



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

May has finally arrived and with it, it seems, the end of the winter weather. Living on Kahshe Lake we always keep an eye on ice out to have some gauge on when the bug season might start. As with everything else this year, nothing is as it has been. Ice out on May 1, first wasps in the house May 1, first hummingbird May 1. Hopefully the dragonflies will also show up early and finish off the blackflies which I can already almost hear humming

BUT one thing we can all count on, May, as usual brings Community Living Month and we hope you can join us to celebrate. Elsewhere in this newsletter you can see events that you can attend in May and early June. But besides joining us to celebrate, I would like you to help with another important task this year, we need you to help spread the good news about Community Living South Muskoka (CLSM).

If you are receiving this newsletter, you likely already know the important work that CLSM does in our community. Unfortunately the same cannot be said for the majority of folks in Muskoka. You will know the dramatic changes that have occurred in a relatively short period of time to

Include many of the folks that we serve in the day to day life of communities. And it is a message that CLSM itself is going to try harder to transmit in the coming year. In Gravenhurst, we are now on main street, a very important signal that we are part of the day to day life in the town. In the coming year we hope to have a more visible presence throughout our communities.

We have been very fortunate in recruiting the new morning person on the MOOSE, Kathy Jennings to join our board. Kathy is going to be a huge help in getting out the word about CLSM in innovative ways. But one person will not be enough. On June 4, we will once again have our Community Living Idol Fundraiser, this year at the OAR in Gravenhurst.

Once again the Royal Bank will be providing servers and a generous financial contribution. But- here is my ask. Everyone has been great about coming out and supporting this event. However, we do tend to see the same loyal supporters each year.

A Message from your Board Chair

This year, why not invite a neighbor, a customer, your boss, or a co-worker, to join you at the event. You know how inspirational it can be. Share that good feeling with someone who may not know about the work that we do.

For those that wish more fun and entertainment, don't forget about our annual Boat Cruise on August 10. There will be lots more information about this event soon, but for now, you should know that our theme this year will be New Orleans. Lots of beads and southern cooking. Mark your calendars.

Thanks to everyone for your continued support.

Submitted by:

Gord Haugh, Board Chair.



"As well as joining us to celebrate Community living month, we need your help to spread the good news about Community Living South Muskoka"

- Gord Haugh, Board Chair

Coming Soon—New Client Record Management System.

Due to changes within Ontario's Developmental Sector, the need arose for us to find an alternative method to capture, share and organise information that relates to the people we support.

To that end we have embarked on an exciting new partnership with Nucleuslabs and together we will be delivering an up to date client record management system. To ensure that this new system was fit for purpose an onsite comprehensive assessment of the agencies needs was conducted over three days with Involvement from representatives of every department.

The new system which is due to come into service this month, will provide us with the functionality that we need to best serve the people we support for years to come.

A dedicated team of SuperUsers has been hard at work testing the system to ensure that it is fully functional, and that the supports are in place for all our staff when the new system goes live. Training for all staff on the new system is scheduled for the week of May 21-25, 2018.

It is envisaged that this unique new system will enhance the wonderful work our staff do on a daily basis.



NUCLEUSLABS

Providing broader community experiences for the people we serve

Carolina on my mind! Tom's trip south:



Easter break has proven to be a special time for Tom and his family. For the second year he spent the week in Emerald Isle North Carolina visiting his sister, brother-in-law and nephew. Although the journey was a long one Tom enjoyed the drive to Bedford and the overnight in a motel with his parents.

The weather throughout the week was great with Tom making the most of the sunshine enjoying long walks on the beach, and on blustery days observing the waves from the fishing pier.



On his previous trip Tom had visited the Aquarium where he was wowed by the vast variety of sea life on display.

Tom had a wonderful time with his family and is very much looking forward to his next visit to Emerald Isle.

Submitted by: Sylvia Glassford



Success Factor - Person Centred

Focus on the individual to maximize their capabilities

Celebrating success!

At Community Living South Muskoka we pride ourselves on being a Person centered organization, helping the people we support to maximize their abilities. We would like to celebrate the achievements of some of the people we support who have reached a significant milestone this year .

Scotts Forever Home:



Scott moved into his own place in April of 2017 and he is very proud of his apartment. Independent living has presented him many new challenges and opportunities. He has been accessing his community by using the Wave bus and he has been managing his own spending money with limited support. Scott has shown a new level of flexibility and understanding when changes are necessary to his support schedule and routine and has continued to develop and make use of his Calming strategies and ask for help when he needs it.

Scott continues to clean the stairs at Head Office and did an amazing job of cutting his own grass and the grass at some of the group homes as well.

Renee's Decade of service:

In January 2018 Renee reached her 10year anniversary as a valued member of the McDonalds team. This is a huge milestone for Renee and a great accomplishment. As a reward she was invited to choose a gift from their website, with Renee opting for a very nice luggage set to use on her trips and visiting family. Renee later attended a recognition dinner where she received her award.

Hillary's dream job 1year on:

April saw the 1year anniversary for Hillary in her 'dream job' as a Walmart Greeter. She approaches the job with such enthusiasm and has integrated fantastically well into the Walmart team.

Congratulations to Scott, Renee and Hillary on their success.



Providing broader community experiences for the people we serve

Training the Trainers as Advocates Against Abuse

In March 2018, Frank and Nancy chose to be part of a two day Advocates Against Abuse training course held in North Bay. The training course was organized and developed in partnership by several community organizations who provide supports and services to individuals with developmental disabilities. The purpose of the course was to provide attendees the opportunity to gain the knowledge and tools necessary to take on leadership and advocacy roles in their communities by educating their peers about abuse. One of the key course objectives is to empower the attendees to deliver this training to their peers rather than staff doing this task.

The course was taught in an exciting way assisting the participants to learn the information needed to become trainers, whilst providing them with opportunities to increase their self-esteem and independence.

Frank and Nancy took on an active role on the first day of training by volunteering to assist in the interactive role playing, designed to act out situations of abuse individuals with disabilities may encounter in their lives. Day one ended with David Hingsburger addressing the attendees, discussing the courses development with them. As David finished speaking with the group, Frank approached him shook his hand and thanked him for being part of teaching the course.

Day two began with the participants breaking off into separate groups to learn their own strategies for becoming effective trainers. This involved identifying how each participant could be successful in teaching their peers about abuse

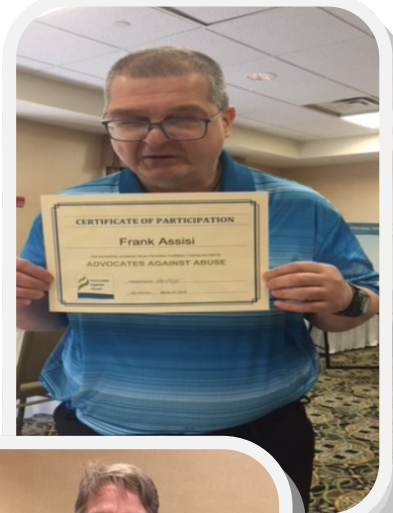
with minimal support from staff. Day two concluded with the participants presenting a role play to the group. Nancy and Frank truly took on a leadership role by volunteering to be the first group to present their role play, as well as supporting their peers with their presentations as well.

Over the coming months, Nancy and Frank will be reviewing the course material, and improving upon their ability to successfully teach the training to their peers within their community.

The training material will also be reviewed on a yearly basis.

Submitted by:

Scott Harris



Success Factor - A Leader in Innovation

Enhance post-secondary student placements within the agency to attract qualified future staff.

Student Nurses Examine CLSM

This year we were fortunate to have two Nipissing University students complete their placements with us here at Community Living South Muskoka.

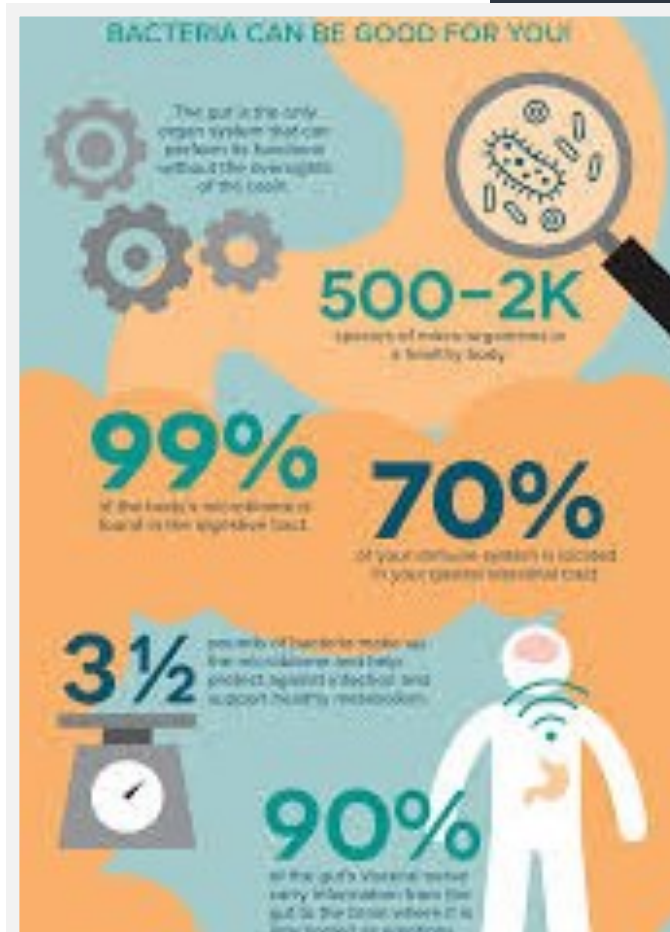
As part of their studies they were tasked with completing a project and in collaboration with the University they focused on, Medication Error analysis, Pharmacy Company analysis, and Gut Health Education.

Over a 6 week period the students analysed the agency medication errors for 2017, to ascertain the volume of errors and when these errors were occurring. They also researched numerous Pharmaceutical companies to ascertain which one might be best suited to our agency. The students presented their findings to the management team in March and they provided some useful insights which can only assist the agency moving forward.

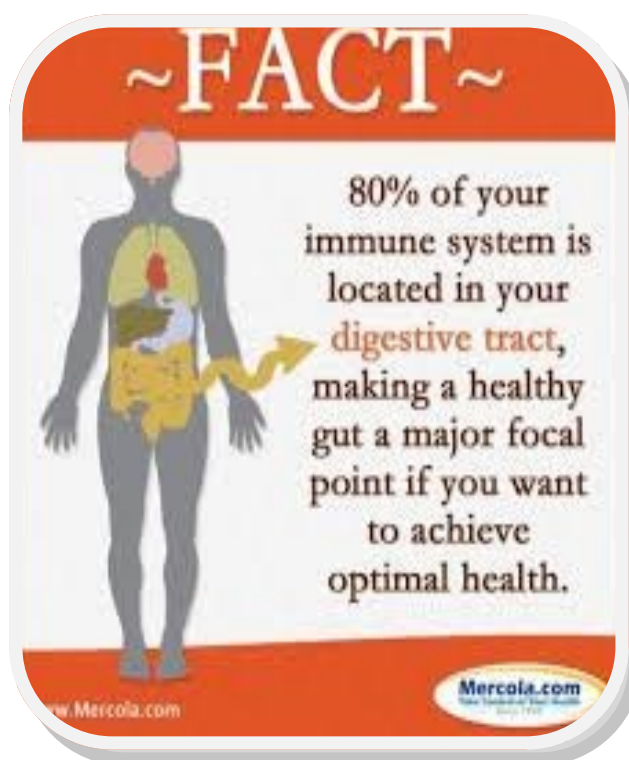
We are happy to report that as an agency we only had .02% errors for the year, which is testament to the great work done by all our staff.

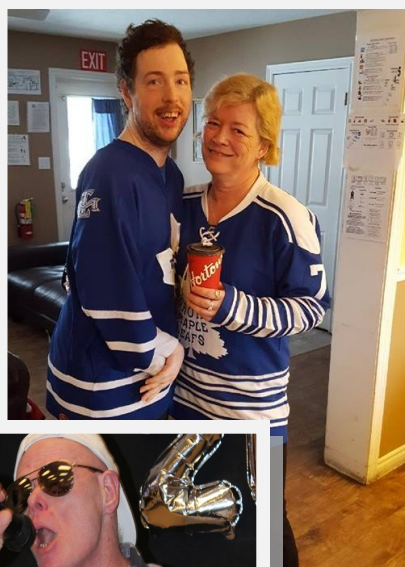
The presentation was also very informative with regards to Gut health, its effects and link to overall health and diet, with the students highlighting the specific link between Autism Spectrum Disorder and gut health.

More information on this will be communicated in the coming months.



Healthy Gut - Healthy You





Success Factor - Valued, Skilled Staff

Develop a learning culture to encourage continuous education and personal growth

Learning and networking at April Conferences

Learning Community

On April 24 and 25 two of our staff members Aleisha and Kathleen attended the Helen Sanderson and Associates conference in Toronto. This two day gathering brought together support professionals from all over Canada and the United States, and included keynotes from Martin Rutledge, Mary Beth Lepkowsky and Peter de Jager. The two days were broken into many excellent sessions such as; People before places; Personal Assets and Development Relationships, and Positive Change in Tough Times, with the focus being on person centered thinking, and a person centered journey. The conference provided a great opportunity to not only share experiences with people from other agencies, but to make valuable connections for the future.

The staff came back energized and renewed with some new tools to help move our agency on the path to true person centeredness.

Kathleen commented, “The conference was informative, enlightening and positive, and I was able to make several connections through other agencies”.

Submitted by:

Aleisha Burta



Angelman's Syndrome Conference

On April 20th Lauren Speicher, Melanie McKenna, Sarah Nawrocki and Steve Speicher, all attended the Canadian Angelman Syndrome Conference in the Omni King Edwards Hotel, Toronto.

The conference included a variety of specialized sessions on Angelman's syndrome, including health, communication, genetics, behavior's and research. The presenters provided a wealth of information and shared their experiences with those living with Angelman Syndrome.

Learning sessions covered strategies for sleep, anxiety and behavior support, as well as how to get started with and use an augmentative communication device and how to support teenagers and adults in age appropriate communication.

One of the most interesting sessions was on Genetics research and clinical trials. It was refreshing to see that there are many parties contributing to research to find treatments for those living with Angelman Syndrome.

The conference expressed the importance of supporting families, friends and communities to embrace those living with Angelman Syndrome, as well as recognizing and celebrating every persons contributions to their community.

Submitted by:

Alice Meinecke

“The Conference was informative, enlightening and positive, and I was able to make connections with other agencies”

-Kathleen

Success Factor - Valued, Skilled Staff

Investing in our staff to build skill, confidence and tenure

A Fond Farewell

March and April saw four of our long standing staff members say their goodbye's to Community Living South Muskoka.

And last but not least we bid a fond farewell to Mary-Lynne Clark after 10 years as one of our exceptional Special Needs Resource Teachers.

Mary-Lynne had enjoyed a successful 39 year career in Early Childhood Education and is now looking forward to the next chapter of her life.

All these wonderful ladies gave their heart and soul to Community Living South Muskoka, we thank them for their service and wish them all the best for the future, they will be greatly missed.



Pam Gillmore retired in March after 26 years of service. Having started with us in 1991 as a call in for the homes in Gravenhurst and Bracebridge. Pam soon made herself a valued part of the team and was given a full time position at Wellington Street. She spent the remaining 25 years serving the people we support at various locations both in Bracebridge and Gravenhurst, as well as co-chairing the health and safety committee from 1993 until retirement.

Jo-Anne Sanders and Donna Mathieson both retired from the Supported Independent Living Programme in April after 20 years and 12 years of service respectively. They were both wonderful advocates and friends to many of the people in the programme and will be greatly missed by everyone they touched.



Success Factor - A Highly Valued Community Organization

Ensure that the Community recognizes, respects and is inspired by CLSM

Volunteer Focus

As individuals supported by Community Living South Muskoka become more active in their communities, it is more important than ever to have people who can act as natural supports when needed. These natural supports can make all the difference in helping those that we support to Integrate fully into their communities.

People have been acting as natural supports in the community for some time, with one such person being Del Pegalo. Del has been involved with Special Olympics for many years helping to transport people to events, with her particular passion being the floor hockey teams. Del has also supported up to six athletes per year to partake in the Hines Memorial Golf tournament.

Del is a great advocate for inclusion , and speaks fondly of the times when she and her husband brought some of the people we support to their cottage in the Kawarthas.

The positive impact that Del has made on people around her shows that natural supports can be the best supports.

Submitted by; Gavin McIntosh



Trillium Lakelands District School Board Character Award

We would like to congratulate Kathy and Jennifer on their nomination for a Trillium Lakelands District School Board Character Award. Kathy and Jennifer have been volunteers at Macaulay Public School for two years, helping out every Friday morning at the Breakfast club. Kathy and Jennifer prepare fruit and veggie platters which Jennifer delivers to the children from Kindergarden to Grade 8. They are due to receive their awards at an Evening of Excellence ceremony on May 16.

Submitted by: Krista Haiduk—Collier



Volunteers needed!

Please join us on Tuesday May 29, at Morrison Meadows for our annual pumpkin planting. RSVP to Jeff DeWetering, jdewetering@clsm.on.ca or Kelly Marion, kmarion@clsm.on.ca

A message from the CEO

May is Community Living month and traditionally we have taken this opportunity to celebrate the wonderful accomplishments of so many people we support, their families and our staff team. This year has been no exception as you have learned from the wonderful articles included in these pages. A few things that stand out in my mind for recognition:

- A big thank you to our Accommodation Review Change Team for taking on an important leadership role; 49 personal outcome or live interviews completed; plans underway to create smaller more independent living options.
- New Wellness Committee! Nothing happens without a strong team. We are just in the beginning stages, but already have a great list of exciting events, information and supports we will be rolling out over the upcoming months.

Spring is also a time for new growth, and it is important that we not only continue to bring awareness for the need of full citizenship for all people but make that citizenship a reality. I would ask you to take the time to reflect on the role you play in ensuring that everyone is a valued member of our community. Is there more we could be doing to connect people, ensure they have friends and are participating fully?

We have been undergoing changes with our Community Participation Supports to ensure that people have meaningful inclusive opportunities outside of our building and 'programs'. While we have made some great progress, we still have a long journey ahead and ask for everyone's support to make this a reality. Specifically, we would ask you to identify what you can do to make a difference; can you help us spread the word through social media; promote and attend one of our upcoming events; recruit a friend or family member to volunteer; make a connection for someone for employment or just to be a friend? The list of things we could all be doing is endless and may only take a few minutes of your time however, when you see the smiles the reward you will feel is beyond imagination!

Submitted by: Krista Haiduk-Collier CEO



Fundraising Cruise on the Wenonah Steamship

Save the date:

*You are cordially invited to join us for our
second annual fundraising cruise on the
Wenonah Steamship*

*Friday, August 10, 2018, 7-10pm
Muskoka Wharf, Gravenhurst
Tickets: \$100/each*

A \$25 charitable donation receipt will be provided

Theme is New Orleans,

Live music by Blue Moon

Silent Auction on board

Further details to follow



PosterMyWall.com

**Need more
information?
Contact us at**

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