

Home for the Holidays.... It is a phrase brings a different image to each of us...joyous childhood memories retold over a shared meal, the house warm with the smell of roasting turkey and sugar cookies or turning up on the doorstep when Mom and Dad were sure that they'd not see you this year.

We wrap our affection in shiny paper and bows, we rejoice in song, prayer and tradition. No matter what or how we celebrate the Holidays, they are a time we gather close the people we love and care about.

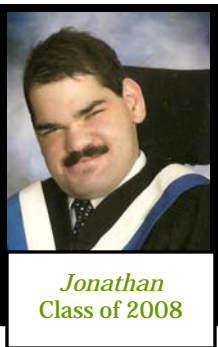
For 26 years the Ottawa Rotary Home offered a home away for children with physical disabilities and complex medical needs. It wasn't long before the children who grew up with us – had become our extended family - became adults no longer eligible to access the services of the Ottawa Rotary Home. Parents were left without the essential respite services they needed to stay physically and mentally strong for their families. For some it would be the beginning of years without support. Knowing that many of these families were leaving the only support they had was heartbreaking. Our obligations did not, could not end here.

It's time to bring them Home.

In February 2009 the beautiful new Ottawa Rotary Home opened with a 13 - bed children's wing and a separate 8-bed wing to welcome our young adult client's home. However, families caring for their adult child rely on Provincial grants to purchase services such as day and overnight respite programs. Unfortunately, restrictions in the Provincial budget have meant that no such dollars were granted this year.



Thanks to some very generous corporate and individual donors we have been able to offer six weekends and three weeks of respite to these unfunded families since September.



Jonathan
Class of 2008

Jonathan has happily attended the Ottawa Rotary Home from the time he was 2 years old until he turned 21. Jonathan always enjoyed his visits and spending time and sharing hugs with his friends Carolyn, Paul and the other staff at the home. Sadly at 21 years of age there was no respite available at the new Rotary Home due to lack of funding. Due to Jonathan's medical condition there was also no other respite homes that would provide respite to give us a break. Thankfully due to the generosity of local companies the home has recently been able to provide us with much needed respite. This had been greatly appreciated because we hadn't had respite since Dec. 2008 and we really needed a break. During that week, we were free to deal with a family emergency *together* because Jonathan was with his Rotary Home friends.

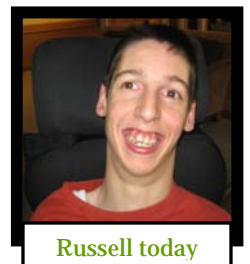
We would like to take this time to thank you for your support and continued support to the Rotary Home so they can continue to help families such as ours. Happy Holidays! Sincerely ~ Terry & Dan Massicotte



Anthony & Russell
together as children

We are the parents of two physically challenged boys, Russell here who is 22 years old and Anthony who is 33 and lives in a group home. The Ottawa Rotary Home has been a life line for us for many years now and I really do not know how we would have made it without the help of the Rotary Home. *They are a shoulder for someone to cry on, a lifeline for so many families like my own and they do it with humility and compassion.*

Our children are totally dependant on us for all their needs; feeding, dressing, transferring, bathing and communication. To let them go out of the home to be taken care of by someone other than ourselves takes a lot of faith and trust. When Anthony first started at the Rotary Home I would worry; will they know when he is hungry, thirsty, tired, afraid or sick? I would leave wondering and worry if there was anything I forgot to write down or say.



Russell today

Then along came Russell and by now we were used to having Anthony go for respite so it was a little easier but still scary and yes I still wrote the notes, the nice thing was they had each other.

Then Russell turned 21 and gone was that life line. Now we faced having to find an alternative, a strange environment, staff he was not familiar with it was like starting all over again. We are getting through it and wishing at the same time that one day soon Russell will be able to use this beautiful new facility for respite. ~ *Debbie & Frank A.*

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***Won't you help bring them Home?***

Jonathan, Russell, Anthony and their friends didn't outgrow their needs on their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday – they simply outgrew the funding system. They, their parents, siblings and extended family are our family and they need our help more now than when they were small and manageable. Won't you help us bring them home?

One 24 hour day of respite at The Ottawa Rotary Home costs \$260.00, a three day weekend \$782.00. Yes, it is a lot. But it is also a fraction of the cost of hospitalization which until now has been the only other alternative for these families when they become desperate for a break or require emergency relief.

Until the Province can find a way to help our families we are committed to doing whatever we can to ensure they never go without the support they need again.

On behalf the entire Rotary Home family, I wish you a warm Holiday Season filled with joyous homecomings!



Carolyn Piche  
Director of Development  
The Ottawa Rotary Home Foundation

*P.S.* Congratulations to The Ottawa Rotary Home, Gold Winner of the 2009 Ottawa Chamber of Commerce Not-for-Profit Organization of the Year Award!

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***Yes, I want to invite a family back to The Ottawa Rotary Home this Holiday Season!***

**I have enclosed my cheque** payable to the Ottawa Rotary Home Foundation in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please charge the amount indicated to my**     **Visa**         **Master Card**         **American Express**

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make this gift     **In Honour of:**         **In Memory of:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**You can also make your Angel gift online at [www.orhfoundation.ca](http://www.orhfoundation.ca)**

***Thank you!***

An official tax receipt will be issued for all donations of 10.00 or greater. Charitable Registration # 89418 7962 RR0001  
The Ottawa Rotary Home Foundation ~ 4637 Bank Street Ottawa ON K1T 3W6 ~ 613-837-7376