



Vision

The "Go To" expert for those impacted by a developmental disability.

Mission

Community Living South Muskoka provides lifetime support to all those impacted by a developmental disability, utilizing skilled staff and effective partnerships involving the individual, the family and the community with the result that the individual is accepted as a valued community member.

Values

Excellence

Trust

Respect

Success Factors

A Highly Valued

Community Organization

A Leader in Innovation

Person Centred

Valued, Skilled Staff



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A Message from your Board Chair and CEO

Community Living South Muskoka is Celebrating 50 years Serving the Developmentally Disabled and our Community!

We are proud to be celebrating 50 years of providing services and supports to those impacted by a developmental disability. It has been a long history of both challenges and celebrations, in which we had to work hard for every incremental change.

Back when we first started, in the 60's, if you had a child that was born with a developmental disability your options for support were very limited. For many families the only choice was to turn their child over to the province of Ontario, which operated institutions such as the Huronia Regional Centre in Orillia, and the Muskoka Centre in Gravenhurst.

At that time there were no special education programs or other public education available and children with developmental disabilities were not allowed to attend school. A group of parents in our community decided this was not acceptable and their grass roots efforts were the inception of our organization. By 1967 we had developed into

an organization that was incorporated. In 1968, through collaboration and partnerships between parents, the Board of Education and Community Living South Muskoka, the Victoria Street School was built in Bracebridge to allow children with special educational needs to attend school. This is just one story of how public involvement, led over the years by a large number of dedicated Board members, families, staff and volunteers, has helped us to grow and change public perceptions about people with intellectual disabilities.

After 50 years, Community Living South Muskoka is still a leading advocate to promote a community where everyone belongs.



A Message from your Board Chair and CEO

The agency became officially incorporated on May 11, 1967, and was renamed Community Living South Muskoka (CLSM) in 1987. Today, the agency provides lifetime support by utilizing skilled staff and effective partnerships that involve the individual, the family and the community with the result that the individual is accepted as a valued community member.

CLSM has grown over the years, and we currently operate (10) residential homes, Family Home and Supporting Independent Living and new innovative programs such as our 'friendly neighbour' as part of our range of accommodation choices. We also provide Community Participation Supports and Employment to ensure a meaningful and inclusive life for adults who reside in South Muskoka. In addition, we offer a range of individual services to those who receive Passport funding or other forms of direct funding.

We have a proud history of being an active member and advocate for an inclusive early years and education system in Muskoka and are pleased to provide special needs Resource Teacher supports for children aged 2-6 and Family Support to school-aged children and youth and their families. We were recently named as the lead agency for children's respite for Muskoka, Parry Sound, Nipissing, Cochrane and Timiskaming Districts.

Our Morrison Meadows property in Bracebridge is intended to enrich the lives of Muskokans and visitors to the District by providing opportunities to enjoy farming, nature, and outdoor recreation activities. It is here that we have built, with the generous financial assistance of the community, a fully accessible playground where children of all abilities can play safely together.

Community Living South Muskoka employs almost 170 people, making us one of the largest employers in Muskoka. Our highly skilled, trained staff provides supports to approximately 400 children and adults with developmental disabilities in the region.

To celebrate our 50th anniversary we invite everyone to join us at one of the many celebrations and events we are hosting throughout 2017.

May 11 – Pancake Breakfast in Bracebridge- celebrating our date of incorporation

May 26 – Parking Lot Party in Bracebridge- Special performances by the CL Idol singers

June 7 – Spaghetti Dinner in Honey Harbour

August 11 – Fundraising Cruise on the Wenonah Steamship in Gravenhurst

September 22-24 – Fall Harvest Festival at Morrison Meadows in Bracebridge

We believe that everyone brings value to our community. Please help us celebrate and promote an inclusive Muskoka

Submitted by,

Gord Haugh, Board Chair

Krista Haiduk-Collier, Chief Executive Officer

"We are proud to be celebrating 50 years of providing services and supports to those impacted by a developmental disability. It has been a long history of both challenges and celebrations, in which we had to work hard for every incremental change."

**- Gord Haugh,
Board Chair**



Providing broader community experiences for the people we serve

Viva Las Vegas! Bev and Donna's Fabulous Vacation

Donna's Story

I went on a vacation my friend Bev and two staff members, Tara and Debbie. We went to Las Vegas, Nevada, and we flew a big airplane to get there. Tara was scared and I had to hold her hand.

We stayed at a very beautiful hotel called The Wynn. I really liked our big beautiful room, where we could watch the flowers come up in the morning.

When we were in Las Vegas we went shopping for gifts for my friends at home. The best part was when we went to see the Donnie and Marie Osmond show, I just love Donnie! We also went up the really big ferris wheel that went really high and we could see the whole Las Vegas Strip. I really liked watching the Mermaid after supper at the Margaritaville Restaurant - they let us take pictures. I also really liked the big Popeye statue at our hotel where I got to play the slot machines and win some money, which was lots of fun. The water show at the Bellagio hotel was beautiful. I loved all the different sites in Las Vegas and I even met Elvis when we went to Freemount Street. I loved my trip!

By Donna Dunford

Bev's Story

My name is Bev and I went to Las Vegas at the end of February with my friend Donna and two staff members, Debbie

and Tara. I really enjoyed the airplane ride and couldn't stop giggling the whole time! My favourite things to do in Las Vegas were looking at all the lights, shopping, and the giant ferris wheel. We got to see Elvis and we also went to a Donnie and Marie Osmond show. On the way home our airplane flight was delayed by 10 hours, but I handled it very well. If I had the chance to go anywhere again I would pick Las Vegas!

By Bev Tompkins



"The best part was when we went to see the Donnie and Marie Osmond show, I just love Donnie! I loved my trip!"

- Donna Dunford



Peer Educators

Community Living South Muskoka is very proud to welcome our team of Peer Educators! They have all gone above and beyond to expand their own learning and knowledge to teach their peers and make a positive difference in peoples lives. The Peer Educators run weekly sessions to educate people on topics such as Abuse, Rights, Social Media Safety, Self-Esteem, etc. If anyone has an interest in becoming a Peer Educator, or would like more information, please Contact Pat Kerr at (705) 687-0116.

Meet CLSM Peer Educators Tammy and Aimee



Tammy

In the last few years Community Living South Muskoka (CLSM) has had an amazing training program. The training is for adults supported by CLSM and it gives them the

opportunity to learn about themselves, Friendships, Healthy Eating, Respect, Self Esteem, and other topics. All these subjects will help them stay safe, which is so important, and they will also learn important skills.

Recently I was asked to train my friends at CLSM on these topics and I really enjoy it!

This program is a lot of fun because it's a chance to learn new skills, make new friends and share information with each other. This year we had some students from Georgian College, Emma and Cody, who helped with the training. I also taught some of the lessons with one of my friends one-to-one. We had a lot of laughs which help make the information fun to learn!

By Tammy Laskowski
Employment Program



Aimee

This year I was asked to help with training for the adults at Community Living South Muskoka.

I wanted to give it a try and have now done two training sessions. One of the topics

that we teach is Self Esteem. I have found that by doing this training it has helped me with my own Self Esteem. It made me feel really good that I was asked to do this job and I love it!

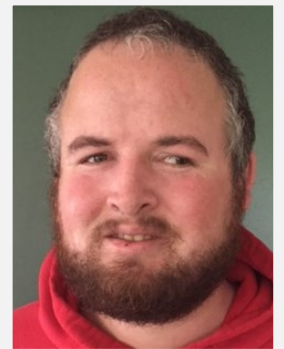
It has been fun teaching others and it also gives me another activity to keep me busy. I like to keep busy! I can also put on my resume that I was helping to teach, which is a good skill to have when I'm applying for a job

I really enjoyed the question and answer time during the training sessions because it gave me a chance to see what everyone had learned. I find that every time I teach these lessons, I also learn something new.

By Aimee Fleger
Supported Independent Living Program and
Employment Program

The CLSM Peer Educators Team

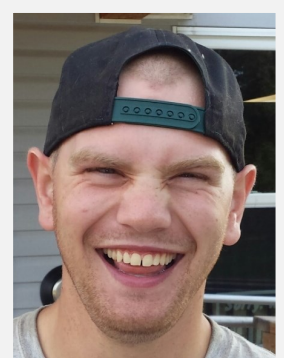
In addition to Tammy and Aimee, the Peer Educators Team includes:



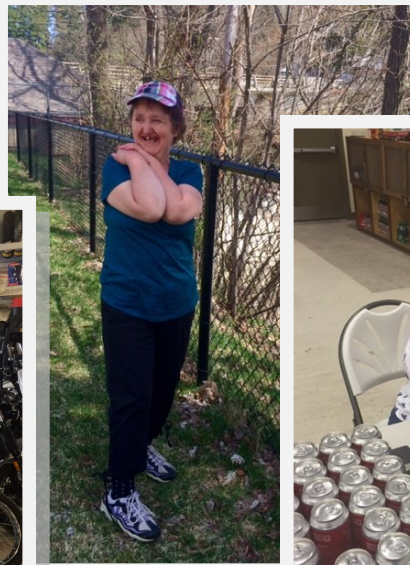
Josh



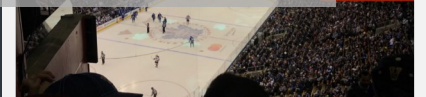
Ailene



Caine



Leafs
Game
2017



Success Factor - Valued, Skilled Staff

Develop a learning culture to encourage continuous education and personal growth

Person Centred Gathering

On April 11 & 12th three Supervisors from Community Living South Muskoka had the privilege to attend the Helen Sanderson Person Centered Gathering in Richmond Hill.

The theme of the Gathering was FIVE WAYS to Wellbeing. We wanted to share this learning with you because we feel it has great value and it inspired us to reflect on the lives of the people we support, as well as on our personal lives to enhance our relationships and to enrich the quality of our lives every day.

The first way of wellbeing is to **CONNECT** and we challenge you to take the first step to connect with family, an old friend, neighbours or a colleague and invest time in these important relationships.

This is the second year that we have participated at the Person Centred Gathering and we left feeling inspired, refreshed and re-focused to continue moving forward with using Person Centred Tools in all areas of the agency, and especially in the lives of the people we support.

The FIVE WAYS of Wellbeing are:

CONNECT

With the people around you. With family, friends, colleagues and neighbours. At home, work, school or your local community. Think of these as the cornerstones of your life and invest time in developing them.



Supervisors Debbie Southorn, Lorie Vogels and Dawn DeCaire at the Person Centred Gathering

course.

Take on a different responsibility at work. Set a challenge you will enjoy achieving. Learning new things will make you more confident, as well as being fun to do.

GIVE

Do something nice for a friend or a stranger. Look out, as well as in. Seeing yourself and your happiness linked to the wider community can be incredibly rewarding and will create connections with people around you.

BE ACTIVE

Go for a walk or run. Step outside. Cycle. Dance. Most importantly, discover a physical activity you enjoy; one that suits your level of mobility and fitness.

TAKE NOTICE

Catch sight of the beautiful. Remark on the unusual. Notice the changing seasons. Savour the moment.

KEEP LEARNING

Try something new. Rediscover an old interest. Sign up for that

The Five Ways to Wellbeing are:

- **Connect**
- **Be Active**
- **Take Notice**
- **Keep Learning**
- **Give**

“We challenge you to take the first step to connect with family, an old friend, neighbours or a colleague and invest time in these important relationships”.



When:
June 7th, 2017
5:00 – 7:00pm

Where:
Baxter Ward Community Centre
279 Honey Harbour Rd, Port Severn, ON L0K 1S0

Tickets:
\$10/person, \$5 for Children under 10
Available at Community Living South Muskoka (15 Depot Drive, Bracebridge) or at 290 Honey Harbour Road, Port Severn.

Bake Sale Also!

All Proceeds Benefit



May is Community Living Month - Join us for a Parking Lot Party!



Community Living
South Muskoka

Serving those with a Developmental Disability



50th Anniversary Parking Lot Party!

15 Depot Drive, Bracebridge

Date: May 26, 2017

Time: 11am-4pm



Join us as we
celebrate 50 years of
supporting
people with
developmental
disabilities in South
Muskoka!

- BBQ hot dogs & sausages. Cake, drinks
- Performances by the Community Living Idol Singers
- Face Painting and Games

Hot dogs \$1

Sausages \$2

Drinks \$1

For more information go to www.clsm.on.ca
or call (705) 645-5494

Community Living South Muskoka - Serving our community since 1967

May is Community Living Month!

Success Factor - Person Centred

Focus on the individual to maximize their capabilities

I Found My Dream Job!

My name is Hilary and I recently got a new job as a Greeter at the Wal-Mart store in Bracebridge. I love being around people and



talking to them and I get to do all of that in my new job. I really like my job! Actually, I love it! The staff at Wal-Mart are really friendly, and I enjoy meeting new people and handing out the flyers. My favourite part of my job is greeting people at the door and meeting new people. There's nothing that I don't like about my job, this is my dream job!

By Hilary Eaton

Supported Independent Living Program

When Hilary's employer was asked how she was doing and if the job was a good fit, her response was "Hilary is a wonderful person. She is very bubbly, and is always greeting people positively. She is a true force out there for us, and she never backs away. We are happy to have her on our team".

Hilary's success story from a staff perspective

Hilary is a very fun loving and social person who enjoys being around people and getting out of her apartment. She was unemployed for the past two years and tried very hard to secure employment during that time. Prior to being unemployed Hilary worked at Tim Horton's for just over six years. Hilary made it very clear that she wanted to find a position that would allow her to connect and socialize with other members of the community. I'm happy to say that Hilary has finally found her dream job!

When Hilary walked into Wal-Mart one day with intentions of applying for a Greeters position she was genuinely surprised when they asked her to take part in an on-the-spot interview. She was hired immediately, and was asked to start work the next day! Hilary currently works 12-16 hours a week and earns a good hourly wage. Congratulations Hilary, keep up the great work!

By Kelly Marion

Employment Support Worker

"My favourite part of my job is greeting people at the door and meeting new people. There's nothing that I don't like about my job, this is my dream job!"

- Hilary Eaton



Providing broader community experiences for the people we serve

Suzie and Gail Take a Disney Cruise



Gail and Suzie had identified a lifelong dream of going to see Mickey Mouse and visiting a warm climate. With this in mind and after planning with each of the ladies and their support teams, a 5-day Disney Cruise was determined as the best way to achieve their dream! On March 30th Gail and Suzie, along with support staff, Dione and Kathleen flew from Toronto to Miami. This was Suzie's first trip on an airplane, and she thought the staff was "very nice, kind and helpful". The first thing she said when she stepped out of the airport terminal was, "wow, it's hot here!" After checking into their hotel the group went for an early dinner at Bubba Gump's Shrimp restaurant and then toured the area around the hotel to do a little shopping.



On March 31st the ladies boarded the cruise ship and were greeted by many of the famous Disney characters, including Mickey Mouse! After settling into their cabins they enjoyed a buffet lunch, which Gail absolutely loved, and toured the ship to see what activities and amenities they would be enjoying over the next few days.

The first port of call was Key West, where everyone took a tour bus around the city on one of the hottest days of the year so far. If the ladies wanted to experience a warm climate, this was the place to find it!



After the bus tour they visited Kermit's, a restaurant famous for its key lime pie. When she tried her key lime pie, Gail exclaimed "this is good!"

After Key West, the ship sailed on to Nassau, Bahamas. While in Nassau, Suzie and Gail went on a glass bottomed boat, where they could see the tropical fish underneath the boat, and also feed them. The boat ride took them past the Bahamas homes of a number of famous celebrities, and Suzie recognized many of the names.

The next port of call was Castaway Cay, Disney's private island. The ladies enjoyed the white sandy beaches, watching the many Disney characters roaming about, and having a wonderful lunch. When asked, Gail said that one of her favourite parts of the trip was "all the delicious food"!

The next day was spent at sea and everyone enjoyed lounging by the pool, more delicious food, and taking pictures with Disney characters. Suzie got a kiss from Pluto, which she said was the highlight of her trip! Suzie and Gail also went to Pirates of the Caribbean themed party and enjoyed many shows in the large theatre, including the new Beauty and the Beast movie. There was a spectacular firework display on their last night at sea.

On April 5th the ship landed back in Miami. Gail and Suzie said goodbye to Mickey and the Disney gang and flew back home, having experienced one of their personal goals. Way to go ladies!

Submitted by,
Kathleen White, Residential Support Professional
Dione Schumacher, Supervisor of Services and Supports

Success Factor - Valued, Skilled Staff

Investing in our staff to build skill, confidence and tenure

20th Annual OASIS Conference

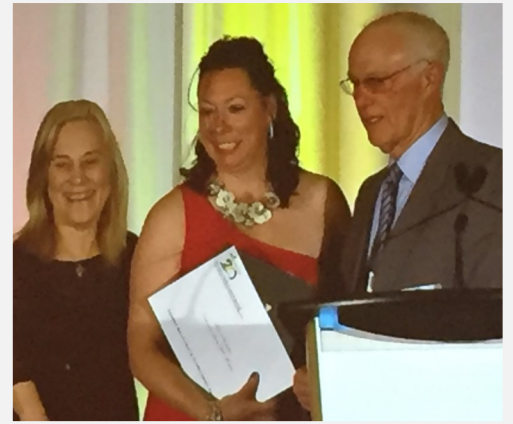
Ontario Agencies Supporting Individuals with Special Needs (OASIS) held its 20th Annual Conference and AGM in Ottawa from May 3-5, 2017. On May 2nd we had an OASIS Board meeting, and were pleased to welcome members of MCSS to join us in discussion regarding the new budget announcement. This budget was a good news/bad news investment for our agency and sector. While there were funds announced to increase direct funding to people, there were no investments in agencies or their staff.

On Wednesday, May 3rd we were treated to a speech from MP Carla Qualtrough, Federal Minister of Sport and Persons with a Disability. It was wonderful to have Federal Government support for the work we do, and to see a dedication from the country to improve the lives of those with disabilities. The remainder of the conference was spent learning and networking

with our provincial colleagues. This year's attendance was over 500 people, and we are pleased to announce that Dione Schumacher was the winner of the George Braithwaite scholarship award.

At the end of the conference, the OASIS Board met once again, and I am pleased to share that Ann Kenney will remain as Volunteer President for the 2017-18 year. As Ann is representing CLSM, I will remain on the Board of OASIS as a Supporting Executive Director for another year. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight all the work Amanda Brown has done over the years as the Administrative Support for OASIS. It was another 'smooth' conference in large part thanks to all of her attention to detail and hard work. Thank you Amanda!

Submitted by,
Krista Haiduk-Collier, Chief Executive Officer



Dione Schumacher receiving her scholarship award from Assistant Deputy Minister, Karen Chan, and former OASIS President, George Braithwaite

Tree Planting *Volunteers Needed!*

Sunday, May 28, 2017 from 12-3pm



1177 Fraserburg Rd., Bracebridge

Thanks to a generous grant from TD Bank we will be planting a variety of trees at Morrison Meadows, followed by a BBQ. If you are interested in helping out, call Jeff at (705) 205-4156



Morrison Meadows is owned and operated by Community Living South Muskoka. For more information go to www.clsm.on.ca or www.morrisonmeadows.com or call (705) 645-5494

Fundraising Cruise on the Wenonah Steamship



The poster is framed by a decorative border with red, white, and blue horizontal stripes. At the top left is the Community Living South Muskoka logo, which includes a stylized green mountain and the text "Community Living South Muskoka" and "Serving those with a Developmental Disability". To its right is a "50 YEARS" anniversary logo. The main text is centered and reads: "To celebrate our 50th Anniversary you are cordially invited to join us for a fundraising cruise on the Wenonah Steamship". Below this is a photograph of the Wenonah Steamship, a white and green tugboat. The event details are listed in red and black text: "Friday, August 11, 2017, 7:00-10:00pm", "Muskoka Wharf, Gravenhurst", and "Tickets: \$100/each". A note states: "A \$25 charitable donation receipt will be provided". Ticket availability is listed as: "Tickets available at Scotiabank - 198 Muskoka Road N or Community Living South Muskoka - 15 Depot Drive, Bracebridge". The amenities listed are: "Hors d'oeuvres will be served", "Jazz Band", "Silent Auction", "Dress is sharp casual", and "Cash bar available". A line of text at the bottom of the poster reads: "For more information go to www.clsm.on.ca or call Amanda at (705) 645-5494 x. 285". Below this is the Scotiabank logo and the text "Proudly sponsored by". At the very bottom, it says: "Proceeds towards our Summer Youth Program and other innovative services".

Community Living South Muskoka 50 YEARS
Serving those with a Developmental Disability

To celebrate our 50th Anniversary
you are cordially invited to join us for a
fundraising cruise on the Wenonah Steamship

Friday, August 11, 2017, 7:00-10:00pm
Muskoka Wharf, Gravenhurst
Tickets: \$100/each

A \$25 charitable donation receipt will be provided

Tickets available at
Scotiabank - 198 Muskoka Road N or
Community Living South Muskoka - 15 Depot Drive, Bracebridge

Hors d'oeuvres will be served
Jazz Band
Silent Auction
Dress is sharp casual
Cash bar available

For more information go to www.clsm.on.ca or call Amanda at (705) 645-5494 x. 285

Proudly sponsored by

Scotiabank

Proceeds towards our Summer Youth Program and other
innovative services

**Need more
information?
Contact us at**

Community Living South Muskoka

15 Depot Dr.
Bracebridge, ON P1L 0A1
Ph: (705) 645-5494
Fax: (705) 645-4621
www.clsm.on.ca
www.morrisonmeadows.com

Senior Leadership Team

Krista Haiduk-Collier
Chief Executive Officer

Kelly Miles
Chief Financial Officer

Gene Greenhalgh
Chief Operations Officer

Send your
newsletter story
ideas to Amanda at
abrown@clsm.on.ca



**Community Living
South Muskoka**

Serving those with a Developmental Disability

