

LIGHTS



A LIGHT in your community

August 2018



Alex loves having friends over for meals that he cooks himself, in his own home.

Jean Vanier once wrote in his book *Becoming Human*: “Each of us needs to belong, not just to one person, but to a family, a group, and a culture...Belonging is important for our growth to independence; even further, it is important for our growth to inner freedom and maturity.”

The vision of LIGHTS has always been about enabling citizens with an intellectual disability to live in a home of their own, to find a place where they belong and can also experience the dignity of living independently.

In the province of Ontario, more than 12,000 adults with an intellectual disability are on a waiting list for long-term supported housing. Well over 3,000 of those individuals live in Toronto. Last year, in 2017, fifty vacancies opened up. Fifty vacancies, for 3,000 people.

That means a waiting list of 44 years before the entire list can be absorbed - and that's assuming there are no new additions to the waiting list, which of course there will be.

The tragedy doesn't stop there, either. More than eight hundred adults on the 3,000-person Toronto waiting list have parents or caregivers who are themselves over sixty years of age. Some of them will soon need to look for care for themselves. Then where - and when - will their children find a sense of belonging? No wonder housing needs for people with an intellectual disability are on the priority list of every organization in the developmental services sector.

The ongoing demand for and success of LIGHTS speaks to the need for innovative alternatives that ease waitlists, create greater capacity in the system, and provide families and their sons and daughters with options that support belonging, independence, and freedom.

Two hundred and eighty-five families have requested LIGHTS' services to date; sixty-nine families are actively engaged in building a plan for their son or daughter; sixty-eight individuals are living in independent supported housing thanks to LIGHTS; and thirty-three individuals have “graduated” or moved on from LIGHTS, and no longer require our help.



(r) Jean Vanier, Canadian founder of the L'Arche movement
Photo: Vancouver Sun Archives

Advisory Board

Mary Pat Armstrong, Chair

Doug Biggar

Adam Blinick

Iain Dobson

Ann Doritty

Henry Eaton

Joanne Fletcher

Katie Flynn

Chris Lang

Alex MacMillan

Dawn Mader

Brad Saunders

David Stewart

Daniel Sullivan

In partnership with:



Supporting Rights & Choices

LIGHTS

c/o Community Living Toronto

20 Spadina Road, Toronto, ON M5R 2S7

416.509.1596 | abradley@cltoronto.ca

Charitable Registration

10769 4143 RR0001

www.lights.to

(story continued on next page)

LIGHTS is also helping over 3,000 families navigate pathways to independence for their sons and daughters every year, through our workshops and internal outreach. They are a less visible but crucially important part of our program.

And LIGHTS has established the value of independent living at roughly *one-third* the cost of traditional parallel government programs. Individuals with intellectual disabilities are supporting themselves longer, and reducing their need to move into government-supported facilities. We are building a new sense of community – a new sense of belonging and independence - one LIGHTS home at a time, and it's still costing society less than it did before!



"Living on my own has a lot of responsibilities, but I love it!"

None of this would be possible without you, our friends, our donors, and our partners. Thank you for standing with LIGHTS, and for helping individuals with intellectual disabilities find their way to belonging in a community of their choice.

Upcoming Events

November 20, 2018

Denis Shapovalov, in his love for tennis and his desire to give back to his community, has initiated an amazing evening of tennis, fine dining, and fundraising in support of LIGHTS. On November 20, Denis and Vasek Pospisil will play an exciting Tennis Exhibition, and following the match, guests will enjoy an exceptional dining experience. All this will take place at Toronto's newest luxury waterfront hotel, Hotel X Toronto, overlooking Lake Ontario. Please consider joining us.

For more information and tickets:

Debbie Bush

dkbush@prestantiaseq.com or call 416.972.1300



Robert Armstrong, Denis Shapovalov and Mary Pat Armstrong

September 14 - 16

DavisCup.com

Toronto, Ricoh Coliseum



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.

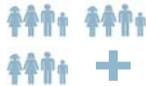


68



People have moved into independent living after LIGHTS facilitation.

33



Families have moved on from LIGHTS.

48



Families have chosen LIGHTS funding.

285



Families have received advisory services.

175+

Presentations to date, reaching more than 3,000 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

\$6.3M

- Over **6.3 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!

LIGHTS is a perfect partnership between donors, volunteers, families, agencies and government. It ensures that the dollars raised go to help young people who have an intellectual disability in their pursuit of a home of their own.

\$1,000,000+

Robert and Mary Pat Armstrong, Li Ka Shing (Canada) Foundation

\$250,000-\$499,999

Anonymous, The Harold E. Ballard Foundation, The Minto Group

\$100,000-\$249,999

BMO Financial Group, CIBC, John Clark, The Cochrane Family Foundation, George and Katherine Dembroski, Harry E. Foster Charitable Foundation, The John C. and Sally Horsfall Eaton Foundation, The Henry White Kinnear Foundation, TD Bank Group, R. Howard Webster Foundation

\$50,000-\$99,999

Patsy and Jamie Anderson, E.W. Bickle Foundation, Rick and Priscilla Brooks-Hill, W. Robert and Gail Farquharson, Roger Greenberg, LIGHTS Golf Gathering, The McLean Foundation, RBC Foundation, Scotiabank

\$25,000-\$49,999

Donald Brown, 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, Skate the Six, Daniel F. Sullivan, The Ward Family Foundation

\$10,000-\$24,999

Marilyn and Charles Baillie, Don and Sheila Bayne, Judy and Doug Biggar, Ted Conrod and Sally Armstrong, Susan and Thomas D'Aquino, Ann and David Doritty, E-L Financial Corporation Limited, Peter Goring, The Greey-Lennox Charitable Foundation, Dale and Dawn Hooper, John Hunkin, Jackman Foundation, David Knight, Kopas Family Foundation, Chris and Joanne Lang, LeVan Family Foundation (a fund held within the Oakville Community Foundation), Hugh MacKenzie, Carol June McLean, The Million Dollar Round Table Canadian Charitable Foundation, Ontario Real Estate Association Foundation, Roger and Maureen Parkinson, Tim and Frances Price, A. Britton Smith Foundation, Richard Stoneman, Torys LLP, Geoffrey Wilson, Shelagh and David Wilson Fund at Toronto Foundation, Robert and Joan Wright

\$5,000-\$9,999

The Ralph M. Barford Foundation, Capital Group, Janet Charlton, Robert Comish, Barry Cooper, Jordan and Lynne Elliott Family Foundation, Empire Life, Bruce and Karen Etherington, David and Judy Galloway, Robert and Karen Glass, Ira Gluskin and Maxine Granovsky Gluskin Charitable Foundation, Carol Gray, Chris and Diane Keating, Kiwanis Club of Toronto Foundation, Robert W. Korthals, F.K. Morrow Foundation, George E. Nutter, Robert Ogilvie, Barbara Payne, Duff and Patricia Scott, David and Jan Stewart

The above represents all LIGHTS donors with cumulative or committed gifts of \$5,000 or more. There are many other donors who have generously given up to \$5,000 that are not listed here. The above information is correct at time of printing. We apologize for any errors or omissions.

The work that we achieve is made possible only with your support.

Please use the enclosed envelope to make a new gift and share this newsletter with someone you know to help spread the word about the housing crisis for people who have an intellectual disability in Toronto.

All cheques are payable to Community Living Toronto or donate online at www.LIGHTS.to

LIGHTS

c/o Community Living Toronto
20 Spadina Road, Toronto, ON M5R 2S7
416.509.1596 | abradley@cltoronto.ca
Attention: Angela Bradley

Charitable Registration #10769 4143 RR0001



In partnership with:

COMMUNITY LIVING
Toronto 

MEMBER OF
MEMBER D' 

 United Way
Greater Toronto

www.lights.to

LIGHTS August 2018 • 4