

Educator, Philanthropist, and Health and Neuroscience Advocate Dan Andreae Recently Featured on Close Up Radio

TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA, August 6, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Ask Dan Andreae why he keeps writing checks for causes that used to have no name, no funding and no support, and he will point you to a line from George Bernard Shaw. "Some men see things as they are and ask why. I dream things that never were and ask why not."

That question has shaped four decades of his work across education, health care and social policy in Toronto, long before any of it was fashionable.

In the 1980s, when eating disorders carried almost no public recognition, Andreae co-founded the National Eating Disorder Information Centre (NEDIC) at Toronto General Hospital. Forty years later, the organization is still running, and Andreae now chairs its advisory board. He explains that the the mortality rate tied to eating disorders is one of the highest of any mental illness. According to Andreae, "The need for support has only grown as more adults, not just teenagers, are seeking help."

Around the same period, Andreae became the founding executive director of the Alzheimer's Society of Toronto, the first organization of its kind anywhere in the world. At a time when Alzheimer's disease was barely discussed in public or in medical circles, he built counseling services, support groups and public education programs from the ground up.

His most protracted fight came next. In 1989, Andreae took what he thought would be a six-month leave from his work to help get social work recognized as a regulated profession in Ontario (one of the only jurisdictions in North America without any legal standard for the field).



As six months turned into 10 years, Andreae became president of the professional association in 1993 and worked with three provincial governments and seven ministers before the legislation finally passed. He credits persistence, coalitions built across sectors and keeping the message simple, emotionally direct.

"To succeed, you need a cause that is well defined so everyone agrees on the goal," Andreae explains. "And you have to make it as much of an emotional issue as possible, because facts matter, but what moves people is feeling it."

Andreae later turned his attention to technology in medicine. When Toronto surgeons first considered the da Vinci surgical robot, hospital administrators and doctors were reluctant to proceed, citing cost and other priorities. And so, Andreae was the first to come forward with funds to make the purchase of the city's first unit possible. He and his sister, Trish Holt-Hornsby, then funded Canada's first robotic surgery training academy at the Michener Institute, the educational arm of the University Health Network (UHN). As a result, the network's flagship, Toronto General Hospital, was recently ranked the world's top publicly funded hospital by Newsweek and second overall hospital, behind the Mayo Clinic.

Andreae says the robot's advantages, (smaller incisions, less blood loss, lower infection risk and faster recovery) quickly won over skeptics, including patients who initially balked at the idea of robotic surgery.

Education has run alongside every effort. Andreae earned a doctorate and spent 25 years



teaching 45 different subjects across psychology, health, bioethics, political science and the humanities. He describes himself as a “pracademic,” who treats theory as a tool for solving real problems rather than an end in itself. In one class, he sent students to observe a political rally firsthand rather than read about advocacy in a textbook.

That same instinct now drives his interest in what he calls a holistic view of health, one that treats genetics, epigenetics, and lifestyle. Lifestyle is key and includes sleep, exercise, nutrition and social connection, environment as parts of a single system rather than separate categories. He points often to research on the gut, heart and brain as interconnected systems and argues that medicine’s habit of treating one organ in isolation misses how the body actually works. In a recent course Dan took he learned that Social Connection is vitally important, especially vital as the lack of connection it is the equivalent of smoking 15 cigarettes per day (by the Centre for disease control in Atlanta).

Each year, Andreae also funds 18 scholarships at Humber Polytechnic in Toronto, a tradition that, he says, “...reshapes more than a student’s bank account. While it’s just a little bit of money, it’s much more than that. It’s watching their confidence change, watching how they feel differently about themselves.”

Asked what motivates decades of funding causes before anyone else would touch them, Andreae returns to a single idea: Service and the belief that most people simply need someone to offer them a realistic path forward.

“It’s about offering hope,” he shares, “and about showing people how to get there.”

About Dan Andreae

Dan Andreae is a Toronto based educator, philanthropist and health advocate. He holds a doctorate in education and has spent 25 years teaching at the university and college level. He was the founding executive director of the Alzheimer’s Society of Toronto, a co-founder of the National Eating Disorder Information Centre, and a former president of the professional association that led the decade long campaign to regulate social work in Ontario. He funded the first da Vinci surgical robot in Toronto and co-founded Canada’s first robotic surgery training academy at the Michener Institute (part of the University Health Network). He now funds 18 annual scholarships at Humber Polytechnic in Toronto.

Close Up Radio recently featured Dan Andreae, educator, philanthropist, health and neuroscience advocate, in an interview with Jim Masters on Tuesday August 4th at 12pm Eastern, and with Doug Llewelyn on Tuesday August 11th at 12pm Eastern

[Listen to the Podcast](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/part-1-close-up-radio-welcomes-back-educator-philanthropist/id1785721253?i=1000780199674)

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/part-1-close-up-radio-welcomes-back-educator-philanthropist/id1785721253?i=1000780199674>

<https://www.iheart.com/podcast/269-close-up-radio-242020413/episode/part-1-close-up-radio-welcomes-back-educator-philanthropist-and-health-and-neuroscience-advocate-dan-andreae-340422340>

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/1wJ6fkMjks5gRKgwxMln9p>

For more information about Dan Andreae, please visit

<https://milestones.marquiswhoswho.com/milestone/daniel-c-Andreae/>

Lou Ceparano

Close Up Television & Radio

+1 631-850-3314

[email us here](#)

Visit us on social media:

[Facebook](#)

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/932196850>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2026 Newsmatics Inc. All Right Reserved.