

## CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF DEDICATION

Lindsay Thomas

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

FROM THE CORNER OFFICE 2

NEWS AND VIEWS  
*Young Decision Makers Conference* 3

THE STAFF CORNER  
*Core Competency Update* 4  
*Recent Promotions* 4  
*Recent Hiring* 5  
*Years of Service Announcements* 5

OPENING DOORS  
*Harold Yntema's Trip to Yellowknife, NWT* 5

RESOURCE CONSULTANT UPDATE 7

THE VOLUNTEER SIDE  
*Belly Laughs and Brightened Days* 8  
*Girl Time* 9

YOUTH CONNECT 9

FAMILY SUPPORT FORUM  
*Keys March Break Job Bootcamp* 10  
*Parents Meeting Parents* 10  
*Feedback to the LDSB* 11

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT UPDATE 12

PEOPLE FIRST 12



BETTY YOUNG (THIRD FROM THE LEFT) RECEIVES HER 5 YEAR CITIZENSHIP AWARD IN 1996



BETTY WORKING IN THE COMMUNITY & PRIMARY HEALTH CARE KITCHEN IN FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR.

It is quite likely that if you have been to the little town of Gananoque, you had a very good chance of spotting Betty Young, a local woman with an exceptional love for life and socializing! Betty is out and about in the community on a daily basis. She has always been a dedicated and caring person, which made her perfect for the job of preparing meals for Community & Primary Health Care. It shows all over Betty's face, as she proudly stirs the soup and checks the oven to see how long the meals will take before finishing.

Betty has been volunteering her time at CPHC for 25 years and will be accepting her Citizenship Award for Dedication on Friday, June 24th 2016, at the Community & Primary Health Care branch headquarters located in Brockville.

Betty has been arriving every Wednesday morning to lend a hand. She prepares meals for two of CPHC's programs: Meals on Wheels, a program that delivers hot and frozen meals to clients in the community and their Adult Day Service, a program that runs on-site and focuses on activities with fine and gross motor skills. Betty prepares everything from soup, to frozen meals, to dessert.

"I like working here. Cheryl is nice and Tricia helps me," says Betty, as she and I are sitting and waiting for the first round of meals to cook.

Cheryl Handa-Peters oversees the volunteer programs at CPHC. Tricia Ort is one of the staff members of Community Living Kingston & District, who assists Betty along the way while she volunteers each Wednesday morning. Although Betty does have assistance with her job, she still gets the chance to utilize her independence and practice a very important life skill. While preparing these meals, Betty has a routine to follow, uses measurements, and has specific policies that need to be followed in order for customers in the community to be satisfied with the product. Betty has always done a wonderful job with satisfying her customers and does it with a smile.

Betty is a prime example of a great community volunteer. She plans on continuing her volunteer job for years to come. Staff at Community Living Kingston & District, Gananoque Branch are glad that Betty has a meaningful volunteer position and is contributing to her community.

In the significant words of Elizabeth Andrew: "Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."

If you would like more information about Community & Primary Health Care, visit their website at: <http://www.cphcare.ca>

# FROM THE CORNER OFFICE



## OUR DUAL ROLE: DELIVERING SERVICE AND ADVOCATING FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

*Peter Sproul,  
Executive Director*

Community Living Kingston and District has a long and proud history of delivering service that helps individuals achieve meaningful and valued outcomes. Indeed, the founding generation of parents came together in the early 1950's to support each other in an effort to begin and to grow services and supports that were entirely absent at that time. This was particularly true for education. Determined to avoid the institutionalization of their children, parents fought to start their own classroom and from there developed a workshop and a group home. From those humble beginnings, our Association has grown into a multi-million dollar human service organization that employs 275 staff members who serve almost 700 individuals in several different programs and in many different ways.

But there have always been two reasons for our existence as an organization: one is to deliver services and the other is to advocate for social change. We have been consistent and relentless in the latter, playing a key role in building a more inclusive community where everyone belongs, and we must never lose sight of our accomplishments in that regard. Children are included in pre-school programs and in public and high school. Individuals we support are included in their community, valued as employees, volunteers, and as active and respected participants in all community activities. This reality brings satisfaction to all those who have worked hard to achieve these outcomes, including our community partners and other stakeholders.

At the same time, much more needs to be done to ensure that progress continues. Recently, efforts of advocacy have taken the form of lobbying our local politicians for legislative changes as well as submitting a paper to the Limestone District School Board to be considered in its strategic plan. Several members of our Board of Directors and I met with Sophie Kiwala (MPP Kingston

and the Islands) and Steve Clark (MPP Leeds-Grenville) to address key issues including the rising level of unmet need in our community. This was done in the spirit of partnership and collaboration, yet with a clear message that individuals and families facing desperate situations, some approaching crisis need to be supported for any positive outcomes to be realized. A further meeting was held with Mark Gerretsen, federal MP for Kingston to raise objections with the discriminatory immigration policy and its implementation that results in entire families being denied permanent residency on the basis of disability. Board members brought these issues forward with clarity and determination and were pleased to be received with understanding and agreement.

The submission to the school board was made by the Education Committee of the Board of Directors, made up of board members, parents, educators and CLKD staff. Included in the submission are recommendations to support further inclusion of children with disabilities in the school system, promoting outcomes that collectively enrich the educational experience for all students. The work of the Education Committee was exhaustive and formidable and is an extremely well-crafted summary of issues, challenges and suggestions that further our mission and fit with the overall strategic direction of the school board.

Community Living Kingston and District does more than deliver valued, individualized services. It continues to be an agent of social change, a pioneering force in collaboration with individuals, families, government, community partners and politicians to build a community where everyone participates with dignity and independence. Those efforts started in 1953 and continue today.



Community Living Kingston and District is pleased to announce that our website is now available in both official languages. Check us out at [www.communitylivingkingston.org](http://www.communitylivingkingston.org)

Intégration Communautaire Kingston et district est heureux d'annoncer que notre site est maintenant disponible dans les deux langues officielles. Visiter nous à [www.communitylivingkingston.org](http://www.communitylivingkingston.org)

## YOUNG DECISION MAKERS CONFERENCE

*Martha Johnston*

On Wednesday, March 2, 2016, a group of 13 youths and young adults set out on a five day adventure. With the collaboration of Community Living Kingston & District, the Youth2Kingston project (Y2K) and the Students Commission of Canada this inclusive group of youth, with the support of 2 enthusiastic Community Living Kingston and District staff, headed to the Young Decision Makers (YDM) conference at the YMCA Ceder Glen camp just north of Toronto. 160 youth representatives from each province and territory travelled to attend this yearly youth conference, hosted by the Student's Commission of Canada.

The youth were encouraged to share their ideas, voice and passion for making change in Canada. Together, delegates discussed and studied issues of greatest relevance to Canadian youth; subjects such as healthy relationships, online privacy, environment and sustainability, a path to reconciliations and youth decision making. What we didn't know before attending, was that all of the ideas and possible actions brought forward by our focus groups would be compiled into a report that would be sent to the Minister of Youth and Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Justin Trudeau.

Throughout the conference the delegates from Community Living Kingston and District all agreed that they felt like their opinions were valued, important and that they mattered. "I'm surprised at how easy it was for me to make friends"; "I learned I could trust people"; "I felt safe because people were nice and there were no bad people" and "I learned to speak up for myself" are some of the reflections young people had about the conference.

Each day of the conference was jam packed with fun activities, working groups, skill building and fun! There was never a dull moment. On the first night we listened to youth from different communities across Canada speak about their culture, history, and customs, sometimes speaking in their First Nations Language, sometimes in French and sometimes in English. This was a challenge at times, but we all learned how to communicate with each other and that was pretty cool. Some specific things that our group learned were shelter and fire building, residential schools and our government's role in them, cyber-bullying and different cultures. Some extra things we learned were that ping pong balls hurt when they hit your face, that it's important to look before sitting down, and one young man expressed his surprise at learning that he could easily write backwards and that he could be of use to others. Needless to say, each day brought something new to learn and experience.

By the end of the conference new friendships were formed, reports were written (and delivered in person to Justin Trudeau the following week), lessons were learned and memories to last us until next year were made! This was a pretty awesome experience and we can't wait to do more!  
(Participants: Ashaya, Ryan, Geoffry, Ed, Amanda, Mariah, Chelsea, Lilly, Ella, Jack, Noah, Martha and Brittany)

For more information on the Y2K project and how you can get involved visit [www.kingstonyouth.ca](http://www.kingstonyouth.ca).

For more information on the Students Commission of Canada visit [www.studentscommission.ca](http://www.studentscommission.ca).



# THE STAFF CORNER

Steve McKellar

## CORE COMPETENCY TRAINING UPDATE

Community Living Kingston and District's Core Competency Internal Trainers have been hard at work since last fall, holding regular training sessions introducing core competencies to employees working at all levels of the organization. 187 employees have now completed the introductory training sessions and three more sessions are scheduled through the end of June, at which time all current employees will be trained.

In addition to the training sessions, the Core Competency Implementation team, comprised of Krystle Gauthier, Kelly Armitage, Beatriz Rivera, Greg Allport, Kelly Agazzi, Christel Kimmitt, Sheri Scott and Steve McKellar, have met on a regular basis to review progress and feedback, complete monthly newsletters and adapt presentations as necessary.

Two of the main objectives in introducing Core Competencies to Community Living Kingston and District are to provide job enhancement opportunities and make career paths more transparent while also providing a strength based approach to developing and enhancing direct support work. Regular monthly newsletters produced by the committee highlight a different competency each month. For employees working at the direct service level, the seven core competencies are:

- **Advocating for Others**
- **Collaboration**
- **Creative Problem Solving and Decision Making**

- **Fostering Independence in Others**
- **Initiative**
- **Interpersonal Relations and Respect**
- **Resilience**

The next steps for the organization include embedding core competencies into the performance appraisal system as well as job descriptions and job postings. That process is already underway and the revised performance appraisal form for all front line positions includes all seven core competencies. This will go into effect in July after all existing employees have completed the introductory training session. The form now also contains a section for employees to complete their own CAQ's (Competency Assessment Questionnaire) and identify their career aspirations within the organization. Recent job postings are starting to incorporate core competencies as part of the job requirements section, and internal interviews now include some behavioural based questions which requires candidates to provide specific examples of how they demonstrate some of the core competencies in their daily work. Future organizational efforts will likely include the discussion of core competency elements at all staff meetings. Overall, the Core Competency team and the employer are very pleased with the accomplishments of this process to date and feedback from many employees has been positive and engaging.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

**RECENT PROMOTIONS** Several existing staff members have been promoted or transferred to new positions in the past six months. Here is an overview of their new roles.

Employee Name	New Position and Details	Program
Rob Andrews	Coordinator	Options
Meghan Deslippe-Griffin	Residential Facilitator – Contract Position	587 Arbour
Zach DeSousa	Community Support Worker-Contract Position	Compass
Kelly Agazzi	Coordinator	Family Home

TAKE YOUR PLEDGE  
TODAY AT R-WORD.ORG  
SPREAD THE WORD  
TO END THE WORD

Talk

Think

#Write

with

RESPECT

## RECENT HIRING

Several new employees have been hired in the past six months to fill Direct Support Professional roles within the organization. Here a listing of all the new staff members.

Employee Name	Program Location	Educational Background
Pallavi Mehan	McMichael	Bachelor of Science – Kinesiology
Kathleen Deacon	Mowat	Developmental Service Worker
Martha Johnston	Roosevelt	Bachelor of Arts
Melissa Lawlor	Gananoque	Behavioural Science Technology
Tricia King	Ringstead	Bachelor of Arts
Matthew MacPherson	Davis	Developmental Service Worker
Vanessa McKay	Respite	Social Service Worker
Griffin Fernandes	Smithfield	Child and Youth Worker
Danielle D'Souza	Melanie	Bachelor of Education, Honours B.A.
Caitlin Kinsella	CO2	Bachelor of Arts
Kyle Melrose-Stenman	Compass	Child and Youth Worker
Calan Simpson	Gananoque	Community and Justice Services
Lillian Cornish	Roosevelt	Behavioural Science Technology
Andrea Cherrington	CO2	Behavioural Science Technology
Ali Abbott	Smithfield	Child and Youth Worker
Kristin Carreiro	Options	Behavioural Science Technology
Michael Fitzpatrick	Options	Social Service Worker
Litesha Lucas	Parkway	Behavioural Science Technology
Leah Evans	Ringstead	Autism and Behavioural Science, Honours B.A.

## YEARS OF SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following employees have recently reached a milestone in terms of their years of service with Community Living Kingston and District and we are pleased to recognize their long-standing commitment and ongoing contributions to the organization.

<b>Five Years</b>	Mallory Moore Direct Support Professional Bayswater	Zachary DeSousa Community Support Worker Compass	Ernie Maala Direct Support Professional Ringstead
<b>Ten Years</b>	Jessica Moore Residential Facilitator Ringstead	Barry Golemic Maintenance Technician	Amanda Corbett Direct Support Professional Options
<b>Ten Years</b>	Lisa Hewitt Direct Support Professional Roosevelt	Joe Horrocks Direct Support Professional Ringstead	Amy Tennyson Direct Support Professional Aberfoyle
<b>Fifteen Years</b>	Stacey Kavaner Home Facilitator Dolshire	Sherry Jarvis Community Support Worker SIL/Community Services	Kevin Simpson Direct Support Professional McMichael Street
<b>Fifteen Years</b>	Laurie McShane Community Facilitator CO2	Hailey Latimer Family Support Worker Family Support	Tania Griffin Residential Facilitator McMichael
<b>Thirty Years</b>	Chris Elderkin Direct Support Professional Ringstead		

# OPENING DOORS...

*Sharing Experiences and Achievements in Residential Services*

## HAROLD YNTEMA'S TRIP TO YELLOWKNIFE, NWT

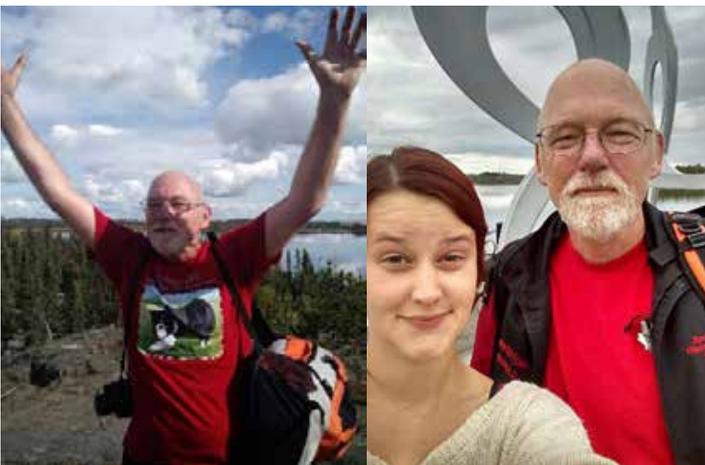
*Brittany Christie*

In August of 2015 Harold and I flew out of the Toronto airport to Yellowknife, Northwest Territories to explore the city and see the Arora lights in person! We arrived on a Monday night and stayed until the Friday. Yellowknife is a small town, but full of amazing sites to see, trails to walk and history to read about. Harold and I walked a few of the trails, as well as the entire downtown of Yellowknife during our stay (thank goodness it was not winter at -40). Our longest hike was around one of the main lakes called Frame Lake, which is in the center of the town. There were many rocks, bridges, and obstacles to hike over, but we accomplished the adventure together. During our hikes and walks we learned about a lot of different information which included the nature and wild life around us such as birds, animals, and plants. We also learned about the history of the town, including a Pilot monument, which was on one of the tallest hills that over looked the whole city. Yellowknife had a lot of history focusing around the native culture. We furthered our knowledge by visiting the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Center (museum), the legislative assembly (similar to parliament), and city hall.



During the week, arrangements had been made to be picked up by an organization to take Harold, myself, as well as a group of other visitors to see the Arora lights. We drove far out of town on a very bumpy road to Pontoon Lake to watch the Northern Lights. We had the opportunity to see all five formations, including watching them dance. The leader of the group told us stories, as we bundled up in winter coats it got really cold at night. We learned that the colours of the lights are so powerful that a special camera with specific settings is required to catch the colours of the lights. Harold really enjoyed seeing the Arora lights. We encourage anyone travelling out that way to take the time to stop and enjoy their presence.

On our last night in Yellowknife, we went to a locally owned catch of the day restaurant. Harold got the opportunity to try Yellowknife's fresh white fish accompanied by a cold beer. It was an extraordinary experience, with exciting adventures! We definitely took home some souvenirs and captured many beautiful pictures to remember it by.



### People First Kingston Chapter: Upcoming Events

**Saturday May 14th, 2016**  
**2nd Annual Walk for Awareness**  
10am-3pm  
Bayridge Secondary School  
BBQ, games, yard sale, baked goods

**Saturday October 22nd, 2016**  
**Disco Party**  
Zorba's Banquet Facility-1474 Bath Rd.  
7pm  
Tickets \$20.00 each

*For more information contact Bev Johnston  
beverlyjohnston1961@gmail.com*

# RESOURCE CONSULTANT UPDATE

## MY LITTLE GIRL STARTED DAYCARE TODAY... BREATHE MOMMA, BREATHE

*Tara McCallan*

While it is hard for anyone to leave their babe in the hands of others for all the obvious reasons - for me leaving my daughter, Pip is so much more – she & I have never have never been apart.

I guess it's also the undeniable fact that while there are still issues, like her little eye contact falling out, her stealing a cracker when she's not supposed to have gluten, her falling down due to concept of depth, the developmental delays that come with having Down syndrome or her glasses getting broken. At the end of the day she is thriving and growing up and sometimes I still momma hen her because I remember moments when she wasn't...

Moments when she needed a feeding tube to survive.  
Moments where surgeries to fix her heart and eyes loomed over us.



Moments when nothing else mattered in the world except holding her in my arms...So, to let her freely walk out of them caused some major momma tears this morning.



And I know all the “it will be good for her” and “you need this time” and yada, yada, yada goodness that it all will bring. But today I choose to dwell in these tears.

Tears of letting my little girl go.

Tears of being so damn proud of her.

Tears of fear that she's going to be teased, bit, pushed or not accepted.

Tears of excitement to see the impact she has on all those around her.

Tears of peace that her big brother is there with his big, sweet heart and protective bull dog tendencies.

Tears of acceptance that this is what is needed for our family.

Tears of thankfulness that I had 2 full years with her.

Tears of guilt because I'm a momma and that just undeniably happens.

Tears of relief that Paula, from Community Living Kingston and District, is helping us set goals, work with staff & be such a huge support to me.

Tears of happiness that as soon as I put her down and let her loose in her classroom, another little girl went right up over to her and hugged Pippy hard. That little girl will never know how she helped ease a momma's heart.



Since Pip started daycare, she has grown tremendously, daycare staff have worked together with our Community Living worker to achieve goals, set new ones & prepare her for JK this fall.

# THE VOLUNTEER SIDE

## BELLY LAUGHS AND BRIGHTENED DAYS

*Leah Koeslag*

Prior to coming to Queen's University in the fall of 2012, I had many experiences that shaped who I am as an individual. Upon starting a new chapter of my life in Kingston, however, I was allowed a number of incredible opportunities that have greatly shaped who I have become today. A great example of this is Best Buddies. I had been involved in different programs, but in my third year, I was excited to be able to become a part of one of the largest chapters of Best Buddies in Canada. I was matched with a wonderful gentleman by the name of Richard Murphy.



Now, for those who have had the privilege of meeting Mr. Murphy, you know he is an incredible man who is sure to put a smile on your face. We were initially paired

by Eleonor based on common interests, including music, sports, and getting out in the community. I am so thankful for this pairing, as we have grown so much closer. We have enjoyed time bowling, going swimming, attending a Frontenacs game, making crafts, and attending many Best Buddy group events! We love the holiday parties in particular and getting into the spirit by dressing up.

I am always so honoured to be in Richard's presence, as he seems to light up the world around him, no matter where he is. We spend much of our time together telling stories and enjoying some good belly laughs. We often meet at Tim Horton's for a hot chocolate. One day at Tim's, we were discussing the Kingston Frontenacs and various NHL teams. As usual I was kindly encouraging him to cheer for the Maple Leafs as his favourite team rather than the Habs! A gentleman in Tim Hortons was so encouraged by Richard's joy and enthusiasm for hockey, that he went out of his way to give him some hockey cards he had. Kind gestures such as this are so encouraging, and I realize how blessed I am to have a friendship like this, and to have experiences here in Kingston beyond simply academics.

As I embark on the next chapter of my life beyond graduation, I fully intend to keep in touch with my friend Richard in years to come, even though we may be in different cities. It can be difficult to realize how much of an impact someone has made on your life until reflecting on it. I am so grateful for the opportunity I had through Queen's and Community Living to be a part of Best Buddies. I would love to encourage all who can to participate and I am confident you will experience your own source of brightened days!

## Inspiring Possibilities



Community Living Kingston and District promotes full participation for individuals who have an intellectual disability.

***Become a Full Time or Respite Family Home Provider and help make community living a reality!***

Enrich your life by sharing your home with someone who has an intellectual disability on a full time basis or for weekend visits and short stays.

***As a provider for Community Living Kingston and District, you will receive reimbursement, person specific orientation and ongoing support.***

***For more information contact Eleonor at 613-546-6613 ext 284 or [volunteer@clkingston.ca](mailto:volunteer@clkingston.ca)***

## GIRL TIME

*Britt Shaule and Maggie McDougall*



We had the privilege of meeting Angie Boucher three years ago when we were matched through Queen's Best Buddies. The first time we met was at a Best Buddies Halloween party— that is when we knew this would be a friendship forever. Now, when we meet up, we typically go to Montana's because it is Angie's favourite

place to eat! Another frequent hangout spot is at the Cataraqui Town Centre where we have some much needed girl time.

Best Buddies is an organization that aims to create opportunities for friendship for people with intellectual disabilities, but we whole heartedly believe that Angie has truly enriched our lives more than we could have possibly imagined. She always brightens our day and makes us laugh with her hilarious sense of humour. Angie allows us to take a step back from the stress of university and reminds us to enjoy the little things in life.

We are both graduating from Queen's this year, and will be very sad to not have the opportunity to see Angie as often as we can here in Kingston. We always mention to each other that we need to keep Angie's contact information so we can continue to meet up. We have already added her to our future wedding guest list's since she is truly the party starter.

We are so thankful to not only have learned so much through the experience of volunteering with Best Buddies, but also to have made a life long friend. We both encourage anyone interested in volunteering for Best Buddies to do so; you will not regret it! We have so many memories with Angie that we will cherish forever and we are so grateful for this life changing opportunity.

## YOUTH CONNECT

### GRANT AWARDS-YOUTH CONNECT 2016

*Danielle Carnegie*

Community Living Kingston and District has some exciting news to share! As you may have heard, our agency was recently awarded two grants for the Youth Connect Program. First, the Ontario Trillium Foundation approved three years of funding in the amount of \$244,000 to support 60 youths over three years (twenty each year). The United Way and City of Kingston Community Investment Fund also awarded Community Living Kingston and District \$25,000 toward youth activities for the summer of 2016. This is for 10-15 youths with a focus on the summer months when people are frequently disengaged from structured activities.

The focus of Youth Connect is to develop social, recreational, volunteer and paid employment opportunities for youth aged 16-22 who have a developmental disability and/or a diagnosis of Autism. The program will assist youth to explore interests, develop connections and learn new skills by accessing community resources and provide support using paid, volunteer and peer (natural) support. The Inclusion Facilitators will assist youth to explore their interests and use existing community resources to explore their social, recreational, volunteer or work interests. The Inclusion



Facilitators will then coordinate support that is needed to ensure youth learn, build confidence and experience success in working toward their goals. Youth Connect will occur outside of school hours (after school, evenings, weekends and summer). The goal for participants will be determined based on a personal interest inventory and person centred planning. The overarching goal of the program is for the people involved in the program to secure at least one connection (interest, relationship, skill, volunteer position or job) that will exist well beyond the duration of the program.

A sincere thank you to the Ontario Trillium Foundation and The United Way / City of Kingston Community Investment Fund for these opportunities that promote personal growth and the development of job skills, *inspiring possibilities* for the future.

For more information about Youth Connect, contact EleonorEgidio at [volunteer@clkingston.ca](mailto:volunteer@clkingston.ca) or 613-546-6613, ext. 284.

# FAMILY SUPPORT FORUM

## KEYS MARCH BREAK JOB BOOTCAMP

Hailey Latimer

Over the March Break, KEYS Job Centre offered a camp for high school students who wanted to learn work skills and get volunteer hours. Students participated in daily workshops and volunteered at Martha's Table in the afternoon. As one of our new partnering agencies, KEYS worked together with our association to meet student's needs when they applied, and then were interviewed by KEYS to determine eligibility. Community Living provided a worker to assist with job coaching during volunteer placement time. Brianna Clow, and Leanna Schernekau participated in the activities all week and received a certificate for their achievements.

We are very excited to work with KEYS again this summer when we will be recruiting students to participate in their Summer Youth Job Connection Program. This program will offer paid in-class pre-employment skill training as well as a job placement.

*"I enjoyed making new friends at KEYS March Break Boot Camp. Emily and her assistant were very nice and helpful. They helped me put together my resume. I also learned how businesses worked and the interview process. We also had lots of fun playing games. I learned a lot at Martha's Table too. I learned to clear tables and clean up the dishes, just like on the job. I would like to pursue a career in graphic design when I am finished school, and this will help me." - Leanna Schernekau*



### **WELCOMING FAMILIES LIVING WITH A PERSON WHO HAS AN INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY**

The Family Support program of Community Living Kingston & District is introducing a monthly drop-in for families beginning April 14th from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at 1412 Princess St. The drop-ins will then occur every 2nd Tuesday of the month.

The Family Support team can assist you to complete government forms, complete referrals, provide advice and find out where to turn.

For more information please call **Erin Impola** at **613-546-6613 ext. 253** or **erin.impola@clkingston.ca**

### **PARENTS MEETING PARENTS**

We are a group of parents with sons and daughters who have developmental disabilities. We like to get together each month to share stories, advice, frustrations and support. Sometimes we have speakers on topics that we are interested in learning more about.

We generally meet once a month on a Thursday evening at 1412 Princess St., the Community Living Kingston & District office.

For more information about the group you can contact **Diane** at **dbhousekeepingplus@yahoo.ca** or **Leslie Moore** at **613-546-6613 ext. 228** or **leslie.moore@clkingston.ca**

# FEEDBACK TO THE LIMESTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD FROM COMMUNITY LIVING KINGSTON AND DISTRICT

In February 2016, the Limestone District School Board invited Community Living Kingston and District (CLKD) to participate in a review of the special education service delivery model at a meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC). The LDSB provided the following framework for the Review:

1. *Within the area of special education, what does our school/school board do well?*
2. *What innovative ideas would you suggest for special education within our school/system to enhance student well-being, learning and inclusion?*

In order to provide richer and more representative feedback to these important questions, CLKD organized two consultative meetings with our members and stakeholders in March 2016.

These meetings were facilitated by Helen Sanderson and Associates Canada, using person-centred planning processes that ensure meetings are highly participatory, methodical and productive. The consultative meetings were attended by several dozen family members and one student. Families had direct experience with special education support from the LDSB for a range of exceptionalities, including developmental delay and intellectual disability, autistic spectrum disorder, physical

and sensory impairment, speech and language disabilities and learning disabilities. Many families had multiple children who receive special education services from the Limestone District School Board, and their students attended classrooms in a range of grades from junior kindergarten to post-secondary transition programs. Board members, senior administration and staff from our Family Support and Child Care Resource teams also attended the consultation meetings. Additional feedback was received from members of our Education Committee, SEAC representatives, a survey conducted by the Education Committee and families who emailed their feedback because they could not attend the meetings.

The consultative meetings began with families being asked to share what they most like and admire about the Limestone District School Board, as well as what is important to families now, what is important to families in the future, what does good support look like, what is working and what are some innovative ideas to make the system work better.

Stay tuned for the full report!!

*-excerpts taken from the draft report authored by Julie Malette HSA*

## A Few Photos of the day...



# QUALITY IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

Jeff Harrison

As part of our quality improvement cycle, CLKD sets a number of performance goals each year. We are currently determining how we did at meeting these goals. Here are a few results thus far:

- Satisfaction surveys indicate that 97% of families are satisfied with the services they receive through CCRCS
- 95% of our community partners indicated in a survey that they felt that CLKD operates programs of a high quality.
- Usage of our respite house increased slightly this year, though we are still working towards it being used at least 80% of the time.
- Targets around staff use of sick time were met in five of seven departments.
- We saw an increase in staff injuries this year, and did not meet our target of having fewer than six this year.

- Over 92% of persons served in the Family Home program maintained their living arrangement with a host family throughout the year.
- No children with intellectual disabilities were reported to be unable to attend child care centres in the community due to the lack of enhanced support funds administered by the CCRCS program.
- We met our target for being up to date on staff training in CPR and CPI.
- We did not meet our target around having a speedy Manager On-Call response system.

All of our performance goals will be analyzed in the Annual Quality Improvement Report (formerly called the Annual Management Report), due out at the end of May.

## 20TH ANNUAL HELEN LYLE MEMORIAL CURLING BONSPIEL

Many staff and friends came together on February 27th, 2016 to take part in the 20th Annual Helen Lyle Memorial Curling Bonspiel and Silent Auction. As usual, the event proved not to disappoint—with plenty of good food, comradery and fantastic Silent Auction items available, there were smiling faces and good fun all around. Thanks to the many local businesses and community members listed below, the silent auction was ever popular and once again raised over \$3000 for our Community Inclusion Programs. Once again, a tremendous thank you goes out to Wade and Donna Wright who organized and carried out this hugely fun and successful event!

Costco	Sarah Rouleau Photography	Via Rail	Home Depot	Bonnechre Caves	Treetop Trekking
Calypso Water Park	Ambassador Hotel	Dominos Pizza	Grand Theatre	Doxx Restaurant (Holiday Inn)	Wolfe Island Corn Maze
Dream Catcher Farm (Inverary)	Kingston School of Music	Simon Handley (drum instructor)	Mac & Co Environmental	Sterling	Avanta Spa
Pam's Flower Garden	Echo Hair Studio	Parks of the St. Lawrence	Medieval Times (Toronto)	Ontario Science Centre (Toronto)	National Arts Centre (Ottawa)
Bird Kingdom (Niagara Falls)	Gold Line Curling	Revell Ford (Verona)	Details Auto Cleaning	Swish	Eryitgit & Co Tax Pro
Bath Fitter	Car Medics	Janati Yoga	Toronto Blue Jays	Toronto Raptors	Swiss Chalet
Kawartha Credit Union	Kingston Community Credit Union	Shoppers Drug Mart (Strand Blvd)	The Keg Steakhouse	Hockey Hall of Fame (Toronto)	Jack Astors
Tallack Martial Arts	Gananoque Brewing Company	HomeCraft Brew and Wine	Charmed Silver (custom hand stamped jewellery)	Donna Spriggs (JR Watkins Representative)	Art of Melodious Greeting Cards

**Thank you to all who contributed to our silent auction!**

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