

## One Family's Tribute is the Community's Blessing: Honouring Daniel Chrusz at Dew Drop Inn

On any given day at Dew Drop Inn's Compassion Kitchen, the hum of activity never stops - pots simmer, volunteers move with purpose, and hundreds of meals are prepared for those who rely on a warm plate. Thanks to a recent act of generosity, that work just became a little easier and a lot more meaningful.

Generosity and community spirit came together recently when the Chrusz/Savitsky Family Fund at the Thunder Bay Community Foundation provided a grant to the Dew Drop Inn for a new convection oven in their kitchen – an essential upgrade that they are very much looking forward to, for both staff and the hundreds of people who come to them each day.

For Leslie Savitsky, the opportunity to give was sparked by a simple but emotional moment. While reading through the Foundation's newsletter, she came across the 'Community Needs' section and noticed the organization's urgent request. Familiar with their kitchen and its long-standing role in the community since 1981, she felt compelled to act.

What followed became more than a donation; it was a deeply personal tribute to her father, Daniel Chrusz. She shared, "My father and I, along with my children and husband, had all volunteered at the Dew Drop Inn through the Port Arthur Rotary Club in the past. With his recent passing, the request resonated with me. When I saw

the opportunity to help in a practical, tangible way, it felt like a meaningful chance to honour my father's memory while contributing to the work they do every day."

According to Leslie, she used to volunteer and help at the Dew Drop Inn with her father, sometimes tagging along her own family, including her husband, Gary and their children. "I believe that generosity and volunteering support our community and makes a difference in the lives of our neighbours and families."

For the organization, the impact of that action was immediate. The new convection oven, received in February, has already transformed day-to-day operations. In a space where demand is constant, having reliable and modern equipment makes a huge difference in both operations and the experience of those being served.

"We received the oven a month ago, and it has been a blessing," said Michael Quibell, Executive Director. "We feed 400 people a day, so we need equipment that is both effective and efficient. We couldn't do this without the support of our community, and this oven is just one part of that incredible support."

The family also had the chance to visit the Compassion Kitchen and witness firsthand the impact of their generosity. "The volunteers couldn't say enough about how much easier it is to provide meals efficiently

and serve more people," Leslie shared. "Having the opportunity to donate an oven to the Dew Drop Inn means more than a piece of equipment - it means warm meals, comfort, and dignity for people who need it most."

In recognition of this thoughtful gift, Dew Drop Inn created a plaque to honour the Chrusz/Savitsky Family and celebrate the memory of Daniel Chrusz, ensuring that his legacy of kindness and community service will be remembered for every meal prepared and served in their kitchen.

This act of generosity is another example of how the Foundation's Donors support our community. Being a proud supporter of the Dew Drop Inn's Compassion Kitchen contributing to initiatives such as meal enhancements, senior food bags, and facility improvements, this latest contribution continues that shared commitment to uplifting the community.

The Foundation's Board Chair, Wendy Bell, also expressed her gratitude, "We are very thankful to the Chrusz/Savitsky Family for providing a grant for the purchase of a new convection oven. For the Dew Drop Inn, this new oven will enable this supportive organization to continue providing more than 400 warm meals each day, as well as a welcoming place to gather. We are also grateful to our many donors who continue to support the worthy organizations that make such a difference in our community."



**Chrusz/Savitsky Family with Mary Nucci (in lower right corner), TBCF Board Member, and Michael Quibell (in upper right corner), Executive Director of Dew Drop Inn**

Seeing how even small acts - like sharing a word or identifying a need - can have such a positive consequence, the Thunder Bay Community Foundation remains committed to amplifying the needs of local charitable organizations, whether through meaningful conversations or by sharing stories across its online platforms.

If you know of a charitable organization that has specific needs that would support their operations, we invite you to connect with the Foundation. Opportunities may be featured in their 'Community Needs' section within the monthly newsletter, helping bring greater awareness and support. To learn more, please reach out to Amanda Mollicola at [amollicola@tbcf.org](mailto:amollicola@tbcf.org).

Passionate about our Community? Consider starting a Fund at the Thunder Bay Community Foundation!

Visit [www.tbcf.org](http://www.tbcf.org) or call (807) 475 7279 for more information.