



Rotary Home Review

Spring 2015

Keeping families strong,
helping keep them together.

Another milestone reached!

Continuing growth - 1,228 nights of adult respite care last year

Our adult respite program continues to grow. We have more families caring for young adults with disabilities registered with us than ever before and in the 2014-15 fiscal year we were able to offer 1,228 nights of respite. That's an increase of 146 nights from last year!

With 1 out of 5 of the individuals who visit our children's respite programs turning 21 in the next three years one of our top priorities—and the continued focus of our Foundation's fundraising—will be to maintain the growth of this program.

Unlike our children's and residential programs, adult respite is made possible through contribu-

tions from the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS), donations, grants and sponsorships through our Foundation and now, through fee-for-service (families using their Passport funding).



Inside

Summer at Rotary Home

Summer with us is so much fun, so book early to secure your dates!

2

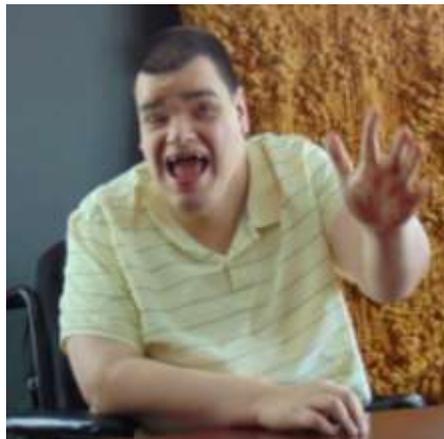
A word on transformation from Gina, our Executive Director

How has transformation affected Rotary Home and how we have prepared for and adapted to its challenges?

4

Remembering friends

5



"The one thing that is guaranteed to put a smile on my face is SC's big laugh on his way into our home. Hearing him make his way into our adult day program is probably one of the best things EVER!"

- Chantal Ladouceur,
Adult Program Lead



Our adult day program had fun planting seeds in these adorable hand painted pots. We're hoping to enjoy the fruits of our labour this summer with chives, rosemary, and lemon balm for our garden and in the kitchen!

At left, Laura and Cassie planting seeds. Cassie regularly attends our adult day program and recently stayed for several days in our overnight respite program as well thanks to support from our donors who help fund this program.



Book early to reserve your dates!

Summer at Rotary Home is FUN, FUN, FUN!

Summer will be here before you know it! Parents, please remember to book your child's visits early to make sure your preferred dates are available.

With our lovely "enchanted garden", and our sensory garden which boasts strawberries, asparagus, and herbs galore Rotary Home is such a wonderful place in the summertime. And our splash pad is sure to delight kids of all ages - and some adults too!

Please call Kimbra at 613.236.3200 to book your visits.

"We are very happy that Nicole considers Rotary Home staff as her second family and she always looks forward to her visits there. We are very grateful and thankful for all the good care and kindness that everyone shows her at Rotary Home."

"Stewart loves coming to Rotary Home! The relief that his stays at Rotary Home provide is PRICELESS. It allows us to recharge and catch up. Something we can't do often."





A very special dance party

By: Rosanna,
Rotary Home counsellor



“...everyone has a smile plastered on their faces from ear to ear.”

Dancing the night away...

It's a Tuesday night, in the deep cold of winter. We have all felt the cold this winter. Dinner was delicious, the dishes are cleaned and put away, everyone has had their bath. The snow and ice are piled up outside, the temperature is frigid, so what is a group of children going to do on such a night to feel the warmth of each other's company?

Well if you're a part of our home, it's time for a dance party! Turn up the radio, turn down the lights, start moving to the music and let the laughter begin. It's incredible to see our

children bond with each other and staff during their time spent here at the Ottawa Rotary Home. It changes our lives to see a client take the hand of a member of our staff and join them up with someone else that just wasn't quite ready to join in. They are now, thanks to the encouragement of a friend.

“It's incredible to see our children bond with each other and with staff during their time spent here at the Ottawa Rotary Home.”

Looking around the room, everyone has a smile plastered on their faces from ear to ear. Even the teenagers get into the action by lighting up the dark room with the blinking lights on their wheelchairs. *Taylor, Beyoncé, and Selina are singing their hits while the children show off their moves.* Thanks for another wonderful evening at our home!

Making It possible!

We are so fortunate to have the support of the following caring companies, foundations and all of the donors who supported our annual "Angel Campaign". You helped dozens of local families caring for young adults with disabilities get a break through our Adult Respite Program.

The Gillin Family—\$25,000
Angel Campaign donors—\$22,500
Crabtree Foundation—\$20,000
Rotary Club of Ottawa—\$10,000
Community Foundation of Ottawa—\$5,000
The McKay Cross Foundation—\$5,000
United Way Ottawa—\$3,600
REALTORS Care Foundation—\$3,225
May Court Club of Ottawa—\$2,500
Harry P. Ward Foundation—\$2,000
LeMay Homes—\$2,000
Rotary Club of Chesterville—\$1,500
Rotaract Club of Ottawa—\$1,000

*"Thank you dear
Rotary Home staff.*

*Many beautiful things cannot be
seen or touched, they are felt within
the heart. What you've done all
these years for us is one of them.
Thank you all from the bottom
of our hearts!"*

- Soleimanian Family

*Pictured right, Parastou Soleimanian
and her fiancé at Rotary Home*

Transformation

Gina St. Amour, Executive Director

Passport funding is a huge piece of the process of Transformation currently occurring in the Developmental Services sector. It is changing and broadening how agencies like The Ottawa Rotary Home offer services.

This new model means our adult programs will no longer be funded solely through the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) and the Ministry of Child and Youth Services (MCYS) or through a combination of Ministry funding and donations through our Foundation. With individuals now receiving more Passport dollars, they have the option of using this funding for programs at Rotary Home.

As always, our focus is on our families. Our goal throughout the Transformation process has been to work with our families, connect with them and find out how we can evolve within the context of transformation to best meet their needs.

Here are some of the things we have done to achieve this:

- Engage a marketing consultant to reach out to our families
- Create a part-time, short term staff position to survey, interview and call all families registered with us to find out what they understood, where we could help and design a plan that met their unique needs and funding envelope
- Plan adult respite for the 2015-2016 fiscal year based on feedback from families
- Add new contracts for staff and confirm respite for families using a fee for service concept

There are both new opportunities and new challenges with this dual system of funded and un-funded spots. We will work through these changes alongside our families and our board as we learn more about how to operate within this model in a fair and equitable way.



Time well spent Friends to remember

Soaring through the skies over Ottawa at Fly Day, playing games with friends, quiet time listening to stories read aloud or to music—we will remember the fun times and cherish those memories forever.

Pictured at left is Eric Bourns who passed away in March. Eric and his father were huge fans of the Rotary Club of Ottawa's annual Fly Day which raises funds for Rotary Home. They went every year!



It is the sad reality that far too often, our clients at Rotary Home, our friends, leave this life far too young and far too soon. We've had to say goodbye to several longtime Rotary Home clients recently.

We are so fortunate to have known these wonderful people and happy to have been able to play a special role in their lives.

"We'll have so many memories of Eric's time at Rotary Home and all the fun he had. We'll especially remember all the people there.

There were so many wonderful people who worked with Eric during the last 20 years. There were all those behind the scenes working to get funding and keeping the programs running for him.

Then there were the kids and other young adults who were his friends. You could walk into Rotary Home feeling in a crummy mood, and they would all cheer you up right away with a laugh, a touch, or a funny antic. We'll miss them the most."

- Jackie, Keith and Laura Bourns

Springtime fun at our Letrim Home

"Hollis feel quite at home there and enjoys his time with friends and the counselors. The adult wing has been a huge addition to Hollis' independence."

At right, fun times being silly as "The Lorax" from Dr. Seuss



Can you tan in early spring?

Leah (above right) and staff member Francesca certainly think so! Here they are enjoying an unseasonably warm April day. "We were tanning, lying on the patio, ha ha!"

- Francesca



The Joint Advisory Group (JAG) is accepting new members!

The JAG is a committee made up of parents and family members of clients at The Ottawa Rotary Home, The Ottawa Children's Treatment Centre, and Roger's House.

The JAG helps ensure a continuing level of high quality, family-centered care at each of the three organizations.

- The JAG meets 4 times per year
- Meetings are 2-2.5 hours
- Meetings are held between September and May

Conference calls are an option for anyone not able to be onsite for a meeting. Please contact Maria Contreras if you are interested in joining our JAG:

613-236-3200 ext. 26 or MariaC@rotaryhome.on.ca.

12th Annual Rotary Home Golf-A-Thon

Join us for a wonderful day of golf on Monday, June 8th at Emerald Links

Your cart, breakfast, lunch and a steak dinner are included. Lots of prizes for closest to the pin, longest drive and more!

Ready for spring at Rochester

With spring finally at our doorstep, the residents at our Rochester home are ready to enjoy the sunshine and beautiful weather. Even on colder days they've been getting out and doing their thing! Be it going to a drum cir-

cle, shopping at the local mall, or calling Bingo at the Good Companions Centre.

The warming temperatures also make a BBQ and gardening in the back yard a whole lot more fun!

Stay in touch!

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Call or email us to get on our electronic mailing list!

