



Building on the Best News

January 2024

A Message from Our Executive Director

As we embark on a new year, this is the perfect time to share how proud I am of all the staff here at the Best Centre! We have grown again, bringing on more educators and support staff; all to ensure our patients and caregivers get the support and guidance they need. We are very much looking forward to having enough space for all staff to be onsite at the same time. All the best for a happy, healthy 2024!

Lorrie Hagen
Executive Director
The Charles H. Best Diabetes Centre

Building on the Best Campaign has a NEW GOAL!

The Charles H. Best Diabetes Centre leadership team has announced an increase to the campaign goal from \$5 to \$8 million in order to make the expansion a reality.

With the ongoing support of our community, we aim to break ground in Fall 2024 for the addition being built to connect the main house with the carriage house.

We are looking to the community and the province to help us reach our new goal.

Donor Spotlight



The folks at Pringle Creek Foodland in Whitby have been supporting the Building on the Best campaign for over a year now and have garnered a lot of community support and awareness. The donation boxes at their store checkouts has encouraged shoppers of the Pringle Creek Foodland to donate and they have raised over \$1,000!

Owner, Peter Plastina and his family, are dedicated community supporters and are friends of the Best Centre. When he was approached to have the donation boxes at the cash registers they were more than happy to help.

Thank you Peter, and shoppers of Pringle Creek Foodland.

A Message from Our Campaign and Committee Chairs

What a groundswell of support our campaign has received in 2023! It is so gratifying that we live in a region with so many benevolent businesses, organizations and individuals that understand the immediate need for the Building on the Best expansion campaign. We are on the cusp of achieving our goal! Our team looks forward to expanding our community network in 2024 to deliver the funding to allow this much needed expansion to happen!

Fred Eismont
Campaign Chair

As we celebrate the beginning of a new year, I want to thank everyone for their support for our Building on the Best Campaign. Your generosity has been instrumental in getting us closer to meeting our objectives and eventually, being able to expand our centre to accommodate the growing needs of people living with type 1 diabetes in Durham Region.

Wishing you and your loved ones a year filled with warmth, joy and the spirit of giving!

Serge Babin
Leadership Division Chair
Chairman, Board of Directors

The Building on the Best Community Division volunteers have been working hard and, it shows. I want to thank my committee members past and present for all their hard time and effort. I want to thank everyone who has donated to the campaign and encourage you to give again if you can. As a person living with type 1 myself, I know the good work the Best Centre does, and we need to make sure there is a space for everyone who is diagnosed in Durham and beyond.

William Kelly
Community Division Chair

Thank You

Construction To Date

Early this year we started and completed construction on a new, fully accessible, main floor entryway and washroom. The results were beautiful.

This construction was made possible in part, due to \$87,770 in funding by the Government of Canada's Enabling Accessibility Fund.



Volunteer Committees

Thank you to our dedicated committees of volunteers who work year-round to support the Building on the Best Campaign.

Cabinet: Fred Eismont (Chair), Dr. Gary Polonsky (Campaign Advisor), William Kelly, Larry Harding, Allison Doyle, Marlene Grass, Serge Babin, Lorrie Hagen

Leadership Gift: Serge Babin (Chair), Ian Robertson, Russel White, Reg Webster, Lorrie Hagen

Community Division: William Kelly (Chair), Marlene Grass, Mary Todd, David Murphy, Amy Cross, Colin Quinlan, Dr. Ted Monchesky, Andrea Walders, Roger Beecham

2023 Events

The Best Centre hosted and partnered with other community organizations to hold several community events in support of Building on the Best.

Community Events



The community division hosted their 2nd yard sale at the Best Centre this past June. We had so much support from volunteers in preparation for the event, during and after the sale.

Also, on November 4th the Best Centre partnered with the Columbus United Church at their Outdoor Winter Market. The community division ran a food booth serving delicious hot breakfast and lunch, drinks and snacks. Thank you to the many generous donors who came by and supported the campaign.

Special thanks to all volunteers that gave their time, items and support to the 2023 community events.

Raised: \$3,865

Golf Ball Drop



Leading up to August 11th, the community was able to purchase raffle tickets for our second annual golf ball raffle. Balls were then dropped from a helicopter over Royal Ashburn Golf Club's putting green and the closest ball to the hole won a helicopter ride for up to 6 people. Congratulations to Allison Doyle!

Thank you to all those that supported the event with your ticket purchases and awareness!

Raised: \$2,260

14 for 14 MOVEMENT National Diabetes Awareness Month

National Diabetes Awareness Month (NDAM). To celebrate NDAM, the Best Centre held a fundraising raffle in support of Building on the Best. Tickets were sold for \$14 each, in honour of World Diabetes Day on November 14th.



Over 300 tickets were sold to Best Centre supporters in the community. The lucky winner was drawn on November 23rd who won 2 tickets to see the Toronto Maple Leaf game.

Congratulations Joan and Mike Bailey! Thank you to all that participated this November and a special thanks to our friends at CKDO for their continued support.

Raised: \$4,328

[CKDO Interview](#)

Thank you to all of our supporters

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