

LIGHTS



A LIGHT in your community



Lindsay loves living on her own!

August 2017

For parents of someone with an intellectual disability, the search for suitable housing for their loved one can take decades. Today many families want to start early, and find their own personalized solutions. This is why, seven years ago, a small group of people, passionate about the well-being of individuals with intellectual disabilities, formed a plan to establish a road to their independence.

A year later LIGHTS opened its doors to families who have a son or daughter with an intellectual disability. Since then the program has helped more than 60 individuals achieve supported independence, and now provides information and guidance to over 1000 families annually.

We have the numbers to prove our effectiveness (Facts and Figures, page 3). But what is the intrinsic value of what LIGHTS is accomplishing?

Each small step toward an independent life is a step toward freedom and self-fulfillment and dignity, and not just for these young adults.

Families begin to find their own independence and peace of mind, knowing that their son or daughter has a stable living situation that will survive when they, their parents, are no longer here.

And in turn their sons and daughters gain self-respect and self-esteem by contributing to the community and learning life skills.

The benefits don't end there, either. Thanks to our partnerships with donors like you, and with Community Living Toronto and the government, LIGHTS is saving both the taxpayer and the government thousands of dollars annually.

In the few short years that LIGHTS has been in existence, the program has demonstrated clearly that our model of independent residential opportunities for the people we serve is a winning strategy, both financially and psychologically. It is also a proven successful long-term solution.

Historically, residential support in the transfer payment sector ranges from \$20,000 to \$100,000 annually per individual, depending on the level of support needed. Access to this funding is granted to those most in need. LIGHTS helps families and individuals create viable living arrangements, ranging from \$20,000 to \$30,000 annually, before anyone reaches the stage of being "most in need." Our help in turn reduces future need for intensive and emergency support.

We continue to work to influence government policy, singling out the benefits of, and growing need for, earlier support for independent residential life.

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In partnership with:

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Where choices change the lives
of people with an intellectual disability

LIGHTS

c/o Community Living Toronto

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Along the way, we have discovered something crucial: the first step toward planning a new and independent life for a loved one with an intellectual disability is the hardest step. For an average family, that journey lasts two to three years.

LIGHTS is successful because our two staff facilitators personally work with each family. No two plans are the same. And the young adult who is moving away from home is always the centre of the plan.

LIGHTS supports the family and their son or daughter throughout the various stages of the planning and moving process. We help them build their confidence, which in turn lets the family take the leap and create a home that their loved one can legitimately call his or her own.

LIGHTS is also successful because we have streamlined the path to a new and independent home. It's one of our quieter but most substantial accomplishments. We have replaced a forest of forms and an obstacle course of qualification requirements with a simple, straightforward, and responsive program.

Our successes, in fact, have been so extensive that they have created a new set of problems: The number of families we are serving is now beyond the capacity of our two full-time facilitators. Having seen what LIGHTS can do, more and more families are coming forward and asking for our help.

But we are finding ways around this dilemma of success. LIGHTS promises to fund families for no more than five years (and many of our families could not make that move without that promise of funding). That grace period is now over for the first five young adults LIGHTS supported in independent homes. How has our experiment worked out? After an extra year of funding, permanent Individualized Funding in the full amount of their LIGHTS funding has been found for all five families. They will transfer seamlessly to this new government funding. We now hope to have families moving on from LIGHTS funding every year.

Helping families create independent living arrangements for their sons and daughters with intellectual disabilities is an exceptionally complex and lengthy process. We have been making the process simpler and more cost effective. Teaching families to budget for an alternative living arrangement, helping them network with families, keeping paperwork to a minimum, and searching for residential options are all part of the LIGHTS program. We educate our families through internal resources, workshops, and family networking evenings. "How to be a Roommate" and "Transition to Adulthood – a Parent's Story" are two of our most popular seminars!

And we haven't been shy about sharing our success. We're committed to sharing our model throughout Ontario, to replicate our success in other communities. To accomplish that, we are reaching out to other developmental service agencies in Toronto to offer them a temporary facilitator position with LIGHTS, as a secondment for their staff. We need more people who know how to do what our staff does.

And we need people like you. All of which is to say thank you, to each of you – our donors and our partners – for your continued trust in us, and for your understanding of our mission. With your support, individuals who have an intellectual disability will stand tall, as equal and valuable members of an integrated community that is all the richer for their participation.

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.

63



People have moved into independent living after LIGHTS facilitation.

15



Families have moved on from LIGHTS.

45



Families have chosen LIGHTS funding.

260



Families have received advisory services.

150+

Presentations to date, reaching more than 2,500 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

\$5.4M

- Over **\$5 million** pledged to date
- Funding from the Ministry of Community and Social Services for Facilitators

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 positions are 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 raise goes to support individuals who have an intellectual disability, 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, The Cochrane Family Foundation, George and Katherine Dembroski, Harry E. Foster Foundation, The John C. and Sally Horsfall Eaton Foundation, The Minto Group, TD Bank, R. Howard Webster Foundation

\$50,000 - \$99,999 Patsy and Jamie Anderson, Bank of Montreal, Rick and Priscilla Brooks-Hill, E.W. Bickle Foundation, W. Robert and Gail Farquharson, Roger Greenberg, The Henry White Kinnear Foundation, LIGHTS Golf Gathering, The McLean Foundation, RBC Foundation, Scotiabank

\$25,000 - \$49,999 CIBC Mellon, Henry and Victoria Eaton, An Evening with Arthur Fleishman, Robert Grundleger, Robert Kerr Foundation, Tom and Catharina MacMillan, The Honourable Margaret McCain, Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation, Daniel F. Sullivan, The Ward Family Foundation

\$10,000 - \$24,999 Marilyn and Charlie Baillie, Don and Sheila Bayne, Judy and Doug Biggar, Donald Brown, Ted Conrod and Sally Armstrong, Susan and Thomas D'Aquino, David and Ann Doritty, Peter Goring, The Greey-Lennox Charitable Foundation, Dale and Dawn Hooper, John Hunkin, Jackman Foundation, David Knight, Chris and Joanne Lang, Hugh Mackenzie, Carol June McLean, The Million Dollar Roundtable, Roger and Maureen Parkinson, A. Britton Smith Foundation, Richard Stoneman, Torys LLP, Geoffrey Wilson, Shelagh and David Wilson

\$5,000 - \$9,999 Capital Group, The Ralph M. Barford Foundation, Janet Charlton, Robert Comish, Barry Cooper, Jordan and Lynne Elliott, Empire Life, Bruce and Karen Etherington, David and Judy Galloway, Robert and Karen Glass, Carol Gray, Chris and Diane Keating, Kiwanis Club of Toronto Foundation, Robert W. Korthals, LeVan Family Foundation, F.K. Morrow Foundation, George E. Nutter, Robert Ogilvie, Ontario Real Estate Association Foundation, Barbara Payne, Tim and Francis Price, Duff and Patricia Scott, David and Jan Stewart, Robert and Joan Wright

We have many donors who have generously given up to \$5,000 who are not listed.

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



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www.LIGHTS.to

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Attention: Angela Bradley

Charitable Registration #10769 4143 RR0001

Donations are what makes LIGHTS possible.

Please make all cheques payable to:

Community Living Toronto

re: LIGHTS fund

Or donate online at:

www.lights.to



Where choices change the lives of people with an intellectual disability



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