



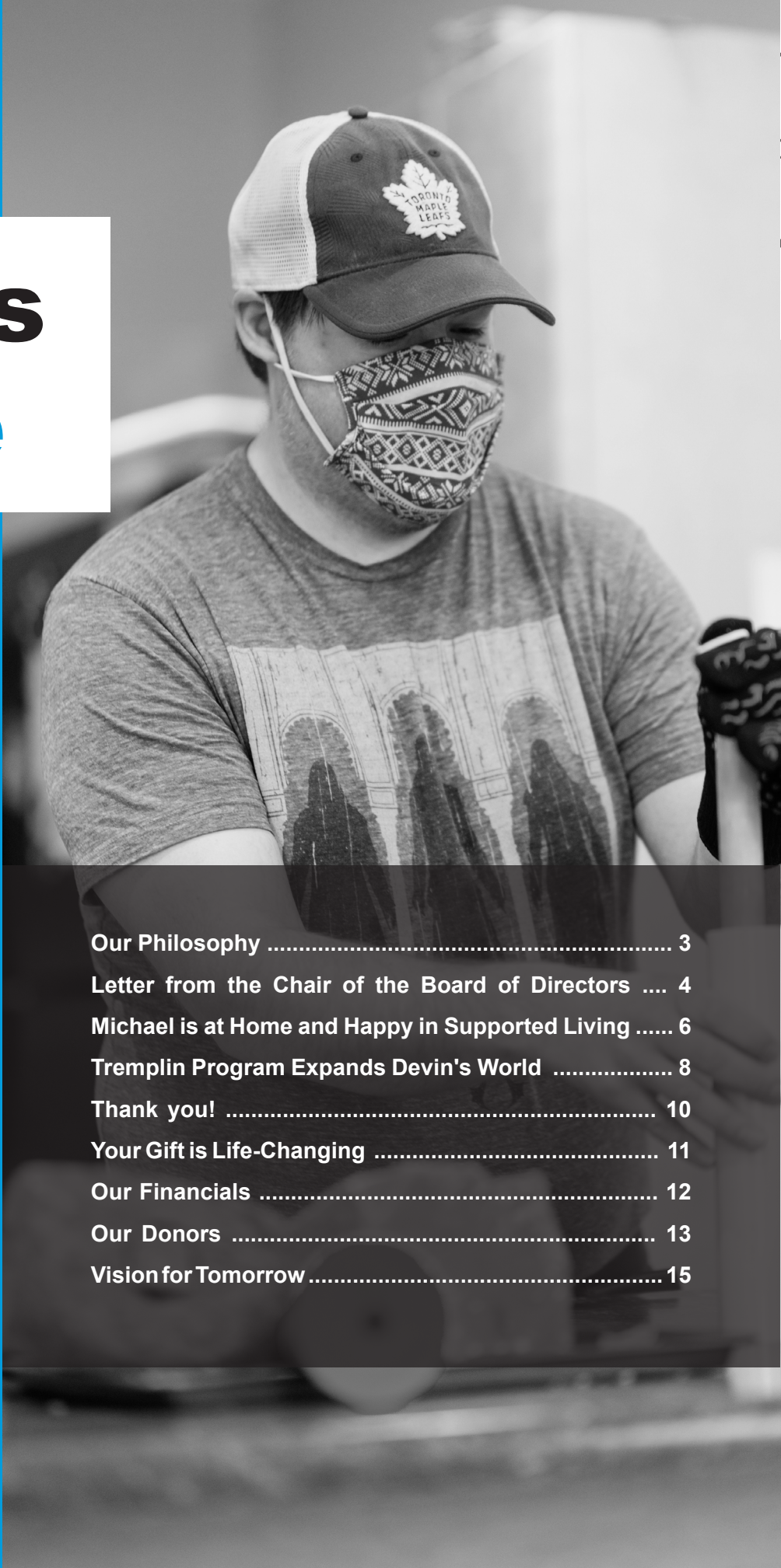
**DeafBlind**  
ONTARIO FOUNDATION

# ANNUAL REPORT

Collaborative Leaders Resilient Passionate Limitless

# 2022 - 2023

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# Our Philosophy

## Mission

Inspiring investment in the future of individuals who are Deaf, hard of hearing, non-verbal and deafblind.

## Vision

Transforming lives, one gift at a time.

## Strategic Plan 2023 – 2026

The Foundation underwent its first strategic planning session in April 2022. The strategic themes listed below will be pursued by the Board and employees in order to fulfill its mission and achieve its vision.

### We will increase our capacity to manage and grow our housing and accommodation assets

- Identify and address immediate-term housing and accommodation needs
- Develop Accommodation & Housing strategy to link with Growth and Development strategies

### We will increase our capacity to raise funds

- Oversee and manage ongoing volunteer activities and donor relationships
- Develop a long term Development strategy to increase revenue
- Increasing Board capacity on fundraising

### We will ensure continued effective stewardship and accountability

- Ensure stewardship of the investments and the ongoing financial health and wellbeing of the Foundation
- Implement Board governance initiatives
- Develop and implement internal and external communications strategies



# Letter from the Chair of the Board of Directors

The last several years have been a time of great change and great challenges, and as I look back on all we have done, I'm very pleased with how well we've set the stage for our next chapter.

With the Foundation providing vital financial support, DeafBlind Ontario Services takes a holistic approach to providing exceptional services in supported living homes and community programs, so people who are deafblind, Deaf, hard of hearing, and non-verbal with a developmental disability can live their best lives.

Government funding for services only goes so far, and your generous donations cover service funding shortfalls, assistive devices that make everyday living easier, wheelchair accessible vans for the people we support to get to enriching activities and appointments, and renovations that provide safe and accessible homes.

With a goal of becoming the provider of choice in the sector, DeafBlind Ontario Services is eager to embrace the opportunities and address the key challenges that lie ahead, with the Foundation and donors like you supporting the investments needed to make this happen.

To guide the way, the DeafBlind Ontario Foundation's first-ever three-year Strategic Plan—which is fully aligned with DeafBlind Ontario Services' 2023-2026 Strategic Plan—will enable us to meet our shared responsibility while remaining responsive to the ever-evolving environment we all live in.

Growth is the cornerstone of both plans. We have been fortunate to build a solid foundation with our incredible donors, and we look forward to nurturing these relationships and fostering new ones. Each donation provides tangible specialized services and enriching experiences for a person we support, and the opportunity to take a lifelong journey alongside them is incredibly moving.

We know there is work ahead for the Foundation to ensure the sustainability of DeafBlind Ontario Services and enable it to grow and evolve through new endeavours and partnerships. We formed a Development Strategy to assist with this work, and an Accommodation and Housing Strategy to address emerging challenges and opportunities. We are also exploring the opportunity to launch a comprehensive capital campaign.

We're also pleased to report that an Investment Committee was struck in early 2023 to support effective stewardship and accountability. Your trust in what we do is paramount, and we are committed to maintaining it through best practices and transparency.

We are grateful for the support our donors provide to help us fund specialized services and accessible housing for the people we support through DeafBlind Ontario Services, and we are honoured to continue this journey with you.



Jim Dadson  
Chair

## Board of Directors

Jim Dadson  
Gwen Elling  
Martha Beaumont  
Martin Mazza

Jennifer Moore  
Sharon McGuigan  
Chris Perry  
Malcolm Ross



# Michael is at Home and Happy in Supported Living

For the past 22 years, Michael has found a home in supportive living geared to people who are deafblind.

Losing his hearing and much of his vision after a Rubella illness diagnosed within days of his birth, Michael attended a deafblind school before moving into a supportive living home at age 21. Run by DeafBlind Ontario Services, the home provides 24/7 access to support, including help with household tasks, activities and skill development.

Michael quickly settled in and made this new place his home. His mom, Margaret, recalls a weeklong visit at the family home was cut short when Michael packed his suitcase, indicating he was ready to go back to his home. It was a bittersweet moment, but one Margaret came to appreciate. “This is what we wanted for him. Every child leaves home to make their own life.”

With support from his intervenors during the day, Michael has been living his best life. “The most positive growth I’ve seen in Michael is that he can make his own choices, whether it’s what he has for lunch or what activity he wants to do during the day and with whom,” says Margaret, noting that he’s a happy guy with a persistent streak. While Michael had always been somewhat disinterested in learning sign language (he never wanted to sit still as a kid), he’s learned more signs in adulthood and uses them along with concrete cues to communicate exactly what he wants.

While his vision has become more limited in recent years, impacting what he feels comfortable doing, he has pitched in with household tasks, such as taking out the recycling, and he previously had a job at a resort—something he really enjoyed.



“It’s a big relief to know Michael is doing well and will always be looked after.”

Michael also loves being outdoors. A natural swimmer from a very young age, he’s still drawn to water at age 43—though relaxing in the hot tub is more his speed these days. When his mom visits, they love to take walks or sit on the deck and have a drink together.

This enriching life is something Margaret appreciates deeply as a mom. “It’s amazing how good [his intervenors] are,” she says. “I’d never be able to provide Michael with the stimulation or the activities he’s doing. Without them, what would he do all day? They give him a chance to learn and experience so many new things in his home and his community.”

A few years ago, Margaret moved to Quebec and Michael made a move to a DeafBlind Ontario Services supportive living home in Kitchener to be closer to his brother. Living eight hours away, Margaret takes comfort in knowing Michael is happy and safe, living a fulfilling life. “It’s a big relief to know Michael is doing well and will always be looked after.”

# Tremplin Program

## Expands Devin's World

While many parents look forward to their adult kids moving out and building lives of their own, John and Jackie are more than happy to have their 33-year-old son Devin with them for as long as possible.

Devin is quadriplegic and requires full support due to cerebral palsy and deafblindness. While he has some residual hearing, his perception of sounds may not be typical due to the brain injury that caused his CP. He's also non-verbal, though he vocalizes using distinct tones to signal discomfort or irritation and a big sigh after his parents have attended to him that they feel is his way of saying "thanks" or "that's just what I needed."

On weekdays, Devin participates in DeafBlind Ontario Services' Tremplin program, a blend of the supportive living and community services programs. Tremplin focuses on community involvement during the day while allowing for each participant to return to their family home at night. Devin goes to the supportive living home he will eventually move into, in part to ease the transition when the time comes.

Through this program, Devin receives Intervenor Services that include communication support, community programs and skills development. The specialized support team gets him involved in a variety of activities—everything from visiting an apple picking farm to playing musical instruments—to pinpoint those he enjoys.

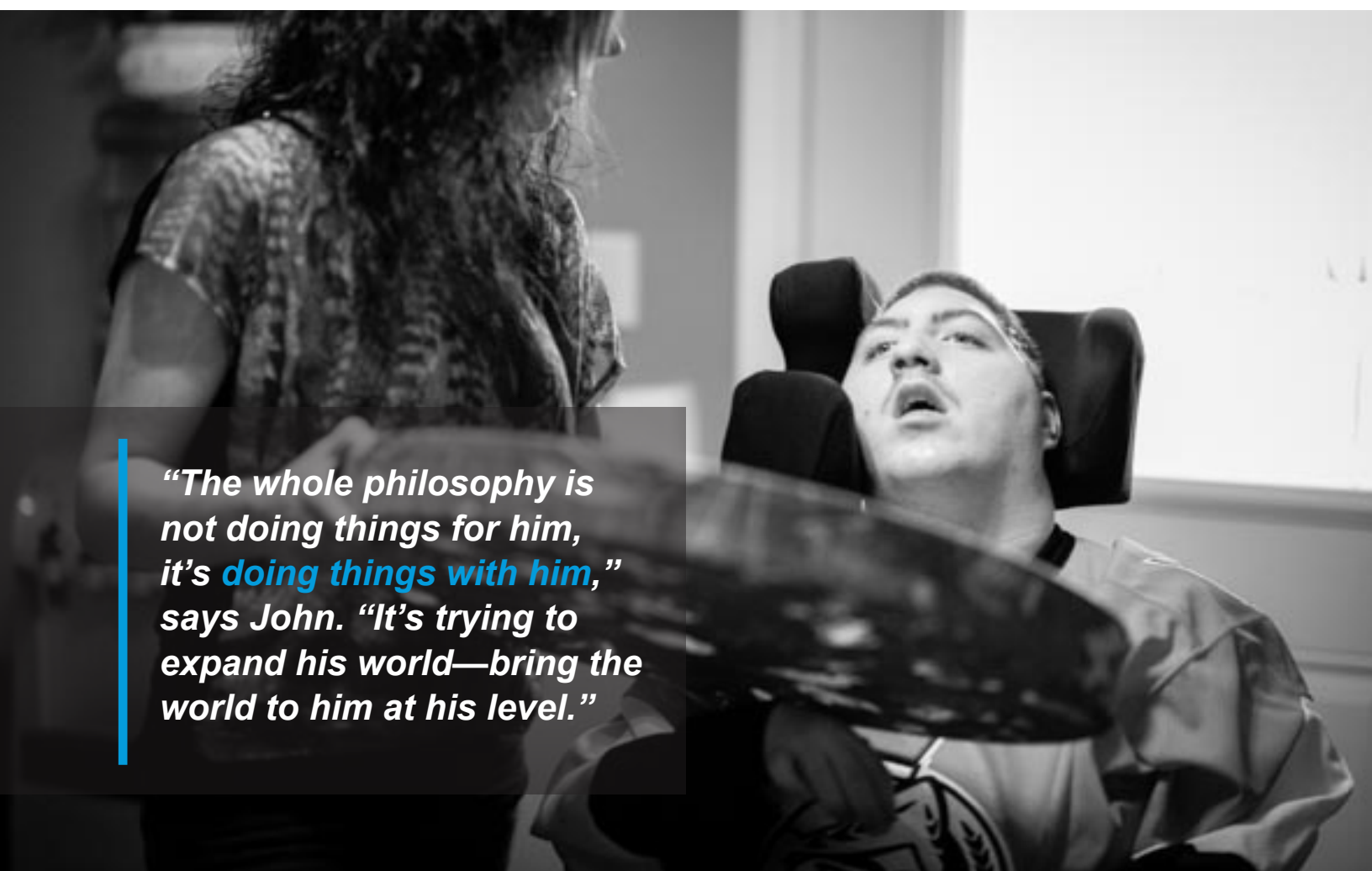
"Basic stimulation is what he needs," explains John, adding that Devin loves the multi-sensory Snoezelen room—which features soothing lights, sounds and aromatherapy—in the supportive living home's basement.

An important part of these community support service activities is the building of routines—another thing Devin loves. "At one point, he was going into his former school once a week to water plants and shred paper with his intervenor," John says, adding that before each outing, Devin would be given an object (known as a cue) to let him know that they would be going to the school. This helps reinforce the routine and communicate with Devin what is coming up in his day.



John sees the tangible benefits Devin gets from these kinds of activities. “You and I, we may scrunch our faces when we’re trying to figure something out,” explains John, “and he has that same tendency—trying to concentrate on ‘What is this? What’s happening?’ It’s very strenuous for him, but he definitely benefits from it.”

While John and Jackie are happy to have Devin live at home, they are so grateful for the experiences he enjoys through the Tremplin program. “The whole philosophy is not doing things for him, it’s doing things with him,” says John. “It’s trying to expand his world—bring the world to him at his level.”



*“The whole philosophy is not doing things for him, it’s **doing things with him**,” says John. “It’s trying to expand his world—bring the world to him at his level.”*

# Thank you!

## With your support, we exceeded our fundraising goal.

Through your generous donations and other fundraising efforts, we raised \$483,697 this past year, reaching 104% of our fundraising goal and surpassing the dollars raised the previous year.

We are so grateful for your continued support and the new supporters we've welcomed this past year. Our increased focus on major gifts was key to our fundraising success, and we are extending a special thanks to these donors on page 13 and 14 of this report.

Your support is vital to ensuring DeafBlind Ontario Services has the essential resources it needs to provide safe and enriching supportive living homes and community support services for people who are deafblind as well as those who are Deaf, hard of hearing, or non-verbal with a developmental disability. With your generosity, everyone we serve will live their best life.

## Events Are Back

This year, we were thrilled to host three signature fundraising events that engage the senses, raise awareness, and help fund DeafBlind Ontario Services programs.

### The Finer Senses

Our June wine tasting experience had guests taking a virtual journey, guided by a travel expert, through wine regions in Portugal, Spain and Italy, with stops along the way for wine tastings with a guest sommelier. A silent auction rounded out the experience.

### Savour the Senses: Suds & Cider

In September, we welcomed supporters back to this in-person event in Russell, Ont., where we sampled a refreshing selection of Ottawa's best beers and ciders. With both a live and silent auction, it was a winning evening. Cheers to all who joined us!

### Come To Your Senses Challenge

Over five days in March, this online event saw community fundraisers exploring each of the senses through engaging activities—like learning five new ASL signs (sight) or creating a blend of five essential oils (smell)—and then sharing their experience on social media.

# Your Gift is Life-Changing

Funds raised  
support:

**87** people who live in supported living homes or participate in Tremplin

**11** individuals who receive specialized expertise and services through a DeafBlind Ontario Services partnership with their supporting agency

**10** adults in the supported independent living program

## Capital Project, 2022-2023

Water Street Apartments in Peterborough

**\$2.6M**

to complete this renovation

**12-16**

months of pre-renovation planning

**12**

months of construction

**2**

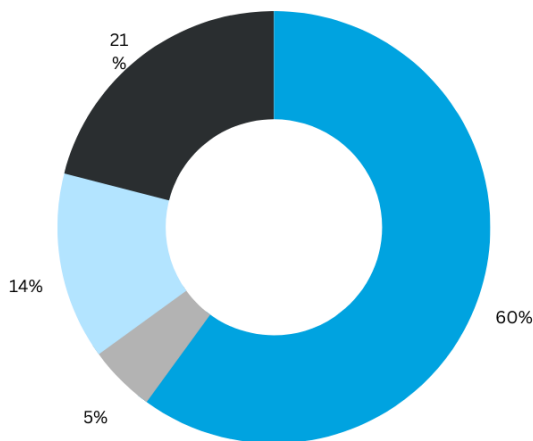
new supportive living apartments available

**3**

more individuals will be supported in the new spaces

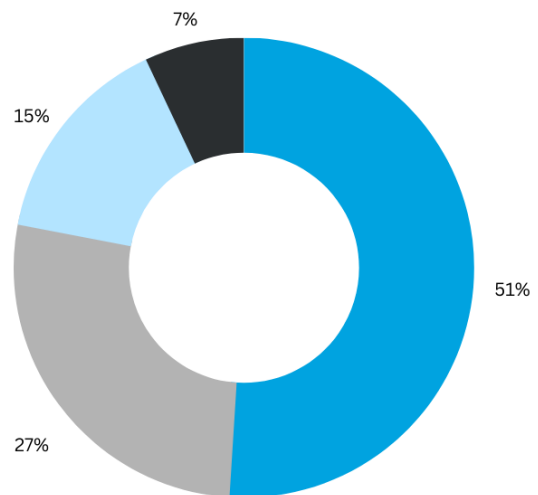
# Our financials

## Expenses



- 60% Operating
- 21% Amortization of capital assets
- 14% Interest
- 5% Fundraising activities

## Revenue



- 51% Donations
- 27% Other
- 15% Fundraising activities
- 7% Amortization of restricted capital contributions

The above was summarized from the draft audited financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2023. The complete audited financial statements are available on our website at [www.deafblindontario.com](http://www.deafblindontario.com).

# Our donors

## Foundations

Charles Norcliffe Baker and  
Thelma Scott Baker Foundation  
Congregation of the Sisters of  
St. Joseph  
Harry P. Ward Foundation  
Luke Four Foundation  
R.A. Beamish Foundation  
Strategic Charitable Giving  
Foundation  
The Catherine and Maxwell  
Meighen Foundation  
The George Lunan Foundation,  
c/o Scotia Trust  
The Harry E Foster Charitable  
Foundation  
The Oakes Foundation  
The Oakville Foundation for  
Intellectually Handicapped  
People  
The Peterborough Foundation  
The Robert Campeau Family  
Foundation  
The Victor & Rhoda Shields  
Charitable Foundation

## Corporations

107.5 Kool FM  
Accessibil-iT  
A.F. Sandy Forbes Insurance  
Broker  
Andrew Van Pelt Electric Ltd.  
Armitage Animal Clinic  
Ayr Animal Hospital  
Ayr Farmers Mutual  
B & G Automotive Inc.  
Barrie 360  
Bell Media

Bertrand Plumbing & Heating  
BLG Foundation  
BlueSky Communications Inc.  
BMO Bank of Montreal  
BNI Business Elite  
Bounce 99.5  
Bowes & Cocks Limited  
Brokerage  
Bradford Family Dentistry  
Bruce Elevator Service Ltd.  
Canadian Medical Equipment  
Protection Plan  
Caroline Gawlik Real Estate  
Crate Designs Furniture  
CTV Television Network  
Cyclone Solutions  
Davidson Works Mechanical  
Electrical Elite  
Gary's Service & Towing  
Gerri's Arts & Crafts  
Giant Tiger  
Government of Canada  
Hughes Landscape Design and  
Construction  
ICOR Technology  
Innisfil Community Foundation  
Jeff Smith Plumbing-Heating  
Ltd.  
KPMG Foundation  
MacEwen Petroleum Inc.  
MacNeil & Dodd Pharmacy  
Magna for Community  
Meridian Credit Union  
Corporate Office  
Morrison CPA Professional  
Corporation  
Mr. Dairy and Food Distributing  
Ltd.

National Mah Jongg League  
Inc.  
Needham Promotions Inc.  
N.M.C. Fielding Investments  
Ltd.  
Ontario Power Generation  
Open Plan Architects  
Pam Bechard, Royal LePage  
RCR Realty  
PEAK Investment Services Inc.  
Provox Inc Covidcamera.com  
Resident Care Pharmacy  
River Rock Laundry Inc.  
Rock 95  
Santos Hair Studio  
Starbucks c/o the Vancouver  
Foundation  
Silver Linings Healthcare  
Snyder Construction  
TD Commercial  
The Lab Street Eats Inc.  
The Organic Moment  
Photography  
United Way Waterloo Region  
Voll's Contract Flooring  
Werner E. Faihst Limited  
Western Fire Protection Inc.  
World Class Photo & Video  
Xpertek Construction Ltd.

## Service Clubs

Knights of Columbus St.  
Joseph's Council No. 6361  
Charitable Welfare Trust  
Lions Club of Russell  
Quota International of  
Peterborough  
Rotary Club of Innisfil

The Royal Canadian Legion  
Ontario Command Charitable  
Foundation

Udora Leaskdale Lions Club

Valley East Lions Club

### **Individuals \$50K+**

Watson, John & Josie

### **Individuals \$5K+**

Dadson, Jim & Anne

Webster, Albert & Joan

### **Individuals \$1K – 4,999**

Barber, Bryant & Jean

Brogan, Natalie & Steve

Brouillet, Terry & Danielle

Carlos, Cheryl

Chiu, Arthur & Emily

Duchesne, Christiane

Fransky, Dennis & Janet

Gagnon, Lise

Hooton, Doug & Barb

Kosiw, Jim

Manahan, Susan

McMinn, Curtis

Molnar, Ken & Susan

Momtahan, Parham & Kathy

Morrison, Liam & Susan

Moore, Jennifer

Phillion, Lenore

Ross, Malcolm

Simpson, Lorraine

Spruyt, Roxanna

Watkinson, Brian & Rebecca

Webster, Bruce & June

Willoughby, Jocelyn

Willsie, Mark & Susan

### **Individuals \$500 – 999**

Barker, Tiffany

Barkwell, Judy

Beaulieu, Tim

Beaumont, Martha

Bylykbashi, Kim

Coles, Anne

Coombs, Gary

Coutu, Raymond & Nicole

Dash Addi, Osnat

Dee, Betsy

Despres, Helene

Donaldson, William

Downer, Doug

Eldridge, Ashleigh

Elling, Gwen

Flinn, Kim and Tim

Gabay, David & Diane

Gaylord, Steven

Giesbrecht, Leslie

Hannon, Caroline

Harris, Lauren

Kaur, Devinder

Keyes, Karen

Leroux, Pierre

Madho, Karen

Mazza, Martin

Needham, David & Elizabeth

Paget, Greg

Parry, Richard

Parsons, Laura

Patterson, Kelly

Pavlidou, Geena

Perry, Christopher

Piggott, Annette

Quinn, Josie

Quinton, Marlene

Spink, Donald

Veldhuis, Tracey

Wookey, Sue

### **Individuals \$250 – 499**

Abela, Edward

Beaumont, Katherine

Becker, Ewald and Karen

Benton, Sue

Bharaj, Bhupinder

Bierhals, Andrea

Boychuk, Rick

Brooks, Brenda

Colterman, Barb

Coughlan, Juliette

Crombie, Audrey

Dadson, Marny

Day, Doug and Phyllis

Dee, Roberta

Eldridge, Erin

Eldridge, Michael

Erickson, Kenneth

Fairley, Beth

Fatijewski, Fiona

Ford, Julia

Gaudet, Suzanne

Halman, John & Jackie

LaCroix, Diane

Langdon, Sarah

LeBlanc, Emma

Levy, Carl

Littell, Linda

McEvoy, Steven

McGuigan, Sharon

Mesko, Amanda

Nevett, Sarah

Peters, Jasmine

Pettapiece, David

Plumridge, Daryl

Robillard, Taylor

Salvador, Jason  
Schmalz, Michael  
Smith, Amber  
Spirito, Gianluca  
Thorne, Kitty  
Veldhuis, Warren  
Wall, Candace  
Weber, Mark & Brenda  
Wysocki, Raja  
Youm, Chun Goon  
Young, Richard & Susan

### Friends with Vision

Ajemuta, Deborah  
Beaulieu, Tim  
Beaumont, Martha  
Becker, Ewald and Karen  
Benton, George & Katie  
Benton, Sue

Bharaj, Bhupinder  
Boychuk, Rick  
Brogan, Natalie & Steve  
Coutu, Raymond & Nicole  
Downer, Doug  
Edidi, Olabanji  
Elfar, Mohamed  
Elling, Gwen  
Fairley, Beth  
Fatijewski, Fiona  
Flinn, Kim and Tim  
Ford, Julia  
Fransky, Dennis & Janet  
Gagnon, Lise  
Gaudet, Suzanne  
Gaylord, Steven  
Halman, John & Jackie  
Hooton, Doug & Barb  
Kanwal, Kanwaldeep

Kaur, Devinder  
Kelliher, Charles  
Kosiw, Jim  
Levy, Carl  
Littell, Linda  
McEvoy, Steven  
McGuigan, Sharon  
Moore, Jennifer  
Morris-Dadson, Jim & Anne  
Peters, Kathy  
Pietropaolo, Domenico  
Porteous, Judy  
Rocks, Stephen  
Scopazzi, Peter  
Smith, Amber  
Webster, Bruce & June  
Willoughby, Jocelyn  
Willsie, Mark & Susan  
Youm, Chun Goon

# Vision for tomorrow

This year and in the coming years, we are looking to embrace opportunities and find creative solutions to key challenges as we work to meet the growing needs of DeafBlind Ontario Services.

A major component of this is managing our current assets (such as supported living homes and apartments) and the growth of our future assets based on the needs of the individuals we support. With housing prices through the roof, we are exploring ways to expand capacity in our existing properties so that we have more spaces to support people in living their best lives. This may include renovations, like the Water Street project in Peterborough, or looking at where we could repurpose basement space to create additional apartments.

We are also currently in the midst of a feasibility study for a potential capital campaign related to

continued growth of housing for our supportive living program.

As we continue to move through 2023 and beyond, we are committed to ensuring accountability and stewardship of our fund, so every donor can trust that their generous gift is being spent wisely and meaningfully.

Every donation is an opportunity to enrich life for a person who is deafblind as well as those who are Deaf, hard of hearing, or non-verbal with a developmental disability. It's an opportunity for that person to participate in everyday tasks, enjoy new experiences and do the very things that many of us take for granted, so that they can live their best lives.

**Your support matters.**



**DeafBlind**  
ONTARIO FOUNDATION

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Newmarket, ON L3Y 3E3**

**1.855.340.DBOS (3267)    [deafblindontario.com](http://deafblindontario.com)**

