



SCOTTISH RITE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION  
VALLEY LIAISON COMMITTEE



Over the past year and half, we have been updating you about the work being done that is, in part, supported by your Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation. We have explained a couple of research projects and we have heard from a graduate of one of our Learning Centres. This article is from a tutor at the London Learning Centre, Mr. Daniel Martin, and provides an insight into why he gives of his time to assist students.

Volunteer tutoring dyslexic children with the London Scottish Rite Learning Centre is extremely rewarding and satisfying. Dyslexic children are often highly intelligent and creative. Their main challenges are reading, spelling and writing. The Orton Gillingham approach, employed by tutors, unlocks this gift and the results are often immediate. After one or two sessions I have had parents approach me in awe saying they could not believe their child could now spell a specific word.

The grateful appreciation I receive from parents and students is amazing. Our students have struggled with reading for years and we present them with a solution. I am often humbled and embarrassed by the effusive praise I get from parents after tutoring lessons. Some parents and children keep in contact with the Learning Centre long after their tutoring days are over and sometimes lasting friendships result. Recently at a Learning Centre Fund Raising Games' Night I spent a pleasant evening with a former student and her family. They keep me updated with the progress of their daughter through social media. She is having unprecedented success as she nears her high school years.

Last night at a concert I met the mother of a recent graduate from the Learning Centre. His confidence has soared since he graduated from the Learning Centre. She informed me that he is the starting goalie for his high school hockey team and that school is not as stressful for him as it once was.

One day several years ago when I entered my tutoring room I saw a newspaper clipping on my table that the Centre Director had left for me. It was about my first ever student. Now a senior in high school she had made a video with her classmates that was to be featured in a Hollywood movie by mega pop superstar Katy Perry. The video was choreographed to Katy Perry's hit song "Firework". The song's lyrics may be an analogy for what students experience at the Centre;

*Do you ever feel, feel so paper thin?  
Like a house of cards  
One blow from caving in  
Do you ever feel already buried deep?  
Six feet under screams, but no one seems to hear a thing  
Do you know that there's still a chance for you?  
'Cause there's a spark in you  
You just gotta ignite the light*

*And let it shine  
Just own the night  
Like the Fourth of July  
'Cause baby you're a firework*

Children come to the Learning Centre feeling fragile, lost and defeated but through the gift of volunteer tutoring they are given a chance to succeed. We provide the spark to allow their firework to burst.

Daniel Martin, Tutor, London Scottish Rite Learning Centre, November 2017

As we near the end of another calendar year, and as you consider any charitable donations you might yet make, please remember the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation and the several Learning Centres across the country. For more information be sure to check out the Foundation website at [www.srcf.ca](http://www.srcf.ca) and remember to use the blue envelope to make your donation!

Ron Findlater, 33°  
Valley Liaison Chairman