

NATIONAL PHILANTHROPY DAY



A day to reflect on how charity changes the lives of people in need

Friday, November 12, 2021

PRODUCED BY RANDALL ANTHONY COMMUNICATIONS. THE GLOBE'S EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT WAS NOT INVOLVED.



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As Canadians look ahead to celebrating National Philanthropy Day on Monday, many will reflect on what has been a tough two years; heartache and sorrow for many and disrupted lives for even more. However, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, individuals and communities have come together in a spirit of giving, sharing and support that epitomizes the power of philanthropy across the country.

Canadian charities work hard year round to meet the needs of the causes they serve. On November 15 they celebrate National Philanthropy Day (NPD) to recognize and pay tribute to the contributions that philanthropy – and those active in the philanthropic community – make to the lives of individuals and communities round the world.

First celebrated in 1986, NPD this year will see more than 100 events held across Canada and the rest of North America.

For Rebecca Dutton, president and CEO of Janeway Children's Hospital Foundation in St. John's, Newfoundland, NPD is an occasion to showcase "something beautiful" in her community and an opportunity to encourage even more people to have an impact on the causes they care about.

"We celebrate philanthropy in all

its forms; we honour philanthropists, volunteers, community groups and fundraisers; all those people who work together each day to improve the lives of others," says Ms. Dutton.

Rukshini Ponniah-Goulin, director of development at the United Church

Downtown Mission of Windsor in Windsor, Ontario, says NPD is not only a celebration for people involved directly in charities but also an opportunity to raise wider awareness of

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ABOUT

The Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) represents more than 3,000 Canadian fundraisers and charities, and over 26,000 around the world, partnering with donors and volunteers to change the world through ethical and effective fundraising.

AFP helps its members raise more than \$115-billion annually for a wide variety of causes through advocacy, research, education, mentoring and the most rigorous code of ethics in the profession.

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PHILANTHROPY'S CRITICAL ROLE IN ACCELERATING RESEARCH AND ULTIMATELY PATIENT CARE

Medical research continues to improve the quality of health care and to find treatments and cures for challenging diseases – but providing the infrastructure and recruiting top clinicians and scientists to advance these discoveries requires significant capital. Support from donors, whose gifts can fill funding gaps and elevate facilities to world-class research hubs, plays a vital role in advancing research and translating discoveries into treatments for patients. While spending decisions are driven by the institutions, donor funds can be key to realizing the vision.

As one of more than five million Canadians living with eye disease, the legendary Bay Street investment banker, Donald K. Johnson, understands the benefits of medical research and how his recent \$50-million donation to his namesake Donald K. Johnson Eye Institute at University Health Network (UHN) will

contribute to improving outcomes for others suffering from vision loss and vision-related issues in Canada and around the world.

Since his first gift in 2007, Mr. Johnson's philanthropy has helped the Donald K. Johnson Eye Institute at Toronto Western Hospital grow into Canada's largest and most comprehensive clinical and research hub dedicated to vision.

Six years ago, to celebrate his 80th birthday, he made a \$10-million donation to the Eye Institute. "That gift enabled us to build our discovery research capacity, provided resources to recruit scientists and helped us increase clinical research," says Dr. Valerie Wallace, co-director of the Donald K. Johnson Eye Institute and the Donald K. Johnson Chair in Vision Research.

"One of our first recruits with his [2007] gift was Dr. Michael Reber from Strasbourg, France. Another

was Dr. Karun Singh, who focuses on stem cells, and then clinician-scientist Dr. Brian Ballios," says Dr. Wallace. "Without Don's philanthropy, we couldn't have recruited these people and we wouldn't have had a sustainable clinical research unit. He is seeing his legacy in real time and that must be satisfying."

Dr. Wallace says Mr. Johnson's latest gift will enable UHN to recruit additional world-leading vision scientists and clinicians and retain those it has, increase research capacity and accelerate the translation of research discoveries into treatments for patients.

Those advancements will enable the Eye Institute to tackle big projects that could lead to the development of therapies for conditions like macular degeneration and retinitis pigmentosa, she says.

"What makes Mr. Johnson such an incredible donor is that he sees the value of the research enterprise and especially fundamental discovery-based research. And he knows it can take time; investing now is the only way to have an impact on disease treatment in the future," says Dr. Wallace.



Dr. Valerie Wallace is co-director of the Donald K. Johnson Eye Institute and the Donald K. Johnson Chair in Vision Research. **TIM FRASER**

How a drug is developed, even the idea for a type of drug, is the result of years of research and not necessarily eye-focused research, says Dr. Wallace, pointing out blood vessel inhibitor drugs that are used in treating wet age-related macular degeneration came out of decades of work around the world on how cancer tumours co-opt blood vessels.

"For those kinds of breakthroughs, you are standing on many people's shoulders and the research they have done," she adds.

While Dr. Wallace says the Eye Institute is fortunate to benefit from the philanthropy of Mr. Johnson and his late wife, Anna McCowan Johnson, there is always a need for additional support.

"For potential donors who want to play the long game and back discovery research, it has been shown time and time again that if you support smart people who are inherently curious about problems and their solutions, your gift will have impact," she says.

"The legacy of Mr. Johnson's philanthropy will enable the Eye Institute to have a national and global impact. It is going to convince young people to work on these problems," says Dr. Wallace. "You want the next pool of really smart talent to turn their attention and their brilliance to solving [vision-related] issues. If we have the presence and the impact, we will be able to recruit and train the next generation of researchers, and that's quite a legacy."

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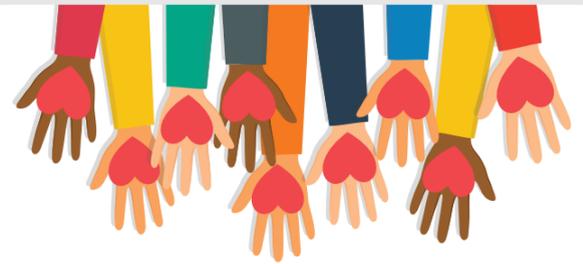
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Terry Fox's influence decades ago inspires legacy gifts today

In 1980, Terry Fox and Vickie Key were both 22. She was grieving the loss of her grandmother and was unaware of his Marathon of Hope across Canada to raise money and awareness for cancer research until one day, by chance, she turned on the television.

"I saw this curly-haired man, the same age as me, running across Ontario," Ms. Key recalls. "It lifted me up and inspired me at a time I was experiencing grief and immense sadness."

Since then, her personal and professional lives have been inextricably linked with Mr. Fox and his cause.

"I was very close to my grandmother, and her death from lung cancer devastated me," says Ms. Key. "When Terry announced he had to stop his run, that was also pretty devastating, especially because the metastatic tumour had gone to his lung, as it had for my grandma."

Ms. Key joined in the first Terry Fox Run and has participated in the annual event in some way ever since. Over the past 40 years, she has also volunteered at dozens of Terry Fox-related events.

"I always carry my grandma's picture and my Terry Fox loonie – and I have Terry Fox laces in my running shoes," she says.

Her personal experience with cancer ultimately resulted in her working as a nurse in a hospice providing palliative care.

"I want to make a difference for



Calgarian Vickie Key (left) joined in the first Terry Fox run and has participated with the annual event in some way ever since; (right) alongside a statue of Terry Fox in Victoria, B.C. – where he had hoped to complete his run across Canada. SUPPLIED

“Every gift can have an impact, and it's just so important that we continue to honour Terry's legacy and fund cancer research.”

Vickie Key
Volunteer with the Terry Fox Foundation

families and hopefully provide for a more meaningful end-of-life, and a comfortable death, unlike what my grandmother went through," she says. "So I come at cancer from a few different angles, and it's important to me that I continue to, because the Terry Fox Research Institute has achieved incredible things. It's just so important that we continue to fund research."

To contribute to that research, Ms. Key has provided a legacy gift in her will to the Terry Fox Foundation. Leaving a gift in your will is an easy

and powerful way to continue Terry Fox's legacy with your own. Gifts of three, five or 10 per cent of what remains from your estate, after deducting gifts to family and loved ones, can allow you to take care of those important to you and support causes that are meaningful to you.

"Terry Fox's family have never, ever wavered over 40 years. I'm just so honoured to leave some money in my estate planning that I know in my heart will be put to good use to make a difference for future generations," she says.

The Terry Fox Foundation works to realize Terry Fox's dream of finding a cure for cancer through funding critical research in Canada.

"You don't have to be wealthy to leave a legacy gift," she says. "Every gift can have an impact, and it's just so important that we continue to honour Terry's legacy and fund cancer research," she says.

To join the Terry Fox Legacy Circle, visit terryfox.org/legacy

PRIORITIZING DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN THE CHARITABLE SECTOR IS CRITICAL TO FUTURE SUCCESS

Q&A WITH MARINA GLOGOVAC, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF CANADAHELPS

CanadaHelps aims to build the capacity of the charitable sector through technology and education. Since it was founded in 2000, more than three million Canadians have donated nearly \$2-billion to charities using its online platform for donating and fundraising.

In this Q&A, president and CEO Marina Glogovac discusses the results of the organization's recent 2021 Digital Skills Survey (DSS).



CanadaHelps president and CEO Marina Glogovac says data from its 2021 Digital Skills Survey is critical for governments and funders to understand the ways in which charities need support to thrive. SUPPLIED

What do you consider is the most important finding in the survey and why?

The need for digital transformation in all sectors is clear, especially after COVID-19. What we really need to focus on now is what is holding charities back from making the critical digital transformation changes needed to ensure future success.

What we saw from this survey is that charities know this is important, but they are so buried in work and without enough resources that they can't prioritize it. One in three charities believes they'll soon find it harder to continue their work if they

don't improve their digital capabilities, but more than 55 per cent of respondents say they either don't have enough funding or the skills, expertise and knowledge for greater use of digital tools.

Changing mindsets within the sector to prioritize digital transformation, paired with providing resources to be successful, is critical.

How can charities use the survey results to help them prioritize digital transformation?

Charities will see from this survey that they are not alone in their struggles, but hopefully will also see the urgency of starting their digital transformation journey. Small and medium-sized organizations make up the majority of Canada's 86,000 charities and are most closely connected to communities in need nationwide. As a sector, we need to make substantial changes quickly or Canadians will suffer. Charities are far

too important to our society to be left behind.

What do you believe will motivate charities to adopt the mindset and the digital tools that will enable their growth?

Charities need support through this process. So many charities we speak to are struggling with how to take the first step because digital transformation feels overwhelming. We've seen support for businesses to make this shift to digital, including programming like Digital Mainstreet or funding from governments. Charities need the same help but tailored to their unique challenges. This is something CanadaHelps is working to address through advocacy, helping charities raise the necessary funds, and by providing quality educational materials.

For more information, visit canadahelps.org

GREATER VANCOUVER NATIONAL PHILANTHROPY DAY CELEBRATION

November 15, 2021

12:00pm PST

Complimentary Virtual Event

Register at afpvancouver.org



Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care in Penetanguishene, Ontario, has adapted services to ensure mental health needs are prioritized and services are accessible. SUPPLIED

MAKING MENTAL HEALTH A PRIORITY

Remarkable efforts have been made on the part of health-care workers, caregivers and people across the country to help one another throughout the pandemic. Recognizing the added psychological burden of COVID-19, in Penetanguishene, Ontario, Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care's clinical and research teams have dedicated countless hours to adapting services to ensure mental health needs are prioritized and services are accessible and adaptable, with a particular focus on seniors, youth and frontline workers.

Adapting to the new realities of the pandemic saw the hospital and the Waypoint Research Institute retooling services, providing online supports to build resiliency skills and reduce burnout, increasing connection, assessing the impact of the pandemic and increasing frontline/staff wellness and psychological supports.

The hospital also opened a new Family, Child and Youth Mental Health Service in the community; welcomed two new physicians dedicated to children and youth, Dr. Peter Braunberger and Dr. Joe Oliver; and are now offering an urgent care clinic and on-call support service. As the new Research Chair in Forensic Mental Health Science, Dr. Nathan Kolla is leading enhancements in this important area of mental health care.

The steadfast dedication of staff, donors, volunteers, families, patients and community partners made it possible for Waypoint to rise to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information about Waypoint's COVID-19 Mental Health Relief Fund, visit waypointcentre.ca



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New ROM gallery will visually transport visitors back four billion years



The Willner Madge Gallery, Dawn of Life, will help people understand the past, make sense of the present and shape the future

Imagine it if you can. Four billion years ago, your very earliest ancestor emerges into the primordial soup that would later evolve into what we now call Earth. It may have been a micro-organism living around a hydrothermal vent in the ocean. Scientists describe it as the last universal common ancestor, or LUCA, and it's related to all current life on Earth; it's your great-granny (or granddad) many million times removed.

Starting this December, you will have an opportunity to meet your longest-lost relatives when Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) opens its eagerly anticipated 10,000-square-foot Willner Madge Gallery, Dawn of Life, which will take visitors on an unparalleled journey from the very start of life on Earth to the period just before dinosaurs ruled the world. Named for philanthropists Jeff Willner and Stacey Madge for their generous support of this project, the gallery is a landmark moment for the museum.

"This is our first major new gallery of this scale in over a decade," says ROM director and CEO Josh Basseches. "It's very connected to ROM's vision to help people understand the past, make sense of the present and come together to shape a shared future. And it fits into our objective to be one of the most distinctive 21st century museums anywhere in the world."

By presenting the story as a unique, immersive experience using technology that will visually transport visitors back nearly four billion years, the gallery aims to foster a better understanding of the emergence of life by tackling big questions, such as when did life begin, how did it evolve and how did humans come to exist through that chain, according to Mr. Basseches.

"We see the gallery as a game changer that will dramatically affect people's understanding of life and themselves," he adds. "It will be both an informative and a catalytic experience."

Dr. Jean-Bernard Caron, ROM's Richard M. Ivey Curator of Invertebrate Palaeontology and lead curator

“

There are many fossils that tell the story of life on Earth, but we wanted to make sure visitors know that Canada has some of the world's most important fossil sites, including those recognized as such by UNESCO.

Dr. Jean-Bernard Caron
ROM's Richard M. Ivey Curator of Invertebrate Palaeontology

“

I think the amount of interactivity and the way the gallery has been put together will really strike visitors as something very different; less about displays on walls with placards in front of them, and much more engaging. I'm very excited about that.

Jeff Willner
Chair of the ROM Board of Governors and owner and CEO of TravelEdge Group



Looking forward to the opening of the Dawn of Life Gallery next month are ROM director and CEO, Josh Basseches and Jean-Bernard Caron, the museum's Richard M. Ivey Curator of Invertebrate Palaeontology. IMAGE COURTESY OF ROM; PHOTO: PAUL EEKHOFF

of the new gallery, puts it more plainly.

"Hopefully these fossils will give visitors goosebumps in the knowledge that humans and animals alive today were billions of years in the making," he says.

Dr. Caron says one of the big challenges in curating the new gallery, which is rooted in ROM original research, was deciding what to leave out of the displays.

"It was a daunting task because the fossil record is quite extensive," he explains. "There are many fossils that tell the story of life on Earth, but we wanted to make sure visitors know that Canada has some of the world's most important fossil sites, including those recognized as such by UNESCO."

Dr. Caron points out that there are four Canadian UNESCO World Heritage Sites represented in the new gallery. These sites are particularly rich in fossils and represent some of the most important places on Earth for studying key moments in evolution, such as the origin of multicellularity, the evolution of the first animals and the transition of vertebrate life from the sea to land.

He says fossils tell stories about how deep the connection is between all life forms, and the new gallery is a platform for those stories to be heard.

"We can see ourselves in this gallery, from the very first cells and how they have evolved to the complex cells we have in our bodies today," he adds. "We are telling the stories not only of where we come from but

also the origin of our modern world, including of all the animals and plants that are alive today."

Dr. Caron says while the gallery will detail Canada's incredibly rich and diverse geological history and scientifically important fossils, its broader story is far bigger than Canada.

"Although the story of life is a universal story that connects all of us, there's no gallery in the world like this," he adds. "It's an opportunity for people from anywhere to not only discover our past but also see into the future by learning about events, like mass extinctions, which changed the world in much the same way as climate change is changing our world today."

Dr. Caron says construction of the gallery took two years after a multi-year campaign to raise funds entirely from private donors. That's where Jeff Willner and Stacey Madge came in. The couple donated \$5-million towards the new gallery because they believed it was important for ROM to have a new way to tell the story of the dawn of life, using the museum's extensive collection of Canadian fossils to do so.

Mr. Willner, who is chair of the ROM Board of Governors and owner and CEO of TravelEdge Group, says the donation was a wonderful opportunity to do something quite small in the grand scheme of things.

He was particularly impressed by the teamwork that went into building the gallery and how different it is to typical museum displays.

"I think the amount of interactivity and the way the gallery has been put together will really strike visitors as something very different; less about displays on walls with placards in front of them, and much more engaging. I'm very excited about that," says Mr. Willner.

The Willner Madge Gallery, Dawn of Life at Royal Ontario Museum is scheduled to open on December 4.

For more information, visit rom.on.ca

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The Salvation Army transforms lives with compassion and hope

Everyone needs an army. This Christmas, join the army of givers and help make a difference in the lives of Canadians

Long before COVID-19 swept the country, Canadians were struggling under the weight of poverty, homelessness, and food insecurity in their communities. Today those issues have been exacerbated by a global pandemic. Throughout 2020, with the support of governments at all levels, donors, staff and volunteers, The Salvation Army stepped up its efforts and helped people to make ends meet with a message of care and hope.

Through its network of more than 235 community and family services offices, and its emergency shelter and drop-in programs, The Salvation Army mobilized swiftly and served more than 2.8 million meals and helped 1.5 million people with food, clothing, and practical assistance. At Christmas, 245,000 people were gifted with food hampers and toys.

A HISTORY OF HELPING

This care for humankind is not new for the organization and its army of givers. Since 1882, The Salvation Army has been sharing the love of Jesus Christ, meeting human needs and serving as a transforming influence in Canada. It is Canada's largest non-governmental direct provider of social services.

It's this mission to help and offer hope that attracted Masud to work with the team at The Salvation Army Grace Mansion in Vancouver. With a background in addiction medicine, Masud joined the team four years ago.

"There is a belief here to preserve, protect and nurture," Masud says. "The Salvation Army has this wonderful combination of faith and compassion that drives everything we do."

Grace Mansion is an 84-unit residential facility that provides supportive transitional housing for up to 24 months. Goals for residents include housing and continued abstinence from drugs and alcohol. For one individual, it was much more than that.

TRANSFORMING LIVES

A former Grace Mansion resident, Jesse calls



Masud, above, was inspired by The Salvation Army's mission of hope and joined The Salvation Army Grace Mansion team in Vancouver four years ago. Jesse, left, is a former Grace mansion resident whose life was transformed during his time at the facility. THE SALVATION ARMY PHOTOS



For more information on how you can join the army of givers this holiday season and invest in the lives of marginalized people, either through donations or volunteering, visit salvationarmy.ca/armyofgivers and salvationarmy.ca/volunteer

the time he lived there as transformational. Sober for more than four years now and living in his own apartment, he describes how it offered him a safe space to heal and take a hard look at his life.

"I had a lot of issues. I was mentally, emotionally, and financially destitute. I am educat-

ed and come from a professional background but with alcoholism all that matters is getting that almighty drink," Jesse says. "Being at Grace Mansion gave me a chance to take a careful look at myself and make some serious decisions about my life."

Jesse grew up in Zimbabwe and moved to

South Africa where he went to war at age 18. From there he moved to England and then Canada, which he now calls home. While teaching in Russia on a contract, he experienced congestive heart failure and returned to Vancouver.

"I lost everything," he says. "I trusted the staff at Grace Mansion and relied on them for guidance and support. They helped me stay sober and relearn important skills like how to build a resume and apply for job. They offered me the choice to change my life in a place that afforded me some privacy and dignity when I was at my lowest."

INSPIRING AN ARMY OF GIVERS

Masud says there are many more people like Jesse in need.

"We need more help. Even though we live in a wealthy country like Canada, there are so many people living in poverty. In Vancouver there is a major opioid crisis and people are dying from overdoses every day," he says. "People across Canada are going without food, which puts their health in jeopardy. With COVID it seems to be getting worse."

The Salvation Army reports that nearly 4.5 million Canadians couldn't provide adequate food for themselves and their families before COVID-19. By June 2020, that number had grown by 39 per cent, affecting one in seven people. The number of people calling on The Salvation Army for assistance that same year quintupled for the first time since the Second World War.

With talks of economic recovery, many Canadians still need a helping hand. The Salvation Army is mounting its Christmas 2021 campaign called Everyone Needs an Army: Army of Givers. Underlying the campaign is the hope that more Canadians will see this Christmas as an opportunity to donate money, toys, clothes, or time – whether it's serving a meal, standing beside one of more than 2000 Christmas kettles, or stocking shelves at a local food bank.

Masud tells a story about an entire family who visited Grace Mansion recently with a cheque for \$5,000 to help with job training and support for the residents.

"I believe that COVID-19 has made us more compassionate as a society," he says. "What we need now, perhaps more than ever before, is to be a light for people and to spread the message of hope."

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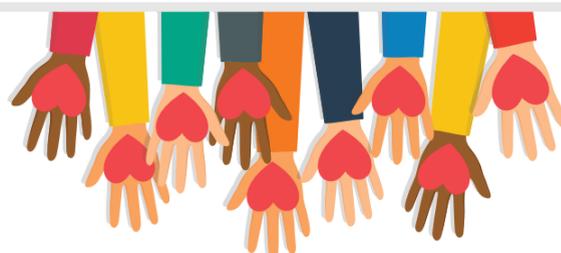
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Shining lights to celebrate children's lives



Charlotte Sui was only 97 days old when she died in November 2016. Born with a rare and irreparable heart defect, she had no chance of survival. Her parents, Jessica and Chris, knew her fate even before she was born. They were given the option to terminate the pregnancy but decided instead to see it through and treasure what little time they would have with their baby daughter.

It was a situation most parents would find unimaginable, but for the Suis it was a stark reality they somehow needed to accept. But how?

After six weeks in the neonatal intensive care unit at BC Children's Hospital, Charlotte was transferred to Canuck Place, a children's hospice with locations in Vancouver and Abbotsford, British Columbia.

Jessica and Chris Sui had been introduced to Canuck Place clinical nurse specialist Nadine Lusney before Charlotte was born, when it was clear that there was no chance that she would survive for very long after birth.

"We were initially resistant to Canuck Place being involved because no parent wants to accept that their child will die," says Mr. Sui. "But Nadine walked us through uncertainty and kindly understood our resistance and said Canuck Place was there if we need it."

When Charlotte was born and a heart scan confirmed surgery was not possible and that she had only

Every parent wants their child to matter, to be a light that touches and impacts others in this world. In many ways, our Charlotte's light is still shining.

Jessica Sui

Canuck Place provided support in a way that was truly seamless and took as much burden as possible off our shoulders.

Chris Sui



One of the Canuck Place families participating in the Light a Life Campaign are, from left: Chris, Bethany, Willow and Jessica Sui. SUPPLIED

a few months to live, Canuck Place physician Amy Mabie and nurse practitioner Camara Van Breemen visited the Suis at the NICU and began the relationship that would support them through Charlotte's life and death over the next three months.

When Charlotte was transferred to Canuck Place, the clinical staff set up her home care and familiarized themselves with her condition and needs. Support was essential, not only to help the Suis cope with the emotional pain but also to ensure that their other daughter, Bethany,

who was two at the time, continued to receive her parents' love and attention.

"Charlotte was not easy to care for," says Ms. Sui. "She was a very feisty and spirited baby who would cry with the exuberance and defiance of a completely healthy baby – this was good, but not good for oxygen levels."

Canuck Place helped the Suis manage Charlotte's care at home, counselled them on how to lessen perceived discomforts, provided quick access to prescription medication and oxygen equipment, and visited them regularly.

"Canuck Place provided support in a way that was truly seamless and took as much burden as possible off our shoulders," says Mr. Sui. "When Charlotte died, Deborah Davison, Canuck Place counsellor, came alongside us in the darkest days of our lives providing practical help, such as suggestions on burial and cremation. More importantly, she allowed us to express our grief."

After Charlotte's death, the Suis continued to participate in Canuck Place's family program, which, says Mr. Sui, allowed the family to laugh again and have fun.

"But it also gave us the opportunity to give with other families who understood what we had been through, which was so critical to our healing and ability to move forward," he adds.

Ms. Sui says Charlotte was and remains the bright light in the family.

"One of the reasons that we did not terminate the pregnancy was our belief that no matter how long Charlotte lives and no matter what disabilities she might have, she is precious. Every parent wants their child to matter, to be a light that touches and impacts others in this world. In many ways, our Charlotte's light is still shining."

Canuck Place's annual Light a Life Campaign supports children with life-threatening illnesses and their families to live fully with the time they have left together. Information: canuckplace.org/donate

WORKING TO ENSURE TECHNOLOGY IS INCLUSIVE OF PEOPLE WITH DOWN SYNDROME

Owen Crowson is a typical nine-year-old – he wants to do everything his older brothers do.

"He does a lot of things I was told he would never do," says Jennifer Crowson of her youngest son, who has Down syndrome. "He is a very caring, lovable boy – his older brothers love technology and so does he."

Owen is one of the many children and young adults with Down syndrome who benefit from assisted devices, including mobile tablets, to support them in learning to communicate, learn and to increase overall independence.

The Canadian Down Syndrome Society (CDSS) is working to 'bridge the digital divide' by delivering

Research has shown that people with disabilities, including Down syndrome, can show improvements in the areas of mental health, communication, independence, classroom learning and social interaction with technology assisting them.

Laura LaChance
Executive Director, Canadian Down Syndrome Society

tablets and supportive apps to individuals with Down syndrome in Canada who could otherwise not afford them.

"By providing tablets and access to learning and better communication tools through a variety of resource apps, we can introduce many benefits," says CDSS executive director Laura LaChance. "Research has shown that people with disabilities, including Down syndrome, can show improvements in the areas of mental health, communication, independence, classroom learning and social interaction with technology assisting them."

Ms. Crowson says Owen knows how to navigate apps on his tablet. "This gives him a choice in what he learns, hears and watches in exactly the same way as his brothers," she says.

"Owen loves to read and wants to tell stories," she says, adding that without any help he set his tablet preferences to closed captioning – he pauses the screen, reads the words, then watches the scene. She

believes this is likely a way he sees himself developing story-telling skills.

That interest in story-telling is also being encouraged as he learns to use a keyboard with his tablet. While Owen is young and currently uses his tablet for mainly recreational purposes – including face-time playdates with friends he hasn't been able to visit during the pandemic – it will help him become even more independent as he moves into adolescence and young adulthood with things like staying organized, learning daily tasks, in his formal education and one day at work, she says.

CDSS is helping to ensure that technology is inclusive of people with Down syndrome. Another example of their recent work in this area is called Project Understood, a collaboration between CDSS and Google.

To learn more about projects like these, visit www.CDSS.ca



Owen is one of many children with Down syndrome who uses a mobile tablet with apps to support his learning. LINDSAY PALMER PHOTOGRAPHY

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BY THE NUMBERS

Canuck Place is a children's hospice with locations in Vancouver and Abbotsford, British Columbia.

34%

The increase in the number of children and families requiring pediatric palliative care since 2015.

94%

The increase in virtual care by phone or video and in-hospital since 2015.

31%

The increase in clinical care visits in-home.

56%

The increase in counselling sessions provided to support grieving families.

Source: Canuck Place Children's Hospice 2020-21 Annual Report

They're protecting our greatest treasure: Earth.

The Allan and Helaine Shiff Curator of Climate Change



Allan Shiff (left) and Dr. Soren Brothers (right). Photo: Paul Eekhoff.

To help protect our burning planet, Allan Shiff made a donation (matched by the Louise Hawley Stone Charitable Trust) to create an endowed position: the Allan and Helaine Shiff Curator of Climate Change. That role is now held by Dr. Soren Brothers, who weaves the urgency of climate change into ROM-original exhibitions and programming. All to deepen understanding—and spur public engagement and action.

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Christmas Bureau volunteers pivot to make caring calls and food deliveries during the pandemic

The same caring spirit that motivates the team of volunteers who provide practical support and a sense of optimism to people who access assistance at the Family Services of the North Shore (FSNS) Christmas Bureau helped hundreds of those clients in need during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The initiative, organized by the Lead Volunteer Group (LVG) at FSNS that saw hundreds of "caring calls" and the delivery of food and groceries to vulnerable clients, is being honoured with a Giving Heart Award from the Greater Vancouver chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) in a new category created to recognize examples of support in response to the pandemic.

The Giving Hearts Awards is an annual event to honour outstanding individuals, volunteers, leaders, fundraisers, philanthropists and youth in Greater Vancouver's non-profit and social profit community.

Ria Terins, who has been a Christmas Bureau volunteer for more than a decade, says no sooner had the team packed away supplies following a busy 2019 festive season than the decision was made in March 2020 to start making "caring calls" to the more than 1,000 families and



Alison Sawers and Michelle Baines were two of the volunteers who made and sold fabric hearts to fundraise for the Family Services of the North Shore Christmas Bureau's initiative to help people in need during the pandemic. SUPPLIED

seniors who relied on support from Christmas Bureau.

With more than 600 volunteers making the calls, they quickly discovered many people were isolated, lonely and unable to make it to the grocery store due to restrictions, personal health issues or lack of

childcare, and therefore were going without food and other essential supplies, says Ms. Terins.

"One volunteer shared with us that she had spoken with an 80-year-old woman who had no family, had limited eyesight and was wheelchair bound. She was literally living on tea

and toast," says Ms. Terins.

FSNS partnered with the food bank and Columbus Food Market to put together grocery bags. The LVG and 630 volunteers collected the food, organized it into packages with appropriate food for each recipient and hand-delivered the packages.

To finance the extraordinary outreach, lead volunteer Alison Sawers brought together a group of volunteers to cut, sew and stuff more than 2,000 big and small fabric hearts while over 100 canvas hearts painted by students and hobby and gallery artists were sold, raising more than \$50,000.

The LVG and volunteers continued to make daily calls and weekly food deliveries until July 2021. By that time, they had provided over 13,635 hours of service throughout the pandemic including making 14,000-plus caring calls, connecting with 2,500 vulnerable people, securing and delivering over 2,300 bags of groceries to local families, and providing more than 3,600 prepared meals for isolated seniors.

"Our Lead Volunteer Group has done everything with passion and an open heart, ensuring that every person is supported, seen and cared for," says Julia Staub-French, executive director of FSNS.

The 2021 Association of Fundraising Professionals Greater Vancouver Chapter will be awarding the 2021 Giving Hearts Awards on November 15 virtually at afpvancouver.org

CAMPAIGN RAISES FUNDS TO REPLACE AGING HOSPITAL

As plans to build a new hospital in Prince Edward County, Ontario, gain momentum, the Prince Edward County Memorial Hospital Foundation's (PECMHF) Back the Build campaign has raised more than \$15.8-million to support the biggest change in the local health-care system since the first hospital opened in the area in 1919.

While the Province of Ontario

will fund 90 per cent of the capital costs for construction of the 20-bed facility, the community will raise the balance and provide funding for new equipment.

To meet that commitment, PECMHF launched the Back the Build campaign in 2018 to raise the funds required to build the new hospital. The funds raised to date have come from people living across the

province and beyond, says PECMHF's executive director Shannon Coull.

The current hospital – which serves more than 40,000 patient visits a year – is over 60 years old and is too small to accommodate the county's growing population, says Ms. Coull.

"Our caregivers continue to provide exceptional care for patients and their families, but the aging facility is a challenging environment to work in," she says.

With construction targeted to begin in 2024, Ms. Coull says now is the time to be forward thinking to meet the health-care needs of the community, for today and well into the future.

The hospital will comprise of over 90,000 square feet of space and provide 24/7 emergency services.

For more information, visit backthebuild.ca



A rendering of the 20-bed hospital planned for Prince Edward County, Ontario. SUPPLIED



Ryan is one of the members of Camphill's Maple Syrup Social Enterprise team. SUPPLIED

SWEET SOLUTION

Camphill Communities Ontario (CCO), a not-for-profit organization that supports adults with developmental disabilities, is growing its social enterprise capabilities to encourage innovation and create opportunities for its community.

Colin is one of the Camphill's success stories. Looking to find a sense of purpose and participation, he joined Camphill's Maple Syrup Social Enterprise team, working in the sugar bush installing taps, collecting sap, turning it into syrup and teaching others about the traditional methods he uses.

"Making syrup has become a point of pride, gives structure to Colin's day and allows him to be a part of a productive team," says Kathy Downes, executive director of Camphill Foundation Canada, established to support

the mission of CCO.

The Maple Syrup Social Enterprise provides opportunities for adults with intellectual disabilities to learn new skills, create meaningful paid work opportunities and be innovators in sustainable social enterprise, adds Ms. Downes.

CCO was founded in 1986, beginning as a home and school setting for children and adolescents and evolving into an adult-centred community as the residents aged. The community comprises a 290-acre rural location near Angus, Ontario, and an urban location in nearby Barrie, encompassing many homes and apartments.

For more information, visit camphillfoundation.ca



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In affluent Canada no child should go hungry



Life is tough enough for First Nations communities in remote northwestern Ontario without having to face the uncertainty of having sufficient supplies to last throughout the year.

But that's the situation they now face as climate change shrinks the time winter ice roads are usable to truck in vital bulk goods like fuel, food and building materials.

The ice roads used to be open from mid-January to late March, but the window is closing fast. Last winter, the roads could only be traversed by 18-wheel trucks for 10 days, says James Morris, executive director of the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority (SLFNHA) and a founder and director of the Mikinakoos Children's Fund.

Mikinakoos works with 33 First Nations communities in northwestern Ontario – an area the size of France – and only seven can be accessed by all-weather roads. The others rely on air transport for deliveries that cannot be made using the ice roads, says Mr. Morris.

The impact of climate change on

“ I suspected there were a lot of hungry kids, but I never realized how many until trauma teams working in the communities revealed the startling number of children who were hungry every day.

James Morris
Executive Director of the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority (SLFNHA) and a founder and director of the Mikinakoos Children's Fund



Mikinakoos Children's Fund provided sporting equipment and organized programs in 14 communities in northwestern Ontario this summer. SUPPLIED

the ice roads exacerbates existing challenges in the area, says Mikinakoos Children's Fund executive director Emily Shandruk.

In addition to its work to alleviate poverty and hunger, Mikinakoos supports families by providing warm winter clothing, sporting equipment and other essential items.

Mr. Morris recalls the circumstances that led to the founding of Mikina-

koos, which was registered as a charity in 2014.

“I suspected there were a lot of hungry kids, but I never realized how many until trauma teams working in the communities revealed the startling number of children who were hungry every day,” he says. “And many didn't have winter clothing; in minus 35 degrees they were wearing running shoes, hoodies

and baseball caps.”

When Mr. Morris asked one school principal how many children needed parkas, he received a list with 300 names of children who needed coats, winter boots, hats and scarves. Now the charity provides as many children as possible with winter clothing.

“Every year, we focus on one or two communities and outfit every child, from newborns to 18-year-olds. This clothing then stays in the community – as they outgrow the winter clothing, they pass it on to younger children,” says Ms. Shandruk.

With the goal of helping ensure that no children go hungry, Mikinakoos also liaises with local leaders to identify food the communities need – typically shelf-stable supplies like pasta, flour and peanut butter – and mainly delivers it by air, she says.

“It's never acceptable for children to go hungry,” says Ms. Shandruk. “But in an affluent country like Canada, with so much excess food available, it is inexcusable that so many children can't access basic necessities like food and clean water.”

FROM PAGE 1

COMMUNITY: THE SPIRIT OF HUMAN KINDNESS IS ALIVE AND WELL ACROSS CANADA

what impact their work is having on the community.

“National Philanthropy Day lets every Canadian see that they too can play a part in making a difference in their own community, no matter how big or how small,” she says.

That's not to say that most Canadians aren't already aware of the importance of charitable giving. The 2021 *What Canadian Donors Want* survey conducted for the Association of Fundraising Professionals Foundation for Philanthropy – Canada found that 76 per cent of Canadians say they made a financial donation to a charity in the previous 12 months.

The average donation was \$933 compared to \$772 when the last survey was done in 2017. Another significant finding was the level of confidence – 87 per cent – that Canadian donors have in the charitable sector compared to the private sector (69 per cent) and the public sector (65 per cent). A strong majority of Canadian donors – 89 per cent – also trust charities to deliver on their mission and goals, and 85 per cent agree that most charities in Canada act responsibly with the donations they receive.

The value of the non-profit sector to Canada's economy is also significant. According to Statistics Canada, 8.4 per cent of the country's total GDP was attributable to the sector in the first quarter of 2021, while employment in the sector during the first quarter was pegged at 2.4 million jobs.

While numbers are impressive, it's what happens on the ground

“ We have the privilege of working with incredible donors every day who give to make sick and injured kids better.

Rebecca Dutton
President and CEO of Janeway Children's Hospital Foundation in St. John's, Newfoundland



“ National Philanthropy Day lets every Canadian see that they too can play a part in making a difference in their own community.

Rukshini Ponniah-Goulin
Director of Development at the United Church Downtown Mission of Windsor



that's most important to Canadian non-profits.

In St. John's, the Janeway Children's Hospital Foundation raises money to support the Children's hospital that benefits communities in Newfoundland and Labrador.

“We have the privilege of working with incredible donors every day who give to make sick and injured kids better,” says Ms. Dutton. “Their generosity enables the hospital to purchase equipment that literally saves children's lives, train health-care staff and fund vital research on pediatric issues that are relevant to children here in the province.”

The Downtown Mission started in Windsor in 1972 as a drop-in centre for a few individuals who were experiencing homelessness in the downtown area. It was run by a group of volunteers and served, on average, 12 men, who typically received a cup of coffee and a sandwich once a day. Today it's a 24-hour-a-day operation providing food, shelter and comfort to hundreds of men, women, youth and families daily.

“All of these programs are provided through the generosity and kindness of our community and the many amazing philanthropists in Windsor-Essex who help ensure these services are there for those who need them,” says Ms. Ponniah-Goulin.

But in Windsor and St. John's, as in many other communities across Canada, the needs keep growing as more individuals and families, and institutions like hospitals, come to rely on charities to help them through tough times or to provide funds for essential infrastructure and equipment.

“Newfoundlanders and Labradorians are known to be among the most generous people in the country, and they certainly are,” says Ms. Dutton. “But of course, just like anywhere, economic uncertainty can influence people's ability to make both short- and longer-term financial commitments.”

She notes that the uncertainty brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and other economic factors at play in the province and the country have impacted charities and giving.

“However, the number of donors we're seeing and the support for the community remain strong. We certainly take care of one another in Newfoundland and Labrador, and

the number of people who give everything they can is truly inspiring. Philanthropy is alive and well, regardless of the challenges,” adds Ms. Dutton.

Ms. Ponniah-Goulin agrees that increasing need is one of the biggest challenges facing the charitable sector and will be well into the future.

“More issues are coming up daily, with more individuals of all demographics and socio-economic classes needing assistance to live a good life,” she says. “These increasing demands continue to stretch the limits of our very generous philanthropists and philanthropic organizations.”

Nevertheless, Ms. Ponniah-Goulin believes the spirit of human kindness is alive and well in communities throughout Canada and in the rest of the world.

“We must be grateful for all we have, no matter how much or how little it may seem, and be willing to graciously help others who may need a hand up at some point in their lives. As Martin Luther King Jr. once said, ‘Life's persistent and most urgent question is: What are you doing for others?’ This is something I've always believed in and, thankfully, there are many others around me – the philanthropists – who live it every day, and our world is truly a better place for it,” she adds.

Help us to Bridge the Digital Divide

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[CDSS.ca/donate](https://cdss.ca/donate)

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