

20 YEAR IN 24 REVIEW



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FROM THE PHSS FOUNDATION CHAIR

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude and pride. Our tremendous growth reflects the dedication, collaboration, and advocacy of our many partners, supporters, and friends.

We began our annual events with Laudables (formerly known as Laudable Londoners). This name change reflects PHSS's expansion across Ontario. This year, we were thrilled to recognize our first corporate honoree, Yurek Pharmacy and Home Healthcare. Philanthropy has been central to the Yurek Family's values, and they truly exemplify the spirit of giving back through their support of local charities and nonprofits.

One of our most cherished traditions, the annual Bowl-A-Thon, has now delighted participants for over 25 years. This event hosted at Fleetway is highly anticipated by those we support, along with their families, friends, and PHSS staff and board members. Together, we enjoy a lively afternoon of bowling, pizza, a silent auction, and countless laughs.

The Annual Leo Kirwin Memorial Golf Tournament once again had a fantastic turnout at River Valley Golf Club. A little rain over the noon hour did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of the golfers, including the ever-competitive silent auction with its spectacular offerings.

In November, we were honored to announce a remarkable gift: the donation of a beautiful lakefront property. To celebrate, we hosted a small event to unveil plans for the Ann Cross Creative Arts & Wellness Place. Located on the shores of Lowney Lake near Ottawa, this incredible property will provide respite and creative opportunities for people supported, as well as their families and friends.

None of this would be possible without the generosity of our donors, sponsors, and our PHSS community. Please join us in celebrating the positive impact we've made together over the past year, and let's look forward to the exciting opportunities ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marian Strom".

Marian Strom

PHSS Foundation
Board Chair



LAUDABLES

April 18, 2024
London Hunt & Country Club

This year guests gathered to celebrate Yurek Pharmacy & Home Healthcare as the honouree of the 25th Annual Salute to Laudables. The evening kicked off with a cocktail hour, where attendees enjoyed great company and lively conversation. The event featured heartfelt speeches from Marian Strom, PHSS Foundation board chair; Bill Brady, emcee and former honouree; Joe Preston, mayor of St. Thomas; Dan Reith, family friend; and Steve Bond, a Yurek employee. Virtual remarks were also shared by MP Peter Fragiskatos and London mayor Josh Morgan. Throughout the night, stories were shared about the late Ed Yurek, founder of Yurek Pharmacy, past Laudable honourees, and Yurek Pharmacy's significant contributions to the London, St. Thomas, and surrounding communities. The celebration concluded with a speech from co-owners Peter and Jeff Yurek, followed by the presentation of the prestigious Laudables award.



BOWL-A-THON

June 2, 2024
Fleetway London



32 teams gathered with friends and family for the 21st annual Bowl-A-Thon. Teams collected pledges before hitting the lanes, where the atmosphere was filled with laughter, good food, and fantastic company. Alongside the bowling action, attendees enjoyed the excitement of bidding on 36 raffle baskets, a silent auction, and a 50/50 draw—ensuring there was something for everyone to enjoy. As always, this beloved event is about more than just competition; it's a chance to gather with loved ones and have fun while supporting a great cause.



LEO KIRWIN MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

August 16, 2024
River Valley Golf Club



This year, the 22nd Annual Leo Kirwin Memorial Golf Tournament brought together more than 90 enthusiastic golfers and a host of dedicated supporters for a day of camaraderie and fun. The event kicked off early with participants enjoying fresh baked goods and refreshments generously provided by Starbucks. By 9am, the tournament had begun, setting the stage for a spirited day of friendly competition under beautiful skies. After completing their rounds on the course, everyone gathered at the clubhouse for a delicious meal, where prizes and awards were handed out. The tournament once again proved to be a memorable occasion, fostering both community spirit and support for a great cause.



OUR 2024 EVENT SPONSORS



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THROUGH OUR LENS

A Year of PHSS Foundation-Funded Moments



Honouring the Legacy of The O'Brien Family

We are deeply honored to announce the first installment of a transformative legacy donation to PHSS in memory of Judy O'Brien. Judy's unwavering dedication and advocacy for her daughter Erin and countless others with complex care needs has left a lasting impact on our organization and community.



Our heartfelt gratitude goes to the O'Brien family for their exceptional support and generosity. Judy's spirit of compassion and commitment continues to guide us, inspiring PHSS to pursue excellence in all that we do. This donation represents a significant step toward realizing the mission Judy cherished, and we are privileged to carry her legacy forward. Thank you, Judy, for creating a lasting difference that will benefit generations to come.



GROWING STRONGER

A New Location Taking Shape

This year, with the help of the O'Brien Family, the PHSS Foundation continued its commitment to accessible, inclusive living by purchasing a new house! Currently undergoing renovations, this property is being transformed to provide an accessible environment. Designed with safety and comfort in mind, the home will include customized accessibility features to ensure that each person living there can thrive in a supportive and welcoming space. This milestone marks yet another way the PHSS Foundation is empowering lives through community-focused initiatives, and we can't wait to welcome individuals into their new home.



The Ann Cross Creative Arts & Wellness Place

This year, PHSS proudly announced plans for the Ann Cross Creative Arts & Wellness Place. Nestled on the shores of Lowney Lake near Ottawa, this thoughtfully designed property will offer an inclusive getaway where individuals, their family, and friends can create lasting memories in an environment built for everyone. This project is designed to become a haven of peace, joy, and connection for individuals with disabilities and their families—a scenic, accessible escape where they can immerse themselves in nature, leave behind the pressures of daily life, and create joyful memories together. The plans include ramps, accessible entrances, lifts, and wheelchair-friendly pathways to ensure safe and easy navigation across the property. Inside, a fully accessible kitchen and bathroom will give guests the freedom to enjoy the full experience, from cooking meals to taking in nature right from their doorstep.

Ann Cross's generous donation of this beautiful property is truly inspiring. During the announcement, she shared heartfelt memories of the land, a place that has brought her a lifetime of peace and joy. Ann's biggest hope is that people supported, along with their families and staff, will find the same sense of comfort and happiness here that she has experienced. We are deeply grateful to Ann for her generosity and vision, which will enrich the lives of everyone who visits, making a profound impact for years to come.

This project wouldn't be possible without the dedication of Mike Theberge and his team, who have generously contributed their time, talent, and resources to turn this vision into reality. Mike's company has been instrumental in transforming the space with thoughtful, accessible features, making it welcoming to all. His unwavering support for PHSS Foundation and our mission is truly appreciated.





The Ann Cross Creative Arts & Wellness Place embodies a future where everyone can share in nature's beauty, find comfort in a welcoming space, and make memories that will last a lifetime. With gratitude to Ann, Mike, and everyone involved, we look forward to the countless ways this space will bring joy and empowerment to the PHSS community.



PHSS Foundation Funds



Carmell E. Tait Memorial Fund for Advocacy & Social Justice

This fund was established in 2020 in memory of Carmell Tait, the Chief Operating Officer of PHSS for 32 years. Carmell's number one priority was helping the people we support and their families. She was a natural advocate for the marginalized, with a sense of fairness and justice at the core of her being.

To celebrate Carmell's vision, work, and legacy, interest from this fund will be used to further her commitment to advocacy and social justice, to help fund initiatives and efforts that will help people and their families.

International Networking & Representation Fund

This fund was designed to foster strategic networking and collaboration in the health and social care sector. It presents a unique opportunity for PHSS to actively participate in international conferences and allows us to become educators and evolve innovative models of care and support.

This fund gives PHSS an opportunity for professional growth, international collaboration, and to cultivate innovative solutions that have the potential to reshape the landscape of health and social care.



Lori Hicks Vacation Fund

Lori Hicks was a long-time PHSS employee who brought a sense of connection to each person she supported. The PHSS Foundation wanted to honour Lori and recognize all of her contributions. In discussions with Lori, she was very supportive of having a fund in her name which would assist people supported to travel, more specifically, to Disney World – which would reflect her love of Disney and travel, as well as her commitment to the people she loved and supported. This fund will help those we support to go on their dream vacations and we know Lori, in spirit, will be accompanying them on their travels.



Vehicle Fund

Accessible transportation is a major barrier for those we support to get around to activities, meetings, and doctors appointments. This fund will be used to purchase vehicles and make them fully accessible, this might include wheelchair accessibility features, ramps, secure restraints, and other modifications that empower individuals with mobility challenges to travel comfortably and safely. The vehicle fund ensures that everyone in PHSS has the means to participate in various programs and activities.

Brian Dunne Housing & Accessibility Fund

Established by friends of Brian Dunne (PHSS' President and CEO), this fund furthers Brian's dream of home-based support and community access for everyone who wishes it.

Elizabeth Leighton Training & Education Fund

Friends and family of Elizabeth Leighton, a Past President of PHSS Foundation, marked her 60th birthday with the establishment of this endowed fund. Income from the fund will provide training and education for those supported by PHSS, as well as staff who provide support.

Fulford Family Fund

The Fulford Family established this endowed fund in an effort to ensure quality and consistent supports for those we serve. Income from this fund can be used for family or those we support.

PHSS Support Services Funds

Project Hope Fund

As Project Hope is very special to many families, there are some who choose to donate to the program. Project Hope has also run fundraisers throughout the years: Rocking for Hope, the Christmas Art/Bake Sale, and a third party event called the Mummer's Dance.

Staff Support in Hospital Fund

PHSS is one of the very few agencies that continues to send staff with the people we support while they are in hospital. Given the unique care and communication needs, our staff are a significant advocate for the needs, preferences, and wants for those who may have alternative forms of communication. Unfortunately, we do not receive additional funding to provide this service. Donations made to the Staff Support in Hospital Fund help us ensure that we can continue to provide this compassionate service for the people we support and their families.

Enriching Lives Fund

The Enriching Lives Fund provides financial assistance to people we support to participate in activities that align with their person centered plan. Donations made to the Enriching Lives Fund help to reduce the financial barrier for those we support to achieve their goals and dreams, and in turn, enjoy a more enriching life.



A New Level of Accessibility

2024 has been an exciting year for accessibility improvements, highlighted by the long-anticipated installation of an elevator in one of our community buildings. This project, years in the making, is finally close to completion and will soon provide access to a newly finished lower level, significantly expanding our available space for supports dedicated to creativity, wellness, and social interaction.



Our thanks to everyone championing this project, especially our contractors, for working hard to bring this vision to life. This ongoing effort exemplifies our dedication to removing barriers and ensuring everyone feels welcomed and supported.



Donor Spotlight

PHSS Foundation would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Larry Myny and The Larry Myny Investment Group for their incredible support of PHSS. Larry, a past Laudable honoree and one of our most dedicated supporters, has continuously championed our mission to enrich lives and empower individuals. His generosity and commitment to PHSS make a profound impact on the work we do every day. Thank you, Larry, for your unwavering support and all that you do to make our community stronger!



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