

THE 2013 CAMPAIGN

The current major foundation fundraising campaign was launched in June of 2013. The campaign targets \$3.5 million that will promote 3 separate projects:

(1). **RENOVATION OF CAMP GARAGONA** \$2.75 MILLION will go toward renovating the camp infrastructure in order to winterize the site and accommodate aging campers who have become physically more fragile over time. The changes will also allow the camp to welcome a certain number of new campers with complex behavior problems who have been excluded from camp experiences throughout the Province in the past.

(2). **CONSTRUCTION OF A SECOND MAISON LILY BUTTERS** \$5 MILLION has been set aside for the construction of a second facility for treating disabled or autistic young people with severe behavioral problems. This second facility will be located on the south shore of Montreal. It will be accessible to other public rehab establishments in the province who wish to purchase their services in order to deal with extremely difficult cases that are beyond their expertise. In this way, the foundation will be helping families in the 4 corners of the Province.

(3) **RESEARCH INTO CURBING BEHAVIORAL ISSUES IN PRE SCHOOL CHILDREN** \$.250 MILLION is targeted for supporting a 3 year research project, in conjunction with other interested partners, which will develop practical strategies for dealing with serious behavioral issues in children before the age of 5. These issues can be considered "cute" in pre school children, but left to fester can lead to serious problems in adolescents, with devastating consequences for families.

THE CAMPAIGN TO DATE

Under the leadership of our President, Dr. Bill Barakett, the campaign committee raised close to \$1 million dollars in the final months of 2013. The President was assisted by the following committee members: Elaine Beaudoin, Erin O'Brien, Mario Charpentier, Léon Courville, Peter Dunn, Johanne Gauthier, Guy Gilbert, Mark Pathy, Barry Lorenzetti, Andrew Molson, and Alex Paterson. Interested parties can follow the development of the campaign by referring to "What's New" on the foundation website, www.buttersfoundation.ca.

SELF-HELP PARENT GROUPS

In 2010, the Association régionale Autisme et TED Montérégie (ARATED M) received a \$70,000 grant from the foundation, over 3 years, to promote the positive development of siblings of autistic children between the ages of 8 to 12. Due to the time consuming demands of autistic children, brothers & sisters oftentimes feel left out. The project involved week long winter retreats during which the young participants expressed their concerns and shared experiences with others, undergoing similar situations. Parents have praised these 5 day retreats and have acknowledged that home situations have vastly improved since. The kids feel better about themselves, relations with siblings have improved and these kids are relating better with their parents. The association is preparing a self help manual for use by other associations that wish to implement a similar project. This project has "legs" and could help many other families faced with similar problems in other regions of Quebec.

A LONG-STANDING PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CRDITED DE LA MONTRÉGIE-EST

The Butters Foundation has had a direct partnership with the public rehab establishment in our region since its inception in 1976. The mandate of the early partnership was to help the centre (The Butters centre, at the time) deinstitutionalize its residents into the communities of the Eastern Townships. By 1991, this project had successfully integrated over 250 people into the cities and towns of the area. As the centre grew over time, so did the foundation. Now this partnership stretches from the south shore of Montreal to just outside Magog in the east, and from Bedford in the south to Sorel in the north east. Hence the



new name of the center: the CRDITED de la Montérégie Est with its head office in Longueuil. It is the 2nd largest establishment in the system and has built a reputation for excellence and innovation in service delivery.

Last year, the foundation provided a range of grants totalling over \$130,000 to the establishment. These supported (1) an animal therapy clinic at the Rougemont respite farm near Granby, (2) summer camp experiences for low income families, (3) customized equipment for disabled children living at home, and (4) renovations to a home in Magog to allow the long term residents of that house to continue living in their community. The respite project has been in operation for close to 10 years and hundreds of families have benefitted during this period. The foundation is committed to helping parents meet the difficult challenges of raising a disabled or autistic child in today's fast paced environment.

This long standing partnership has led to many innovations in service delivery over the years. The Butters Foundation is proud of its legacy in supporting the development of new best practices in public rehabilitation services in Quebec. Future investments in state of the art infrastructure, applied research and service development should lessen the burden of parents in meeting the complex needs of disabled and autistic children with severe and debilitating behavioral problems.

SCHOLARSHIPS & BURSARIES

The Butters Foundation has been awarding bursaries and scholarships for close to 30 years. It started with the annual Lily Butters prize awarded to a top graduate student in Disability Studies in Quebec. That evolved into other programs at many levels of academic life. Many winners have gone to success in their respective fields. For example, an early winner of the Lily Butters Prize is now an accomplished academic at UQAM, an expert in the field of disability, and Chair of a Research Group dedicated to innovation in our field.

Ron Creary
Executive Director