

CLC-K Presents the 7th Annual Jonathan Daniel Stone Fund Awards

Community Living Chatham-Kent is pleased to announce the recipients of the Jonathan Daniel Stone Fund.

The first Jonathan Daniel Stone Fund Award was presented to Graceon Copeland. Graceon is four years old and participates in the Children's Respite program with Community Living Chatham-Kent. Graceon lives with his parents and three siblings. The family is actively involved in providing the best support for Graceon. Graceon will benefit tremendously from the assistance of an iPad, along with educational tools to better communicate his wishes, especially while he is in the community. The iPad will assist the family to better react and support Graceon, while providing Graceon independence. His language skills will be strengthened as well as promoting inclusion in the community.

The second grant was awarded to Jack Blondeel. Jack is an energetic seven year old who lives with his father and his younger sister. Jack's father Jon, is thrilled to receive funding to purchase parent education services through the Learning and Behaviour Clinic and Pyramid Educational Consultants. The training and support will assist Jon to learn how to better manage his son's unique behaviour and increase Jack's functional communication skills. By learning to decrease difficult behaviours at home, Jack will be in a position to attend school for longer periods.

The third grant was awarded to Aiden Day. Ten-year-old Aiden lives with his grandparents, and receives supports through No Wrong Door. Working within Aiden's circle of care, it was recommended that Aiden would benefit from an iPad to increase his communication skills, promote engagement with peers, reduce anxiety, and enable independence. The funding will support the purchase of an iPad, noise cancelling headphones, and a smart keyboard. Aiden's world will expand with the opportunity to explore educational resources and increase his confidence while communicating with others.

Congratulations to Graceon, Jack, Jon and Aiden!

This fund created by Jonathan Daniel Stone's family, celebrates his life. Daniel was a child who had autism and died suddenly at the age of 11 in May of 2013. The purpose of the fund is to annually support initiatives to assist children who have been diagnosed with autism and/or other diverse abilities. Daniel's fund can be utilized for but is not limited to recreational activities, educational workshops for parents and siblings, advocacy, vocation and life skills development, assistive devices and equipment that promote and facilitate learning or communication. The recipients were selected by a review committee comprised of Dr. Jonathan and Sarah Stone, a person supported by Community Living Chatham-Kent, two Community Living Chatham-Kent Managers, and a Community Living Chatham-Kent Past Board Member.