

## 2021 – A GOOD YEAR IN SPITE OF THE PANDEMIC

This past year the Foundation raised over \$278,750 for various ongoing projects, including the Legacy Project of the late Dr. Barakett, projects at Camp Garagona and ongoing support for the Rougemont farm. This represents a 54% increase over the previous year and is largely due to new leadership at the helm of the foundation. At the same time, the foundation continued to decrease its administrative expenses: from 10.1% in 2019 to 6.9% in 2020. This figure should continue to decrease in 2021, (figures not available yet). The foundation is an organization built around volunteers & part-time consultants, with no employees.

The major donations of the year came from la Fondation Bromis, The Paul & Sheila Martin family, Laurence Pathy & la Fondation Bergeron-Jetté. These donors are well known to the board of the foundation and have supported our work in the past. Their steady support allows us to continue to support families with disabled or autistic children in ways not open to the public system. The directors of the foundation wish to extend heartfelt thanks to these and all other donors who gave generously to our cause in the last year.

## A MORE EFFICIENT RELATIONSHIP



The death of our longstanding President, Dr. William Barakett, and the relentless and seemingly never-ending pace of the current pandemic have forced the directors of the foundation to reevaluate their future as a stand-alone charity. We do, after all, have a partner of many years.

In 1976 the Butters Foundation was created to help the Butters Centre deinstitutionalize their vast clientele on the Austin campus along Lake Memphremagog. In 1986, the foundation created Butters Homes to divide the work of the foundation due to the explosion of properties in their network. In recent years, the number of properties has dropped appreciably, from a 1980s high of 35 to a present low of 16. Currently the foundation raises money and Butters Homes spends it, (i.e., buys or builds). With the ever-decreasing number of properties, it is becoming difficult to justify the existence of 2 charities working side-by-side, with 2 boards, 2 systems of management, 2 financial statements, and 2 reporting systems to government agencies. A merger would reduce admin expenses and release more money for worthwhile projects.




Thus, the decision was unanimously made in December 2021 to integrate the Butters Foundation into its partner organization, Butters Homes and to apply for supplemental letters patent. This will allow the new organization to raise money for internal & external projects and continue to receive government grants (CMHC/SHQ) for low-income housing. A bilateral working committee has been struck to implement this process with a timeline of roughly one year. The name of the new organization is scheduled to be the Butters Homes Foundation.

## FUTURE PROJECTS WITH CISSSMO

Since the reorganization of the health system in 2014, our public partner has not required any additional housing for its residential services. In point of fact, they have been reducing the number of our properties. It seems the main culprit here was money. The current Quebec government, however, seems to have opened the flood gates and monies are now available to support new specialized facilities for disabled children & young adults with special/acute needs. Thus, discussions have started between us, Butters Homes and the public establishment, (CISSSMO). The plan is to build a 2nd specialized facility on the south shore which would act as a training/rehab center for children with severe behavioural issues unable to live at home or in the community.

The Butters Foundation is interested in supporting such a project in order to create a lasting legacy for our late President, Dr. William Barakett, C.M., who was instrumental in building the first such facility in St-Hyacinthe. Maison Lily Butters has supported the reintegration of over 60 children back into their homes or to less restrictive living environments. The success of this service has sparked significant interest on the part of the Ministry and other public rehab establishments around the province. A 2<sup>nd</sup> project would precipitate a fundraising drive sufficient to cover the down payment on the cost of construction. A final decision is expected on this project & a capital campaign before the summer of 2022.

“Thanks for your past support & please help us continue our important work for intellectually disabled & autistic people & their families during these difficult times. Your donation will be a big help.” -- Ron Creary, Executive Director



DONATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

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](http://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/butters-foundation)

Indicate here if donation is for a specific project: \_\_\_\_\_