



COMMUNITY LIVING BURLINGTON

A member of the United Way

Sharing Our Abilities

Volume 7, Issue 1

Winter 2011

From the Board of Directors

submitted by Karen Bettsworth

Although this is my winter report, spring is clearly in the air, with warmer temperatures and daylight on the drive home from work! This gets me to thinking that we are only a couple of months away from two of our key fundraising initiatives -- Walk'n Roll and our annual golf tournament. I would encourage all of our members and their families to come and join us on May 14th at Bronte Creek Provincial Park to enjoy a walk through our local nature. The golf tournament in June is also a great day on a world class course, with lots of opportunity to win or bid on great prizes. The best-ball rule makes this a fun day for even non-golfers to try their hand at the game. Additional information about these events is provided in this edition of the newsletter.

As I encourage you to participate in our annual community events, I would also encourage you to join or renew your membership with Community Living Burlington. Membership forms are being sent out to every family of someone being supported by CLB. Please remit the form and required dues as quickly as possible so that you can continue to be involved in CLB. Your membership will ensure you are kept informed of news and important events, such as our upcoming AGM in June, that I am sure you and your family member will want to participate in. The nominations forms will be sent out in April.

Now to more administrative issues.

At our October meeting, the Board welcomed a presentation from Community Living Mississauga regarding their experiences in supporting self advocate representation at the Board level. Our Board has established a sub-committee to review options for supporting the Dreamweavers' goal to have a self advocate appointed as a member of CLB's Board. Ramsay Holmes, a former Board member, met with the Dreamweavers to provide an understanding of the role and responsibilities of the Board. He also answered many of their questions as they prepare to take on a greater role in CLB's governance. The Board sub-committee is working to propose a strategy to the Board and the Dreamweavers this spring.

Finally, following the revisions to our strategic plan last fall, the Board undertook to update our Mission and Vision statement to be more reflective of the activities and focus of Community Living Burlington.

The revised statements are presented below :

New Mission:

The mission of Community Living Burlington is to enrich the quality of life, and promote community integration of individuals who have a developmental disability.

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VALUES

DIGNITY: We value each person as unique, to be respected and empowered.

ACCOUNTABILITY : We hold everyone at Community Living Burlington responsible for the safety, security and well-being of the people entrusted to our care.

INCLUSIVENESS: We value, promote and protect the right to full access to services within our community for those we support.

SERVICE : We are committed to an "exceptional quality service approach" based on the uniqueness of each person we support.

New Statement: PARTNERSHIPS : We value and promote collaboration with our community partners and stakeholders.

From the Pen of the Executive Director

submitted by Judy Pryde

As we enter into 2011, the Developmental Services Sector is facing many changes. What used to be the Developmental Services Act is now **Services and Supports to Provide Social Inclusion of Persons with Developmental Disabilities Act**.

Due to this new legislation, not only does the Act and Regulations impact our services, but the process of how adults who have a developmental disability access services changes greatly.

As of July 1st, 2011, there will be nine regional contact points of service for Ontario. The points of access will be called Developmental Services Ontario and for our region it will be Central West-DSO. These centres will use the same tool to determine someone's support needs across Ontario. The hope is that by having one application and assessment tool there will be a more consistent and fairer approach to determine priority for service and requests for support. These guidelines will be person-directed which is in line with the new Act.

Another major change is Quality Assurance Measures (QAM) that are mandated for agencies that provide support. The premise of these measures is to ensure that the needs of the person supported is the priority and everyone needs to be treated and respected as a unique individual.

CLB is in the process of re-orientating staff based on these QAM's so everyone is clear on the direction of our organization. As members of our agency, it is important to take the time to reflect on our Mission Statement as well as our Values. It is also important that we work in collaboration with the Ministry on these changes so we are up to date on any changes and information sessions that take place. Therefore, if CLB becomes aware of any information, please refer to our web site as we will continue to post any news from the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

On a positive note, relating to CLB, we are opening a new home on Wanda Drive. We will be doing some internal moves due to people's needs changing as well as welcoming 4 new people to our agency. This is a lovely home and we anticipate it being open by the end of May.

From the Ontario Disability Support Program Modernization Fact Sheet

The Ministry of Community and Social Services is transforming the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) into a more modern and simplified program by:

- Refocusing the current service delivery model into a more customer-centered model;
- Shifting the focus toward longer term outcomes for clients, including community inclusion and employment;
- Integrating the delivery of Income and Employment Supports programs; and
- Working towards a more engaged and empowered workforce.

In order to effectively manage growing caseloads and improve service delivery, the ministry is introducing a new integrated customer-centered service delivery and staffing model which will enable us to deliver integrated income and employment supports services.

The new staffing model will include the following core ODSP positions:

- ODSP Caseworker
- ODSP Program Support Clerk
- Case Presenting Officer
- Family Support Worker

ODSP Caseworkers will provide individualized support and manage all aspects of a client's file, including income and employment supports services. This will enable staff to spend dedicated time with our clients to assist them with employment and community inclusion opportunities, and ultimately help them work towards financial stability.

The new Family Support Worker position will be introduced to address existing service delivery gaps by assisting applicants and clients in obtaining spousal and child support payments to which they may be entitled.

The integrated customer-centered service delivery and staffing model will be phased in over a two year period and is expected to be completed in December 2011. The implementation of the new staffing model will initially focus on the transition to the Caseworker and Program Support Clerk positions. Upon full implementation of these positions, the ministry will begin implementation of Family Support Worker positions. The Case Presenting Officer position exists in the current model and will continue in the new model.

The ministry recently introduced a new integrated training program for all ODSP staff to provide them with the training they need to transition to their new role and provide effective service to our customers. The new training program was launched in May 2010 and is being delivered to staff in a phased approach across the province.

Communications will be provided to our stakeholders and community partners throughout the transition.

Spotlight On Employment

submitted by Cathy Makin



Breaking Down the Barriers of Autism

Imagine you are a young person just graduating from high school and you can't wait to get out there in the world and make a contribution. You know exactly what you have to offer. You know you have the skills and you are passionate. Imagine now you are unable to communicate this in the usual way. You are unable to talk about and sell yourself to those in a position of influence. You will likely never understand the ability to persuade a potential employer, in order to compete with other job candidates.

As an Employment Support Worker for Community Living Burlington, I am reminded every day of the social norms that exist around communication. Those customary gestures and phrases are mostly just taken for granted. If you are unable to instinctively know when to smile, boast, exaggerate and give eye contact you face significant barriers to finding employment. That is why every time a person in the program gets hired it is a triumph for the Employment Services team.

Montana's Cookhouse on Hyde Park Gate in Oakville is an employer partner with special cause for celebration. The management and staff at Montana's are role models in our community for breaking down the barriers and stereotypes of Autism. Recently Matthew a young man who has autism was able to take the first step toward realizing his dream of being a cook. Based solely on the recommendation from Employment Services and without any hesitation Stasia, the General Manager, provided a work opportunity to Matthew. Prior to being given this opportunity Matthew had met with other employment programs as well as potential employers, who were not able to see past the communication barrier to believe his skills and competencies might exist.

Matthew is fortunate in that unlike most people he knows what he wants to do and is persistent in his efforts to communicate that. My first experience with Matthew's tenacity was at his home where his mom had invited me to come and observe him preparing dinner for the family. He told me numerous times in his own way that he loves to cook and showed me that I should write this in my notebook, I assume in order that I wouldn't forget.



On June 25th, the first day at Montana's, I was both surprised and impressed that the employees did not see any barrier when communicating and providing instruction to Matthew. It was assumed he was able to understand and follow direction and he was therefore treated like any new employee. He is respected and valued for the contribution he is able to make. Although difficult for him to express, Matthew looks forward to his shifts at Montana's and enjoys being a part of the food preparation team. When you get to know him this becomes evident in subtle clues such as his eagerness to get to work, his initiative and the attentive look in his eyes while working in the kitchen.

Through non-verbal cues, Matthew's co-workers recognized his desire to take on more responsibility and offered another step forward: to train with the cook preparing orders as they come in on "the line". Pictured here is Matthew working beside Warren, an employee who recognizes skills and took a leadership role in the training. The two are working side by side preparing for another busy lunch.



Not many people can say they have found their niche and are passionate in their work. It is gratifying to drop by Montana's on a Friday morning and witness such a supportive and mentoring environment. I am proud to have played a small role in connecting an aspiring young cook with Montana's Cookhouse where there is a positive and inclusive attitude among management and all of the employees.

Community Living Burlington is proud to recognize Montana's Cookhouse as our new community partner.

Expressional Arts Program (EAP)

submitted by Lisa Turner

Winter began with a bang for the Expressional Arts Program.

The Art Exhibit, held at the Burlington Arts Centre, was a great success.

This exhibit featured creative works by our photographers who captured their personal perspectives and unique stories through their camera lens. The results were fantastic.



Also featured were paintings and artwork from the New Horizon Program, the Summer Mixed Bag Courses and our Painting by the Lake classes held at Paletta Park. These works included abstracts, natural landscapes, memories and still life. All participants used their imagination and inspiration to create beautiful and unique expressions of their ideas and feelings.





The Christmas Choir had two recitals. Glad Tidings Church and Wellington Terrace both had an enthusiastic, standing room only audience that joined in the carols and showed great support for our singers. Court and the Knights performed at both events to help bring in the spirit of the season. It was a wonderful way to celebrate the holidays and New Year. Special thanks to Dayani for

her guitar accompaniment and support.

Our new EAP calendars and holiday cards which feature our artist's works were sold at all events.

We'd like to thank all those who came out to share in the fun and for their support of the artists. Special thanks to all our artists for their hard work and all the volunteers who offered their time and creative energy.



In response to the many requests we've received are offering another Mural Painting class which started February 16th and runs until April 6th. We meet every Wednesday from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in Mainway's Upstairs Meeting Room. Registration will be at the first class so come on out and join us if you love to paint.

EAP is having a New Years Calendar sale! All calendars are now \$10.00! Call for details.

Stay tuned for details about more of our exciting upcoming programs. Best Wishes for a wonderful New Year ahead from everyone in EAP .



905-336-2225 ext. 458

Tribute and Memorial Donations

Community Living Burlington is often the recipient of donations made in memory of someone who has passed away or to celebrate a special occasion in someone's life. We would like to acknowledge and remember those people who have had donations made in their honour

In Memory of Frank Bennett

Gail Czukar
 Donna Czukar
 Catherine Schiller
 Isobel Pope
 Cheryl Schmid
 Lois McCabe

In Memory of John Anderson

Smith's Funeral Home

In Memory of Grace Knoll

Margaret Opatousky
 Claudia Brema
 Dinah Getin
 Marie Brown
 Lois Reilly
 William Wade
 Norma Martinelli

In Honour of Kim Taylor

Shirley Jones

In Honour of Jock McKay

Pat McKay

Celebrating the Marriage of Suzanne Leduc & Dominc DeFelice

Irene Cranstone

Remembering The People We Support At Christmas

Bucci Group
 Compass Point Church - Angel Tree
 John Teggart - winnings of the Christmas Dinner 50-50 draw
 Posavad Family
 Preceptor Beta Epsilon
 Rotary Club of Burlington
 Secret Santa Member

The above listed donations were received November 2, 2010 - March 1, 2011.

Fundraising News

submitted by Emily Huang

United Way Campaign 2010

Every year, the United Way of Burlington & Greater Hamilton contributes funding to our Residential Services, Life Skills, Pre-school Integration Services and our New Horizons – Seniors' Program. To show our appreciation, Community Living Burlington hosts fundraising events benefiting the United Way between the months of September to December.

For CLB's 2010 United Way In-House Campaign, we encouraged staff and programs to participate and come up with their own fundraiser. Each team came up with exceptionally creative and fun ideas that included a Bingo night, Chinese take-out day, a bake sale, a penny drive, Kool-Aid wallets, a weekly Jelly Bean game and a variety of raffles. With the dedication and hard work from all of our staff, the people we support and managers, our organization was able to raise over \$9,000 for the United Way.

We also asked staff and managers to vote for their favourite fundraisers. 'Most Fun' prize went to Ryerson House for their Bingo Night. 'Most Creative' prizes went to Fairfax House for their Chinese Take-Out Day & Fischer House for their Penny Drive. The 'Most Money Raised' prize went to the programs that run out of Paletta Gatehouse (Employment Services, New Horizons, Passages, Pre-Employment, Person-Directed Planning & Volunteer Program). They held a Maple Leafs raffle which raised approximately \$2,000. Congratulations to everybody and thank-you for all of your efforts.

The Expressional Arts Program & Dream Weavers also participated in this United Way campaign by dressing up as witches and ghouls for the Village Square Haunted House. They volunteered during the Halloween weekend to bring much joy (and scare) to hundreds of trick-or-treaters.



We truly appreciate everyone's help in making this campaign a success.

Thank-you.

“United Every One, Every Day, Every Way.”

More Fundraising News

Upcoming Events

31st Annual Walk'n Roll at Bronte Creek Provincial Park Saturday May 14th, 2011

Come join Community Living Burlington as we fundraise for our 31st Walk'n Roll. You can walk, bike, run or roll through the beautiful trails of Bronte Creek Provincial Park. This event is open to everybody in our community and it is sure to be a fun day for everyone in the family. There will be a complimentary lunch for all participants, live entertainment, arts & crafts for the children and much more!

Pledge forms will be ready on March 1st.

7th Annual Charity Golf Tournament at Crosswinds Golf & Country Club Thursday June 9th, 2011

Come enjoy 18 holes of golf at Crosswinds Golf and Country Club and marvel at the beautiful escarpment views while raising money for Community Living Burlington. Golf registration includes patio grill lunch, green fees, complimentary driving range, a GPS enabled power cart, three-course dinner & silent auction to follow.

Event sponsorship is available for Walk'n Roll and the Golf Tournament.

For more information on these events, please contact **Emily Huang** at **289-337-5395** or fundraising@clburlington.ca

Holiday Season Direct Mail

Thank you to our members and supporters who responded to our 2nd Annual Holiday Season Direct Mail. So far, we have raised \$850 with \$300 going towards our Expressional Arts Program. We greatly appreciate the support received by our CLB members and the community. We are still accepting donations so it's not too late to return the form with your cheque in the pre-paid envelope provided. Thank you to everyone for your continued support of Community Living Burlington! We wish you and your family the best in 2011.

Aviva Community Fund

Thank you to everybody for your support of our quest to receive a grant through the Aviva Community Fund. With your votes, we were able to make it to the semi-final round. Unfortunately, we did not receive enough votes to make it to the finals but it was still a great way to increase awareness of our organization. Thank you for voting for Community Living Burlington and for giving us this opportunity.

Volunteer Success

submitted by Pamela Parkinson

As a person who loves art and painting, with a career as a teacher, volunteering with the Expressional Arts Program seemed a natural fit. I began volunteering with Community Living Burlington about a year ago, and not only has it been fun, it has also been a really rewarding experience.

I learned about Community Living Burlington through an individual, Cathy, who is going to become my sister-in-law this August. As I learned more about her, I found out that she was part of a group that was involved in all sorts of creative activities; painting, drawing, drama, and photography – all right up my alley. Since one of their volunteers who helped with the painting group had recently moved out of the area - I offered to help.

The first project I helped with was a mural, now hanging in the cafeteria at Mainway. An eager group of artists greeted me the first week I arrived, and 8 weeks later, after some learning, laughs and new found friendships, we had a masterpiece! Each artist had a section of the mural to paint after learning about shapes, mixing paint, fragmentation and families of colour. We had the opportunity to make paintings to take home and share what we created at an official “unveiling” ceremony too!

Many moments with this mural group stick out in my mind, through being greeted week after week with big welcoming smiles is definitely an ongoing highlight. One of the artists who was enthusiastic about learning new painting techniques actually took his knowledge and shared it with others outside of the mural group. He was beaming when he reported back to me the following week, having taught others all about “families of colour”. It was a proud moment for us both.

The opportunities to volunteer with CLB haven't been limited to just the mural painting group. I have helped at a few other events like the Walk'n Roll, summer “Mixed Bag” art program and the Photography group as well. The individuals are so grateful for the time and energy spent on them, it's hard not to feel appreciated! I'm happy to be a volunteer.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

**If you would like to join our team of dedicated volunteers,
please let us know!**

**Volunteering is a great way to meet interesting people,
network and have fun while contributing to a great cause.**

Please contact: Franki Marcussen

289-337-6961 clhaltonvolunteers@gmail.com

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If you have questions or comments about this newsletter, contact Miranda Heersink at: 905-335-2225 ext. 241 or by email at: heersink_miranda@clburlington.ca



DATES TO REMEMBER

April 22, 2011	Good Friday - All Day Programs Closed
May 12, 2011	Spring Fling Dance - 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Burlington Senior Centre Admission: \$4.00 and Snacks: 50 cents each
May 14, 2011	31st Walk'n Roll Bronte Creek Provincial Park Pledge Forms will be available after March 1st
May 23, 2011	Victoria Day - All Day Programs Closed
June 7, 2011	Annual General Meeting
June 9, 2011	7th Annual Golf Tournament Crosswinds Golf Tournament
July 1, 2011	Canada Day - All Day Programs Closed
August 1, 2011	Civic Holiday - All Day Programs Closed
September 5, 2011	Labour Day - All Day Programs Closed
October 10, 2011	Thanksgiving Day - All Day Programs Closed
December 1, 2011	Annual Christmas Dinner & Dance Burlington Convention Centre