

COVID-19

The Butters Foundation experienced severe impacts similar to other foundations in Quebec and beyond during this period of pandemic. Solicitation ground to a halt, events were either cancelled or converted into virtual meetings and the annual activities of the foundation were postponed to safer times. Respite support for embattled families disappeared. The presentation of bursaries to secondary school students at Massey-Vanier School in Cowansville went virtual, but at least survived, and interviews for bursary CEGEP candidates were either cancelled or postponed. The foundation had never experienced such a situation in its 45-year history, and we are quietly hopeful that things will return to normal in the near future. This pandemic has forced us, as well as many other people & organizations, to rethink how it carries out its activities & fulfill its important mandate to people with an intellectual disability & their families. More about that in later times.

THE ROUGEMONT FARM SERVICE

Our Rougemont farm service had to stop accepting respite clients in mid-March 2020 due to the COVID virus. This ban continues to this day. Jerome Viau, the manager of the service, hopes that the arrival of vaccines will allow him to open up in the months to come, (summer would be nice). Presently, 5 clients are temporarily housed there and can take advantage of seasonal farm experiences such as maple-sugaring, sledding, & haying as well as caring for a range of small animals, in addition to a very pampered horse. Taking care of animals is a highly praised activity for disabled people and the foundation has been proud to sponsor just such a service on Route 112 in Rougemont since 2010, thanks to the inspiration of a late board member, Mrs. Pam Dunn, and the continued support of her children through the Holt Foundation of Quebec City. Jerome’s annual trip with regular clients with the proceeds from farm activities, this time to Cuba, unfortunately had to be cancelled. Activities during this period of pandemic have largely been limited to the farm property itself.

CAMP GARAGONA GETS AN ELEVATOR

The last major campaign of the foundation collected funds for the construction of a new main building and an arts building adjacent to it, at Camp Garagona in Frelighsburg. These additions allowed for year-around camp experiences with a number of individual bedrooms for campers with special needs. What was left uncompleted, due to a lack of funds, was the elevator planned for the new main building. This would allow aging campers with mobility problems to continue to come to camp, something many had done for decades, as well as for potential campers of all ages with mobility issues to experience a camp visit for the very first time.




Led by camp board members and members of the Butters Foundation, Johanne Coiteux & Geoff Webber, enough money was raised within a period of 12 months to allow for the installation of the long-awaited elevator. See the photo of the DG of the camp, Nick Brien, introducing the elevator to family & friends of the camp. This will definitely expand the ability of the camp to meet the needs of adult & adolescent campers with a range of special needs and on a 12-months-of-the-year basis. Congrats to Johanne & Geoff for their fine work.

LEGACY PROJECT & SUBSEQUENT DONATION

As a lasting legacy to our longstanding President, Dr. William Barakett, who passed away in 2019, the foundation launched a legacy project to solicit past donors, both individuals, corporations & foundations in order to support a cause that was very important to Dr. Bill, research that produced new therapies for curbing difficult behavioral issues in disabled children & adolescents. Due to his terminal illness, the campaign was cut short to target only funds to support the continued operation of the research group that was sponsoring this important applied research. After 2 years of solicitation, and significant donations from friends such as Laurence Pathy, John & Patty Cleghorn, Paul & Sheila Martin, Wilson McLean, Sibylla Hesse, Stephen Molson, Helgi Soutar, Jacques & Louise Yelle & Peter Dunn, enough money was raised to commit \$150,000 over 2 years to la Chaire DITC of UQAM in order to secure the renewal of its mandate as a Chair at UQAM. This will allow the group to continue to implement research projects in finding new ways to curb or decrease negative behavior in children before they reach levels, dangerous to siblings and hazardous for family stability.

“Thanks for your past support & please help us continue our important work for intellectually disabled & autistic people & their families. Your donation is very important to us.” – Ron Creary, Executive Director



DONATION FORM

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Send cheque to: The Butters Foundation, 127, rue Principale, suite 105, Cowansville, QC, J2K 1J3,

Or by credit card at: www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/butters-foundation

Indicate here if donation is for a specific project: _____