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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEAVING A LEGACY OF HELPING INMATES SUCCEED

June 28, 2016 – Stratford, ON – Recently the family of local chef Dave Persad created a Fund in his memory to help inmates at the Stratford Jail gain critical work and life skills to succeed after their incarceration.

Dave, a classically trained chef, practiced his craft for 23 years at the Stratford Jail – understanding early on in his career that restaurant life was not always conducive to family life. During his time at the Jail he mentored and trained many of the inmates. He knew that everyone did not have the same opportunities in life – something that inspired him to make a difference. Dave often noted that even a small success during imprisonment was a chance for an inmate to change his life on the outside. “Dave looked for those opportunities,” shares Dave’s wife Barb Persad. “If he recognized a desire to change in one of his inmate helpers, he would go above-and-beyond to help that person reach his goals.”

The devoted husband and father was also proud of his additional accomplishments at work as a Crisis Negotiator, Critical Incident Stress Debriefing and Mediator within the Ministry of Corrections.

The **Dave Persad Fund**, established at the [Stratford Perth Community Foundation](http://www.spccf.ca), will provide support to inmates at the Stratford Jail through the [John Howard Society](http://www.jhsociety.ca) – an organization focused on assisting individuals who have become involved in the Criminal Justice System that Dave liaised with during much of his career at the Jail.

“We are both pleased and humbled to assist Barb and her three sons Dyer, James and Jared in creating a lasting legacy in Dave’s memory,” adds Tracy Van Kalsbeek, Executive Director of the Community Foundation. “Dave’s love for his family, desire to help local inmates and his zest for life will forever be remembered through the work of his Fund.”

Donations can be made to the Dave Persad Fund by visiting www.spccf.ca and clicking on [Donate Now](#).

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About the [Stratford Perth Community Foundation](http://www.spccf.ca)

The Stratford Perth Community Foundation (SPCF) is an organization for everyone and unique because donations – large or small – are never spent but are combined and invested. The earned income is used to make grants to local charities year after year to build a vibrant not-for-profit sector in Stratford, St. Marys and Perth County. To make all this work, we share our unique understanding of community needs and help mobilize and guide donors to specific community initiatives. For more information about SPCF please visit www.spccf.ca

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StratfordPerthCommFdn>

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