

LIGHTS



A LIGHT in your community



Alex enjoying his new apartment.

August 2014

Much has happened over the past year to begin to address the crisis in developmental services in Ontario particularly in the area of residential supports for citizens with intellectual disabilities.

Christine Elliott, the deputy leader of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party, created a non-partisan Select Committee on Developmental Services in November, 2013, to study the issues that have led to this crisis.

The committee presented its final report to the Legislature in July, 2014.

It's clear the crisis is very, very real. The committee heard from many desperate families as well as from community agencies that are struggling to meet the needs of these families. The committee also heard about a number of remarkably innovative programs, including LIGHTS, that are already operating in the community, and present possible solutions to the crisis.

The question is, how do we get from here to there?

The committee heard time and time again that a positive return on the government's investment in these innovative programs is absolutely key to helping Ontario solve this crisis. And we must solve it through our collective partnership. The committee's final report, tabled last month, contains some strong language. "Every person," it states, "should be entitled to an individualized life plan customized to meet their specific needs." That is not happening today.

LIGHTS Advisory Board

Chair

Mary Pat Armstrong

Doug Biggar

Adam Blinick

Ian Brown

John Clark

Ann Doritty

Henry Eaton

Chris Lang

Garry Pruden

David Stewart

Daniel Sullivan

www.LIGHTS.to

In partnership with:



Where choices change the lives
of people with an intellectual disability



*Robert and Mary Pat Armstrong
"We want to help other families
create opportunities for their children."*

The Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) formed a housing study group comprised of representatives from government, service providers, clients and family organizations to look at different solutions for the province's lack of residential supports. These solutions were to directly address the growing waitlist and provide some recommended next steps.

The result was a paper entitled "***Ending The Wait,***" which can be found at www.LIGHTS.to. The government has already acted on the first recommendation of the paper, which is to create a Housing Task Force. One of the many excellent recommendations from the Select Committee is that this Housing "Task Force begin work immediately to explore innovative, individualized, affordable, and flexible family- and community-led housing solutions for persons with developmental disabilities...." These are exactly the type of housing solutions that LIGHTS is helping families find.

The MCSS has also partnered with the MaRS Solutions Lab "to look at new approaches and new solutions which can help change and further the transformation of the developmental services system."

There are strong indications from both the housing study group and MaRs that the barriers to success include poverty, lack of personal supports, government fiscal restraints, a wait list that is thrown into disarray by unexpected crises, and a lack of government coordination in finding a solution. These are all factors that lead to parental burnout, the reemergence of segregated housing, and the risk to hard earned community inclusion.

It's obvious that creative, cost- effective solutions need to be found. Families want to be involved, and they need to be better connected to one another. The solutions need to be supported by a broader government approach, reflecting the coordinated services of many government departments. And in all these solutions there must be a strong emphasis on partnerships - between government, community service agencies, the private sector, and families.

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.

Part of the Solution

All of this only confirms what the LIGHTS Advisory Board already knows, and what we have been working to alleviate. We ARE part of the solution. And we are THE solution for some families.

MCSS has set out an action agenda with both immediate steps to be enacted over the next 3 years, and longer-range intentions. We hope that the obvious synergy reflected in the work of the MCSS Housing Task Force and the MaRS Solutions Lab will produce positive results for the 12,000 Ontario adults with intellectual disabilities and their families waiting for residential supports- and in the very near future.

Here at LIGHTS we continue to create realistic opportunities in independent living. One hundred and ten families are now working with Laura Starret, our staff facilitator, and we are examining the fiscal feasibility of hiring another staff member to help her.



Graham is now living in his own apartment thanks in part to LIGHTS

The new Ontario government has committed funding over the next few years to address the endless waiting list of individuals with intellectual disabilities who are looking for support. It is alternative partnership models such as LIGHTS that will make that goal a reality. More and more families are asking for our services, and other Ontario communities are looking at our model. Through community and agency workshops, we are now beginning to share our model.

Over the past 4 years, LIGHTS has raised 4 million dollars, including the funding for our staff facilitator from MCSS, to help families create independent living arrangements. Money raised for LIGHTS comes primarily from Toronto's philanthropic community, extending the capacity of both funds provided by the government and the in-kind contribution of Community Living Toronto, all to deliver a sustainable model of supportive housing.

None of these solutions would be possible without your direct help. Once again, we thank each of you for partnering with LIGHTS, and for supporting our very effective program. Together, we are working to provide solutions to Ontario's crisis in housing for citizens with intellectual disabilities. Our reward is breathing more meaning into our own lives!

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 every dollar raised goes directly 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, John Clark, Cochrane Family Foundation, Harry E. Foster Foundation, MCSS

\$50,000 - \$99,999 Bank of Montreal, E.W. Bickle Foundation, CIBC, 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 Jamie and Patsy Anderson, Rick and Priscilla Brooks-Hill, CIBC Melon, Robert Grundleger, Tom and Catharina MacMillan, 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, Susan and Thomas d’Aquino, Sally Armstrong and Ted Conrod, Ann and David Doritty, Henry and Victoria Eaton, Peter Goring, The Greey Charitable Lennox Foundation, John Hunkin, David Knight, Chris and Joanne Lang, Carole June McLean, The Million Dollar Roundtable, Roger and Maureen Parkinson, Richard A. Stoneman, Torys LLP, Shelagh and David Wilson

\$5,000 - \$9,999 Marilyn and Charles Baillie, The Ralph M. Barford Foundation, Donald Brown, 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, Robert Ogilvie, Tim and Francis Price, Daniel F. Sullivan, Robert and Joan Wright

\$1 - \$4,999 Geoffrey Allen, Lorna Allen, Peter Anderson Memorial, Elinor Archambault, Aurion Capital, Ralph M. Barford, Isabel Bassett, William Benson, Vladimir Boldyrikhine, Mary Bonifazi, Angela Bradley and Louis Thomas, Kathleen Bull, Janet Charlton, J.S. Cheng and Partners Inc., Barry Cooper, Rosalind Cooper, 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, Brian Healy, The John C. and Sally Horsfall Eaton Foundation, 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, Frances MacNeil, Stephen and Janet MacPhail, 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



A LIGHT in your community

www.LIGHTS.to

20 Spadina Road, Toronto, ON M5R 2S7

647.729.1178 abradley@cltoronto.ca

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

