

Gratitude Report

2022/2023



OUR FOUR PILLAR PROGRAMS



Easter Seals Nova Scotia consists of four pillar programs that make up the services we provide to individuals in our province living with disabilities

Message from our President and CEO

It is our pleasure to share our first Annual Gratitude Report to our corporate and private partners in the community. Thank you for being an important part of our work supporting children, youth and adults living with disabilities in Nova Scotia. Your culture of giving has inspired, supported and engaged so many people who often face extraordinary challenges every day. With your support, we are closer to a world where everyone is included.

***– Joanne Bernard
President & CEO***

THE GIFT OF Movement and Learning



CIBC
Wood Gundy

The support from CIBC has supported children and their families acquire equipment and technology needed to move around independently, communicate with others, and to fully participate at school, in extra-curricular activities, and in their communities. A range of equipment such as mobility devices, hearing and speech aids, home modifications like lifts and ramps, learning and communication devices and software, and bath and toileting aids have all been provided through the program.



Thank you
for making our
lives easier in
many ways.

Jace MacAulay

Our 6 year old son Jace loves getting around in his new Convaider EZ Rider. Jace has a rare genetic condition called CHD8 related syndrome and Autism Spectrum Disorder. As such, he suffers from various developmental delays.

Jace has a hard time with waiting, transitions, and does not understand danger. This special needs stroller gets him out in the community and to his medical appointments safely.

We're so grateful to Easter Seals for providing funding so Jace could have the Convaider EZ Rider. This specialized equipment is life changing for our family. We now have the peace of mind Jace has a way to get around safely as he gets older and grows.

Thank you for making our lives easier in many ways.

We really appreciate it!

– The MacAulay Family



Sophia Phillips

Sophia has Limb Girdle Muscular Dystrophy and having access to an Interior start lift will improve her mobility within her own home.

“The stair lift is a huge help for Sophia and our family. It is a relief for us to know that she can now gain back some of her independence because of it and know that she is doing it safely!”

–Karen Phillips



Ferrisview Elementary School

At the Learning Center at Ferrisview Elementary School in Cape Breton students have Autism, Down Syndrome, Global Developmental Delay, Hearing Impairment as well as other diagnoses. They have fine and gross motor challenges as well. This adapted bike is so beneficial as the students are able to regulate their bodies and be ready to learn after their session on the bike. Not only did it help with regulation, it also strengthened their gross motor skills and promoted an active physical living. Thanks so much for all that you do!

*–Sherry Power-Jessome
Learning Center Teacher*



THE GIFT OF Learning



The Sunlife Workplace Readiness and Mentorship Scholarships are intended for any person with a physical disability who is currently enrolled in or pursuing post-secondary education. The objective of the scholarship is to help reduce financial barriers for the student as they progress and work towards completing their post-secondary education and assist them in preparing for a successful transition into the workforce.

**2022
Award
Recipients**





Yas Jawad

Yas lives with Type 1 Diabetes and is a student at Acadia University. Yas identifies as a disabled queer person of colour. In addition to diabetes, Yas suffers from severe anxiety due to his unaccepting family's disapproval of his sexual orientation. During the application process, Yas demonstrated multiple examples of financial need as well as drive and motivation to succeed in his studies as well as life.

Tammy Higgins

Tammy lives with a condition called lipedema with secondary lymphedema and has advanced to a point of lost mobility. Tammy is a mature student, enrolled online at Thompson River University, doing a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology.

Tammy finds balancing being a full-time student and her financial responsibility to be a struggle at times. This scholarship will alleviate some of the financial burden she carries and she looks forward to working one-on-one with a Sun Life mentor as she pursues her educational goals.



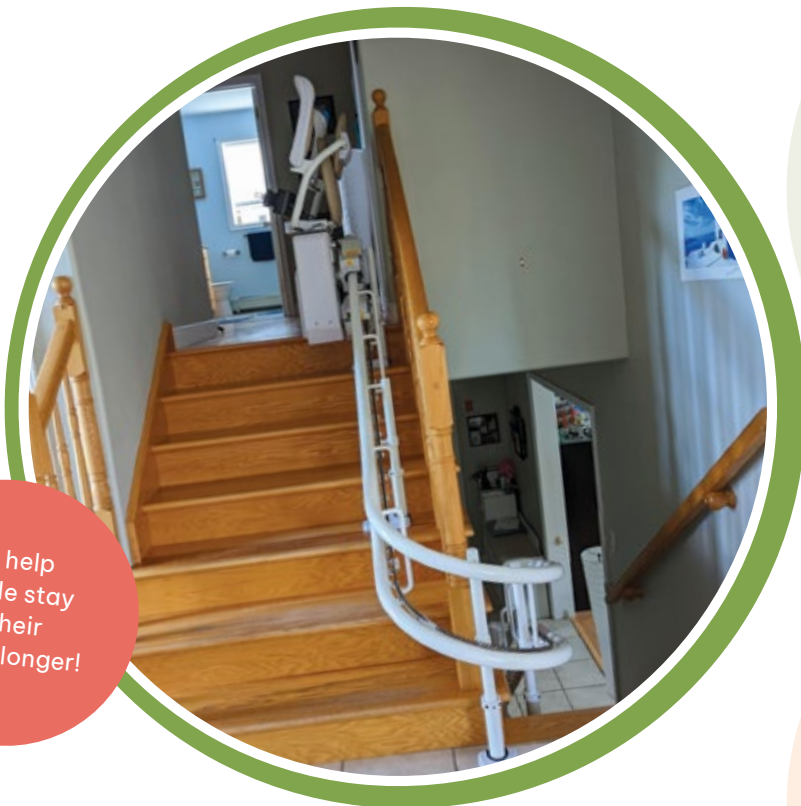
THE GIFT OF Mobility



definity.
INSURANCE
FOUNDATION

The Definity Insurance Foundation has been entrusted with designing and supporting community initiatives that reduce the effects of social and economic inequality and increase the health and well-being of marginalized people. Their support provided much needed assistive devices to people throughout Nova Scotia.

We help
people stay
in their
homes longer!







THE GIFT OF Fun and Recreation

CENTURY 21.

Trident Realty Ltd.

CENTURY 21.

All Points

Throughout the years, Century 21 Trident Realty Ltd and Century 21 All Points have been part of the national partnership between Easter Seals Canada and Century 21 Kids to Camp. As a result, both offices have raised thousands of dollars over the years through their various fundraising events from an annual golf tournament to movie days and trivia nights. All proceeds support Camp Tidnish and we are so thankful for this longstanding partnership!



Yes!
We raise
chickens
at camp.



CLUB





THE GIFT OF Independence and Self Confidence

Scotiabank®



The Next Step

A Supported Employment Program for
Youth with Disabilities

Over the past two years, Scotiabank has been a tremendous supporter of The Next Step, a supported employment program for youth and young adults from 18 to 30 years of age who have recently graduated and are looking to start their careers. The Next Step has had tremendous success in working with youth on individualized plans which incorporate their hopes and dreams for independence while building their self confidence. We thank Scotiabank for their support on supporting youth living with disabilities as we all work to make workplaces more inclusive.

“My overall experience with The Next Step at Easter Seals has been very good. I had help updating my resume and working on my portfolio from my job coaches. In addition, that has also prepared me for job fairs and interviews. I have attended different workshops to improve my skills in the workforce and did the food safety training course.

My first job this program offered to me was a mail clerk position. I also had a job as a Legislative Page at the Nova Scotia Legislature. During my time as a page I had provided a range of services to help MLAs do their job successfully such as photocopying and distributing documents. For the Next Step I am looking forward to more job opportunities that are available. Because I did the Junior IT Analyst program at NPower Canada, I’m hoping to get a job position related to IT since I have some basic knowledge with computer hardware and software.”

-David Tong



**David Tong
as a
Legislative Page
at the
Nova Scotia House
of Assembly**

**Kiera Sparks Lucas
as Tour Guide
at the
Maritime Museum
of the Atlantic**





THE GIFT OF Knowledge

Scotiabank®

Easter Seals Nova Scotia is pleased to partner with Scotiabank, through its ScotiaRISE commitment, to offer financial Scholarships and Mentorship opportunities to students in Nova Scotia who are currently enrolled in, or will be entering high school in the Fall 2023.

The objective of the scholarships is to help reduce financial barriers for students with disabilities as they progress and work towards completing high-school and assist them in preparing for a successful transition into post-secondary education, or entry into the workforce. The grant recipient also has the opportunity to participate in a year-long mentorship program, where they will be paired with a volunteer mentor who can provide encouragement, guidance, and support for their studies, and in preparing for post-secondary studies, as well as summer jobs and/or transition to the labour force after graduating high school.

“Thank you so much Easter Seals and Scotiabank for my new computer! It is going to help me learn new things and work on things for my photography business and school. Thank you! Thank you!”

*–MacKenzie Joy
Grade 12 Student, Churchill Academy*





THE GIFT OF Enjoying New Adventures



With their Atlantic Canada base located in Berwick, Nova Scotia, we were so grateful for the support of the I Heart Community Fund to help fund our Learn to Ride program. We applaud their history of giving by donating funds to support important causes and by otherwise working toward the greater good.



Serenity
Acres
is a healing
place.



LEARN TO RIDE



GIVING THE GIFT
OF

Carefree Summers



The mission of We Care is to send kids with disabilities to camp through the collaborative efforts of the Foodservice and Hospitality community.

Since 1983, We Care has raised over \$26 million dollars to send thousands of kids to camp in every Easter Seals Camp in Canada. This longstanding partnership between Easter Seals and We Care has made a difference in the lives of kids who just want to have the opportunity to make new friends, try new activities and most of all, to just have fun!

Your summer job brings people like Nick immeasurable joy, a break from everyday life, and memories that sustain his ongoing days.





Hello to the Camp Tidnish counsellors, Roxy, Alice, Kim, all support team members – everyone who makes the camp experience happen on that beloved spot in Tidnish.

I think if you could really understand the long-lasting impact of your work for our son Nick, and for us as his family, I think it might surprise you.

Our son Nick is a mentally challenged “boy” of 26. For the last two years, he along with so many of his counterparts (and of course everyone in the world), has been isolated without much to look forward to. Camp Tidnish operating again in 2021 has made a world of difference. Voyageurs at the end of June made his year.

I have a slightly different perspective because the first year Nick went to camp I stayed there. I saw firsthand what your days and nights are like, how challenging and tiring the work is, and the joy and love the team gives to the campers. In essence I was able to walk a mile in your shoes. This year, no one was from the previous Tidnish camps (except Alice!) – and the difficulty of losing that institutional knowledge that usually is available through returning counsellors has to be really hard! But you are doing it.

Nick is still asking when he can go back, how is Taylor, Roxy, Pickle, Alice – everyone. He looks at the Facebook page and exclaims about all of you. Your summer job brings people like Nick immeasurable joy, a break from everyday life, and memories that sustain his ongoing days.

I thank you from the bottom of my heart. On these unbelievably hot days, where you don’t get a break, remember you are doing something extraordinary with lasting effect.

With respect and appreciation,

-Patty, mother of Nick Isnor

GIVING THE GIFT OF Accomplishment



Our sponsors for Drop Zone support our largest fundraising event of the year. Their commitment to the programs of Easter Seals Nova Scotia help people in every area reach their full potential with grace and pride.



Nicole
learning to
make pill
organizers.

**Easter
Seals**™
Nova Scotia

**More
than Able**



THE GIFT TO Create



For over 13 years, Mic Mac Mall has generously donated their space and resources as well as a financial donation to our Bunnyland.

This wonderful partnership has raised over \$100,000 towards our programs including all of the wonderful creations we produce for our social enterprise New Leaf.

BUNNYLAND
PHOTOS WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

**MARCH 24 - 26 AND
MARCH 31 - APRIL 8**
10-6PM MONDAY TO SATURDAY
12-5PM ON SUNDAYS

MIC MAC MALL
LEVEL 1, NEXT TO THE WINNERS ENTRANCE

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.EASTERSEALS.NS.CA/BUNNYLAND





THE GIFT OF Sport



MEDAVIE

The Medavie Foundation has partnered with Easter Seals Nova Scotia in the past year to support our Take Part inclusive sport programs for children. This support has allowed us to grow our inclusive sport programs to other areas of the province and remove registration fees for families.

“Cooper has been a part of the Easter Seals Nova Scotia programming for as long as I can remember – indeed no less than eight years. His longest involvement has been with Learn to Sledge and most recently with Learn to Ride. While Cooper has beaten the odds in so many ways in terms of the possible impacts of his syndrome, there is still a void in terms of activities and experiences that allow him to participate that are truly inclusive.

Simply put, the programs offered through Easter Seals are truly inclusive and without them Cooper’s development would not be as bright and shiny as it is today. For us as a family, inclusive means that Cooper can participate in an activity that defines participation as being able to be involved as who he is. Equally so, inclusive means having a broader vision of success as well. Inclusion means that there is a space for him to participate and feel success and accomplishment within his abilities and not have the goal or pressure to reach that of able-bodied peers. The latter happens through activities that are structured and adapted ahead of time – not afterwards – and through having leadership and facilitators/coaches that have a broad vision of what success looks like.

Sadly, we have all too often encountered community programs that claim to be inclusive but when trying to get him involved his participation ends with conversations like “if we can ” or “when we have staffing” or “oh sorry but our facility can only accommodate...”. Easter Seals understands that programs need to be built from the ground up with inclusive design and not as a renovation after implementation.”

–Bernie Van Doninck (Dad)

**Easter
Seals**TM

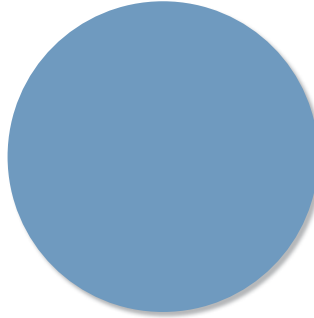
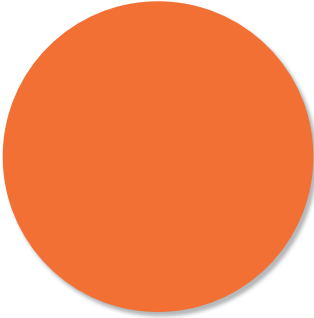
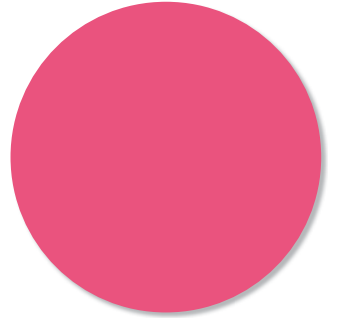
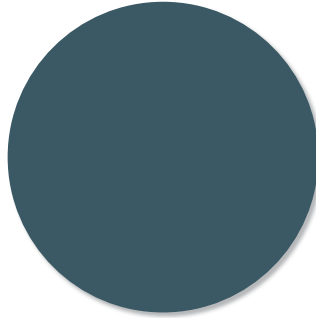
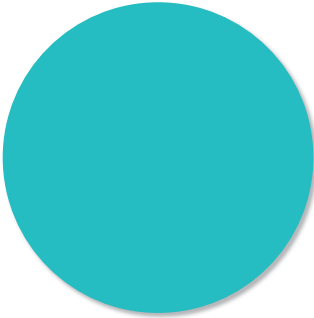
Nova Scotia

take **PART**

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–Bernie Van Doninck (Dad)





easterseals.ns.ca