

A DONOR STORY

AL AND IRENE HILDEBRANDT MAKE A \$250,000 GIFT TO THE DEVELOPING CHILD ADVOCACY CENTRE.

MEET AL AND IRENE

Al and Irene are long term residents of the Kelowna area, having raised a family and grown a successful business here in the valley. “This is our home,” says Irene “we have been so fortunate to raise our family here in this beautiful corner of the world and now we have the opportunity to watch our grand children grow up here and call it home as well.” Al, a retired business man reflects on his career here in the valley, “success is never an accident, you work really hard and you make sacrifices along the way, but we have definitely been blessed along the way. Now we get to concentrate on giving back in this community that has been so good to our family.”



AN EVOLUTION OF GIVING

Al and Irene have always been philanthropically minded, looking for opportunities to support community through volunteerism and financial support whenever they could. It wasn't until after Al's retirement from the healthcare tech sector though that giving back really became a fundamental way of life. “The truth is, he's not very good at being retired,” shared Irene. “What's really amazing is the energy he has for

this new version of work. He approaches this volunteerism with the same tenacity he always had for business. He starts at the break of dawn and works well past dinner. His passion for this work is so inspiring and it makes us both feel good to know that the reward from this work is so personal.”

DEDICATED TO CHILD ADVOCACY

The Hildebrandt's have played a crucial role in this early phase of the development of the Child Advocacy Centre ("CAC") of Kelowna. "When we learned about the efforts underway to build a CAC here in Kelowna we knew we had to be part of the story. The first thing we needed was a way to raise the money, so we purposed the Kelowna Foundation for Hope and Social Innovation to act as the fund-raising vehicle to make it happen. It is a long and complicated process to secure charitable status so while the CAC does that work, we are raising the money and guiding the project forward," shared Al.

THE EASIEST CHEQUE WE HAVE EVER WRITTEN

"As a business man I am a firm believe that you have to put your money where your mouth is," says Al. And true to form, the Hildebrandt's started the fundraising personally by making a generous contribution to the capital campaign of \$250,000. "If we are going to knock on the doors of this community and ask for their help to raise six million dollars then we need to be at the table as well. This was the easiest cheque we've ever written. Knowing that this money will go directly to protecting kids right here at home in the valley we love is all we needed to know." continued Hildebrandt.

SO MUCH MORE THAN MONEY

In addition to their financial contribution Al has invested thousands of volunteer hours to the project, serving as President and Director of Kelowna Foundation. He has travelled to more than a dozen Child Advocacy Centre's

across North America to learn and create connections that will benefit the Kelowna Child Advocacy Centre for years into the future. "This is a small Foundation run by a small but mighty team of incredibly passionate individuals determined to see this Centre become a reality. Everything we are doing right now is dedicated to that singular purpose -build the CAC."

WE ASKED AL AND IRENE A FEW QUESTIONS:

Q: What does the CAC project mean to you personally?

Irene: ~ "We have always been connected to causes that impact children, but this project specifically means so much to us because we have seen personally where the story of abuse ends if we as a community don't act to make a difference."

Q: What is your vision for the future of this project?

Al: ~ "The goal here is to build a true centre of excellence that will ultimately serve to break the cycle of abuse. It will be more than an incident response centre, it will be a new way for our community to build resilience in children who have been impacted by violence and make a generational difference."

THE POWER OF GIVING

"This phase of my life has been truly driven by a desire to give back and it has become the most rewarding phase of my "work" life. If I experienced any success as a businessman, it simply does not compare to the personal reward of now getting to use that platform of success to do good in the community. There is so much power in giving back, we all just need to decide it's the right thing to do. Whether its your time, your skills or your financial resources, figure out where your ability to make a difference lies and then do it. You will never regret generosity." Al

