

PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES, CREATING INCLUSION, PROMOTING INDEPENDENCE.

GIFTS Quarterly Newsletter

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This is a seasonal story, a story of happy endings and of new beginnings. It is the story of GISS students looking forward to life after high school. Envisioning a future of community inclusion, their parents and friends launched Gulf Islands Families Together Society. Lisa Lloyd purchased and renovated a building for their use. For over 15 years, 152 McPhillips has hosted transitioning youth, providing a safe venue where young adults living with diverse abilities can access social, educational, recreational and training opportunities. Within these walls, our sons, our daughters and our neighbours share their successes and their challenges. They acquire new skills, explore employment and volunteer options and discover various ways to contribute to their island community. 152 McPhillips served this purpose well, offering a vital link between dreams and reality. The Society has long wished to purchase the building in order to secure its long term goals. Last week, this wish was granted. With donations of \$200,000.00 from Norm and Dianne Elliott and a gift in kind from Lisa Lloyd, Gulf Islands Families Together Society became the proud new owner of the building and is now busily planning for next year's objectives. During this holiday season of giving and hope, it is with immense gratitude that we thank our benefactors. We are so fortunate to live in such a supportive and welcoming community.

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