

MICHAEL'S STORY

"I belonged to an average, middle class Canadian family. Then, when I was about four, I saw my mom kissing a man who was not my father.

My parents split up, the man moved in and everything changed. Something as simple as clothes on the floor would make him start hitting me and she would watch in a rage, spitting out any mean thing that she could say to me. It felt like an automobile wreck."

That was just the beginning for Michael. At the age of twelve he started using alcohol and drugs to cope with his hurt and anger. He did well at school and was accepted at university, but instead he fled. He sometimes calls it "falling down the rabbit hole". One thing led to another and, although he was fortunate to meet two caring and supportive adults – Chad and Lou Ellen who become his surrogate parents – it was not enough to stop the fall.

Eventually, after doing crystal meth for six straight days, Michael had a severe panic attack and was taken to hospital. Although he has no memory of it, he knows he lashed out, punching some of the medical staff, and that landed him in jail.

He was 21 and completely exhausted, with nowhere to go and no idea what to do next.

Now, only a few short years later, Michael's life is on a whole new trajectory. He began to receive services from the LOFT Transitional Age Youth Program, and eventually began working for the program as well. As a Peer Mentor he plays a unique role supporting new clients whose lives are as chaotic as his once was.



Michael has shared his story of courage and resilience as one of the ways he can give back to LOFT for all he has gained. He told his story in front of an audience of hundreds at last year's Christmas Concert, and how he is featured in LOFT's Holiday Appeal fundraising mailing.

Michael wants LOFT donors to know what kind of impact they have. As he himself says, "They did more than just save my life. They gave me life and purpose."

To read more of Michael's story, and see how you can help Michael and others like him, visit the LOFT website at www.loftcs.org and click on "Read Michael's Story".

**Thank You SAP Canada!**

October was their Global Month of Service and staff stuffed 200 hygiene and cold-weather kits for two LOFT programs. Bradford House and the Crosslinks Street Outreach van are grateful recipients of these much-needed supplies!

If your organization is interested in volunteering with us, please contact 416-979-1994 ext. 233.

Issue 12
November 2015

15 Toronto Street
9th Floor
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www.loftcs.org

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

25th Annual Christmas Concert

Monday, December 7, 2015

7:30pm, St. James Cathedral

(corner of King and Church St., downtown Toronto)

Billy Newton-Davis



Molly Johnson



Phillip Addis



Kelly Walker



TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Ticket Prices:

Benefactor - \$250

1 ticket, \$215 tax receipt and invitation to the post-concert reception

Patron - \$100

1 ticket, \$65 tax receipt

General - \$35

1 ticket

Yes, I want to support the work of LOFT by purchasing concert tickets:

Benefactor # _____ tickets at \$250 = \$ _____

Patron # _____ tickets at \$100 = \$ _____

General # _____ tickets at \$35 = \$ _____

I cannot attend, please accept my donation of \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Email: _____

**If ordering Patron or Benefactor tickets, please print name as you would like it to be listed in our program: _____*

PAYMENT METHOD: CHEQUE ENCLOSED

MASTERCARD VISA AMERICAN EXPRESS

Card Number: _____

Card Holder signature: _____ Exp: _____

Seating is reserved by ticket level and number; doors will open at 7:00pm.

We apologize that some seats have obstructed sight lines so order early for the best seats.

Charitable registration #: 13058 6605 RR0001

TO ORDER TICKETS - MAIL, FAX, PHONE, OR EMAIL ORDER TO:

LOFT Community Services
15 Toronto Street, 9th Floor
Toronto, ON M5C 2E3

T: 416-979-1994 ext. 233 or 222 F: 416-979-3028 E: atran@loftcs.org

Sponsors:



Print Sponsor:



Last chance to make your 2015 charitable donations!

December 31st is your last chance to donate in the 2015 year! Make your donation to LOFT today by calling 416-979-1994 ext. 222, 227 or 221

or online at loftcs.org

Gifts of Securities

Did you know you can donate gifts of publicly traded securities to LOFT? Securities that are donated to a registered Canadian charity are completely exempt from the capital gains tax that is normally triggered when a security is sold or given away.

For more information contact Jane at 416-979-1994 ext. 227 or jcorbett@loftcs.org.

A Group That Gives Their All



Adopt-a-Senior is an entirely volunteer run project now in its tenth year. Their goal is to provide every LOFT senior with a "Merry Christmas". We usually think of giving as involving either time, treasure or talent. But this group gives all three.

For the people at the core of this dynamic volunteer team, it is a year round labour of love. They collect "Wish Lists" for every one of the 800+ older men and women in LOFT's supportive housing/assisted living programs. Then they shop for 800+ Christmas presents, either donating or raising the money they need. They wrap each gift and attach a hand written gift card with each client's name.

They give a Christmas party for each program - that's something like 10 parties a year - complete with a Santa Claus (sometimes more than one!) who reaches into his bag of gifts to answer a wish for every senior.

The parties are filled with joy, and sometimes a few tears as well. This year, as every year, it will be the first time some of our seniors will receive a gift that was especially purchased, wrapped and labeled just for them.

To find out more about Adopt-a-Senior, or to see how you can help LOFT with your own Time, Treasure and Talent, visit the LOFT website at www.loftcs.org/Support-LOFT.