with these classes his mom noticed a big difference and shared the following with us - **"With the help of the Choices Fund, Kurt has gained proficiency and confidence in playing piano. He has also enhanced his sense of achievement and self-esteem. This grant has provided my son with the necessary means to continue participating in this meaningful opportunity. Thank you!"**

Debbie Goes to Camp



Debbie and her friend at Camp!

Debbie had fond memories of a sleepover camp she attended as a kid.

She remembered the campfires, nature walks, and many friendships she made and always dreamed of making it back to camp.

With her own savings and a grant of \$700 from the Choices Fund, Debbie was finally able to reach her goal.

This past summer she spent a week at Belwood Lodge and Camp where she went on hikes, played games, and made great new friendships! We're so happy for you Debbie!



These are just a few examples of some of the goals and dreams that have been achieved thanks to the generosity of people like you. Together we have helped 92 people reach their goals and dreams, and we can't wait to help even more people. Thank you!

LIGHTS - PLAY IT FORWARD

Play It Forward



Denis Shapovalov and Frank Dancevic sharing a hug after their match

Play it Forward took place this past November. What an amazing evening of tennis, fine dining and fundraising in support of LIGHTS!

Inspired by Denis Shapovalov, a 19 year old Canadian professional tennis player who wanted to give back to his community, the event was organized by Prestantia Management Group, under the incredible leadership of Andrzej Kepinski and Debbie Bush. The goal of the event was to promote a greater awareness of LIGHTS and to raise funds for people who have an intellectual disability.

The evening included an amazing exhibition tennis match between Denis Shapovalov and Frank Dancevic, the Canadian Davis Cup Captain; an incredible fine dining experience overseen by Mark McKewan; and entertainment by Charlotte Day Wilson and Madeline Merlo, with a guest appearance by tennis professional Vasek Pospisil on guitar (he was supposed to play against Denis but was injured). All this took place at Toronto's newest luxury hotel, Hotel X. Sponsors included TAG Heuer, Nike Canada, the Armstrong Family, BMO Nesbit Burns, Focus Asset Management, Milborne Realty, Soroc Technology, Prestantia Management Group, Yonex Corporation, Cross Family Office and Mancinelli Family Office. The media coverage of the event had an estimated reach of 41.6 million viewers and an ad value of more than \$500,000, with 127 pieces of coverage (print, online, TV and radio) in the span of 6 hours!

190 guests attended and \$150,000 was raised! Thank you to our generous sponsors, donors and ticket purchasers, the creative energy of Prestantia Management Group and our tennis stars, Denis Shapovalov, Frank Dancevic, and Vasek Pospisil!



The tennis court at Play It Forward



Robert and Mary Pat Armstrong



Musician Charlotte Day Wilson entertaining the guests.



A gift to LIGHTS helps provide funding for those seeking a home of their own.

For more info visit: [LIGHTS.to](https://lights.to)

COMMUNITY ROCKS

A Party with a Purpose

Every 2 years, we throw a party called Community Rocks with an ambitious goal of raising more than **\$600,000**. Our latest “party with a purpose” was a huge success! Held on November 10th at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, it was a disco-themed affair hosted by Ben Mulroney, with a private concert from Sam Roberts Band.

Here’s what Lory Diaz, a writer from ***Torontonicity.com***, had to say after attending this year’s event:

Community Rocks featured a gorgeous disco dance floor located in the centre of the room, that had hanging disco balls, streamers, balloons, and neon lights. The evening was filled with glitter, delicious bites, classic disco hits, and a whole lot of dancing!

Not only did the music keep the energy high, but this year the Hit & Run Dance Company was invited to the party, and their love of dance is infectious! They literally had guests dancing in the aisles of the theatre, encouraged impromptu dance choreography, and made everyone smile wherever they went throughout the night.

Sam Roberts Band melted hearts with their performance this year. Sam Roberts himself invited guests to get out of their seats and move up to the front of the stage to enjoy the music. He then took the time to dance with people at the front, ask them their names, and how they were enjoying their evening. It might seem like a small gesture, but the interactions brought such excitement to fans of his, and kept the amazing energy going even after the end of their performance.

Not only was there an abundance of music and dancing, but also delicious food. Seventh Heaven Event Catering made sure that guests had a wide variety of eats throughout the evening. The pizza bar was clearly a crowd favourite, as fresh batches of pizza were constantly brought out.

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Everyone dancing at Community Rocks! Photo courtesy of Torontoincity.com



DJ Raptor Marc spinning all of favourite DISCO tunes! Photo courtesy of Torontonicity.com

COMMUNITY ROCKS

Seventh Heaven also made sure that hors d'oeuvres were circulating throughout the event space, my personal favourite was the tomato soup with grilled cheese, which were both mini! So cute, and comforting, all in one bite (and sip)!



Tomato soup with grilled cheese. Photo courtesy of Torontonicity.com

After the savory deliciousness, the dancing, and the live rock concert, guests were invited back into the main event space and treated to amazing desserts. There were dessert stations all along the periphery, with every kind of candy and baked good you could desire, but I couldn't get over the ice cream truck that was brought inside for sweet and creamy soft-serve! Chocolate and vanilla twist is my favourite, and goes really well with ABBA. The glazed donuts available at the dessert stations were also pretty fantastic, and take second place for my indulgent treat of the night.



A view of the dessert table. Photo Courtesy of Torontonicity.com

DJ Raptor Mark and DJ Lindsay played disco favourites and kept the dance floor packed the entire night!
-Lori Diaz, Torontonicity.com



(L-R) Jenna Martinuzzi, Angela Bradley and Mayor John Tory



(L-R) Sam Forbes and his friend Nina



Sam Roberts Band getting the whole audience involved!



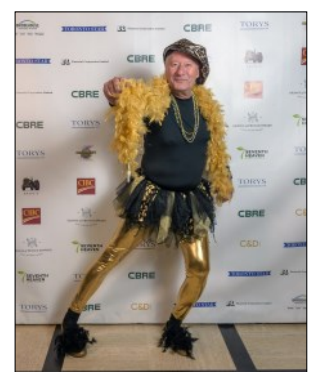
The Hit & Run Dancer put on an amazing show



Backstage with Patron's Council Chair, Duncan Jackman, Sam Roberts Band, Community Living Toronto CEO, Brad Saunders, Community Rocks Chair, Don Roger, and Community Rocks Host Ben Mulroney



Donna (right) and friend posing in front of the huge DISCO sign!



Harold Tomlinson from Creative Village Studio in full DISCO attire!

IT TAKES A COMMUNITY

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HELPING FAMILIES

The Original Help-A-Family Donor



Lise, Ernie, and Dorothy celebrating New Years 2019

Lise, Ernie, and Dorothy celebrating New Years 2019

This past holiday season, donors helped 30 families supported by Community Living Toronto's Adult Protective Service Worker (APSW) program with their holiday shopping! Their wish-lists included much-needed items like winter jackets, scarves, and grocery gift cards, along with fun toys and games like Lego.

Though the Help-A-Family campaign officially began in 2016, Lise Andrew's has been helping APSW families for years. Lise first became involved in Community Living Toronto almost 30 years ago through her sister, Dorothy, who has an Intellectual disability. Dorothy is a beloved member of the family and lives part-time at Lise's and part-time with her brother, Ernie.

As Lise says, **"I was at home one evening watching TV and a young woman came on. She was being interviewed at a food bank and said that she lived by herself and found it really hard to make ends meet. This young person either had no family or a family that didn't keep in touch with her. When I saw this I thought, I would really like to make sure that somebody like her has a nice Christmas."**

In the early 1990s, Lise called the Association and told them what she wanted to do. Her donation went to help an individual in the APSW program who was in need of simple things that many of us take for granted, like winter clothes, boots, pillows and a radio. Since then, Lise has continued to donate to Community Living Toronto every year during the holiday season to help individuals or a small family have a happier Christmas.

"I would never have dreamt in a million years that my small gesture would turn into something bigger and longer lasting," says Lise. **"We have been touched by intellectual disability in our family and it makes you aware that there are so many people out there that are in need of help. I just feel that I want to give back somehow and this is the way that I have chosen to do it."**



James Holzbauer, Adult Protective Services worker, posing with a gifts donated to help a family of 5 with their holiday cheer!



Want to Help-A-Family next Holiday Season or even year round?

Keep an eye on our Social Pages for the Holiday Campaign launch or contact us at fundraising@cltoronto.ca

HELPING COMMUNITIES

Remembering Marisa Romano

Marisa Romano was a long-time volunteer of Community Living Toronto who believed that we have a responsibility to remember those among us who are most vulnerable. Each year during the holidays, she would prepare donations of gifts and food for people living in group homes in her neighborhood and then visit each home personally, bringing a sense of joy and her love of Christmas with her.

Working on behalf of St. Joseph's Church, Marisa was a dedicated, loyal volunteer who provided these special gifts of love for over 36 years. Sadly this past September we lost Marisa. In her memory, her five surviving children decided to continue this tradition and sent us some photos of their visits to group homes in East Toronto.

Thank you Marisa for your many years of service and thank you to her family for continuing her legacy during this past holiday season. We are very grateful.



The Romano Family visiting various group homes during the holidays.

Students raise \$12,250!...continued



Ryan and Kaylee, Shadow Lake Centre staff, receiving the donation presented to them at the school's assembly.

With all proceeds going to Shadow Lake Centre to help provide summer camp subsidies for those in need, the camp staff were excited to chat with the students and explain why it is such an important place for the people we support and their families.

On the final day of Sir Oliver Mowat's holiday fundraising campaign, the school held an assembly. After the students performed holiday songs and dances, they presented our team with a cheque for **\$12,250!** We are so grateful for this incredibly generous donation. The hard work, initiative, and dedication demonstrated by Sir Oliver Mowat's students during their holiday campaign was remarkable.

Thank you to all the students and faculty that organized this fundraiser. We can't wait to take you out for a tour of the camp!



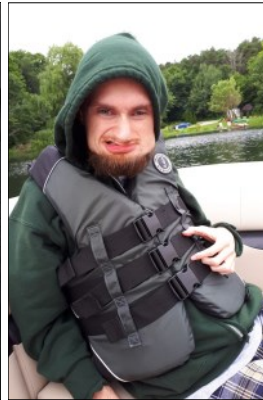
Want to help send someone to Shadow Lake this summer? Visit: ShadowLakeCentre.ca

Or Contact Sylvie at: sylvie.labrosse@cltoronto.ca



DREAMS & POSSIBILITIES

Making Summer Camp Possible!



Last April, our friend Gary Ouellette reached out to friends, families and supporters to help individuals and families in need of camp subsidies. The response was **\$33,000** raised! 24 people were provided with subsidies and due to the amazing response an official subsidy program was created to help many more people for years to come.

The Shadow Lake Camp Subsidy Program helps individuals and family with subsidies of up to \$500. The funds raised by the students at Sir Oliver Mowat Collegiate Institute will help another 25 people with summer camp subsidies.

Here's what a few of our guests and their families have to say about Shadow Lake:



"This subsidy helped me to go to Shadow Lake Camp this year. I love going to camp and spending time with other campers and staff. Once again, I had a lot of fun fishing. Thanks for the funding!" - Shadow Lake guest

"Once again camp was a positive experience for our daughter. Making new friends and seeing old ones, in a beautiful, safe and well organized environment. Thank you!" - Shadow Lake family member

"With the support of the subsidy, my daughter was able to attend her beloved Shadow Lake Camp this past summer. This is the only program left that she has been successful attending and her favourite part of the week is the dance held on the last night. We are most grateful for this opportunity. Our daughter loves Shadow Lake so much that she starts planning about 8 months out by wearing her camp cap and t-shirt. Thank you for helping improve her quality of life. - grateful mom to a Shadow Lake guest

SAVE THE DATE!

Leaders in Philanthropy AWARDS

Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Time: 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Location: Parkview Manor
55 Barber Greene Road
(Don Mills and Eglinton)

Watch for your invitation in the mail!



Because you are making a difference in the lives of so many we want to celebrate you for your dedication and support.

COMMUNITY LIVING
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SATURDAY
JUNE 8TH

11AM—3PM

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COMMUNITY LIVING
Toronto



CARNIVAL, BINGO, BBQ, GAMES AND MORE!

WWW.COMMUNITYLIVINGTORONTO.CA

GETTING TO KNOW US!

Meet Lisa!



A few members of the Public Relations and Fundraising team! (L-R) Jenny, Annette, Angela, Margarida, Lisa, Emily, and Jenna.

Every so often we like to introduce you to one of our team members who helps ensure that that every dollar you donate goes directly to help the people we support.

In May 2018, we welcomed Lisa Dobbin to our team in the role of Marketing Specialist. Her job includes lots of writing and editing, creating communications strategies, supporting our fundraising efforts, and ensuring the marketing team meets all their deadlines on time!

Lisa has been involved in the developmental services sector since she was first introduced to the Reach for the Rainbow program as a young summer camp counselor. Since then, she has volunteered with

Best Buddies, West Park Healthcare Centre, and here at Community Living Toronto. Her genuine interest in the field makes her a perfect fit for our team.

If you have an idea for a Community Living Toronto story, Lisa would love to hear from you! She can be reached at 647-262-8110 or lisa.dobbin@cltoronto.ca.

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