



Boys & Girls Club of Ottawa
Club des garçons et filles d'Ottawa

2825 Dumaourier Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario
613-232-0925
www.bgccottawa.org



OUR MISSION

"To provide a safe, supportive place where children and youth can experience new opportunities, overcome barriers, build positive relationships and develop confidence and skills" for life."

OUR PROGRAMS...

INCREASE SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT

Homework clubs, leadership & scholarship programs.

INCREASE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Sports leagues, open gym, swimming lessons.

INCREASE SOCIAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Leadership, social programs, integration, youth volunteering.

INCREASE COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Club reaches out to "at-risk" communities through a number of programs.

ABOUT US

* 4,500 children and youth

(6 to 18) served every year

* \$25 per year for full membership (if able to pay)

* Trained youth workers

* 75,000 club visits last year

* 6 locations



a good place
to be

The gift

by Patricia Easter



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We can always do better than what we have done and not be a jot the worse; It never was loving that emptied the heart nor giving that emptied the purse.

A month before Christmas in 1963, the most wonderful gift arrived at our house: a healthy son with eyes the colour of blue jeans and hair so blond it was almost transparent. At 22 inches, he was declared tall (for his age) and his appetite was so voracious, I worried that he'd overeat.

The characteristic our friends commented on most was his very hearty laughter. Even as an infant, it was so contagious that people joined in whether or not they knew the reason for his amusement. I remember that when we took him to the Ottawa Exhibition in 1965, he heard a rooster call and wanted to have a closer look. His dad hoisted him up and as he watched the hens and chickens scurrying about for seed thrown by onlookers, he started laughing so hard

that quite a large crowd gathered to find out what was so funny. In no time the entire cattle castle was a rollicking mass of people laughing, just for the sheer joy of it. It was quite an experience!

Yes, that was our boy. A happy, healthy toddler, who pursued all of the usual activities of a growing child. He did well in school both academically and athletically and grew into a fine man whom his



friends called "the gentle giant" (at 6'4", they probably didn't want to risk calling him anything

else). He completed two degrees and took up classroom teaching, eventually moving to Victoria B.C. At thirty two, the world was his oyster and he looked forward to beginning a new position. But that was not to be. While walking with friends, near the Sooke rapids, the riverbank gave way under his feet and he was swept into the white water. He was gone, so swiftly, it was hard to grasp the reality of it.

"The wonderful gift of our son and his tremendous interest in the B&G Club (Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa)"



Mr. & Mrs. Easter

From the age of 15 our son was an active, long-term volunteer at the B&G Club, Centretown Clubhouse. He loved being part of the sports activities with the kids. He was a camp counsellor, too, and always offered the children his gift of time.

The wonderful gift of our son and his tremendous interest in the B&G Club of Ottawa is the reason that my husband and I decided to endow Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa as the beneficiary of our estate. I volunteer my time at B&G Club on a regular basis now and I know that our gift will be used for programs that will enable other boys and girls to grow up with laughter and joy in their hearts.

For a long time we asked the anguished question "where is he?" but we've slowly come to understand that he is still here in our hearts and memories... and we thank God for the gift.