

# LIGHTS



A LIGHT in your community



*Nothing feels better than turning the key at my new LIGHTS home!*

## August 2015

As LIGHTS continues to strengthen its ability to help families who have a son or daughter with an intellectual disability, we want to reflect on our forward momentum, including stories of heroes, and a story that will require renewed energy and advocacy to resolve.

Last August we told you that the Ontario government had indeed recognized and placed a top priority on the ever-widening needs of people who have an intellectual disability and are living in our province. We told you that this government had created a Housing Task Force to explore new, collaborative ways to help persons who have an intellectual disability find appropriate housing solutions.

Things move slowly in government...

Over 80 proposals for creative housing solutions were submitted to this Task Force, including one from Community Living Toronto. Their proposal included an ask for a second facilitator for LIGHTS – to relieve our wait list of families who are wanting to find reliable, supported long-term housing for their son or daughter. We were very disappointed, as was Community Living Toronto, to learn this week that their proposal was not selected for funding in this first round. They have requested a meeting with MCSS, to better understand how to be successful in the second round of funding this fall. We will continue to educate and advocate for change to help alleviate the housing crisis within Ontario's developmental services, while waiting for increased government support of our services.

It is appropriate, at this junction, to quote John Baird, a former Cabinet Minister in the Governments of Ontario and Canada. "Nothing in this sector has happened easily. It's happened because of a lot of hard work from advocates, families, and professionals, and we need to build on that momentum."

As government struggles with severe budget pressures, the role of donors and volunteers expands. We would like to tell you about a new LIGHTS partnership, and a new LIGHTS level of leadership. Baker Real Estate is one of Canada's most successful real estate companies, specializing in the marketing and sales of new home communities. With access to many different markets, two of their professionals have committed to volunteering their time and expertise to LIGHTS families, helping them to find the right home for their sons and daughters. We welcome them and feel privileged to have their professional guidance. The real impact of this new partnership will be an easier journey for families as well as much needed support for our staff facilitator.

### LIGHTS Advisory Board

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

In partnership with:



Where choices change the lives  
of people with an intellectual disability

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*In my free time I like to use my computer*

LIGHTS has also created a new level of leadership, called Advisor Emeritus (you can find it at [www.lights.to](http://www.lights.to)). This is a new way for us to recognize some of our volunteers, who, together with you, our donors, are the very heart of LIGHTS. These champions have provided significant support of LIGHTS initiatives, as past board members, and they remain committed advocates and volunteers of our work. They are Patsy Anderson, Ian Brown, Dawn Lunan, Tom MacMillan, and Bruce Rivers.

Together with our hard working, hugely committed board members, they create a tremendous impact on the lives of the families and their family members whom we strive to help.

We are immensely grateful to our donor community for continuing to help us impact the future of the families we support. All of the major Canadian banks have supported us incredibly generously. Some of them have come to the end of their financial commitment. As they reach this end, they are renewing their support at the same level once again! We thank them for this re-affirmation! In June, we hosted our first fundraiser. A wonderful day of golf, organized by Greg Cochrane, raised \$65,000 net for LIGHTS. Congratulations to the entire team!

In summary, as you will see in our Facts and Figures, LIGHTS is delivering information and guidance to over 1000 families on an annual basis. We are working in partnership with Community Living Toronto to influence public policy. And, to date, we have directly helped 36 young men and women to find a home with LIGHTS as a supportive partner. More than 50 additional families are in various stages of engagement with our staff facilitator to establish an independent, supported home with secure funding.

With your help, we dream big – to be able to transform the crucial needs and the resilience of our families into enduring possibilities for their sons and daughters.

**Thank you for walking beside us!**



*Working together to prepare meals is part of our life in our LIGHTS supported home.*

## Our Mission

*Through partnership with families, philanthropists, government, and established agencies, LIGHTS will make supportive housing a reality for individuals with an intellectual disability. As a result, these citizens and their families will have a greater quality of life.*

# 36



People have moved into independent living after LIGHTS facilitation.

# 22



Families have chosen LIGHTS funding.

# 4



Families have moved on from LIGHTS.

# 143



Families have received advisory services.

# 100+

Presentations to date, reaching more than 2,000 attendees.

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

2011

## Partnerships

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

## Funds Raised To Date

\$4.5M

- Over **\$4.5 million** pledged to date
- Funding from the Ministry of Community and Social Services for Facilitator (staff) until 2016

## 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 position is paid for by the Ministry of 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 year.

## Result

98%

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.

## Our Vision

*Enabling citizens with an intellectual disability to live in a home of their own, thereby enriching our communities.*

# Thank You!

**Part of the magic of LIGHTS is the perfect partnership between donors, volunteers, families, agencies and government. It ensures that the money you help us to raise goes to support individuals and their pursuit of a home.**

**\$1,000,000 +** Robert and Mary Pat Armstrong, Li Ka Shing Canada Foundation

**\$250,000 - \$499,000** The Harold E. Ballard Foundation

**\$100,000—\$249,999** Anonymous, CIBC, John Clark, Cochrane Family Foundation, Harry E. Foster Foundation, The John C. and Sally Horsfall Eaton Foundation, MCSS

**\$50,000 - \$99,999** Jamie and Patsy Anderson, Bank of Montreal, E.W. Bickle, George and Katherine Dembroski, W. Robert and Gail Farquharson, Roger Greenberg, Henry White Kinnear Foundation, Minto Foundation Inc., RBC Foundation, TD Bank, The McLean Foundation

**\$25,000 - \$49,999** Rick and Priscilla Brooks-Hill, CIBC Mellon, Robert Grundleger, Tom and Catharina MacMillan, The Honourable Margaret McCain, Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation, Scotiabank, The Ward Family Foundation

**\$10,000 - \$24,999** Don and Sheila Bayne, Judy and Doug Biggar, A. Britton Smith Foundation, Donald Brown, Susan and Thomas d'Aquino, Sally and Ted Conrod, Ann and David Doritty, Henry and Victoria Eaton, Peter Goring, The Greey Charitable Lennox Foundation, John Hunkin, Jackman Foundation, David Knight, Chris and Joanne Lang, Carole June McLean, The Million Dollar Roundtable, Roger and Maureen Parkinson, Richard A. Stoneman, Daniel F. Sullivan, Torys LLP, Shelagh and David Wilson

**\$5,000 - \$9,999** Marilyn and Charles Baillie, The Ralph M. Barford Foundation, Robert Comish, Jordan and Lynne Elliott Family Foundation, Empire Life, Bruce and Karen Etherington, David and Judy Galloway, Carol Gray, Chris and Diane Keating, Kiwanis Club of Toronto Foundation, Robert W. Korthals, F.K. Morrow Foundation, George E. Nutter, Robert Ogilvie, Tim and Francis Price, Duff and Patricia Scott, Robert and Joan Wright

**\$1 - \$4,999** Anonymous, Geoffrey Allen, Lorna Allen, Peter Anderson Memorial, Elinor Archambault, Alison Armstrong, Aurion Capital, Ralph M. Barford, Joseph Barnicke, Isabel Bassett, William Benson, Vladimir Boldyrikhine, Mary Bonifazi, Angela Bradley and Louis Thomas, Kathleen Bull, John Cassaday, Lucy Cecchetto, Janet Charlton, J.S. Cheng and Partners Inc., Malcolm Cheng, Clement Chow, Barry Cooper, Rosalind Cooper, Rueben and Rhonda Devlin, Mary Ferguson, Robert and Karen Glass, Douglas and Ruth Grant, Catherine and Fredrik Eaton Charitable Foundation, Global Travel Computer Holdings Ltd., Tim Griffin, Victoria Hand, Gabe Hayos, Brian Healy, Marie L. Hubbs, Suky Ing, Griselda Kellie-Smith, Harry Kimpton, Judy Korthals, Sylvie Labrosse, William Lawlor, Alan and Joan Lenczner, Jill Lubinski, Tom and Dawn Lunan, Earl McKee, Frances MacNeil, Stephen and Janet MacPhail, Gerald Machtinger, Seana Massey, Jim Matthews, Glenda McDonald, Warren and Barbara Moysey, Jose Nixon Memorial, Natalie Nixon, Barbara Payne, Peter Paul Charitable Inc., Garry and Linda Pruden, Geeta Rampaul, Phil Richmond and Hayley Avruskin, Marny Robinette, William and Meredith Saunderson, Susan G. Seller, Stephen Shamie, Peter Singer, Robert Sohn, Jan Stewart, Norman Stoneburgh, Sullivan Foundation, Leeann Thompson, Kristoffer Romero, Bruce Rivers, The WB Family Foundation, Cari Whyne, William Wilder, Derek Woodgate, Betty Jane Wylie, Noah Zon

*Information correct at time of printing. We apologize for any errors or omissions.*



A LIGHT in your community

www.LIGHTS.to

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Charitable Registration #10769 4143 RR0001

*Donations are what makes LIGHTS possible.*

Please make all cheques payable to:

**Community Living Toronto**  
**re: LIGHTS fund**



Where choices change the lives  
of people with an intellectual disability

