

## The Very Best Day



In the spring of 2014, the Community Foundation of Mississauga provided about \$1.5 million in grants with more to come through the balance of the year, making this the highest year of granting ever for the young community foundation and pushing cumulative grants past the \$6 million mark.

One of the grants was to the LIFE Mississauga program run by the Ontario March of Dimes. This program empowers Mississauga youth with physical disabilities between 19 and 30 years of age to achieve the transition to adulthood. The program works by combining skills training, workshops and community involvement to address their unique physical and social barriers in order to build inclusion comparable to their able-bodied peers.

LIFE offers a mixture of classroom, workshop and field trip programming that participants can choose from to fit their specific schedules, interests, and capabilities. For exam-

ple, some participants focus on developing their social skills and attend the Tuesday socials.

If life skills are their focus, participants can apply for the workshops at March of Dimes. If a youth feels that they are not yet ready to take the next step independently into adulthood, then the motivational programming at Outward Bound would be best suited for them. Offering this flexible range of options allows LIFE to reach youth at varying stages with different needs and who are not prepared for, or do not need, programming five days a week. Participants also have the opportunity to return to the program multiple times and choose different activities to fit different needs. LIFE Mississauga has shown positive measurable outcomes, and has a very high satisfaction rating among participants.

On a warm summer day recently, the Foundation was invited to par-

ticipate in morning activities at the LIFE program. We were able to learn how to make healthy snacks such as kale chips, participate in an exercise program and visit the community garden where participants are growing a wonderful variety of fresh vegetables. The gardens are raised, accessible planting beds and were also made possible by a grant from the Foundation a few years ago. It was amazing to see how they have become a vital part of the LIFE program.

Best of all, a visit to the LIFE program feels like visiting friends. The achievements and camaraderie of these young people affirm the impact we can all have. It's a great place to be and was the very best day this summer. The smiles speak for themselves! Sincere appreciation to the Pendle Fund donors whose fund at the Foundation and philanthropic commitment to Mississauga, made this grant possible.



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## Food Security in Our Community

When food banks first began providing services in Canada in 1981, they were seen as a temporary measure. This turned out not to be the case and indeed the number of food banks has grown. There are now over 800 food banks and over 3,000 food programs across Canada. Food Banks Canada notes “people helped include families with children, employed people whose wages are not sufficient to cover basic living essentials, individuals on social assistance and Canadians living on a fixed income, including people with disabilities and seniors.”



Earlier this year, the Foundation convened a conversation on the topic of Food Security.

The goal of this forum, like others held in the past, is to look more closely at data from the Mississauga Vital Signs report, to hear the stories and experiences of those who work front line on these issues and to prepare the knowledge that is provided by these experts and share it with our donors and the broader community.

This not only helps donors to think strategically about their granting but it also helps everyone in the community think about

Poverty in our area is a deep and persistent problem. 17% of Mississauga's population is living in poverty. The 2010 Low Income Measure for Mississauga indicates that the number of people struggling to meet their basic needs for food and shelter is about one in four.

Housing prices continue to climb. The average price of a single-family detached home in Mississauga is over \$700,000 – well out of reach for many residents. Meanwhile, Mississauga has the longest wait-time for social housing in the province.

Paying no more than 30% of household income on housing is considered affordable. Among renters in Mississauga, 42.5% pay more than 30% of their household income on shelter.

*Widening the Approach to Food Security  
Community Knowledge Form, June 2014*

things like their own voluntarism and how they can get involved to help create positive changes.

In Mississauga, the need for food banks and related food programs has also grown. Mississauga's Vital Signs 2013 noted that the Mississauga Food Bank supports 59,000 clients each month, 51% of whom are children. Low income is the primary reason people need to use a food bank.

The issues are clear, but there was heartening news from food security

service providers; they are finding new ways to meet the challenges. Many of the organizations who work on the front lines of addressing food security are trying innovative new ways to address both

the immediate needs and the root causes.

Many local food banks are using a holistic approach to serving people. In addition to meeting the immediate need for food, they are adding new programs addressing mental health, employment, nutrition, community kitchens, community gardens and more. Trying a range of projects to see what works, recognizing the need for continuous change and the need to evolve over time is inherent in their approach. Ideas such as roof top gardens in low income neighbourhoods, food trucks that act like a pop-up farmers market and their own 40 acre farm demonstrate this commitment to innovation.

The report from this forum is shared on the Foundation's web site at [www.CFofM.org](http://www.CFofM.org) and offers insight into one of our community's most pressing issues.

The Community Foundation of Mississauga is still young by many standards. Incorporated in 2001, for the entire history of our young Foundation, **Hazel McCallion** has served as Mayor of Mississauga.

In the early years of the Foundation, there was so much work to be done. At times, the workload was daunting for our one staff person and our team of volunteers. Every so often

during those early years, we would open up the mail and find enclosed a helpful article or an idea for a good resource that had been clipped out and sent along by Mayor McCallion. We were so encouraged by these notes. And we marvelled at the woman who had many other things on her agenda (as Mississaugans so well know) but could find a moment to send encouraging ideas along.

The Hazel McCallion Fund for Arts Culture and Heritage established in 2007 also served to strengthen the community impact of the Foundation. Grants from this fund have gone out to many local arts, culture and heritage initiatives, making wonderful projects a reality for the community.

Over the months ahead, many will pay tribute to Mayor McCallion's

achievements. The arts, culture and heritage community will benefit from the legacy created by this fund at the Foundation.

At the Foundation, we are grateful for those seemingly simple acts of encouragement that meant so much to that small team. For this and more, thank you Hazel!

# The Mirror Ball Trophy is Back!

In 2013, Boris Jackman, EVP at Suncor took home the coveted Mirror Ball Trophy for the first ever “Dancing with Mississauga’s Stars” Gala. And what a night it was! All the glitz and glamour of the hit television show combined with great food, sparkling entertainment, music to dance the night away and more.

Mayor McCallion even hit the floor for a showcase waltz with one of Mississauga’s finest competitive dancers, Artur Adamski. This sold out evening became the talk of the town for weeks to come and the Foundation’s biggest fundraising event ever. No question though, what made the evening so successful

was the essential funding provided to the Community Foundation of Mississauga; much needed revenue that supports the fundamental capacity of the Foundation to fulfill its important work of building and sharing community knowledge and making high impact grants supporting all of the essential charitable programs and services in Mississauga. Last year, four remarkable executives from all kinds of community businesses stepped way outside their comfort zone to learn a dance and raise money for their community.

In 2014, four new executives have risen to the challenge. They have their dancing shoes on and are hard at work learning a ballroom dance and raising pledges.

Dancing with Mississauga Stars is being held Friday, November 7, 2014 at the Mississauga Convention Centre, 75 Derry Road West. To order tickets, visit our web site but don’t delay; this event was sold out well in advance last year.

In the meantime, we invite you to make a receiptable pledge in support of one of our dancers. You can make your pledge and order your tickets at [dancingwithmississaugastars.com](http://dancingwithmississaugastars.com).

Stepping, no **dancing**, way outside your comfort zone all in support of Mississauga is remarkable! The Foundation is truly grateful to Janice Baker, Maggie Bras, Jennie Bowser and Cynthia Ingram. You make your community.

*Families turn to community foundations for the convenience, tax benefits, and privacy that donor-advised funds can provide them and for the advice, experience, and expertise that community foundation staff can provide their giving programs. It’s not uncommon for families to use multiple charitable vehicles in the service of various charitable goals, and the resulting “philanthropic toolbox” will often involve a community foundation. Indeed, families with family foundations frequently seek out community foundations for their program expertise, as potential collaborators, and to grow and support philanthropy in a specific area or region.*

National Center for Family Philanthropy, Washington

Imagine the dinner table conversation we could have with our families if we focused on our deeply held values, our aspirations to build a better world starting with a stronger community and the causes that are most dear to us. Sound like something that might even get family members off social media sites and talking with each other? Many families have established family funds as a way to create meaningful connections with one another, learn about each other’s values and personal contributions to community building and most of all... create a family legacy of giving back to the community they care about.

The Foundation has a great free resource on our web site that can help start the conversation. Titled “Generations”, it is available in our section for donors under family philanthropy.



Cynthia Ingram  
Lawyer, Keyser Mason Ball



Janice Baker  
CAO, City of Mississauga



Maggie Bras  
Owner, Boston Pizza



Jenny Bowser  
Project Manager, AMJ Campbell

## Did you know?

People can make a donation of any size that helps creates a legacy for Mississauga with a gift to our Mississauga Fund. This fund addresses the changing needs of our community...

There are over 190 community foundations across Canada

linked by our strong national organization, Community Foundations of Canada...

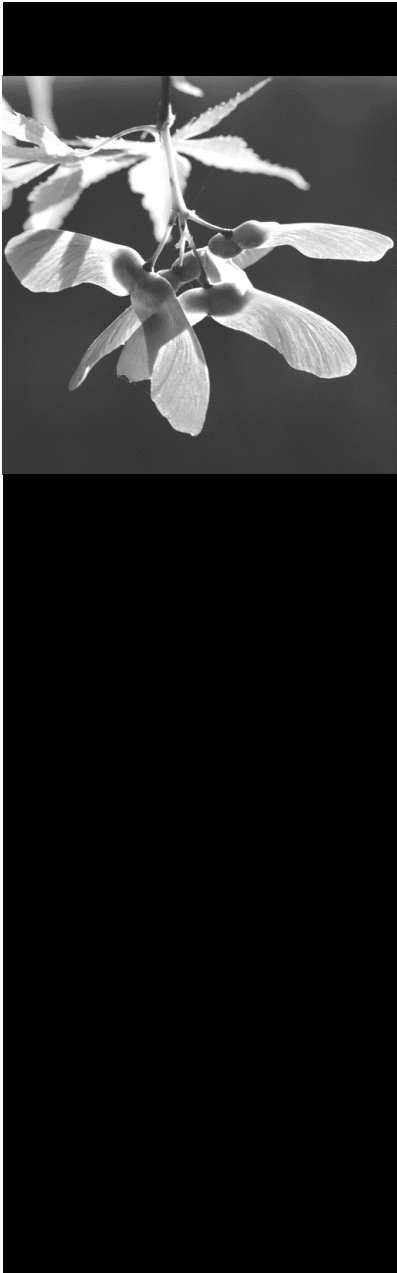
The patron of the national network is David Johnston, Governor General of Canada...

Community foundations are an international movement and can be found in the UK, Australia, Italy,

Belgium, Macedonia, Zimbabwe and many more countries around the world...

We have a new national ad campaign aimed at building awareness of community foundations. You can view it on youtube. Search “you make your community” on the web to learn more.





## COMMUNITY BUILDERS

3M	Jennifer Goodine	Marvi Ricker
Sheila Alofs	Patricia Hammill	Ruth's Chris Steakhouse
Marion Bartlett	Velvet Haney	The Estate of Nancy Salmon
CIBC World Markets Children's Miracle	Paul Ivany	Robert Scott
Tom and Stella Cooney	John Goldstein Photography	Anna Socka
Paul DeMelo	Nick Kanji	Al Steinbach
Cynthia Durham	Keyser Mason Ball, LLP	TD Bank Financial Group
Dynamic Funds	Michael Kitt	Renee Welling
Elizabeth Grant	Linda's Craftique	Robert and Joanne Wordham
Stephen Farnham	Loyalty One   AIR MILES Reward Program	
Farnham + Company Chartered Accountants	Eileen and Fred MacKenzie	
Fritz Marketing	Manulife Financial	
Mickey Frost	Mary Kay Cosmetics Ltd.	
Michael Gesualdi	Tracey Neziol	
Shirley Goldenberg	Pallett Valo	
	Nancy Pitt	

The Community Foundation of Mississauga respects and adheres to all legislative requirements and best practices regarding protecting your privacy. We use the information you provide to keep you informed of the activities of the Community Foundation of Mississauga and for tax receipt and donor recognition purposes. If at any time, you wish to be removed from our contact list or do not wish to be included in our mailings, please contact our office at 905-897-8880 or send an email to [info@CFofM.org](mailto:info@CFofM.org). This list provides recognition to donors whose receipted gift has been received between the last newsletter and this current newsletter in keeping with our policies for recognition. Please see our Annual Report and web site for annual listings.



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