

THE “FROM CARING TO CURING” CAMPAIGN

Under the leadership of our President, Dr. William Barakett, the current campaign ended the year with a total of close to \$3 million dollars in pledges. This was an amount sufficient to launch the construction of the new administrative building at Camp Garagona and continue the pre-school children research project on curbing emerging behavioral issues that only get worse with age. This left the last \$500,000 to be raised for the second phase of the Camp Garagona construction project, that being the Arts Barn, (see photo, on the right). This new Arts Barn will allow the camp to upgrade and diversify its range of arts-based activities that have been a great hit with campers since the early 1970s. The plans are for a multi-functional two-story 2,400 sq. ft. structure housing 2 large, well-lit and inviting creative spaces with ample counter-top space, an exhibition area, adapted bathrooms on both floors and access to water. This facility will be able to accommodate music, sculpture, dance, theatre, painting and other related activities. The art and art therapy allow the campers to be creative and develop their self-esteem.

The major donation of the year was a \$250,000 pledge from la Fondation J.A. DeSève of Montreal for the research and development project targeting pre-school children with emerging behavioral issues. Other important donations came from the Peacock Family Foundation, the Scowen Foundation, la Fondation Bergeron-Jetté, and the Montreal Canadien Children's Foundation. Major pledges from previous years continued to be honored with scheduled annual contributions.

THE OPENING & INAUGURATION OF THE NEW BUILDING AT CAMP GARAGONA

Phase 1 of the camp construction project was completed in time for the opening of the 2015 summer camp sessions. Each session was full and the campers thoroughly enjoyed the new and improved accommodations. The inauguration of the new building was held on September 24th, with over 80 friends, neighbors and donors touring the new premises and celebrating the new physical reality of the camp.

BUTTERS HOMES

Besides the challenge of constructing a new building on the camp site in Frelighsburg, last year Butters Homes Inc. continued to sell off residential properties to intermediate resource caregivers who wished to invest in their own projects. This is a function of a new policy on the part of our public service partner, in the interests of lowering costs, to limit their own network of community-based residences and facilities to those serving children, adolescents and adults with serious behavioral issues. Such facilities are all operated by staff 24/7 and have a temporary clinical mandate that will hopefully lead to the client's return to the community after a period of intensive programming. The flagship facility in this network is Maison Lily Butters, in St-Hyacinthe, a \$2 million dollar facility specifically designed to serve this difficult disabled clientele. Maison Lily Butters has returned close to 50 young residents after intensive behavioral therapy to the community since 2009.

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT: A KEY TO HELPING FAMILIES

Mrs. Lily Butters originally helped families by taking in their disabled babies during a period of no community or public help. In keeping with her legacy, the foundation helps families by supporting activities not funded by the public system and encouraging the public system to improve the services they would be offering to families and their children. A more effective public system helps parents meet the challenge of raising and caring for a disabled child. A key component in this strategy is research and development. The science of effective rehabilitation already exists throughout the developed world; the challenge is to adapt it to local reality and implement the results in day-to-day services. The Butters Foundation embarked upon a strategy of promoting such research and development in 2009, (see our website for more information). We continue to be committed to



financially supporting practical service-related research and development that will reduce impediments to community integration and support family well-being. We are grateful for the continued support we receive from foundations, corporations and individuals in this regard.

THE LATEST R & D PROJECT

Our latest collaboration with the UQAM Research Group, headed by Dr. Diane Morin, involves a project for mildly handicapped individuals with serious social & behavioral issues which inhibit personal development. This project will be based on work originally carried out at the University of Oregon with normal teenagers with serious social problems. The project will essentially adapt the program to disabled teenagers and to the Quebec social context. The Butters Foundation provided \$50,000 to develop the project and make the necessary revisions to the service in collaboration with representatives of the University of Oregon. The Group is awaiting a decision from the Federal Government for the necessary funding to launch the project with the help of our traditional public rehab partner.

THE NEW YEAR

2016 will require that we continue to adjust to the new reality of the public Health & Social Service network. Our traditional public partner is now part of a larger public system in the western part of the region. This will require adjustments on both sides in order to continue our important work of helping families and improving the delivery of public rehab services. Our bursary programs at the secondary, collegial and university levels will continue to support students wishing to pursue careers in the helping professions and, with a little help from our friends, we should see the Arts Barn project at Camp Garagona begin to see the light of day.

Ron Creary
Executive Director