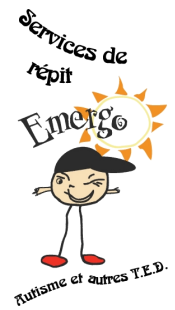


EmergInfo



Autism gives no respite... Emergo does!

Fall 2012

Our Values

Customer Satisfaction

Respect

Pursuit Of Excellence

Transparency

Integrity

Loyalty

Privacy

In this issue:

Message from our Chairperson	1
2012 Annual Meeting	2
The Board of Directors 2012-2013	2
Message from our Executive Director	3
A Tribute to our dear Manon	4
Summer Camp facts and figures	6
A Beatles Classic revisited	7
Listen Up! The Dads are speaking!	8
Our children's financial future	10
The Foundation's events of the year	11
In Memoriam	12

Message From Our Chairperson

Dear Friends:

What a beautiful summer we had! Our 250 or so participants at the various summer camps turned it to good advantage and, during that time, their parents had a chance to relax a bit as well.

Recently, I read the account of an autistic child's mother who said how complicated her everyday life was with her child. To explain how much parents of autistic children needed help and needed others' support, she quoted this African proverb: "It takes a village to raise a child".

At Emergo, we're part of this village. When we welcome autistic children, teens or adults, we take them as they are, without casting judgement. We open our arms to them. We adapt to their specific needs; we allow them to be autistic! There are too many places where they are required to fit into a mould that isn't made for them.

At Emergo, our children enjoy a change of scene for ten days; they get lots of fresh air; they socialize and, depending on their own specific interests, they take part in various activities.

During that time, their parents and siblings can relax and participate in activities that wouldn't be accessible to them with their autistic family member.

That's the opportunity that the little Emergo village provides.

In this magnificent village, there are a great many outstanding people: To begin with, we should mention the young counsellors and coordinators who decide to get involved in this very demanding adventure.

Then there are Emergo's staff members: Marcelle, Anh, Eric and Josée, who do remarkable work, grappling with limited resources. And lastly, our volunteers, who wear their heart on their sleeve, who believe in this magnificent cause and who don't count their hours.

This whole wonderful team was brought together and inspired by an exceptional woman of heart: Manon Carle Dagenais. Manon, you can be proud of all you have spearheaded!

In closing, my thoughts turn to Louise Morin, one of Emergo's great friends and a member of the Board for many years, whom we suddenly lost last spring.

I truly believe that she is watching over Emergo from up above!

Andrée Robert



Our Chairperson, Andrée Robert, paid a vibrant tribute to Manon Carle Dagenais during the Board's March meeting.

WEDNESDAY

12

JUNE 2013

Golf or Pedal
for Emergo

Saint-Jean
Golf Club



Catherine, one of the beautiful smiles of Emergo!

"Emergo is....

an essential respite,

a breath of fresh

air in our lives."

A parent



Happy mementos of the 2012 summer camp

The 2012 Annual Meeting

On June 12 of this year, Emergo held its 16th annual meeting in the presence of many parents. However, one of our Board members was missing: Our dear friend Louise Morin, a faithful member of our Board of Directors for many years and an invaluable advisor for Emergo for even longer than that, had passed away a few weeks before, following a violent illness. We observed a minute of silence in her memory, asking her to continue lending us her support from up above.

The parents also wanted to thank our very dear Manon, who was leaving on a very well-deserved retirement after 35

years of deep devotion to the cause of autism and Emergo. The emotion was plain to see, as over the years, Manon had cultivated very close ties with the parents. She will also continue to look after her third child, as she calls Emergo, by serving as a member of the Board of Directors of Fondation Emergo.

Two new parents have joined the other re-elected Board members, bringing with them solid personal and professional skills as well as a strong desire to ensure the sustainability and quality of our services.

At the end of the meeting, our Chairperson, Andrée Robert,

mother of Jean-François, an autistic 27-year-old, presented us the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) and gave us some food for thought on planning our will for our children.

You will find a summary of her presentation in the article "Our Children's Financial Future" on page 10.



The 2012-2013 Board Of Directors

The new Board of Directors elected at the meeting then met briefly to appoint the members of the Executive and the co-opted members of the Board.

And so, in 2012-2013, your new Board of Directors is as follows:

Andrée Robert, Chairperson

Marie-Claire Michoud, Vice-Chairperson

Henriette Angers, Treasurer

Michelle Lizotte Secretary

André Beaulieu, member and service user parent

Sylvie Cataford Blais, member and service user parent

Philippe Dagenais, co-opted member

Natalie Hamel-Roy, member and service user parent

Valérie LeBlanc, co-opted member

Pierre Martin, member and service user parent

Richard Ménard, member and service user parent

Pierre Morin, co-opted member

Simone Pink, member and service user parent

Louise Riel, member and service user parent

As an administrator seat was left vacant, the Board authorized the nomination of Johanne Houde to fill it in at its October 10 meeting.



Message From Our Executive Director

Dear Families, Friends, Employees and Emergo donors:

It's a pleasure for me to be back with you again following my past two years on maternity leave. That's right! At the end of last February, I dropped off my two little fireballs at the daycare before going to work for the first time in two years. We must confess that time has really flown by!

I got back down to work fast and tried to catch up on "lost time", by glancing through the archives. Let me tell you that, under the management of Manon, who has generously filled the interim period, the Emergo team was far from idle during my absence! It didn't take a lot of time, after my return, for the activities and challenges to follow, one after the other: requests for financing, a financial audit, a meeting with representatives of the Ministère de la Santé et des Services Sociaux, the golf tournament, the activity report, the annual meeting, the start of the summer respite programs, etc. I quickly became Executive Director again! And believe me, the year promises to be a very busy one!

To begin with, in operations, our dear Eric (alias lo) was named Operations Manager last June. Then, after the departure of Johanne, who had held the position of Communications and Financing Director since May 2011, Emergo decided to review its organization structure, by proposing a different allocation of the workload and by relying more heavily on volunteers to carry out some of the work. Since that time,

Marcelle, our administrative assistant, has had the responsibility of entering and processing into our computerized system, all the payments and donations that we receive. She is working with Anh, our accountant, who has been on our team for the past ten years.

As for our Board members, they resumed their meetings in late August and the various committees have also picked up their proceedings where they had left off. Our Communications Committee will be entrusted with more mandates. So far, their mandates include updating and revising the contents of the website, planning and writing a variety of written material (newsletter, reports, invitations, etc.) and revising our official publications and letters. As for the Strategic Plan Review Committee, it should be recommencing its activities shortly, in order to draft our Strategic Plan for 2013-2018 and develop the action plan for the coming year. And as for the members of the Partnership Committee, they will be increasing their reflections as our rental agreement with the Quebec Society for Disabled Children approaches its expiry date of February 2015. And lastly, with the Programming Committee having quickly set to work after the summer holidays, its recommendations will be put forward by 2013.

Once again this year, the biggest challenge in store for us is funding. At the present time, the team is busy preparing a file to introduce Emergo to the Ministers of the new government in order to maintain ties

with the government departments that subsidize us. We are also targeting new foundations and companies to which we will be submitting projects, in an effort to fund certain activities and programs. We are also examining the possibility of reorganizing a Parents' Fundraising Campaign so as to reach our financial objective. At the Foundation, the Golf-Cycling Committee is already humming with activity, considering a few new features that are bound to please our golf/cycling participants in the 2013 edition!

Of course, if you have the time to devote and are interested in one of the above-mentioned activities, please don't hesitate to contact me! We are always looking for volunteers who are committed to Emergo's respite services and who are able to help us carry out our objectives.

Dear families, friends, employees and donors, I want to thank you for having chosen Emergo as a service, experience or cause. Your participation and commitment display your confidence and trust! Thank you for believing in Emergo and supporting our mission.

Josée Filion

Josée Filion



Manon and Josée : two women who have the same goal at heart: the growth of Emergo!

**"Emergo is...
an organization
where we provide
respite services to
parents with an
autistic or PDD
child. A camp
where enjoyment
and happiness are
the order of the
day."**

A camp counsellor





A picture by Autistic Artist Jean-François Chartrand was offered to Manon in recognition of her devotion to Emergo.

**"Emergo is....
a vacation place
where autistic
people feel
respected."**

A parent

A Tribute To Our Dear Manon

Earlier this year, on March 28, emotions were at their peak in the conference room of Emergo's Board of Directors: Manon was leaving us to take a very well-deserved retirement. Those were very moving moments for all Emergo parents whom she had supported and assisted over the past 35 years.

To celebrate all her years of deep devotion as a parent, Board member, Executive Director, Financing Director and, more recently, Acting Executive Director during Josée's maternity leave, we had invited Philippe and Marlène to join us (Martin was also very near and dear to everyone's heart), the members of Emergo's Board and the Foundation's Board, the members of Emergo's team and former Emergo parents, friends and collaborators, with whom she had worked over the years.

A physiotherapist, mother of two children and adopted mother of all Emergo's children, Manon devoted her life to helping the parents of autis-

tic children, by offering them crucial respite.

It was Martin's arrival in 1975 that sparked it all. Living with a different child, seeking answers, breaking down barriers to obtain services—it's a daily struggle—and Manon quickly learned that on the autism battlefield, there was strength in numbers. She therefore got involved in the Association des enfants autistiques du Québec and the Montreal Chapter of the Société québécoise de l'autisme.

All throughout the following years, she made autism her daily battle, sitting on a number of government committees, taking part in drafting key documents and organizing conferences and various other activities in order to have the rights of autistics recognized and to support their parents. Nevertheless, what stimulated her the most, was always the attentive ear and assistance that she could give the families living with autism in their everyday lives.

In 1988, she was appointed Director of the Société québécoise de l'autisme and she created the school respite at Emergo Camp to give parents a chance to recoup their energy. In 1996, she took over the general management of Emergo Camp, which became independent the following year, under the name Emergo Respite Services – Autism and other Pervasive Development Disorders.

In 2002, always with the aim of better responding to the needs of autistics and their families, Manon set up two new programs with the Emergo team and partners from various sectors: the autonomy program (Un rêve à réaliser), in the Laurentians, and the integration program (Adaptatou), in the Lanaudière region, which were added to the regular Émergence program offered on the South Shore, which was further enhanced by the iDÉFlx program in 2006, for people requiring closer supervision.

(Continued on page 5)



A joy-filled reunion with Denis Brochu, a collaborator of the first hour.



The emotion was at its peak for Manon tonight who could not contain her tears while listening to the many testimonies of love from those in attendance. Her daughter Marlène and her husband Philippe were at her side to share these happy moments.



A Tribute To Our Dear Manon (Continued from page 4)

Today, Emergo offers respite to nearly 250 families and welcomes over 200 children, teens and adults during the summer and 135 on weekends during the school year.

While supporting the other parents of autistic children, Manon continued to accompany Martin as he developed, by being a member of the Board of Directors of the Association des parents de l'Hôpital Rivière-des-Prairies, and then of the Miriam Home User Group and its Board of Directors, and above all, by demanding Martin's right to well-being and happiness.

In September 2007, not without a little twinge of sorrow, Manon handed over the reins of Emergo's general management to Josée Filion, a former counsellor who had gained much experience with Emergo and whom Manon helped settle in to her new responsibilities as Executive Director, while devoting herself to her new responsibilities as Financing Director.

When Josée left on maternity leave in February 2010, Manon agreed to postpone her retirement in order to replace Josée until her return, which was delayed until February 2012, when Josée came back, now the mother of two tiny tots.

One of Manon's dreams, before leaving, was to ensure Emergo's survival in the long term. In the spring of 2011, Fondation Emergo was officially established, and so Manon fully accomplished her mission and saw her dream come true.

When it was announced that Manon was leaving on retire-

ment, some parents suggested that a special fund be set up within the Foundation as a reminder of Manon's invaluable contribution—always supported by Philippe—to Emergo's growth and development. And so the Manon, Philippe et Martin Dagenais Fund was launched at the surprise party organized last spring, on March 28.

Emergo's creation and development is based on an extraordinary amount of effort on the part of a very great many people. But the person who succeeded in steering the ship—come hell or high water!—all these years, who fought on all battlefronts to obtain the necessary funding, who trained a generation of counsellors, who was the driving force behind Emergo's development and influence, was our own dear Manon. And we must add that despite the sometimes very heavy burden of her responsibilities, she always managed to find the time and energy to support the parents.

Today, her third child—as she fondly calls Emergo—is casting off, solid and strong, backed by all she has given it. And so she can now take a well-deserved retirement with her faithful companion Philippe. However, although she has decided to make room for the younger generation, she is doing so in order to better devote herself to a particularly difficult task, for which she is exceptionally gifted: finding funds so that Emergo can always be there for parents, when they are at the end of their tether. From now on, Manon will sit on the Board of Directors of Fondation Emergo.

It is clear that Manon is a woman of heart and action. For

Manon, retirement means having a bit more time to give to those she loves, to the causes that are near and dear to her heart and to the new projects that are bound to emerge. We hope she will also take some time for herself...

**Thank You, Manon,
from the bottom
of our hearts!**



**Manon and Philippe:
two hearts filled with
love**



**Louise Morin offered a vibrant testimony about
her friendship with Manon.**

"Emergo is...

**a place for incredible learning, where
unique ties are cultivated with unique
people, both among the participants
and the staff."**

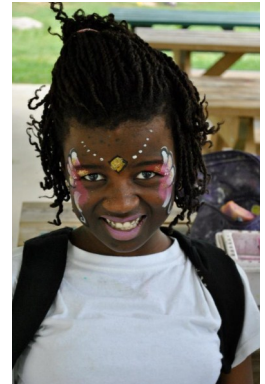
A camp counsellor



Zootherapy is always very popular among our participants.

Summer Camp Facts and Figures

- ◆ Four distinct programs: Émergence, Adaptatou, iDÉFlx, Un rêve à réaliser
- ◆ Two camp sites: Colonie Les Bosquets in Otterburn Park and Camp Mariste in Rawdon
- ◆ 198 full-time places in 2012
- ◆ 209 participants, all programs combined, including 16 in the Adaptatou program and 11 in the iDÉFlx program
- ◆ 42,000 hours of respite provided to our families
- ◆ 13 families with two or three autistic children or having a P.D.D.
- ◆ 85 employees hired
- ◆ 60 hours of training given to camp counsellors
- ◆ 21 hours of training given to the Management team



Happy moments of the 2012 Summer Camp

“Emergo is... a lot of fun for my child. Plus worry-free freedom and respite for us parents.”

A parent



The 2012 summer camp team



Summer Camp In Pictures



A Beatles Classic Revisited By Our Participants

During the fourth summer respite this past summer, the participants in the Un rêve à réaliser program invested their creative energies in a group project. They deserve a lot of credit for the immense talent and imagination they displayed in writing their own very touching version (mostly in French) of the Beatles' song Let It Be, which we have fully translated into English, below:

◆ Christophe and Louis-Philippe

Seeing an animal growling gives me vim, vigour and vitality,
 Showing our will, we are free.
 There are no restrictions, nothing can stop us now,
 Showing our will, we are free.
 We are free, we are free to do everything we please,
 Showing our will, we are free.

◆ Jérémie and Mathieu

You're all different parts of Earth's life
 Just like humans and animals are.
 We're all gods, we have a road to follow.
 A road that leads us up.... to our dreams of ambitions.
 I have a goal, but it's not easy
 To understand just what it is,
 But I've learned to make no errors any more.

◆ Nico and Kim

More self-help, less arguing
 Less misery and more loving
 Whisper words of wisdom, let it be.

◆ Instrumental

Drying that tear, it brings more cheer.
 Get upset less, avoid a mess.
 And if we all help each other, the world would be a perfect model.

◆ William and Jordan

Mankind has to save lives and we have to stop being at war
 Cheer up when you're upset, you're ok
 When everyone helps his fellow man,
 then happiness will reign on this land
 And then we will all celebrate together.

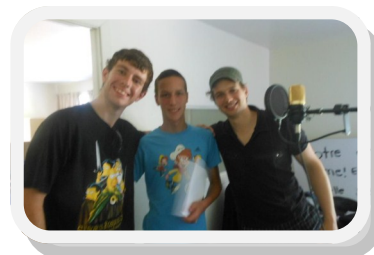
◆ Camp Counsellors

Let it be
 Let it be
 Let it be
 Let it be
 Whisper words of wisdom
 Let it be

Let it be, let it be, let it be, let it be
 Whisper words of wisdom, Let it be.

*“Emergo is...
 a place where
 participants can
 truly express their
 differences.
 Emergo goes
 straight to the
 heart of both the
 participants and
 the staffers. It's a
 guaranteed 'try it
 and you'll like it'
 experience.”*

A camp counsellor



Some of our Singers at the



Elie enjoys a bright sunny day on the water front.



Two dads always ready to devote time for Emergo: Marc Bertrand and André Beaulieu



Listen Up! The Dads Are Speaking!

This year, at the closing evening of our Golf Tournament, the mothers in the organizing committee decided to give the Dads the floor—those Dads that speak up so little and express their feelings even less so. André Beaulieu, father of Maxime; Jacques Chartrand, father of Jean-François; and Marc Bertrand, father of Elie addressed us all with lots of humour and emotion, and really tugged at all of our heart strings.

Since André and Jacques didn't keep a copy of their speech, we are reproducing Marc's (below), to which a great many Dads will be able to relate.

Today, we're giving the floor to Dads. It's true that we don't often speak out, but not because we aren't given a chance, just rather because we don't always find the words to say. André and Jacques did wonderfully well in telling you about their sons. As for myself, you may think that I'm going to talk to you about my son, but I'm going to tell you about my Dad instead.

My son is now 13 years old, I'm 53 and my father would be 93 if he were still alive today. So my son is the same age as I was

when my father was my age. There is the same difference in years between us.

My father was a man who loved the forest—no, he loved the "woods". He loved to take me to the "woods". He knew where to go in the "woods" and when to go in the "woods". He knew the names of the different types of trees there. He knew how to pick up a nut from the ground and open it and give it to me, because it was edible. He showed me how to pile up logs for our fireplace and how to use an axe. He knew all those things and he passed that knowledge on to me. Not just at the age of 13, but all throughout my life.

My father also knew other "Dad tips and tricks". He knew how to stop the baker's truck to buy huge *mille-feuilles* and give them to us just before supper, with the cream oozing out. He knew the baker. It wasn't reasonable to eat such a big pastry just before supper-time, but my Dad wasn't always reasonable. He knew how to pile up wood, because he had a lumberyard and he showed me how to pile up 2x4s. My Dad

showed me how to plant trees, because he had a piece of land and he wanted to have trees. My Dad bought me a Jeep when I was 16 years old—an army Jeep—because he had a lumberyard and he needed a Jeep to clear the snow. He passed that vehicle on to me. He knew it would make me happy. My Dad knew all kinds of things.

I had a son at the age of 40 and I told myself: "One day, I'm going to show him the things I learned from my Dad and I'm going to try and be a Dad like my father was. In short, a good father. My son Elie is autistic. Elie is the name of my grandfather—my Dad's Dad. Elie was my grandfather and Elie is my son. It's no coincidence that we called my son by that name, because it's a nice name and it means "chosen one". I might mention in passing that my grandfather was a Member of Parliament in Ottawa for nearly 20 years. His name suited him well: "chosen one". If we had had a daughter, maybe we would have called her Emma, after my grandmother.

(Continued on page 9)



Listen Up! The Dads Are Speaking! (Continued from page 8)

When Elie was born, I told myself: "I'm going to show him how to choose the nuts that we eat in the woods, how to plant trees, how to drive a Jeep, how to pile up 2x4s. As if I owed it to my son to be the kind of father that my Dad had been for me. As if I owed it to my Dad to be the kind of father that he had been, for my son. In other words, to be a Dad!

However, my experience as a Dad has been altogether different. Elie is autistic. All that my Dad passed on to me, even if I had tried to show Elie, he wouldn't understand. He wouldn't be able to take that knowledge and apply it to himself. As if, in his world, he didn't need my Dad's knowledge. So I won't be planting any trees with Elie; I won't be showing him the nuts in the forest; I won't be piling up wood with

him; and I don't think he will be driving a Jeep one day.

What my Dad showed me, through the activities that we did together, is simply how to be happy. That's what I remember of it all. How happy I was with him. How my Dad showed me happiness. Where to find happiness. He knew how to find happiness, just like he knew how to find a nut.

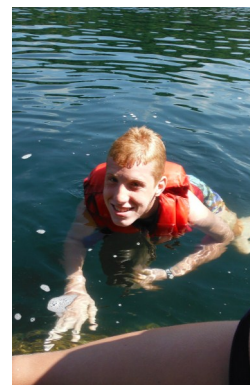
For a long time, I searched for ways of giving Elie happiness. How to give him a "nut filled with happiness". Often, we don't know. Our autistic children don't tell us how. They don't know. We search, we play detective, to understand... what might make him happy. Where is his well-being, his happiness? Where are our father-son ties? Our bond? We search... we have doubts...

and sometimes, we do the right thing. We find the right forest, the right tree, the right nut, to create that bond.

But there is something I'm sure of: It's that when Elie goes to spend a weekend at Camp Emergo, on Sundays, as I go to pick him up, he's tired, but he's happy. I see it, I feel it. I have found a location, a place, a space where he feels good, where he experiences happiness with others like himself. When I look at him and he accepts to maintain eye contact with me for a brief moment, I know that he's happy. And that makes me happy, too, and I feel that I've done my job as a Dad.

I feel that my grandfather Elie and my Dad Yvon would approve.

Marc Bertrand



"We learn a lot about life and about ourselves at Emergo. Emergo definitely provides us with an opportunity to enjoy an incredible life experience."

A camp counsellor

Golf Or Pedal For Emergo

To attract new participants, a cycling tour was added this year to the traditional golf tournament organized to the benefit of Emergo. On June 5, 25 cyclists took part in this event which was held on an 80 km course. The group stopped for a break at Colonie Les Bosquets and had the chance to enjoy the enchanting site which hosts our campers.





**"Emergo is...
a respite
organization for
parents, but it's also
an organization of
people who are
committed to
ensuring the well-
being of the
recipients of its
services. Emergo
gives people who
live behind locked
doors a bit of a
normal life and a
taste of freedom."**

A parent



Our Children's Financial Future

Summary of the presentation on the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) by our Chairperson, Andrée Robert, at the annual general meeting

The Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) was created by the Federal government in 2008 to help the disabled and their families save for the future.

Everyone who is entitled to the amount or credit for the disabled, who has a valid social insurance number and who is a resident of Canada when the Plan is set up and is under 60 years of age qualifies as a beneficiary. If the person is a minor, then a parent or a legal representative may set up an RDSP for him or her.

There is no annual contribution limit; however, the lifetime limit is \$200,000. Contributions may be made up until the year when the beneficiary turns 59. Only one Plan may be set up per beneficiary. Anyone may contribute to the Plan, subject to the written consent of the RDSP holder.

In addition, the Federal government pays a grant of up to \$3500 annually (\$1500 for the first \$500 of contributions and \$2,000 for the following \$1,000 of contributions)*. The government also pays a bond of up to \$1,000 annually into the RDSPs of low- and modest-income

Canadians, which are the categories into which our disabled children generally fall, once they reach the age of majority. No contributions are necessary to receive this bond. The grants and bonds are paid only up to the end of the year when the beneficiary reaches the age of 49, and they must remain in the Plan for 10 years before being withdrawn, unless in the case of limited life expectancy, as confirmed by a doctor. Otherwise, they must be repaid.

Contributions to an RDSP are not income tax deductible; however, the investment income earned in an RDSP accumulates tax-free. The contributions paid out of the Plan, to the beneficiary, will have to begin before the end of the year when the beneficiary reaches the age of 60.

At the Federal level, when contributions are paid out of an RDSP, they won't be included in the beneficiary's income; however, any grants, bonds and investment income earned in the Plan are included in the beneficiary's income for tax purposes when paid out of the RDSP. At the provincial level, the Government will reduce social welfare payments in the case of all monthly income over \$100*. It is therefore important to contribute to this plan with caution, so as not to lose entitlement to social solidarity benefits.

In addition to an RDSP, in order to meet our children's financial needs, we can provide, in our will, for the creation of a discretionary trust to benefit our disabled child and to specify that the income will remain in the trust and that the income and the principal will be used at the discretion of the trustee, in order to improve our child's quality of life—for example, to pay for vacations, medical care, a companion, equipment and clothing.

The income will therefore be taxed in the hands of the trust. The tax rate in a testamentary trust is progressive, whereas the tax rate for a living trust is generally the top marginal tax rate for individuals. No income will be added to our children's bank account or tax return; therefore, they won't lose their entitlement to social solidarity benefits.

The financial future of our disabled children is a major concern. It's important to make the right decisions. Thank you, Andrée, for this invaluable information.

**These amounts may vary under certain circumstances. For further information, contact your financial advisor or your financial institution.*

Thank You, Andrée, for this precious information.

Give Emergo as a gift!

Did you know that you can give Emergo as a gift? In fact, more and more Emergo supporters are inviting members of their family, their friends and their loved ones to replace the gift that they were planning on giving them for their birthday with a donation to the Emergo Foundation. It's a gesture that makes the person celebrating a birthday very happy and that helps support Emergo in continuing its work.

And why not think about making a donation to the Emergo Foundation when a loved one passes away? It's a significant way of perpetuating the memory of a lost loved one.

Don't hesitate to contact us to obtain donation forms, either by phoning us at 514 931-2882 or by emailing us at repit-emergo@bellnet.ca.

The Foundation's Events of the Year

Soirée M

Created through the will of Paule Jacques—a Mom of 5 children, a veterinarian at Mira and a close friend of our Chairperson Andrée Robert—to give a gift to parents who have different children, Soirée M proved to be a tremendous success and one of the highlights of our 2012 fund-raising campaign.

For the past few years, the Mira Foundation has been offering a service dog program for children and teens who are autistic or who have a pervasive development disorder. At the present time, nearly 300 families are reaping the benefits of a Mira dog.

Aware of the everyday problems faced by families living with an autistic person, Paule Jacques wanted to offer them an evening of respite—some time out to have fun and recharge their batteries. At the same time, this evening event was a wonderful opportunity for a great celebration in honour of Mira's 30 years of existence and Emergo's 35.

On April 23, humorist Mario Jean and magician Alain Choquette kindly agreed to come on stage at L'Étoile Dix-30 for the Soirée M. Nearly 600 people, including 200 parents with free tickets, attended this very magical evening event.

Thanks to the generosity of these two performers and of the National Bank, which covered the cost of renting the premises and the technical equipment, an amount of \$18,897 was raised and equally shared between the two organizations.

This first joint project on the part of Mira and Emergo was a huge success and sparked the desire to do it all over again in the coming years! We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to Alain Choquette and Mario Jean as well as to Louis Vachon of the National Bank and to Barefoot Wine, which also sponsored the event.



*"Emergo is...
time to recharge
our batteries—our
mental health and
our patience—to
enjoy a few days of
everyday life
without any special
needs. Siblings also
greatly need this
time."*

A parent

News of the Fund-Raising Campaign

Launched by means of a mass mailing last February, the fund-raising campaign for the 2012-2013 fiscal year is in full swing at the present time. Thanks to a follow-up letter sent out at the end of August, donations are continuing to come

into Emergo's coffers on a regular basis. As of October 31, \$147,448.76 was raised, representing 60 % of the Foundation's objective. A big round of thanks to all our generous donors!

Golf Or Pedal For Emergo

On June 5, 2012, 117 golfers took part in the 5th edition of the golf tournament organized in aid of Services de répit Emergo and 25 cyclists participated in the first cycling tour combined with the tournament. Including the traditional silent auction, thanks to which we raised over \$17,000, the "Golf or Pedal for Emergo" event brought us in net proceeds of \$59,000.

Loyal supporters of Emergo's

cause for a good many years now, Management and employees at **Transport Robert** and **Industries Lassonde** once again pooled their efforts to contribute toward the success of this special day.



Autism gives no respite... Emergo does!

**EMERGO RESPITE SERVICES -
AUTISM AND OTHER P.D.D.**

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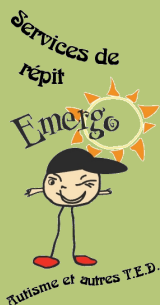
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In Memoriam



*Betty Rhind
Louise Morin*

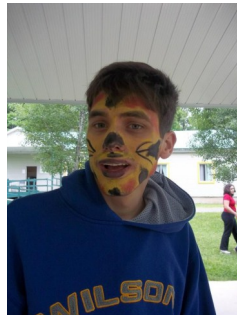


This past year, we were forced to say good-bye to two of Emergo's very dear friends.

Betty Rhind, Peter's mother, went to her resting place on February 22, at the age of 92. Betty was one of the founding members of the Association des enfants autistiques du Québec, which later became the Fédération québécoise de l'autisme. She took part in creating Emergo, where she was a Board member for many years and remained a member all her life.

Louise Morin left this world on June 3, following a short, but violent, illness. During the years when she worked on developing services for autistics within the *Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux* (MSSS), Louise was an invaluable advisor for Emergo. When she retired from the MSSS, she continued to support Emergo, by serving as a Board member.

We wish to extend our most heartfelt condolences to their families,



All members of the Board, the Management, Staff and Volunteers of Emergo wish you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

