

LIGHTS PERSPECTIVE

LIGHTS a Facilitator's Perspective

Remember that feeling when you got the keys to your first home? It was exciting and it was scary and it was an, oh so wonderful rollercoaster ride - But it was YOUR rollercoaster ride! That's what LIGHTS is all about - giving the men and women we support the chance to make this dream come true.

Being a LIGHTS Facilitator is an amazing experience and if it weren't for our donors, we just wouldn't get to do what we do! We host information sessions, guide families, make connections and ultimately be part of a team that builds amazing living arrangements. We spend our time meeting with families who all have one thing in common – they all have a family member who they care deeply about and want to give them the opportunity to be their own person, in a home of their own. Moving out is a rite of passage that everyone looks forward to and expects to happen one day.



Left to right: Jenna Martinuzzi and Zoe Kariunas, Senior Facilitator –LIGHTS

As a facilitator, our job is to listen and to help individuals and families find their voices to talk about what they want and what they need. We encourage them to dream a little, in a world where many doors have closed and waiting lists are long. We encourage them to take on barriers, problem solve and think creatively about what resources are available to them and what partnerships can be developed. We respect that families are dynamic, with rich histories. We honour and value their diversity as they guide us through their stories and we share stories of success and sometimes, failure too. We do it together. This is the most important part of what we do as LIGHTS Facilitators because the families are the people who are cheering on their loved one through the whole process, especially after they move out. Every family is unique, and we respect that.

After lots of planning, talking and looking in every corner, sometimes the plan that will ensure that this man or woman will live happy and safely in the community is beyond all the resources we've uncovered. They just can't put their plan into place without some help. This is also where our LIGHTS donors are so important to the success of each person. This is where some LIGHTS funding can come in, and for some families, without it, they wouldn't be able to make this dream reality.

When you meet a person supported by LIGHTS, you know immediately how important every donated dollar is. It's the price of realizing their dream - the price of helping that one person to find a place that they call home.



A gift to LIGHTS will help provide funding for those in need and seeking a home of their own.

For more info visit: LIGHTS.to