This page was exported from - Shelburne Free Press
Export date: Sun Nov 1 3:09:54 2026 / +0000 GMT

Monthly Message: A year of small miracles at Streams Community Hub

At this time of year, a lot of attention goes to the big moments. The concerts. The markets. The parades. The things that show up in photos and on social media.

But as I look back on this year at Streams, what stands out to me most is not the big headlines. It's the small miracles. The quiet, almost ordinary moments that most people never see, but that change everything for the young person standing in the middle of them.

I think of a child who arrived at camp with shoulders drawn up to their ears and their eyes fixed on the floor. For the first two days, they barely spoke above a whisper. By the end of the week, they were laughing so hard with their group that they didn't want to leave when pick-up time came. No big speech. No dramatic transformation montage. Just a slow softening, a little more light in the eyes each day, as they realized, ?I am safe here. I belong here.?

That is a small miracle.

I think of the student in my Blissful Baking program who told me on the last day that she had been terrified walking in on Monday morning. She was sure everyone would be mean. What she found instead was a room full of kids who helped her with her dough, shared tools, and treated her with kindness. Somewhere between measuring flour and icing cakes, her fear gave way to something gentler. Trust. Comfort. Maybe even joy.

That is a small miracle.

I think of the first time our transit van, Miles, pulled up to a school for after-school pickup. To someone driving by, it might have just looked like a vehicle in a line of other vehicles. But for the kids climbing on board, it meant, ?Someone came for me. I get to go somewhere that expects me and is glad I showed up.? For the parent on the other end of that day, it meant one less barrier between their child and a place that feels like home.

That, too, is a small miracle.

There were others. Many others.

The moment during auditions for our Centre Stage production when a young performer who had been terrified to audition made it through, his dad holding his hand and our caring staff holding his heart. That quiet young boy blossomed on stage and has now decided to audition for a performing arts high school in the coming year.

Another small miracle.

The Word of Mouth Monologue Competition, where local youth stepped onto the stage at Grace Tipling Hall and poured their hearts into stories that were funny, painful, brave, and true. For some of them, that was the first time they had ever been in front of an audience. The courage it takes to stand in a spotlight and be seen is no small thing.

The Very Merry Market, where families shopped, decorated cookies, and lingered a little longer than they had planned, wrapped in the warmth of community. The Tim Hortons Holiday Smile Cookie week, when people grabbed a box ?for the kids at Streams,? not realizing that every cookie was a building block in a much bigger story.

And then there was a miracle of a different kind. This fall, we signed an agreement with the Dufferin Community Foundation to establish the Streams Creative Futures Fund, our new endowment. Thanks to a generous seed gift from the MakeWay Foundation's Harbinger Fund and the trust of local donors, we now have a way to support children we have not met yet, in spaces we may not

have built yet, doing things we cannot even imagine yet. That is not loud or flashy. But it is steady. It is hopeful. It says, ?We are planning for you, even before you arrive.?

When I put all of these moments together in my mind, they don't look like a single big miracle. They look like a string of small ones, threaded through ordinary days by ordinary people who chose to care. Parents. Volunteers. Staff. Donors. Neighbours. Kids who welcomed someone new into their circle. Business owners who said yes to partnerships. Community members who cheered from the audience, signed up to give monthly, or simply stopped to say, ?What you are doing matters.?

If you are reading this and you have been part of that in any way, thank you. Whether you bought a Smile Cookie, sponsored a prize, drove a child to a program, volunteered a few hours, or became a monthly donor, you have helped create space for these small miracles to happen.

As we come to the end of the year, we are already looking ahead to the next one. There will be new programs, new faces, new challenges, and new stories. There will also be more small miracles if we keep tending the ground together.

If you would like to be part of that, there are a few simple ways to help:

You can support our day-to-day work by becoming One of 1000, our campaign to find 1,000 monthly donors giving $10 a month. It may not feel like much, but just like the small moments I have described, it adds up to something bigger than you can see at first. You can join at streamshub.org/oneof1000.

You can also make a special year-end gift, or tell one family you know about Streams and our programs. Sometimes the small act of passing on information is the beginning of a big change in a child's life.

However you choose to support, or even if all you can offer this year is your attention and your encouragement, please know that it matters. The big moments are wonderful. But it is the small miracles that keep us going. And at Streams, we are grateful to be in a community where those miracles keep showing up.

From all of us at Streams, we wish you a season filled with peace, rest, and small miracles of your own. May the coming year bring new reasons to hope?for you, for your family, and for the young people we are raising together in this community.