

A N A D V E R T I S I N G F E A T U R E O F T H E O T T A W A C I T I Z E N

Charitable Giving & Estate Planning

Ottawa women making a difference in the community now . . . and forever

By establishing funds with the Community Foundation of Ottawa three local women have created personal and family legacies

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Percy, Teresa and Jill Vaughan Family Foundation

When Jill Vaughan and her parents Percy and Teresa decided it was time to figure out what to do with the family estate, they approached their lawyer Paul Hewitt. Understanding the Vaughan's concern for having their savings used wisely over the long term, and their wish to support a variety of charitable causes, Paul recommended the Community Foundation of Ottawa as a possible solution to fulfilling their collective interests.

"We particularly liked the idea that the Foundation preserved the endowment so that your gift keeps on giving," said Jill. "We were really looking for something that would best serve the value of the estate while preserving the legacy of all my parents' hard work over the years. It immediately struck all three of us that the Community Foundation provided the perfect solution to all of our objectives."

So, in 2007, the family established the Percy, Teresa and Jill Vaughan Family Foundation, an advised fund that includes a bequest. While they ultimately wish to support education, medical research and poverty reduction, the family initially left granting to the Community Foundation's discretion through an unrestricted fund.

"We really appreciate the flexibility that our fund allows in being able to support any registered charitable organization," said Jill. "The staff has the community knowledge and experience to identify and respond to immediate needs, many of which may not qualify for support from other funders."

So convinced of the merits of establishing a Community Foundation fund, Jill once wrote a letter to

a national business editor saying, "I would strongly urge anyone considering a bequest to any charitable purpose to consider working with their local community foundation. Easy, professionally managed, access to in-depth community knowledge, no startup costs ... what more could you ask for?"

The Hayg Cuhaci Memorial Fund

Long before establishing a fund with the Community Foundation of Ottawa, Sylvia Cuhaci had been supporting local charities, and had become personally involved in working to address mental health issues in our community.

Sylvia was an early volunteer and board member of Project Upstream, a grassroots organization which has been providing mental health support services since 1985. Sylvia had also been experiencing the direct impact of mental illness on the life of her son Hayg and their family for a number of years. Despite their many efforts to help him overcome his struggle, Hayg died in 1990 at the age of 29.

"Instead of getting angry or focusing on the senselessness of our loss, we felt the need to act," said Sylvia. So she and her husband Edward established a memorial fund in Hayg's name at the Community Foundation of Ottawa.

"I knew the Foundation had been supporting the work of Project Upstream from its early days," said Sylvia, "and I appreciated its commitment to helping this small organization build sustainable programs that could benefit people struggling with mental illness over the long term."

"It was that ability to listen and understand the needs in the community that most impressed me, and convinced me that this was where we should start a fund of our own."

By establishing the Hayg Cuh-



In 2007 Jill Vaughan, along with her parents Teresa and Percy, established an endowment in their family name to benefit the Community Foundation of Ottawa.

aci Memorial Fund through a gift of shares, Sylvia knew she could support Project Upstream and the cause she cared about long into the future. "We really felt having an endowment fund like this one would allow us to help the community as needs and organizations change and evolve over time."

Indeed, in 2007, Project Upstream established its own Sylvia Cuhaci Legacy Fund in honour of her longtime contribution to mental health services in Ottawa. With a focus on meeting new and emerging needs, the fund has been used to support the Youth Matters Campaign to expand its services to young people between the ages of 16 and 21, and to assist youth and their families in making the transition from children's to adult mental health services.

"If you can help a young person before they fall through the cracks or see themselves as incurable, you will make a difference," said Sylvia. "If there's a way to rescue even one young person from a tragic end, it's all worthwhile."

Thanks to the legacy of Sylvia and her family, programs like Project Upstream will continue to work



Sylvia Cuhaci and her husband established a memorial fund in the name of her son, Hayg, to help provide mental health support services through Project Upstream.

to find solutions to the ravages of mental illness long into the future.

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Ottawa women

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The Ann Diamond Fund

Ann Diamond is a singularly determined and independent woman. An only child who grew up in Saskatoon, Ann moved to Ottawa in 1975 following a diverse administrative dietetics career in Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver. Ann then worked for 16 years as director of dietetics at the Ottawa Civic Hospital, where she was part of a team which founded the largest centralized hospital food production operation in the country.

When she retired in 1991, Ann was able to turn her attention to her many other interests, including music, gardening and travel. One of her favourite passions soon became charitable giving and the work of the Community Foundation of Ottawa.

Introduced to the Foundation by her lawyer when preparing her will, Ann became instantly enamoured with the work it was carrying out in the community. Not only did she find it an ideal vehicle through which she could give to the many causes she cared about, but she felt a strong personal connection to the organization itself, becoming one of its longest-serving volunteers.

"Since establishing my fund here and working directly with the Foundation as a volunteer, I have learned so much more about the community than I could have discovered on my own," said Ann. "I particularly appreciate the personal service I receive as a donor, and the fact that I'm able to make gifts to all my favourite charities by writing one single cheque each year. It helped me go from making ad hoc charitable donations to a much more strategic approach to my giving."

Among her many interests, Ann is particularly passionate about supporting children and the elderly, and in contributing to those who work to fight poverty and homelessness in Ottawa. She does this by using her fund to support such or-



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– Ann Diamond

ganizations as the Mission, the Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa, and Big Brothers Big Sisters Ottawa, as well as a variety of support programs for seniors, local community houses and school breakfast programs. An avid music aficionado, Ann also supports local music education programs, including those for underprivileged students.

Having established a donor-advised fund that will continue via a bequest after her lifetime, Ann is especially pleased with the fact that she can make these ongoing charitable gifts now, and that her fund will continue to support organizations and causes she cares so deeply about in perpetuity.

For more information about how you can leave a legacy by establishing a fund with the Community Foundation of Ottawa, visit www.cfo-fco.ca or call 613-236-1616.