



James (Jim) Finlay – Co-Chair and Trustee H4S Fund
Harmonize for Speech Fund - A division of
Ontario District of the Barbershop Harmony Society
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The Board of Trustees (BOT) for Harmonize for Speech (H4S) wish to thank all chapters and chapter members for their continued support. We plan each year to fund requests for support that we expect to receive. We have had to pay out about \$10,000 more this year than we have received in donations. For this reason, we are appealing to the generosity and charity of all chapters and chapter members to make an extra effort to donate before year-end.

“Why should we?” you may ask. Does this money really make any difference to those with communication disorders? The Speech and Stuttering Institute (SSI), that H4S was instrumental in establishing, is one of the charitable clinics that we continue to support.

According to Elissa Flagg, Interim Executive and Clinical Director, our support is essential, especially currently. To quote her “With the rising cost of living SSI has been receiving an increasing number of requests for reduced clinical fees. We need your help to continue to meet the goal of never turning away a client or family due to inability to afford the speech or stuttering therapy they need.” The BOT of H4S has the goal of seeing that the SSI and other clinics we support can achieve this objective.

This is what it really means to people. Here are two letters of gratitude from clients of SSI.

1. *“Dear donor,
My family received your generous gift to the speech and stuttering institute and as a result, we are currently receiving invaluable speech therapy services for my son who is in desperate need due to his speech apraxia and ASD diagnosis. With only a few sessions thus far, we are already noting significant progress in his speech and self confidence. And we are so hopeful this will continue. Thank you again for making this possible. Your generous gift is greatly appreciated and is having a significant positive affect for my son and our family.
Kind regards”*
2. *“I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to all the donors whom help The Speech and Stuttering Institute! Without being able to get fees assistance, I wouldn't have been able to enrol my child into speech therapy for stuttering. The therapy has helped my child with her stuttering. As well as boost her confidence when speaking to others and her self-esteem. By getting fee assistance, this allowed me to focus my limited amount of income on basic needs for my children and not have a financial burden of paying full fees for speech therapy. Thank you so much for making a difference in my child's life!”*

Yes, your generosity and compassion truly does make a difference.

In Harmony, Sincerely,

Jim Finlay, Co-Chair
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