

## Year one in Review

LIGHTS is providing families with opportunities to help their child or family member achieve independence by living in their own home with the support of their families, friends and caregivers. By drawing on their own resources, capacity and personal networks, people with an intellectual disability are empowered to live as independently as they are able, learn new skills and foster new friendships. The first year of LIGHTS has been an exciting journey for all of our volunteers, families and staff. We have received more than 110 inquiries, and over 33 families are engaged with LIGHTS. Eight individuals are now in new living arrangements, with LIGHTS as a supportive partner. These families recently applied to the Ministry of Community and social Services and 3 of them received funding. A true success story for LIGHTS! When permanent funding for our families is received they transition from LIGHTS support to Individualized Supports enabling LIGHTS to go on to help other families.

So much about LIGHTS is new to our families and to us as an organization. We have been carefully moving forward and evaluating the process every step of the way. Some Key themes from our Year one evaluation\* Are :

- 75% of the respondents found the LIGHTS Facilitator very helpful to increasing their awareness of available opportunities and resources that were previously unknown to them
- 67% felt that LIGHTS has increased their knowledge of what is required to create alternate living arrangements
- 67% felt that LIGHTS has helped them to begin developing plans and actualizing that plan
- 70% indicated a sense of readiness to move forward in living arrangements and that LIGHTS was helpful in getting them there
- 83 % were satisfied with their LIGHTS experience
- 100% of families said that they would recommend LIGHTS to other families



We are encouraged by these results as well as many recommendations for improvement. With the continued success of LIGHTS we are confident that more families will be on the path to build a sustainable future. To everyone who has helped us with year one of our journey - thank you.

\* A complete copy of the Year 1 - LIGHTS Evaluation is available on [www.LIGHTS.to](http://www.LIGHTS.to)

### Connected Families

One of the key initiatives of LIGHTS is to help families connect better and have access to more information when they need it. Connected Families, our brand new section on Connect**ABILITY**.ca will launch in April 2012. This module grew out of families telling us that they wanted more ways to connect and share information in a place that was just for them.

# Investing in FUTURES

We also celebrate the LIGHTS Advisory Board's hard work which includes fundraising. They have raised over \$2 million towards a \$3 million goal. Part of the magic for our individual, corporate and foundation donors is that LIGHTS is the perfect partnership between families, agencies and government. Some of our donors and supporters are listed below

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The LIGHTS Advisory Board and staff at our Strategic Planning retreat reviewing year one achievements and planning for the future of LIGHTS.

[www.LIGHTS.to](http://www.LIGHTS.to)

Did you know? That for every dollar donated to LIGHTS the Armstrong family will match that gift with 50 cents. For more information or to make a donation please visit [www.LIGHTS.to](http://www.LIGHTS.to)