



clements centre

Connector

Autumn, 2025



Our team of occupational therapists, physiotherapists, and speech language pathologists are here to help children and families

Making a difference for families

This is the story of Jackson.* He was referred to our Child Development Team at two years of age because his mother was concerned about his speech and language development. Once Jackson met with one of our infant development consultants, he and his parents were visited monthly. The process involved coaching his parents on early language strategies and monitoring his development in all areas. Next, a referral was made to one of our speech and language pathologists because Jackson's speech and language development had not progressed to an age-appropriate level.

Following a thorough assessment, we were able to create a tailored plan to support Jackson's specific needs. Working in tandem, our speech and language pathologist and infant development consultant provided practical support. This included strategies for the parents to use on a day-to-day basis, activities during sessions, and visits that modelled for the parents how to play with their son in a meaningful way to help develop his speech and language skills.

As Jackson's development progressed, the priority of the family began to shift. His parents and childcare providers reported that he was really struggling with some big behaviours. These included hitting other children and screaming when overwhelmed – both without any capacity to be redirected or soothed. Jackson was again referred to an additional service we provide to increase the scope of our support.

It was determined our Supported Child Development program would help in the childcare setting with training and coaching for the childcare providers in the areas with which Jackson was having a challenging time. Our Occupational Therapy team also provided assessment and strategies to address the cause of Jackson's behaviours. Upon observation and assessment from both programs, it was noticed that there were some behaviours consistent with Autism.

(continued...)

**not the child's real name*

Hope.
Belonging.
Independence.

Making a difference for families (...continued)

Our therapists were able to have a conversation with Jackson's family about what they were observing and about the options available to the family to determine if Jackson did, in fact, have Autism.

The family went ahead with a referral to get an assessment, and Jackson was diagnosed with Autism. The skills the family and Jackson learned in his time with our Child Development Team set the foundation for skill building throughout his life. Jackson is now seven and continues to benefit from some additional supports in school and at home. He is able to play on a soccer team with other children his own age; he attends summer camps without additional support, and he successfully accesses additional supports in the community.

This is just one example of the positive impact Clements Centre's interdisciplinary team of therapists and trained child development professionals can have on the lives of local families. Working together, supported by our donors and partners, our work touches lives every day. —🌍—

Leaving a legacy of love

"Like many people, I have been thinking more about what to do with the savings I will have at the end of my life. I want to ensure I give back and support something I believe in strongly – something that really impacts our community," says Gina Sleeper, who has lived in Duncan for the past 14 years.

"There are lots of good charities out there," she continues, "but I have been wanting to find the best fit with my values. After working at Clements Centre since February of this year, seeing the quality of the programs and services up close, and getting to know the people we serve, I realized the answer has been right in front of me."

"I hope others will join me by including Clements Centre Society as a beneficiary in their will. I believe that – together – we can do a lot to help the next generation and secure a better future for the entire community."



Gina Sleeper, legacy donor

Use your will power

Anyone can create a legacy by including a gift in their will. Any amount can make a difference to a charity such as ours. Using your "will power" is an effective way to extend your values into the future and help provide hope, belonging, and independence to the people we serve.

Just think of the services that would not be provided if it were not for charities. What fuels charities? The financial support of people who care – people like you. If you want to help build a strong future for Clements Centre, we encourage you to discuss your wishes with your family, your legal or financial advisor, and with us (so we can understand and honour your wishes).

Please connect with Jonathan Dallison at 250.746.4135 ext. 222 or jdallison@clementscentre.org to discuss how you can leave a legacy of love for the people we serve.

If you feel inspired to join our community of supporters and touch the lives of the people

Donor impact: your generosity at work



Our speech language pathologists are grateful for your support

Our service contracts do not cover the cost of everything we need to do for the people we serve. It is our donors, grantors, and sponsors who fill that gap and make it possible for us to go above and beyond. Here are some examples of how our community has rallied behind us and made a difference in people's lives.

You may recall that, this past June, our spring campaign was focused on raising funds to purchase iPads that would make it possible for our therapists to help children who are unable to verbalize. Thanks to the incredible support of 100+ Who Care Cowichan and many others from our own donor family, we exceeded our \$15,000 goal. This has enabled us to purchase 10 iPads that can run SpeakEasy, an "augmentative and alternative communication" app that helps children connect, learn, and thrive. This is a lifeline for many families we serve, and it shows the importance of individual donations.

Another example of vital community support is the \$10,000 grant we recently received from The Allen and Loreen Vandekerkhove Family Foundation in support of wages for our team of bakers at The Mindful Mouthful. Their contribution sustains inclusive employment opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities. The result is nothing less than meaningful work experience, skills development, and a sense of purpose for the individuals who bake, package, and deliver our delicious products. Through their generosity, the Vandekerkhoves are helping us build a stronger, more inclusive Cowichan Region one shift, one recipe, and one connection at a time.



Allen and Loreen Vandekerkhove and their daughter Theresa

Our supporters embody the incredible spirit of community that surrounds Clements Centre. Together, we are helping create a future in which all individuals are included, valued, and celebrated. —🌍—

Meet Laura



Laura as a child and today

Laura began receiving services at Clements Centre when she was eight months old. She says therapies have made a big difference in her life ever since. One example she remembers is going from not being able to open a door with one of her hands to being able to do it just fine. Recently, she has become able to tie her hair back by herself – something she has long wanted to do. The help she received early on started her on a journey of independence, and today she is proud to be a baker at The Mindful Mouthful, our social enterprise bakery.

When she was asked recently to describe in one word what Clements Centre means to her, she smiled and said, "Family." That sense of belonging is at the core of what we do. Our trained staff – many of whom have grown in their roles alongside Laura – are unwavering in the hope and encouragement they offer and in their belief in a community in which all individuals are included, valued, and celebrated.

Be the spark that shines all year: become a G.E.M. today

For as little as \$10 a month, you can become a **G.E.M. (give every month)** donor and make a lasting difference in the lives of children, youth, adults, and families across the Cowichan Region. Your monthly gift will provide reliable support that will help sustain essential programs and therapies, ensuring that people of all ages have access to the care and opportunities they need to thrive.

As a G.E.M. donor, you will join a kind and compassionate group of supporters who believe in creating lasting change through their ongoing generosity. Each month, your gift will help children reach important developmental milestones and support adults in achieving their full potential. This reflects the hope, belonging, and independence that define Clements Centre.

Monthly giving is one of the most powerful ways to help: it provides the stability that allows us to plan programs ahead and respond quickly when needs arise. Your ongoing commitment ensures vital supports continue month after month, year after year. It is also simple and convenient: donations are processed automatically off your credit card and one consolidated charitable tax receipt is provided for the year. This makes it easier to keep track of your giving while making a lasting impact.

Become a G.E.M. donor today, and join a group that shines a steady light of kindness throughout the Cowichan Region. It is accessible, convenient, and impactful. Together, we can make a difference one month at a time.

To join, please visit our website or contact Leah Hokanson at lhokanson@clementscentre.org or 250.746.4135 ext. 231. 



be a G.E.M.
give every month

Your fundraising team (below) is here to connect great people (you) with a great cause (Clements Centre). Please reach out to any of us if you would like to support the work our charity does.

Jonathan Dallison, Director of Development and Communications
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clements centre
HOPE. BELONGING. INDEPENDENCE.

Thank you!

Why we support Clements Centre



Alan and Alison Crisp have been part of the Clements Centre donor family for many years, building lasting

friendships and witnessing the growth and achievements of the people we serve.

"Alison and I enjoy supporting our friends at Clements Centre," Alan shared. "We have been involved for a lot of years and have watched many young people grow up. We have also seen the good work Clements Centre does. This is why we like supporting your charity on a regular basis. Becoming a G.E.M. donor was a natural step to take."

Their ongoing commitment as give-every-month donors reflects their belief in creating a community where everyone can belong, grow, and thrive.