

Happenings

WE BELIEVE IN PEOPLE

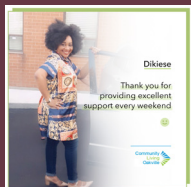
Volume 1, Edition 5

2020

(COVID-19
edition)

LIVING YOUR BEST LIFE - ELIZABETH SCHAAF

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Dikiese
Thank you for
providing excellent
support every weekend!

A LOOK BACK AT DSP RECOGNITION WEEK

Direct Support Professional (DSP) Recognition Week was an amazing opportunity to feature the committed, groundbreaking direct support workers that are at the heart and soul of assisting people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.



Toby
Thank you for
volunteering to help
out whenever you can!

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PROJECT SEARCH

Physically distant but socially close. A new group of interns. A new classroom. A new reality.

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STAY CONNECTED

Providing social opportunities to people in order to prevent loneliness and social isolation.

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THE SECRET OF LIVING IS GIVING



"Giving is not just about making a donation. It is about making a difference." – Kathy Galvin

Donors are the lifeline of any not-for-profit organization. With their kind donations, they help us go the extra mile for the people we support.

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A MESSAGE FROM JANET



Welcome to our fall edition of Happenings.

Covid-19 has largely consumed our newsfeed and focus since March 2020. Unfortunately, as of October 24th we are experiencing an outbreak. We are working with Public Health to mitigate risk, and access quick testing and results. We will continue to provide employees and families with updates and information. As of the writing of this report, four employees and four people supported have tested positive, some with the absence of symptoms. We appreciate the support of Halton Public Health as we navigate. We also sincerely thank the employees who are continuing their work to support people they care about as they re-cooperate, and hope that employees and people we support will be well quickly.

In September, we celebrated Direct Support Professionals week. This year in particular we thank our employees for their commitment, resilience and ongoing efforts to ensure people who use our services continue to experience joy, hope, and quality of life.

We also thank the donors who have generously made sure that people have the computers or tablets to use virtual technology and stay connected with friends and family, and staff for the boredom busting range of virtual activities and opportunities to choose from. The required closure of all con-

gregate day services has been a challenge and we are pleased to see that many people, including those who live at home with their families, are taking part in virtual sessions developed by Day Services to maintain contact with their friends. We have adapted and changed our habits to facilitate health and safety, but also recognize that quality of life and ongoing connection to friends and family are important. This has been a difficult and long-lasting chapter for everyone in our community.

First Responders have participated in birthday drive-bys so that special days are still special. Public Health and the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services have provided ongoing updates and guidance and there is unprecedented collaboration between sectors to work through this together.

Thankfully people have been able to visit their families again over recent months, and many enjoyed some vacation time together toward the end of August. We don't know what tomorrow will bring in terms of changing guidelines from Public Health due to recently rising Covid numbers in Ontario, but will continue to make the most of each day. It appears unlikely that any congregate services will be possible for some time, however some small group services are being gradually opened in the fee-for-service area which we hope to be able to continue.

Thank you to the Members who attended our virtual Annual General Meeting on September 28th. We all regretted not having the opportunity to see you in person and chat after the meeting. Hopefully 2021 will bring back opportunities to be together.

Thank you for your support.

Janet Lorimer
Executive Director

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Happy Birthday to everyone who celebrated over the past few months! Check out our Birthday Drive By's on Page 6.

RENEWING OUR CLO VISION, MISSION AND STRATEGIC PLAN

In the fall of 2019, Community Living Oakville began a new Strategic Planning process, with the intent to fully align and update our Strategic Plan with the initiatives from our recent CQL Accreditation as well as with the implementation of Personal Outcome Measures for each person that we support. While our primary goal was to ensure we embraced and built upon our Accreditation initiative, the Board of Directors were also open to updating our vision, mission and values to ensure their relevance as we moved on this new journey.

To achieve this goal of renewing our strategic plan, a Strategic Planning Committee was formed, which conducted stakeholder workshops in late 2019 and early 2020 to explore new and existing priorities as well as the challenges and opportunities that exist for Community Living Oakville. This information gathering work helped identify key themes for our plan, including:

- Putting each person we support as our driving focus for all our programs and services,
- Strengthening our emphasis on community participation and community engagement,
- Evolving the culture within CLO to fully live the person-first mindset, and
- Continuing to invest in our capabilities and infrastructure to better enable our community-focused, person-centred programs and culture.

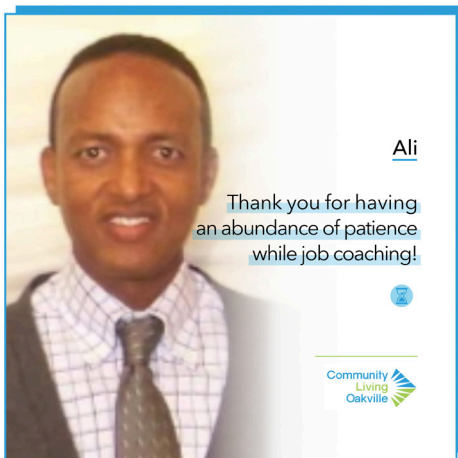
Based on these themes, the committee identified a core set of strategic initiatives to move us forward over the next few years. Janet's management team then integrated the strategic initia-

tives with the Accreditation plan and developed a detailed implementation plan which has been approved by the Board of Directors. With the onset of and impacts resulting from Covid-19 during 2020, the management team and the Board agreed that we would extend the implementation period for this strategic plan over a four-year period through to March 2024.

The Strategic Planning Committee also recommended that the Board refresh CLO's vision, mission, and values to fully reflect the focus on our person-centred culture and mindset. The updated vision, mission and values now reflect our focus on realizing the unique dreams, goals, and choices of each person we support, while providing them opportunities and supports to fully participate in and contribute to the community they live in. The language used in these guiding statements reflects the uniqueness of "each person we support" vs referring to the "people we support" as a group - a subtle but important change in mindset. The updated vision, mission and values have been approved by the Board and are provided on the next page.

We encourage everyone involved with CLO to embrace our mission and live our values each day, and actively support the efforts of our management and staff with the strategic initiatives. By doing this, we all will be a part of bringing our CLO vision to life for each person that we support.

Tom Whelan
Vice President



OUR VISION AND MISSION

Vision Statement

A world where each person with a developmental disability lives their dreams and choices as a respected and valued contributor to community life.

Mission Statement

We encourage and support each person to live active, rewarding and fulfilling lives in the community, by providing quality services, supports and opportunities that are determined by their dreams and goals.



OUR CORE VALUES

For each person we support, we value:

Citizenship:

We support each person to enjoy safe participation in all aspects of community life, respecting their dignity and individuality.

Individuality:

We provide person-directed services and supports, tailored to meet individual goals and needs.

For our organization and ourselves, we value:

Quality:

We provide quality services and supports with care and compassion by skilled, trained and dedicated staff.

Progressiveness:

We are adaptable and open-minded, constantly striving to improve our services and supports, applying best practices and creativity.

Accountability:

We accept personal responsibility for our actions and are answerable to each person we support, their families, our funding partners and to each other.

PROJECT SEARCH

Physically Distant but Socially Close

A new group of interns. A new classroom. A new reality. This is a strange new time we're living in, so there are many changes this year for Project Search. Our new interns are already rising to the challenge of increased physical space, screening at the doors before entry, and wearing masks all day. It's a challenge not being able to see everyone's smiling faces, and sometimes having to repeat ourselves to be understood, but these potential hindrances haven't stopped the learning and the bonding. Despite the challenges, things are moving forward successfully.

During our first four weeks together we saw 100% attendance, and everyone arrived early each day with enthusiasm as we learned in class and moved closer to internship placements. During those weeks we completed hospital staff on-boarding, including corporate orientation and e-learning, engaged in some getting-to-know-you activities, went on a very thorough tour of the back-of-house operations of the hospital, and toured all our host departments. Touring each department provides interns with much greater insight as they experience the sights, sounds, and smells of their potential work environments. Managers from each department also visited our interns in class to present valuable information about their departments and the duties they might be expected to perform as an intern. This was a rich time of learning as managers got to know our interns and our interns had an opportunity to ask important questions.

This valuable time leading up to internships is also when skills trainers presented a variety of workshops focused on employment: topics such as workplace expectations, skills assessment, essential skills, time management, work ethic, self-advocacy, and more.



We have already seen remarkable growth in our interns and the following are some comments when interns were asked to reflect on Project Search so far:

- “It feels like a party, and the people are cool and chill. It’s a second home in a way.”
- “I like when people say hello to me in the morning and ask me how I’m doing.”
- “It’s a welcoming classroom...and sounds of laughter.”
- “It’s nice having new friends at Project Search.”
- “Lisa is the best teacher on this planet.”

Also, one of our first interns to start work received this feedback from their department director: “He seems to fit right in and is very comfortable with the team. It amazes me, it’s like he’s been here for months. The work he has done has been a huge benefit to our team.”

In only a few short weeks we can see the seeds of success, the bonds of friendship growing, a sense of trust and safety in the classroom, and excitement for the coming weeks and months. Despite the challenges of being physically distant our lively group has grown socially close.

SPONSORED BY:





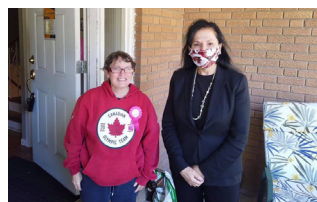
BIRTHDAY DRIVE BY'S

For most people, the defining quality of a birthday party is that it involves celebrating the occasion with the people we love the most. Whether this means gathering with your best friends, closest family, or both, birthday parties are a special time – and that includes drive-by birthday parties that have taken over during the current pandemic. They might not ever be quite as fun as being in the same room as all your loved ones, but it can still be a special occasion all the same.

Birthday drive by's were a huge success at the beginning of the pandemic, and we quickly realized - let's keep the celebrations going!

With the continued help of James Montague and our community partners, we continue to light up the streets of Oakville. We had many birthdays to celebrate and quite a few milestone birthdays.

Happy Birthday to everyone who celebrated over the past few months!



A GRAND RE-OPENING



Day Service staff have been supporting people in their homes during the day since March, ensuring each person is enjoying their time and is fulfilled. Due to the pandemic, however, safety measures required the temporary closure of Xcel, our fee for service program serving community families. Behind the scenes, we have been working diligently to ensure we would be ready to re-open when given the green light, ensuring that all health and safety measures are top priority!

Luckily that light did indeed turn green and we opened our doors at the beginning of October. We created new safety protocols to ensure everyone is safe, including two co-horts of smaller groups, masks, temperature checks, frequent hand washing/sanitizing and cleaning protocols.

Though these measures have been in place, the excitement and fun has not stopped or dwindled our ability to get creative! With most of the day spent outdoors lately enjoying fall, everyone is excited to be back in action- our new normal.

For more information on our Fee for Service programs please contact Julie Bisbicos – julie.bisbicos@oakcl.org



LIVING YOUR BEST LIFE - ELIZABETH SCHAAF

Who thought you could live your best life during a pandemic? Many are thinking ‘are you nuts?’ Fast forward to seven months later and Liz will tell you otherwise!

Our world as we knew it changed back in March. Within a 48-hour period - schools were closed, businesses had to shut their doors and life as Liz knew it changed - she would no longer be able to see her many friends every day. People thought it would be only for a week or maybe two. After a few months, we quickly came to the realization that Liz’s days as we knew it wouldn’t be the same.

At first Liz would wake up at her usual early time and get dressed, following a routine she has done for many years. Her friends, family and staff talked about Covid-19 daily, and how everyone is home to keep safe. Liz quickly realized she didn’t need to wake up early and took on “working from home” to a whole new level! She now enjoys a slower start to her morning. Spending her days at home, she has been able to do many different things. Liz enjoyed starting a garden up in the spring, and grew veggies throughout the summer. Tomatoes were a big hit this summer and she even shared them with her boyfriend Rob.

When she wasn’t spending time tending to her garden, going for her daily morning walks, listening to music or chatting on zoom, Liz got creative and learned how to use a silk screen. Liz designed and printed t-shirts, bags, and pictures.



Along with her friends on zoom and thanks to Chef Adam, she has done some baking, and enjoys cooking meals for everyone in her home.

When she isn’t busy, Liz enjoys spending time with Rob- via zoom and in person. Like many couples, it has been tough to not be able to see him every day. She said she is looking forward to when they can hold each other again more regularly.

People have noticed a new light in Liz’s eyes, and an extra skip in her step during the last few months. “She is chatty, happy and is energetic, sometimes it’s hard to keep up with her” her staff say. So how does Liz sum up her time spending her days at home? Simply, - “It’s fun”

Living your best life can happen at any moment and in any environment, it’s never too late!



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On September 28th, 2020 members, people we support, families and friends gathered together virtually to join in Community Living Oakville's first ever Zoom Annual General Meeting. Seeing as we could not be physically together as in past years, we still ensured to celebrate our success with 45 people in attendance.

Our meeting reflected upon all of the efforts made by our staff over the last year, showcasing the opportunities developed for each person we support, as well as our vision going forward with the introduction of our newly developed strategic plan. We also touched upon the progression of Personal Outcome measures and ensuring the overall importance of quality enhancement agency wide.

Community Living Oakville was also proud to introduce our newly elected board member, Kevin Flynn. Kevin is an active political leader in our community and has been a genuine supporter of Community Living Oakville for many years. We thank Kevin for his involvement and look forward to continuing to work with him.

Click on the cover of the annual report or enter the following URL to link to the annual report:

https://oakcl.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/CLO_annualreport2020FNL.pdf



THE LADY WITH A BIG PERSONALITY - LINDA JOHNSON



Linda became a part of the Community Living Oakville (CLO) family in 1989. After having spent 31 years of her life at CLO, on September 24th, 2020, Linda moved to Parkview Nursing Centre in Hamilton. As with all life changes, this transition is a direct dose of reality for everyone involved. However much we dread the thought of permanently moving a loved one into a Long Term Care home, we also know that this move can be both emotionally and physically beneficial to them.

Linda is known as the light and voice of her former home. She is full of sunshine, laughter, and happiness. Linda enjoyed attending CLO's day program; Innovations with her many friends. Linda always had a smile on her face regardless of the health issues she had. When Linda walked through the doors each morning, she not only made her presence felt but also expected it to be acknowledged. Linda was passionate about enjoying her tea, having a sweet treat and loved back rubs. She also enjoyed flipping through magazines and always looked forward to the holidays.

She kept herself amused by calling staff by different names. She would call Leanne - Maria, and Desiree - Kapoo, Giorgia - George, Danielle - Diane Bronco, Stephanie - Usa, while she referred to Asif as her boyfriend. The staff at her former home and day program will miss being called by their work names given to them by Linda. Linda will also be missed by her friends and everyone is surely to remember her by her hilarious sense of humor. All the best wishes to you Linda and be sure to stay in touch!

WHEN LIFE HANDS YOU LEMONS MAKE - CRANBERRY SAUCE?



Marty's Cranberry Sauce

Do you wake up and think, "what is happening outside- a world pandemic? What did you say? I am unable to leave the house??"

Great! So you are among all the Canadians waking up thinking – how is Covid-19 still among us, it has been 8 months!?"

Many Canadians are out of work, or are essential and need to work, schools are back in session, some kids are home, some parts of the province are back in stage 2 due to increase in positives cases. The country is trying to find ways to recover economically while trying to keep its citizens safe and healthy.

How do you cope with so much uncertainty and unrest happening around you? Well, you can ask Marty Copland as he has found the answer - spend time in the kitchen and cook!

Marty has cooked up some elaborate meals including Pineapple Chicken, Mexican Lasagna, Raspberry and Blueberry jams and his most recent creation, Cranberry Sauce. "What's a Thanksgiving feast without Cranberry sauce? Especially if it's homemade!" Marty said while trying to figure out the specific ratios for his masterpiece, he even found adding some oranges (optional) gives more flavour!

Marty enjoys sharing the wealth, and prepared enough cranberry sauce for his girlfriend Annie to enjoy for Thanksgiving.

He said he didn't want his recipe to be kept a secret, so save this recipe for your next holiday meal, and remember when life hands you lemons (or a worldwide pandemic), don't just make lemonade, make cranberry sauce, raspberry jam, or blueberry jam - anything but lemonade!

Ingredients

- 4 cups of cranberries
- 2 cups of water
- 2 cups of sugar
- 2 oranges (or 4 mandarin oranges) (Optional)

Directions

1. Add the water and the sugar to your saucepan and cook until all sugar is dissolved and the sugar water is boiling. If adding the oranges, grate the rind and cut the oranges into small pieces then add the rind and the oranges to the saucepan. I find that they need a little more cooking time than the cranberries do.

2. Add your cranberries and stir. When the cranberries are boiling, turn the heat down to a low bowl and continue to stir from time to time until you reach the consistency you desire. It should start to thicken. Make sure while you are stirring that you smash the cranberries against the side of the pot. You don't have to do them all, just to your liking.

JOSHUA CREEK HERITAGE ART CENTRE - A PLACE WHERE CREATIVITY SOARS!

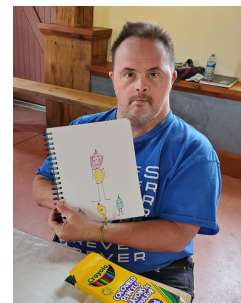
Nestled in the country along Burnhamthorpe Rd in Oakville, you will find Joshua Creek Heritage Art Centre, a 'welcoming sanctuary.' For many years, people have been visiting the art center to partake in art lessons and attend events.

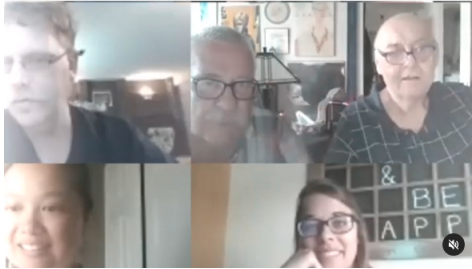
On October 5th, we had the opportunity to once again visit the art center after being away for some time due to COVID-19. Seven artists from Community Living Oakville have continued to attend each Monday and gather together to share in the joy of art.

There is a lesson plan for the day with various activities to follow. Before the class begins, everyone has the opportunity to talk and discuss their weekend, feelings or thoughts with the group. The lesson plan is read aloud and then the fun begins! The artists are: Heidi B, Owen R, Joey W, Anthony M, Anthony L, Kathy A, and our newest member Connor. The activities can include but are not limited to, sketching in their art workbooks, using the printing press, using watercolor paints, melted crayons, India ink, and other forms of media.

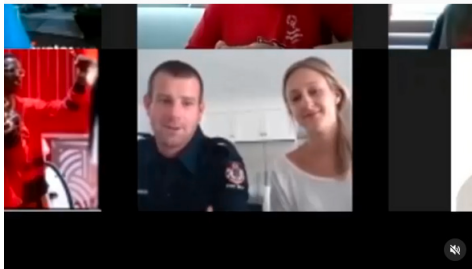
To learn more about Joshua Creek Heritage Art Centre see the link below:

www.joshuacreekarts.ca

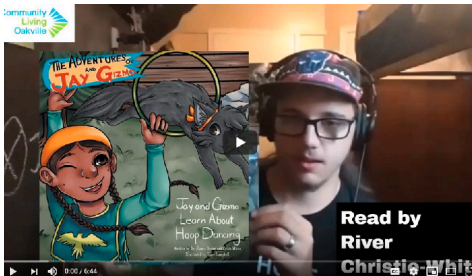




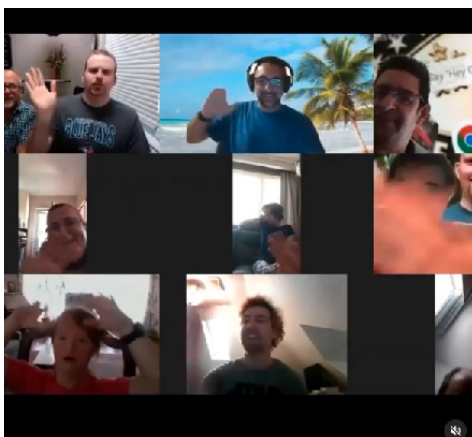
Q&A with Dave Hingsburger



Q&A with Firefighter Kevin Reid



Zoom reading with River Christie-White



STAY CONNECTED

With the threat of a second wave of Covid-19 upon us, it is even more vital that we find ways to stay physically distant but socially connected amid the pandemic. Stay Connected is providing social opportunities to people in order to prevent loneliness and social isolation. We have had many great guests join us throughout the summer including:

Q&A with Dave Hingsburger

Our In The Loop reporters were delighted and grateful to have Dave Hingsburger (and his partner Joe) join us for some relationship Q&A! Some great relationship advice shared!

Dave Hingsburger has worked for over 30 years with people with intellectual disabilities. He is a well-known consultant, author, trainer, speaker, and daily blogger in the disability field.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CCJWsp1njFh/>

Q&A with Firefighter Kevin Reid

Learning all about what firefighters need to prepare for during a pandemic! We are grateful for efforts from all our first responders. Special Thanks to Michelle Francis for arranging this and introducing them to the Zoom session with such kind words and gratitude.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CCZN3h7nWgd/>

Zoom book reading with River Christie-White

We connected with River Christie-White and enjoyed a Zoom reading of “Jay and Gizmo Learn About Hoop Dance.” This is the second in a new series of children’s books, The Adventures of Jay and Gizmo. These books are aimed specifically at young and early school-aged indigenous youth.

https://youtu.be/AFEY4fXv_5I

July 20th was a special Monday, kicking it off with some inspiration! @heremybook was written by Michael Jacques who proves that despite barriers to reading and writing, we can find ways to get our story and our message across! Congratulations to all the success and essential work you have been doing in our community!

https://www.instagram.com/p/CC3rN_aHg2/

STAY CONNECTED (CONT'D)

In August, Aspie Comic Michael McCreary joined us on our #Stayconnected Q&A! We are so grateful to him for making us laugh and talking to us about being a comedian and a creative person who has Autism!

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CEKHcAanAIC/>

Ryan Luyk shared about his struggles and surviving an overdose 4 years ago! Especially important to talk about it on #internationaloverdoseawarenessday

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CEjzmu5nyv8/>

In September, we were honoured to have Pandemic Support Assistant Marlo Bilotta join our Stay Connected chat session to talk about the amazing work he is doing! Marlo is currently employed at Halton Healthcare - Oakville Trafalgar Hospital and is a Project Search graduate. We recognized Marlo with a well-deserved award for his quick thinking during a difficult situation on one of his shifts!

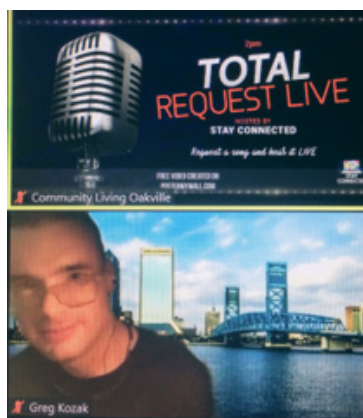
<https://www.instagram.com/p/CFZ5BKtHgIG/>



Getting used to this virtual space has been interesting and challenging, but during these times we are finding creative ways to be social, have fun and stay safe while physical distancing! Together, we will get through this and Stay Connected along the way!



'Stay Connected' is supported by the Government of Canada's Emergency Community Support Fund and the Oakville Community Foundation.



Aside from having inspirational guests on our Stay Connected sessions, we have enjoyed hosting fun virtual sessions such as:

Scavenger Hunt Every Monday with Lauren - we will get you running around your home to find various items

Name That Tune - we pick short clips of songs from different eras and guess the song and artist.

Cooking with Chef Adam - Every Wednesday Chef Adam prepares a dish LIVE on Zoom with his assistants Doug and furry friend Finnegan - who is great at helping with clean-up ;)

Bingo - Hosted by Jeff, Sam and Lauren

Oldies Music Hour - an hour of catchy oldies that will get you humming (and sometimes dancing) along.

Every morning at 10am we have an **Open Discussion** where we share stories and adventures we've been on. We tell jokes, celebrate successes and birthdays, and have an overall good time together keeping it all friendly and positive. If someone is having a bad day or feeling down, we come together and lift their spirits, showing them that we are there for them.

We also remember to mix in a little fitness into our virtual sessions so that we can spend time keeping our bodies healthy. This is why we have a **Dance Party** every weekday at 1pm-2pm. We feature Richard Simmons and mix in pop songs, learning new dance moves while keeping fit!

Finally, everyday at 2pm we have **TRL - Total Request Live** which is a zoom radio request show where your host Greg Kozak kicks it off with a celebrity birthday. Greg then opens the Zoom lines to take requests! Every once in a while, we also have Avi guest host and bring us the latest news, sports and weather highlights.

PERSONAL OUTCOME MEASURES®



MY HUMAN SECURITY

1. People are safe
2. People are free from abuse and neglect
3. People have the best possible health
4. People experience continuity and security
5. People exercise rights
6. People are treated fairly
7. People are respected



MY COMMUNITY

8. People use their environments
9. People live in integrated environments
10. People interact with other members of the community
11. People participate in the life of the community



MY RELATIONSHIPS

12. People are connected to natural support networks
13. People have friends
14. People have intimate relationships
15. People decide when to share personal information
16. People perform different social roles



MY CHOICES

17. People choose where and with whom to live
18. People choose where they work
19. People choose services



MY GOALS

20. People choose personal goals
21. People realize personal goals

MAKING A DIFFERENCE - SABRINA TROISI



In this edition of Happenings, we are showcasing one of our AMAZING staff, Sabrina Troisi.

Sabrina has worked at one of the residential homes supported by Community Living Oakville since she started her career over 6 years ago. She has seen many changes over those 6 years, but her dedication to the home and the people that she supports is abundantly evident. What Sabrina loves most about her job is “being part of BIG life events”. When she can help people have life experiences that they have never had before, it brings her such pride and job satisfaction. Sabrina lives and works by the mantra that she does not see people’s limitations, but sees new adventures and experiences that each person can have.

What Sabrina loves about her job is that her creativity is encouraged. She has never been told “no” when she has brought forth many of her unique and creative ideas. She sees each person that she supports as an individual and not as a group. Each person has their own dreams and wants and she supports each person as such. Sabrina loves being part of the goal making process and helping each person realize their unique goals.

Sabrina is well respected by her colleagues and is seen as a leader. She takes pride in training as well as teaching new staff. Sabrina is the service area Health and Safety Rep and takes that role seriously. It is important to her that everyone is safe all times.

“Sabrina is such a special person and we are so thankful to have her supporting our son. We continue to be impressed by her kindness and compassion not only with Michael but also the other men in the home.

She has a very positive and caring attitude and is always willing to try new ideas and activities to enrich Michael’s life. Sabrina is very organized and provides regular updates about Michael which has been especially important to us during the challenges with Covid and not being able to see Michael as often. Having Sabrina there for Michael when we are not around brings us great peace of mind as his parents.

Sabrina shares a special bond with Michael and knows how to connect with him at his level. As a parent you always hope your child has meaningful connections with other people and Michael truly has a best friend with Sabrina by his side!!!” – Michelle Whelan, mother of Michael Whelan.

“Dedication, resiliency and compassion are three words that best describe Sabrina’s character. Sabrina has been through many adversities within the workplace, these experiences have been fundamental to her professional development. She is a team player, always willing to help her co-workers but most importantly always finding ways to improve quality for life for the men she supports. Sabrina is innovative, has a great sense of humor, caring and always willing to provide a helping hand when required! She is such a wonderful asset to the Team. Thank you, Sabrina, for all your hard work and assistance.”

– Krystle Moreira, Residential Manager



Note: Photos were taken prior to Covid-19

On behalf of Community Living Oakville THANK YOU Sabrina!

DSP RECOGNITION WEEK

Direct Support Professional (DSP) Recognition Week (September 13th-19th, 2020) was an amazing opportunity to feature the committed, groundbreaking direct support workers that are at the heart and soul of assisting people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Here at Community Living Oakville, we launched our first social media campaign and celebrated our amazing Direct Support Professionals throughout the week.

Each manager was asked to put forth the name of 3 or 4 DSP's that they felt deserved to be recognized. It was then open to all staff to nominate one of their colleagues. The submissions were overwhelming. What was thought to be a campaign that put a spotlight on a handful of DSP's brought forward over 60 names of professionals that work tirelessly every day to provide exemplary support to people at Community Living Oakville.

The interaction on both Facebook and Instagram proved to be not only inspiring and heartwarming, but it was the posts that proved to yield the highest interaction of almost any other posts. The comments that were left on each person's photo demonstrated that Community Living Oakville has some of the most amazing Direct Support Professionals.

The week not only included a Social Media Campaign but each staff was given a little bag of sweets to show a small token of our appreciation. As well, an email of thanks was sent out to all staff every day of DSP week from the directors.

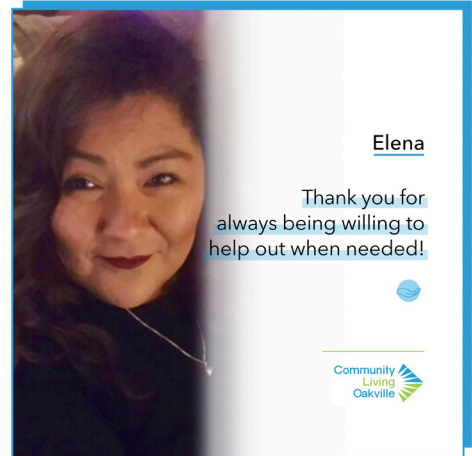
Please click here to watch the video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M7gHUI-KSAs&feature=youtu.be>

[Click here to watch video](#)

"Thank you for making an important difference in all the different kinds of times that life throws at us. Your work makes a profound impact and ensures that every person can enjoy a life that is meaningful."

- Janet Lorimer, Executive Director



MORE GRATITUDE...

There are so many amazing DSP's whose names were not put forward or we didn't possibly have space in this newsletter to feature everyone. We will continue to celebrate you not only during DSP week but throughout the entire year ahead.



Kristie

Thank you for being a great advocate!



Admir

Thank you for sharing your passion for sports!




Tina

Thank you for always standing up for people!





Danielle

Thank you for always being up for an adventure!




Hugo

Thank you for always seeing the best in people!



Giorgia

Thank you for always treating everyone fairly!



Charity

Thank you for always being willing to help out - with a smile!




Therese

Thank you for being so crafty!




Taiwo

Thank you for your hard work and ensuring people are safe!



Raj

Thank you for helping people choose and realize their goals!





BUTTERFLY PROJECT

A caterpillar will eat nonstop for a week until one day he stops. He then hangs upside down from a twig or leaf and spins itself a silky cocoon or molts into a shiny chrysalis. Within its protective casing, the caterpillar radically transforms its body. Through the process of metamorphosis, eventually emerging as a butterfly and flies away.



Covid-19 is now part of everyone's lives, much like a caterpillar- many people wanted to spin themselves into a cocoon, and wake up when the pandemic was over. Not Robert Walter, and his support staff Danielle. When Charter Abilities- a dedicated community partner, donated a butterfly kit (which included 12 caterpillars) to us through Monarch Butterflies™, Danielle was the perfect staff to support Robert and raise the caterpillars into beautiful monarch butterflies. "It's much more work than we anticipated" Danielle recalls, "however Robert really took an interest in raising the



caterpillars." All except one of the butterflies were released and Robert and Danielle did their part to help increase the butterfly population.

What happened to 'the one' butterfly? When the butterfly came out of his chrysalis, he had a bent wing and is unable to fly. Robert is now raising him at home. Danielle helps Robert feed the butterfly Gatorade, which is equivalent to nectar for butterflies.

Thank You to Charter Ability for being an amazing community partner, providing Robert with the opportunity to help the butterfly population.

For more information on Charter Ability <http://www.charterability.com/>

If you would like to purchase a butterfly kit <https://www.monarchbutterflies.ca/>



COVID-19: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EMPLOYMENT



Marlo Bilotta started his employment journey as a student in the Project Search Halton program. While a student in Project Search, Marlo had demonstrated his hard work and dedication, arriving on time, dressed in uniform and always prepared to learn. While completing his internships, Marlo was focused and eager to learn new responsibilities. He had even memorized the hospital emergency code colours and what they mean. In a hospital setting, they can call for help from anywhere and have the correct medical team respond.

With a high school graduation and 2 Project Search internships under his belt, he registered with CLO's Xplore Employment and was set to take on the world. Unfortunately, the pandemic picked up steam; the province was shut down and job prospects were not looking good. Throughout it all, Xplore Employment continued to work with Marlo, with Zoom meetings, phone calls and emails.

Fast forward to the middle of June, Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital (OTMH) had positions that needed to be filled. The HR department reached out to Xplore Employment and discussed the opportunity for the Project Search graduates to fill these positions. The Project Search Business Liaison at the hospital knew Marlo's work ethic and dedication, and Marlo was offered a Pandemic Support Assistant position. He started at the Medical Surgical Outpatient Clinic, with the duties of greeting patients, directing traffic flow, and assisting patients in staying 2 meters apart. This is Marlo's first job and he has proven that it is the right fit for him and for the hospital.

On September 2nd, Marlo's training, attention to detail, quick thinking, and dedication to patient care all came together. This was evident when he responded to a patient emergency (see insert message commending Marlo for his actions).

Marlo continues to work in the clinic as a Pandemic Support Assistant. Although this is a temporary position, Marlo is optimistic that he will find a permanent job at OTMH. To Marlo helping people is clearly not just a job, it is a passion!

**WE ARE NOW
HIRING
JOIN OUR TEAM**

Community Living
Oakville

To apply, please submit resumes to:
resumes@oakcl.org

From: Danny Hawtin
Sent: September 2, 2020 11:24 AM
Subject: Marlo B

Hi,

My name is Danny Hawtin and I work in the Medical Surgical Outpatient clinic at the Oakville Hospital. Marlo is one of the students from Project Search and I believe he should be recognized for his actions and heroism in our clinic. On Monday a patient was having a seizure in our waiting room and we couldn't see it from our desks. Marlo came up to my desk and said "can you call a code medical; a patient is having a seizure". I called immediately and our medical team came and assisted with the patient.

I went up to Marlo after, thanked him and explained to how amazing he handled the situation. He told me that he was scared. I explained to him that he handled it perfectly and remained calm throughout. I am very proud of him and believe he should be recognized for his bravery and the way he handled a difficult situation under that pressure.

We are so grateful to work with these individuals from your program, especially Marlo. If you have any more questions or need more information, please let me know. I was just so proud and impressed with him. There are other examples of his kindness and care for patients that I witnessed as well.

Thank you!

Danny Hawtin
Secretary Treasurer Cupe 815
Health and Safety Cupe 815
Worker Co-Chair JHSC Oakville

THE SECRET OF LIVING IS GIVING

"Giving is not just about making a donation. It is about making a difference."

Kathy Calvin



Donors are the life-line of any not for profit organization. With their kind donations, they help us go the extra mile for the people we support. Walk-

ing into the third quarter of the pandemic year, we are living the new normal in ways we did not imagine possible. During this time, keeping the people we support, their families and staff safe have been the main goal at Community Living Oakville. The support we received from our many donors has helped us achieve this and much more. This summer we saw some more amazing people who came forward to help us boost the morale of the people we support.

The Oakville Horticultural Society has been brightening homes and the lives of people we support with their generous donations of flowers all summer long. Aki Tanaka and Paula Clayton from the So-

ciety arranged donations of homegrown flowers, plants and vegetables. People enjoyed planting, growing, and relishing these vegetables. Special thanks to Aki who cycled in the summer heat to personally deliver colorful bouquets to some of the homes and brighten everyone's day.

A big thank you to The Honorable Anita Anand, MP of Oakville for her donation of sanitizers and a box of cookies to uplift our spirits. A very thoughtful gesture on part of our MP.

Our Annual Golf tournament was canceled due to the COVID restrictions this year. Nevertheless, friends and family who support this event every year donated whole-heartedly towards our fundraising initiative. Thank you for the ongoing support and love we receive from each and everyone in this community.

Also a great shout out to James Montague for volunteering his time and efforts to keep the birthday celebrations going at Community Living Oakville. James along

with our staff Toby, have been successfully coordinating birthday drive-bys.

Having a community that lifts us and encourages us to keep going even in these trying times is what makes us proud.

"We make a LIVING by what we get, But we make a LIFE by what we give."
– Winston Churchill

On this note, a heartfelt thank you to all our donors who have been making contributions through online sites, trusts, and even raising funds for us through personal petitions.



If you have any questions about sponsorship, registration, volunteering or to be added to the email list for future CLO events, please contact Alison Fay via alison.fay@oakcl.org.

TECH TALKS

The year 2020 introduced most of us to tablets, ipads, and laptops. With the new normal taking most of the business online, we have no option but to become tech-savvy and introduce apps that make life more meaningful, interesting, and become knowledgeable.

Here are some suggestions for apps - we hope you find them helpful.

1. Spoken: Tap to Talk AAC: Helping You Speak Again

The app is a very simple one that lets people talk through a device instead of using their voice if needed. You begin by getting to choose a voice that you like with different variations of male and female voices. Then, you get to form simple sentences by clicking word by word (ex. you click the word “there” to start your sentence and then a new list of words that could go after pops up). Once you’re done forming a sentence, you can play it and the other person will hear what you wanted to say. It’s a free app and only available for iOS users.

2. Heat Pad: Sensory App

This app helps anyone who enjoys sensory activities. It plays calming music in the background while you can touch the screen, and it shows a thermal reaction going from red to green depending on how hard you tap. It’s completely free and available on iOS devices. Check out the ‘Miracle Modus’ app if you are an android user.

3. SketchBook: Paint and draw forever

Sketchbook by Autodesk is one of those apps that was designed with the creatives at heart. Whether you just like to doodle, or are a full-fledged artist, SketchBook gives you all the tools you need to create works of art, on the go, wherever you take your tablet.

4. Perfect Keyboard: Assisting with limited dexterity or vision

This mobile app is another tool to assist those with limited dexterity or vision impairments. Perfect Keyboard is a keyboard layout-focused app with settings that allow for increased key height, text size, and space between rows for easier perception. The app improves clarity and reduces instances of hitting multiple keys at the same time - reducing the amount of time and potential errors when entering content. A premium version exists that enhances colors and includes gestures. Available for Android users.

5. Audio Game Hub

Audio Game Hub is designed for people who are blind or visually impaired. With it, you won’t need the accessibility features on your device as there is a voiceover and invert colour feature already available on the app.

There are 10 games including casino, archery, and memory skills. Additional games are due to be released soon. Every game has audio descriptions throughout and different sound effects to identify colours, animals, numbers and obstacles. Also, you can choose to have the screen with black text on white background, white text on a black background or in ‘blind mode’, where the screen is totally black.

6. See Me Draw

See Me Draw is a drawing game, based on dot-to-dot. It is aimed at people with learning disabilities and is a great form of entertainment and development. When you touch a red dot, it begins to draw a picture. A green dot will then move between each dot, which you follow to complete the picture. Once all the dots are connected, the picture will be revealed. It plays amusing noises and a cheerful tune while drawing. There are four pictures to complete and the app is free to download from the App store.

7. Scrabble

The board game Scrabble has been around for more than 80 years and various knock-offs have existed in the app game space for over a decade. This new version offers an experience much closer to the original board game and can be played remotely with friends by adding them through your phone or by connecting the app to your Facebook account.



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