

## Toronto Kiwanis Boys & Girls Clubs

March 1, 2017

Our Story of Support

Miles & Kelly Nadal along with the entire family embraced the vision of the Toronto Kiwanis Boys & Girls Clubs right from the start. It seemed like destiny that the family would support and expand on our vision to re develop the Clubs Flag Ship location serving the residents of Regent Park since 1921. Kelly was volunteering with the Greenwood School supporting literacy at a local school where we were providing after school programs while out of our building and Miles was courting Capital C CEO Tony Chapman who was a long-time supporter of the Club. When Tony made the introduction and we sat with Miles he didn't hesitate in offering his support and took a real interest in the Clubs historic support to the Regent Park community. It seemed to touch a nerve and the more we met and talked the more Miles and the entire family got behind our project.

When the Club initiated this gut renovation we did so because research told us that we needed to have expanded space to properly service the young people that were coming through our doors at the time. The Club had spent the time consulting with community leaders, funders and all levels of government to determine where we should locate our services and it wasn't until we met with the Sr. police at 51 division that it became very clear that we needed to stay where we were. Officer after officer told us there was huge benefits in getting young people off the foot print of Regent Park and that by crossing Gerrard St it allowed young people to drop their "tough guy" persona and allowed them to just be a kid. So the Club embarked on a 4.2 million dollar gut renovation of the facility but because of funding and timing challenges the decision was made not to include a dedicated youth space.

This message was conveyed to Miles in our second meeting and he immediate jumped on Board and the Miles & Kelly Nadal Youth Centre was born. Following these initial discussions the vision kept growing. Each time we meet with Miles and discussed the expanded vision he graciously increased his donation to the project finally settling naming the entire floor. This expanded vision has supported a safe place for youth to come after school where they can get a nutritious meal, seek educational supports including tutoring and mentoring, participate in social recreational activities, gain valuable life skills, learn how to get a job and keep a job and so much more. Youth workers build strong relationships with these young people over time and support them on their individual journeys towards adulthood. This space allows young people to arrive after school and stay through until 9pm then our staff walk them home to ensure their safety.

They say it's a caring adult who makes the difference in a young person's life and Miles and the Nadal family have unwittingly been a caring adult providing a safe supportive space to thousands of young people living in the downtown east neighbourhoods

## Charitable Business Number 10757 3149 RR0001

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of Regent Park, Moss Park, St Jamestown, Rivertown and the Esplanade. Without their generosity, interest and thoughtfulness none of this would have been possible.

Sincerely,

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