

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Prescott receives record-setting donations: Generous Nova Scotians make Prescott wheelchair accessible van a reality

April 10, 2019

Halifax, NS – “We need a van,” was the repeated request of Prescott clients.

Prescott, a non-profit organization that supports 160+ adults with an intellectual challenge in Halifax through the development of life and work skills, advocates for client independence.

For many years, Prescott wished for a vehicle to facilitate more interactions between clients and the greater Halifax community, and to grow social enterprises: Prescott Bakery, Prescott Custom Bags, Prescott Mailing Services and Prescott Online Auction. After all, “Building people, Building Halifax,” is Prescott’s tag line.

However, the \$66,000 price tag for a six-seater wheelchair accessible van was especially daunting during a time of tight budget constraints.

Despite limitations, the Prescott community stepped up to make an accessible van happen.

Award-winning musician Matt Andersen got the ball rolling. In May 2018, Andersen and friends Ian Janes, Adam Baldwin and Cory Tetford, played a sold out show in support of Prescott’s Blue Nose Marathon team and a Prescott van. Their \$5,000 gift put this project in gear.

Prescott’s Chase the Ace lottery (started December 2018 and now in week 17) has also been raising funds for a wheelchair accessible Prescott van with the intention of continuing to build Prescott.

The project really took off when Charlie Ritcey, a local architect, stepped in.

“I could give back so I did,” says Ritcey. “A van is tangible. It is easy to see how it can improve the quality of life for clients.”

Ritcey's \$30,000 gift is the largest personal donation in the history of Prescott. Ritcey, who gives in honour of his children Nolan, Terrin, and Callen, intends for his gift to inspire others.

And it has. A successful application to the John and Judy Bragg Family Foundation resulted in a gift matching Ritcey's record-setting donation. Therefore, an accessible Prescott van has been purchased and is awaiting delivery.

"It is awesome that prominent Nova Scotians such as the Bragg family have stepped up to help the hundreds of families impacted everyday by Prescott," says Ritcey. "What an honour to partner with them to make a Prescott van a reality."

This fundraising project has built upon the generosity and dedication of community leaders, staff and board members. "Everyone at Prescott is absolutely thrilled and motivated that we were able to complete our fundraising effort in such a short time," said Louis Brill, Executive Director of Prescott. "That's what happens when you bring good people together."

Prescott intends to continue to expand opportunities for adults with an intellectual challenge in Halifax, for those currently served and those awaiting service.

Brill notes, "we have great concern for the fact adults with an intellectual challenge have to wait upwards of four years for admission into Prescott. We simply don't have the current capacity to grow. We want to serve more, we know there is more work to do and we intend to keep pushing forward."

We are inspired by this recent generosity and motivated to think big and do more for the people we serve."

About Prescott:

Prescott, a non-profit organization since 1962, supports 160+ adults with an intellectual challenge in Halifax through the development of life and work skills.

Prescott offers personal development services and employment services. Prescott also manages four social enterprises: Prescott Bakery, Prescott Custom Bags, Prescott Mailing Services, Prescott Online Auction.

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