



Rotary Home Review

Spring 2016



*Keeping families strong,
Helping keep them together.*

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"As always, everyone at Rotary Home was very competent and caring during our son's recent visit. Thank you!"

"Our child loves to be at the Rotary Home and she asks to go there every couple of weeks."

We are growing again! New playground coming this summer.

We are thrilled to announce a new partnership with the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF). **OTF has committed \$50,000 towards an all-abilities playground at our Leitrim Campus.**

This donation, combined with funds received in memory of Rotarian Keith Halpenny, means hours of fun and activity for the children and youth who come to visit Rotary Home.

All children and youth deserve the chance to climb, spin, slide and enjoy the fun and physical activity of a playground.



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QUANTIFYING FUN!

Laughter, smiles, sleepovers. These are just some of the words that come to mind to describe the fun and family like atmosphere we strive for at Rotary Home.

It can be hard to quantify what makes Rotary Home so special and inviting. We certainly have lots of photos of all the good times we have, but for those who prefer to see the "hard data", we have put together some metrics for you.



Anna and Jaxon during story time.



Sean, Developmental Service Worker student (DSW), and Gilles a resident at our Rochester campus playing bingo.



Emma and DSW student Stephanie are all smiles at our Leitrim home.



Salem, Heather, Hilary and Melanie enjoy some board game fun!



ROTARY HOME Golf-A-Thon



Monday, June 6th 2016
Emerald Links Golf Club

Join us for a fun-filled day of unlimited golf in support of respite care at the Ottawa Rotary Home.



www.rotaryhomegolf.ca

PRIZES • GAMES • RAFFLE • GREAT FOOD

Foundation Director nearly loses office:

Is thrilled

For the past 5 years, ever since accepting the position of Director of Development for the Ottawa Rotary Home Foundation, I have had an office in one of the vacant bedrooms in the Rotary Home's adult wing.

By: Chloe Hillier

I have had this bedroom office space, not because of any lack of demand for use of the bed. There are many families caring for young adults with disabilities who would welcome additional respite time, but, provincial funding priorities changed right at the time we opened The Rotary Home's 8-bed adult wing and we just haven't had the funding to run all 8 beds.

Anyone who has heard me give a tour of the Rotary Home, or speak at an event, may remember the running joke that I have been working to get kicked out of my office.

All joking aside, this has indeed been the chief aim of the Foundation for several years now: to raise enough funds from the community and our donors and sponsors, to open all the rooms in the 8-bed adult wing for respite programming. *As strange as it may sound, it really has been a professional dream of mine for many years now to be asked to leave my office.*

This year, it almost happened. We even went so far as to start packing up some of our files and clean out cabinets.

Our wonderful donor community has continued to pledge its support for adult respite programming and the Foundation disbursed \$150,000 for adult services last fiscal year.

This, combined with new fee-for-service funding coming directly from families using their passport funds (funding from the Province) to purchase respite breaks, and the continued support of the Ministry of Community and Social Services, meant there were many weeks throughout the fall and winter when we had young men and women staying with us in 6 or even 7 of our rooms in the adult wing (including the one bedroom that is occupied on a residential basis).

We discussed having the Foundation move its office for a few weeks in March to allow the 8th bed to open. In the end, this wasn't necessary.

So for now, I will keep working with the community to raise funds in support of adult respite, and keep waiting for my dream of being asked to relinquish my office space to come true.



Adult Respite Numbers

It's been a year of real growth for our adult respite program thanks to our donors, to MCSS and to parental fee-for-service contributions. Here are some

66

Adults are now registered with the program. Just 19 were able to benefit when the program first opened.

1,756

Nights of care were provided in 2015-16. Up from only 250 when the program began in 2009 and 1,228 last fiscal year.

9 individuals

have just graduated from our children's programs and have registered for adult respite care with Rotary Home.

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We are so happy that this summer the Rotary Home will be able to offer visiting children and youth a fully-accessible playground that has been designed for all abilities.

The playground will be a wonderful addition to our already beautifully landscaped backyard and will be accessible by wheelchair by the paved pathways already in place.

The playground surface will be made of recycled poured-in-place rubber which has a bit of cushioning making the occasional slips and falls that happen when playing easier on the child's body.



Playground design as of April 2016. The final design and colours may differ slightly from the representation pictured here.

Thank you to our funding partner!



An agency of the Government of Ontario
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

The leading grantmaking foundation in Canada, the Ontario Trillium Foundation strengthens the capacity of the voluntary sector through investments in community-based initiatives. An agency of the Government of Ontario, OTF builds healthy and vibrant communities.

Thank YOU!

We offer our sincere thanks to the following donors whose gifts have helped more families access more nights of respite in our adult wing than ever before!

The Gillin Family
\$15,000

The J.P. Bickell Foundation
\$10,000

Rotary Club of Ottawa
\$10,000

Dr. Charles Murray
\$5,000

The McKay Cross Foundation
\$5,000

Rotary Club of Ottawa South
\$5,000

Rotary Club of Nepean Kanata
\$5,000

The Harry P. Ward Foundation
\$3,600

Paul & Sharon Finn
\$3,600

The REALTORS Care Foundation
\$3,075

United Way
\$2,618

The May Court Club of Ottawa
\$2,000

Rotary Club of Chesterville
\$1,500

LeMay Homes
\$1,200

Rotary Club of Orleans
\$1,000



A special way to support Rotary Home

Siblings, Julia, Finleigh and Paul, are following in each other's footsteps when it comes to philanthropy and keeping it local.

Julia Stanford recently celebrated turning 6 with a "Star Wars" themed birthday party at home with friends. Instead of birthday presents, Julia asked her friends and extended family to consider an online donation to the Ottawa Rotary Home Foundation. For the last few years, Julia's big sister Finleigh and her big brother Paul have made the same choice, each starting with their 6th birthday party. Together, Finleigh and Paul have raised hun-

dreds of dollars to support the Rotary Home.

The children's mother, Kerri Stanford, says that Finleigh and Paul don't miss the presents and they love hearing back from the Rotary Home about how much money they were able to raise after each birthday party. "It helps that the Rotary Home is in our neighbourhood and the kids have actually visited the

Home and met the clients who benefit from their donations." For Finleigh and Paul, it has become something that they really look forward to each year and they are proud of what they have been able to accomplish. It's only natural that Julia would want to be part of this wonderful tradition now that she has turned six.

Board Member PERSPECTIVES

By: Beth Campbell, Ottawa Rotary Home Board of Directors

As a volunteer at Rogers House, I witnessed the challenges faced by families of children with special needs and the tremendous benefits that a few days of respite could provide. I watched as parents sought assistance in caring for their children after they are deemed adults by the system and resources become scarce.

With a background in health care administration, developmental services and social housing my interest in the Rotary Home was piqued after hearing board member Patricia Mureenbeeld speak with great enthusiasm about the range of services provided by the Home.

When I realized that the Rotary Home, an organization that "exists to keep families together" was look-

ing for board members I felt this was a great fit.

As a board member I have found the success of the respite program and the growth of the adult respite program have been particularly gratifying. The Community Support Training Solutions program which offers training to other agencies is an example of the organization seizing an opportunity to develop a firm financial footing outside of traditional funding sources.

Our meeting discussions are always interesting and I continue to be amazed at the scope of the work the management team and staff are dealing with on an ongoing basis.

In a field which is evolving at such a rapid pace I have been impressed



by the initiative shown by the board and by Gina (St. Amour, Executive Director) and her team to develop strategies to address the ever changing landscape. Planning has focused on the needs as reported by the families and individuals we serve. The Board is actively engaged in looking to the future to ensure that the Rotary Home will continue to improve the quality of life of caregivers and individuals with disabilities for years to come.

Leaving a Legacy

Sharon and Paul Finn relied on periods of caregiver relief for many years from the Rotary Home. Years after their son moved on to residential care, they are still major donors and supporters of Rotary Home and decided they wanted to do even more to provide a lasting contribution to help families, like theirs, who need a little out-of-home support.

Our son Jordan was a frequent visitor to the ORH for respite and we are very grateful to the Rotary Home. We are not sure how we would have survived without the wonderful care that Jordan received.

We wanted to always remember

the kindness that the ORH gave to Jordan and we thought, what could be any better than to include the Ottawa Rotary Home Foundation in our will. With Chloe's help we added a clause in our will that leaves a portion of our estate to the ORHF. It was very easy to do and while we plan on being around for a while it is gratifying to know that other kids and adults with disabilities will be cared for in the future just like Jordan was.

Please consider leaving the Ottawa Rotary Home Foundation in your will too.

Paul and Sharon Finn



To speak with someone about making a lasting donation like a bequest to the Ottawa Rotary Home Foundation, please contact Chloe Hillier, Director of Development at 613.822.5391 or chloeh@rotaryhome.on.ca.

FROM OUR STAFF:

What I like about how the Rotary Home helps build a closer community is...

"We are able to continue caring for the children we love long into adulthood!"

"Knowing there is always a big smile waiting for me!"

"How the service is centered around the needs of the family."

"I get hugs from the families we serve."

**REMINDER:
Upcoming
JAG Session**



The next Joint Advisory Group (JAG) parent session will be held Thursday, May 12th from 6-8:30 pm at OCTC.

For more information and to register please contact Maria Contreras at 613.236.3200 or mariaC@rotaryhome.on.ca.



ADVOCACY 101

SUMMER Booking Reminder

Spring is finally in the air and summer isn't far off!

We are now accepting bookings for both children's and adult respite for the summer months!

Summer is one of the busiest times for our respite programs so we encourage parents to book early so as not to be disappointed in their preferred dates.

To book your dates, please contact Kimbra Fracker at 613.236.3200 or kimbraf@rotaryhome.on.ca