



**meta**

**2019**

**Annual Report**







**Warren Harvey**  
**Board President**  
**Meta**

## **A Message From the Meta Board President**

The development of our Annual Report is always a great opportunity for our broad group of stakeholders, supporters and dedicated team members to reflect on some of the accomplishments from the prior year, as well as provide a glimpse of what exciting opportunities lay ahead for our organization.

The reporting period of April 2018 - March 2019 represented the final year of our 5-year Strategic Plan, where two of the core Objectives were to (i) Build on Meta's ongoing commitment to high-quality, responsive services and to (ii) Plan for Growth. With an unwavering focus, the organization actioned a number of key initiatives supporting these two objectives, one of which was the launch of a Capital Campaign to support the development of a new day program facility envisioned to deliver a unique space allowing us to serve an expanded number of clients with an improved range of services. Thanks to the many who made this Campaign a success, Meta officially opened The James De Zen Centre of Abilities in August 2018. We believe that this incredible facility is much more than 'bricks and mortar' but rather an enabler for the delivery of new forms of care and innovative services to ensure our clients have a positive and diverse environment within which they have an opportunity to grow, learn, and fulfill their potential. Providing programming that ranges from cooking and life-skills to technology, music, exercise and art, we are very excited about the many benefits this amazing facility brings to both Meta and our clients.

Additionally, the final year of our prior Strategic Plan signaled the development of our new Strategic Plan (2018-2021) that will set the directions we take toward achieving our new Vision - A community where all persons thrive as valued, respected citizens leading dignified, fulfilled lives. Throughout the past year, the Board of Directors had the privilege of engaging an incredible range of supporters - staff, volunteers, clients, residents, family caregivers, partners and key stakeholders - to help shape and launch this bold new plan. Anchored across 5 Overarching Goals, this Plan is grounded in partnerships with the individuals we serve and an uncompromising focus on excellence in care. It introduces a revitalized and updated brand and image that builds on our existing profile of quality and best-practices, and it will demonstrate an even deeper commitment to providing individualized highly responsive and innovative services as we strive to accelerate our role as a leading developmental services agency. Always seeking ways to grow, innovate and improve our service delivery, this new Plan will act as our compass for delivering on the many goals and objectives we have set for the 3 years ahead.

While we can look back with a sense of accomplishment, it is clear that the service needs of individuals with developmental disabilities continues to grow at an incredible rate, and the services which Meta provides are in greater demand than they have ever been. Across 22 residential group homes, 21 Supported Individual Living (SIL) homes, 5 fully accessible Day Programs and a range of respite services and facilities, Meta has grown to serve more than 500 individuals through the most crucial stages of life from youth-oriented services to the critical needs associated with our aging individuals. As we look ahead, the focus of our organization will continue to be centered on providing the most effective and innovative forms of care and development aimed at continuing to improve the lives of those we serve. This has been at the heart of everything Meta has done since our founding over 30 years ago, and we will remain true to this objective. With the on-going support of our staff, donors, families and communities, we can continue to deliver on this critical need and to improve the lives of the individuals we serve, and the communities in which we all live.

***Meta offers a wide spectrum of service and personalized supports to help people live inclusive, engaged and enriched lives in the community.***



## ***Making Dreams Come True***

I am pleased to present Meta's 2018-2019 Annual Report, an overview of how we have been expanding possibilities for individuals we support. Individuals with developmental disabilities often accept the realities of their disability involuntarily, and it defines their lives rather than being encouraged to dream about what they can do with their futures. Too many become discouraged from dreaming and have trouble identifying their dreams.

This edition of the Annual Report reflects the noteworthy work and contributions made throughout the year to ensure building on dreams, big and small, continues to give us hope, enthusiasm and renewed commitment, all of which has been made possible by our dedicated, skilled and exemplary staff. Thanks to our committed staff, Meta continues to build a strong reputation of providing high-quality, person-centered supports to children, youth and adults throughout the GTA.

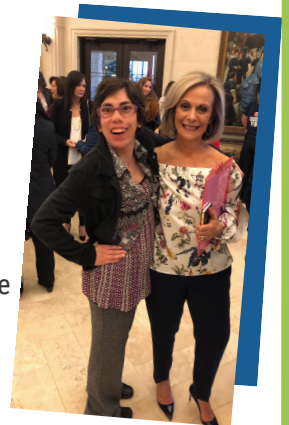
At the end of the 2018 fiscal year we kicked off a new strategic planning process involving staff from all levels of the organization: Board of Directors, community partners, people supported by Meta and their families. This process allowed us the opportunity to refresh our logo, mission, vision and values, which have been incorporated into this Annual Report. The new strategic plan will advance our journey into the future. You will hear more about the plan throughout the coming years.

## ***A Message from the Meta Foundation Board President***

On behalf of the Board, I am pleased to report another rewarding Meta Foundation fundraising and friend-raising year. The Board organized and supported a diverse roster of fundraisers, and our event committees work tirelessly to execute on an enjoyable fundraiser experience which thankfully continues to increase our following of loyal supporters and friends.

We are rooted in awareness as to our exceptional and loyal supporter base, who continue to believe in the goals and good work of Meta. We continuously give gratitude for their generosity and support of Meta's efforts to help Special People with Special Abilities achieve life's full potential.

Lastly, thank you to the small army of volunteers with big wonderful hearts who organize and operate the fundraising events. It takes a team to complete the dream.



**Antonet Orlando**  
**Executive Director**  
**Meta**



**Lu Galasso**  
**Board President**  
**Meta Foundation**





META CENTRE SOURCE OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2019			
	2019		2018
	REVENUE (\$)	EXPENSES (\$)	REVENUE (\$)
MCCSS-TORONTO	17,809,141	17,793,162	16,692,257
MCCSS-CENTRAL EAST	2,171,422	2,287,533	2,056,971
OTHER	2,617,724	2,521,716	2,258,763
Note: Audited Financial Statements are available upon request	22,598,287	22,602,411	21,007,991

META FOUNDATION REVENUE AND EXPENSES BY ACTIVITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2019				
	2019		2018	
ACTIVITY	REVENUE (\$)	EXPENSES (\$)	REVENUE (\$)	EXPENSES (\$)
FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES	408,304	273,708	433,812	236,615
GENERAL DONATIONS	169,994		260,712	
INVESTMENT INCOME & OTHER	9,692		13,374	
META PROGRAM / CENTRE COSTS		49,804		39,904
Note: Audited Financial Statements are available upon request	587,990	323,512	707,898	276,519

## OUR CORE VALUES



Person-Centered Support/Choice



Compassion



Inclusiveness



Respect & Dignity



Excellence, Quality & Innovation



Integrity & Accountability



Partnership & Collaboration



Safety





## New Meta Vaughan Program Facility

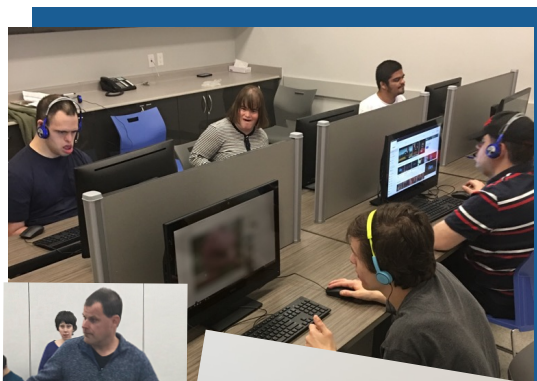


After many years of fundraising, the opening of Meta's new Day Program facility in Vaughan became a reality. In August 2018, Meta threw open its doors to a 12,000 square-foot building. The location is completely barrier-free and has occupancy capacity of up to 100 individuals. The facility has various classrooms, specialized furniture and assistive devices to accommodate individuals with mobility, agility and perceptual acuity concerns.

Other amenities include:

- Movement Therapy Room with various equipment to involve individuals in a broad range of movement to promote physical, mental and emotional well-being.
- Music Studio that facilitates music lessons with the use of instruments, singing and the creation of music videos.
- Technology Room that has a SMART board along with iPads, where lessons are taught using an interactive digital approach to prepare individuals for the increasing digital times.
- Art Studio to encourage individuals to express their creativeness through drawing, painting and sculpting.
- Training Kitchen with separate cooking stations for individuals to learn how to prepare and handle food, as well as operate appliances safely and create nutritional dishes.
- Snoezelen Room that provides a multi-disciplinary therapeutic environment for individuals with autism and developmental disabilities; it allows them to learn how to adapt to the world around them to build their confidence and ability. The room is specifically designed with lights, colours, sounds, and sensory objects, enabling individuals to explore and interact without risk and allows for a soothing yet stimulating environment.

We are thrilled with our new Vaughan facility and are excited to continue to provide services and supports to individuals with disabilities and, to respond to the growing need in our community.





## Person-Directed Planning

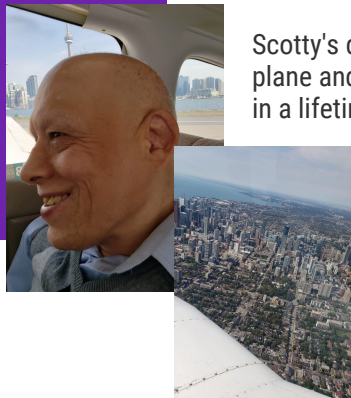
In February 2018, Meta was granted a one-time fund for its successful proposal submission to the Strategic Plan Investment Fund. This led to the position of a Person-Directed Planning Facilitator. The facilitator engages people supported by Meta on human rights, choices and social inclusion.

Throughout the year, the facilitator holds Person-Directed Plan (PDP) meetings with Meta clientele and their social networks of family, friends, service providers, to set meaningful life goals that embody their dreams and aspirations. The facilitator guides the individual's social network with strategies and outlines tasks and schedules for accomplishments. The PDP meetings provide an opportunity for individuals to succinctly convey how they'd like to live their lives. The PDP process and practice has evoked a mindset change throughout Meta. We are focused on promoting self-determination and supporting people to live bold and dream big.

***"A dream you dream alone is only a dream.  
A dream you dream together is reality."***

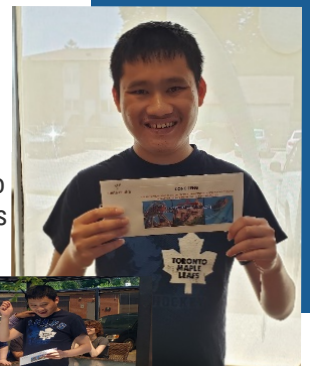
John Lennon

Together, the staff have been dedicated and committed to working toward the goals and dreams of the individuals we support. Here are just some examples of the outstanding work that has been done and the awesome experiences that the individuals have had.



Scotty's dream of soaring to new heights came true. He went on a private plane and experienced a bird's eye view of our beautiful city. It was a once in a lifetime experience for Scotty and he was just thrilled!

Dong loves theme parks and had always wanted a season's pass to Canada's Wonderland. He was absolutely ecstatic to get a season's pass, so much so that he couldn't help but cheer and smile!



Samantha had always wanted to go to the CN Tower, and she did! She dined and enjoyed the breathtaking sights at the top of the tower.





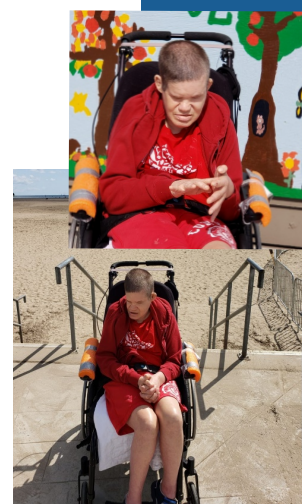
Sue and Walter have a bond and love for one another. Sue expressed her dream of celebrating their love with her Meta family and friends without the commitment of marriage. Staff planned and arranged a day that both Sue and Walter had dreamed of; it was a day of celebration to commemorate their love.



Christine has a flair for cooking and wanted to take classes to further enhance her skills. She took a cooking class at Longo's and not only loved it but learned to create some tasty dishes.



Bruce truly enjoys the peace and tranquility of the outdoors. He was taken to Ashbridge's Bay where he experienced the soothing sounds of the bay and basked in the warmth of the sun.



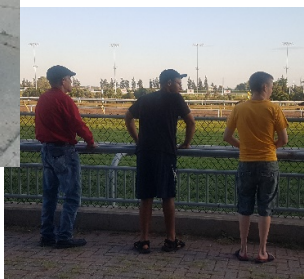
Chris's team helped him to realize a dream. They felt that he would thoroughly enjoy his very own make-shift splash pad, so they decided to throw a foam party. There were suds and bubbles everywhere, along with lots of smiles!



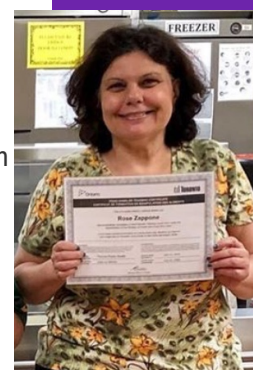
Fabulous at 50! Lina dreamed of having a big birthday bash for her 50th birthday with all of her friends and Meta family. Here it is, another dream come true!



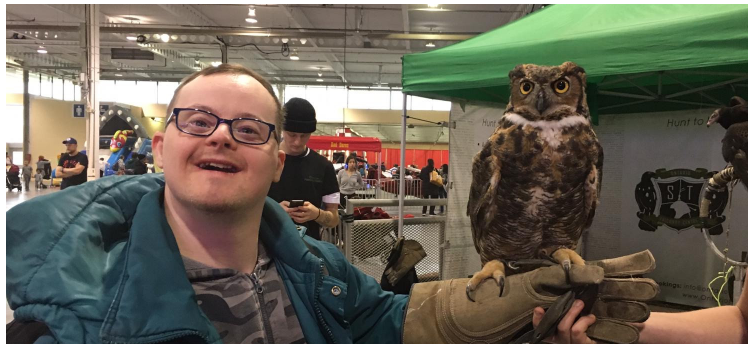
Tom has a fascination with horses and enjoys the excitement of the racetrack. Tom and his friends spent the day at the racetrack and he was thrilled to meet a horse racing jockey.



After years of assisting and working in the Meta cafeteria, Rose dreamed of being more independent in the kitchen. We enrolled Rose in the Food Handler Certification program and she was successful in receiving certification...way to go Rose!







For more information or to make a donation, visit

[www.metacentre.ca](http://www.metacentre.ca)



meta

Check us out on Instagram:

[meta\\_centre](https://www.instagram.com/meta_centre)

