In Everything, Give Thanks
Joanne Specht

With the holiday season well behind us and the New Year well underway, we would like to stop for a moment and consider all that we have to be grateful for. It is natural to point to the local businesses who faithfully and generously support our programs through free or discounted services, or the sponsorships we received to run the Ride for Refuge. Most of these are from small local businesses, people who are invested in supporting their community and making a difference one life at a time. We can also point to the valuable partnerships we have with local foundations and charities who are equally invested in developing services and programs for the vulnerable populations in our community. We cherish the support of The Victoria Foundation, the Greater Victoria United Way and the Victoria Civic Heritage Trust for their commitment to us. And we are equally grateful for the support we have received from a foundation in Ontario, Stronger Philanthropy, and from the Ministry of Justice Canada for their contributions to ending violence against women.

We also want to shine the spotlight on the people who support The Cridge in smaller, but no less significant ways. Our monthly donors provide such a strong base of support that we can rely on – we are so grateful for their commitment to our families. We are humbled to see former clients who benefited from our programs quietly becoming faithful donors who commit monthly for years that grow into decades of care and generosity. What an affirmation for us of the value of our programs! We also see our volunteers who serve diligently and faithfully, making sure that our programs are supported with some of those tangible needs like grocery shopping and baking at The Cridge Transition House for Women, making baskets filled with love for our Respitality families, and, of course, our committed Board Members who give so much heart and time to guide and direct the organization. Where would we be without these faithful individuals – and so many others?

We see generosity all through the year, but never more so than at Christmas time as people call and pop by with gifts, donations and words of encouragement. Our 2017 Fall Appeal was met with amazing generosity as we raised almost $45,000 to support our programs. The $10,000 matching donation prompted incredible generosity from so many individuals and the impact on our programs will be wide-spread. (Turn the page to meet our matching donor and find out why he supports The Cridge).

In all this generosity of spirit, we give thanks. We are humbled and blessed every day by the many many people who reach out to us with love and support, wanting to make a difference in the precious lives of those we serve. We are honoured to be the ones who get to share that generosity with our clients as they walk toward a life of health and safety.
What does a philanthropist look like in your mind? Do you think of an older person who has been successful in business and is spending their retirement figuring out what to do with their massive wealth? Or perhaps you think of someone who was born with the proverbial silver spoon in their mouth, whose only work is to spend the family fortune? While there are philanthropists that meet that description, more often philanthropists are people just like you and me.

We would like to introduce you to a philanthropist who means a great deal to The Cridge Centre and who is unlike either of our previous examples. Mike Hartshorne is a young, successful businessman who believes deeply in the value and necessity of giving back to his community.

Mike grew up with philanthropy running through his veins. His grandparents, parents, aunts and uncles all took the idea of making the world a better place very seriously. In his formative years, Mike remembers participating in family conversations about needs in different parts of the world, and how his family would participate in meeting those needs. It was understood that part of the privilege of having money was to share it with others. He saw his family committed to volunteerism and becoming engaged in the causes they felt strongly about. When Mike reached his teen years, he spent time in Venezuela and Haiti, seeing and experiencing a different side of life. This made an impression on him and challenged him to consider how he could make a difference with his own life and resources. He realized that it was “not an option” – that participating and giving back was a necessity.

Giving back to his community is something that Mike does exceptionally well. As his real estate business, South Island Home Team, has flourished over the years, Mike has made it a priority to give a percentage of his income to local and international charities. He gives with intentionality – carefully learning about the cause or organization and making a deliberate effort to get involved and have that personal connection. Mike believes that it is a privilege to partner with local organizations – it is so much more than writing a cheque, it is a gift of the heart.

Mike became connected with The Cridge through one of our managers. Through their friendship he heard the heart wrenching stories of the lives that she would touch, the challenges her clients faced and the wide-reaching impact that The Cridge had on the community. The more he learned about the programs on offer at The Cridge Centre, the more Mike felt connected and committed to what we do. He said that becoming involved with The Cridge has changed his perspective and given him more empathy and a real heart for vulnerable people. It has impacted how he does business and has “made him a better human being”. While being an excellent business man is important to Mike, he deeply values how that success can help and support those in need. Even more, he sees that investing in The Cridge Centre is better than just making a donation – it is giving back to him the satisfaction of knowing that he is helping families who desperately need support.

We are incredibly proud to have Mike as not just a donor, but a member of our Cridge family. He has been our Fall Appeal matching donor for the past 2 years, helping us to raise over $65,000. Mike is also our lead sponsor for the Ride for Refuge, as well as providing support for several other programs. Mike readily admits that he is uncomfortable talking about his philanthropy – that he doesn’t need the world to know about his generosity. While we appreciate his humility, we also love to share his heart and spirit of giving with our wider family, to encourage and bless each of you with the story of how one person can make a significant impact in our Cridge community and our city. Philanthropy doesn’t need to be huge wads of money given by millionaires – it can be the faithful and committed partnership of people like you and me, who have a heart for making our community a better place.

If you would like to talk about your philanthropic goals, call me! I’d love to hear your story and heart for giving. (250 995 6419 or jspecht@cridge.org)
Farewell Old Friend: Remembering Charles Ellington

Colin Moorman

Charles usually started his life story by saying, “I was raised in a 40-room mansion with a cook, two nannies, and a gardener. Our home was set on 13 acres, with a commanding view of the Capital City of Victoria.” And then he would explain that the “mansion” was the BC Protestant Orphans’ Home – his home for almost all of his childhood.

The Orphanage was known throughout the city as a beacon of hope and opportunity, and nobody was to more wholeheartedly grasp that opportunity than Charles. Whenever he could, he gave the Orphanage the credit - and God the glory - for his successes. His story has been an inspiration to countless people.

Speaking of stories, I loved hearing his tales of mischief while he lived at the Home. He refused to eat in his early days there, rebelling against the lumpy porridge. And the verbal picture he drew of his exploits on the Orphanage roof used to make my stomach turn. Have you seen how high that roof is? And my look of horror would elicit that familiar Ellington bass-baritone chuckle as he added a few more scary bits to make sure he got the maximum effect! But he spoke with such respect for the caring staff who eventually won him over and allowed him to find his way into the institutional routines at his own pace.

And so this young fellow went out into the world at the tender age of 16 to seek his fortune with nothing and nobody in his corner except the confidence and love he had received from everyone at the Home and, most importantly, his knowledge of God. As the years went by and as young Charles established himself as a respected member of the community, he was invited to take a position on the Board of Directors at the Orphans’ Home. I wonder what went through his mind as he walked though that imposing arched doorway once again. This was the very doorway though which, as a three year-old he had been carried by his sister. But now, as he entered as part of the institution’s leadership, did he glance up at the roof to see if any little rascals were up there doing the unthinkable? He told me that he met a fellow Orphanage board member who had known a colleague of Bishop Cridge’s. He used to love to say “I shook the hand of the man who shook the hand of Bishop Cridge!” I believe he considered it a matter of deep honour that he was able to serve those who had so meaningfully served him in earlier years.

By the mid ‘sixties Charles had become the President of the by-now somewhat outdated Orphanage and he dynamically led the charge to bring about a transformation, the extent of which even he might never have dared to anticipate. Although in pressing need of a new vision, the Orphanage had never lost its core belief that children were made in the image of God. With Charles at its helm, the new centre was about to undergo huge changes but would continue to uphold the same Christian values. In 1967 he commissioned a report which recommended drastic changes in the Orphanage’s services. It was a radical proposal but Charles decided this was the way of the future for his beloved Home. But he had to use every ounce of that renowned charm and determination to convince his fellow board members to support such changes. I well recall his recounting the meeting he initiated with the indomitable Ladies Committee, possibly including a few who had known him when he was in short trousers! Charles overcame all hurdles and was the central figure in bringing about a transformation of the Orphanage from a residence for those without families to a vibrant place where needy families received the help to launch into a new and better life – The Cridge Centre for the Family. Thirty years later he wrote with pride “The idea took off like a rocket and has continued to be in great demand”.

Throughout my twenty years as Executive Director of The Cridge Centre for the Family and beyond, I looked upon Charles with great affection and gratitude. I will always remember his example as a man who never forgot how his Lord God led him though all adversity, and as a man who humbly shared God’s bounty with others from a deeply grateful heart.

August 10, 1928 – January 2, 2018

Don’t forget to visit us online! We love to interact on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, Check out cridge.org for regular blog updates.
When Bishop Edward and Mary Cridge worked together, back in 1893, to plan and build the BC Protestant Orphans’ Home, they probably had no idea that 145 years later that same building would still be serving the community. Over the years, the building has served many different individuals and families, but always with the heart and focus of being a place of support for vulnerable people in Victoria.

The building originally was designed to be a home to orphaned children. In the 1960s, as orphanages were phased out, it became our childcare centre. Then eleven years ago, it was renovated to become our seniors’ assisted living village, along with some space for our administrative offices. There have been many changes in the interior, but few on the exterior, other than a three-year project (between 2011-2014) to replace the original roof with authentic slate tiles. And now, 145 years later, our beautiful building needs another repair – this time, a complete repointing of the brick exterior. This will involve removing all the original mortar between the bricks, which has deteriorated to the consistency of sand, and replacing it with new mortar, as well as several other repairs to window sills and cracks. We are excited to see our heritage building renewed and restored for many years of service to come. We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Victoria Civic Heritage Trust in granting us $50,000 toward the $400,000 cost of repair.

Did You Know?

Over the next few issues of The Messenger, we would like to share with you some historical tidbits about our founders, Edward and Mary Cridge. They were unquestionably people with foresight and compassion who served faithfully and generously all the inhabitants of what was then, Fort Victoria. But did you know…?

In 1901, when Edward and Mary were already well advanced in age, they were delighted to be invited to a gala event to welcome the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall to Victoria. As was the custom, the guests would spend the first half of the meal chatting with the person on one side of them, and then switch to the other side for the second half. Mary enjoyed visiting with both the gentlemen she was seated between and remarked to the one gentleman how in awe she was that she was attending a royal event, and how intimidating it might be to visit with royalty. He commented, with a twinkle in his eye, that he thought it would be very similar to talking to anyone else. After dinner, he introduced Mary to his wife, who had been seated next to Edward… at which point Mary realized that she had been chatting with the future King of England. Naturally Mary was quite embarrassed but the Duchess laughed and said that that was exactly what the Duke enjoyed doing.

The delightful sequel to this story is that Edward and Mary enjoyed this royal event on Oct 1, 1901. On Oct 1, 2016, exactly 115 years later, we had the honour of welcoming and entertaining the future King of England and his wife -- The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, William and Catherine. Prince William is the great great grandson of King George V and Queen Mary and is second in line to the throne.
Back in August of 2017, a man named Pat McLellan contacted Geoff Sing, Manager of The Cridge Brain Injury Services, in search of an old friend, Brian. He had grown up with Brian in Victoria, and had seen the video about Brian which The Cridge Centre produced in 2017. We were happy to inform him that we do indeed know and provide services to Brian. We contacted Brian’s family and together shared the news with him that his long-lost friend, now residing in Scotland, was looking to re-unite.

Brian is a survivor of brain injury and has journeyed through the continuum of our brain injury programs and services over many years at The Cridge Centre for the Family. He resided at MacDonald House during his acute stages of recovery and rehabilitation, then went on to Mary Cridge Manor which offers independent living with supports for survivors of brain injury. It was there that Brian began to flourish and re-design his life. He was working part-time, preparing his own meals, learning to use the computer, building friendships and community, and practicing strategies daily that would prepare himself for independent living in community. He is the super star of our video about our Brain Injury Program which can be seen on our YouTube channel. (www.youtube.com/TheCridgeCentre)

Several years later, Brian moved into an apartment in downtown Victoria. The Cridge continues to stay in touch with Brian and through funding by the Island Health Brain Injury Program, offer minimal support services intended to encourage Brain in remaining independent for as long and as successfully as possible. Engaging in one’s personal and community network is such a valuable part of a survivor’s rehabilitation, so having Pat reach out from across the world to reconnect with Brian was such a blessing and welcome opportunity.

Reunion day came on October 25, 2017 and I was lucky enough to witness the moment that Brian buzzed Pat up to his apartment, waiting in anxious excitement! He instantly welcomed Pat into his home with open arms, both literally and figuratively. It was a powerful and treasured moment. Pat had heard stories of Brian’s injury and road to recovery and was overcome with emotion to see his resilient friend thriving in his new reality. Pat did most of the talking, asking questions and drawing comparisons to the Brian he had grown up with. They laughed about their “good ol’ times” and the moments that connect them, regardless of age, location, time, injury or not. Brian proudly showed off his apartment to Pat, highlighting his woodwork pieces, computer, and even his calendars and all the notes posted around his room that he welcomes as part of his daily life now. After a visit, Pat and Brian, along with Brian’s sister and great-niece, carried on to lunch to continue catching up.

It was clear that this was a true friendship. One that spans over space, time and other obstacles. It was an inspiring experience in just how powerful human connection can be. In the words of Brian, “Bing. Bang. Boom.”
MACARONI & CHEESE
Yield: Makes 1 10x12x2” deep roasting pan

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Ingredient</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90 g</td>
<td>Butter</td>
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<tr>
<td>75 g</td>
<td>Flour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.375 ml</td>
<td>Hot milk</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 ml</td>
<td>Salt</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 ml</td>
<td>White pepper</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 ml</td>
<td>Cayenne</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.5 ml</td>
<td>Nutmeg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 g</td>
<td>Cheddar, shredded</td>
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<tr>
<td>450 g</td>
<td>Elbow macaroni dry</td>
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<tr>
<td>500 ml</td>
<td>Breadcrumbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250 ml</td>
<td>Parmesan cheese, grated</td>
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<tr>
<td>35 ml</td>
<td>Parsley, fresh chopped</td>
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<tr>
<td>65 ml</td>
<td>Unsalted butter, melted</td>
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Method: Butter the roasting pan. Boil the noodles according to package directions. Cool with running water, drain and set aside.

In a stainless steel saucepot, cook the butter, flour and spices on medium low heat for 5 minutes. Turn the heat off and allow cooling for a few minutes. Then slowly and carefully add 150 ml of the hot milk stirring with a wooden spoon. It will turn into a mass. Continue adding the hot milk in stages, stirring. Once all the milk has been added, change to a whisk and blend until smooth. Return to the heat on medium and bring to a simmer. Turn the heat to low and cook for about 15 minutes being careful not to scorch the bottom of the pot. Finally start adding the cheese in batches until all incorporated. Add the noodles into the prepared pan and mix in the hot sauce. Combine breadcrumbs, parmesan, parsley and butter in a bowl. Add to the pan distributing evenly across the top. Bake in a 350°F oven until golden brown. About 15 minutes. Serves 4 hungry people or 1 hungry parent. Enjoy!

Celebrating 31 Years of Joy
Paula West-Patrick

Since September of 1986, Joy Smith has provided loving care for literally hundreds of children who have passed through the doors of The Cridge Child Care programs. When we opened our Nursery in 1987, Joy became part of our toddler program and after a child kept calling her Joy-Joy, the name stuck. Since then she has been our Joy-Joy and has continued to dedicate her service to the families in our care.

In October of this past year, Joy made the tough decision to retire from her career as an Early Childhood educator. On February 4, friends and co-workers gathered for a special tea to celebrate Joy’s commitment to her work at The Cridge Centre for the Family and her retirement from the Early Childhood field.

Thank-you Joy-Joy for your love, faith and dedication over the years. We will miss you!
Please Join our Cridge Family

Looking for fun this summer for your 5–12 year old? Look no further!
Super exciting weekly themes, games and adventures.
Registration opens: Mar 1 for children currently registered in our child care programs; April 3 to the public.
Phone: 250 995 6407

Circle of Care

YES,
I/We would like to join
The Cridge Centre Circle

Single gift amount: $_________________  Monthly gift amount: $_________________
☐ Cheque enclosed or  ☐ Void cheque enclosed or
☐ Please charge my credit card  ☐ Please charge my credit card
Gift End Date:__________or until further notice.

Please use my gift as follows:  [ ] Where needed most.  [ ] With the following designation: ________________________________

First Name: ___________________________________  Middle Initial: _________  Last Name:__________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________________________________________________  PC: __________________________
Phone: ________________________________  Email: _________________________________________________________________________
[ ] VISA     [ ] Mastercard       Name on card: _______________________________________________________________________________
Card Number: _____________________________________________________________________  Expiry Date: _______________/_________
Signature: ________________________________________________________   Date: _______________________________________________

Sign also to authorise bank withdrawals
☐ Would you prefer to make your gift anonymous?

All monthly payments will be scheduled the first day of each month. Receipts for your charitable giving tax credit will be issued annually.
Charitable Registration # 108079419RR0001
The Cridge Centre for the Family collects personal information on this form for reasonable and obvious purposes that meet with regulatory requirements. This information will never be shared, and will never be used for purposes outside of the obvious without your permission.

Please detach and mail this form to:
The Cridge Centre for the Family -- 1307 Hillside Ave. Victoria, BC  V8T 0A2
Contact: Joanne Specht, Manager of Communication & Fund Development
250.995.6419  Email: jspecht@cridge.org
Spending of funds is confined to Board approved programs and purchases. Each gift designated toward an approved program will be used as designated with the understanding that when a given need has been met, designated gifts will be used where needed most. Gifts will be acknowledged with an official receipt for income tax purposes.

The Cridge Centre for the Family is a member of the Canadian Council of Christian Charities and has been accredited by the Imagine Canada Standards program.

Upcoming Events!

**SunFun**
Registration opens Tues. April 3

**Survive—Strive—Thrive**
A free one day workshop about Brain Injury
Wed. June 20
Bob Wright Centre: UVic

For info: jspecht@ cridge.org or 250 995 6419

NOTE: Please double check the accuracy of your name and address and notify Pat Bailey of any changes via email to pbailey@ cridge.org or by phone at (250) 995-6410

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