

ISSUE
September 2019



Community Living South Muskoka

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 Centered
Valued, Skilled Staff



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A Message from your CEO

I often think of fall as a time of new beginnings. The colors start to change on the trees, children are off to school and the weather starts to get a bit cooler as the day light gets shorter. At work, most of the staff team is back working after enjoying summer vacations, and we start to look forward to what we can accomplish together. I find this can be both an exciting and motivating time to make changes in both our personal and professional lives. As a management team we have been reviewing our operational goals for the strategic plan and are ready to start on another ambitious year of taking on more projects and 'extras' to ensure CLSM remains innovative and a leader in our sector.

In particular, we are working diligently on our social services hub and mixed use housing project. It has been exciting to be part of such an innovative concept. There has been so much done to get where we are, but the real work is just beginning on this ambitious undertaking. The goal is to create affordable housing for the people we support and our community which is in a housing crisis, as well as market rentals for others who are in need of somewhere to call home. The supportive housing component will be through our social services hub. Research shows that when not-for-profit organizations co-locate there is a result in both organizational efficiency and effectiveness. We have a further goal to create a sustainable building that will be there for our community in the decades to follow after our retirement.

Morrison Meadows has a place in our hearts and continues to be the focus of our 'outside the box' thinking as we attempt to create a social enterprise and sustainable model for the future. Over the past year we held focus groups with an external consultant, completed a social enterprise project with the ministry, had a student completing her Master's in Tourism review the property, and are now working with a committee to change the focus to take advantage of the tourism market. We have partnered with the Town of Bracebridge to receive a small Tourism Grant and look forward to the benefits for our fall harvest festival. We have also partnered with the Ontario Early Years and Lodestar Montessori School to offer outdoor educational experiences on the property. I look forward to sharing more of the exciting changes to come in future communications.

Other exciting things to celebrate:

- The team's ability to ensure ongoing quality and pass our compliance inspection at the end of June with a perfect inspection.
Congratulations to the team on a job well done!
- Our dedicated volunteers and events committee for another successful fundraising boat cruise .



"As a management team we have been reviewing our operational goals for the strategic plan and are ready to start another ambitious year of taking on more projects and 'extras' to ensure CLSM remains innovative and a leader in our sector"

**- Krista Haiduk-Collier
(CEO)**



- The Wellness team for hosting a great baseball night and continuing with motivating fitness challenges and an upcoming financial wellness event.
- The growth of our Passport program to over 100 individuals

Sometimes with good news can also come some bad. Unfortunately, there are a number of large obstacles we have to overcome over the next few months. An unknown funding envelope, ongoing proxy pay equity challenges, the current governments focus to reduce the number of transfer payment agencies, and the challenges inherent with direct funding models all threaten the sustainability of the developmental services sector as a whole. As a result, it is more important than ever that our agency continues to be a leader in innovation, championing the needs of those with disabilities while providing the best quality in services.


Respectfully Submitted by,
Krista Haiduk-Collier
(CEO)



Success Factor—Person Centred

Providing broader community experiences for the people we serve

Vacationing the Woodward Way!!



July 20th 2019 saw the residents of Woodward Street embark on their fourth annual summer vacation. This year's location was a stunning lake side cottage on beautiful Doe Lake, and it didn't take long before the gang made it a home away from home! The vacation truly was a time to kick back and relax, and to enjoy everything that nature has to offer, with Tom G really embracing life without a T.V.

Days were filled with fishing on the dock, paddle boat rides and just relaxing on the beach. Many fish were hooked over the course of the week with Vanessa and Frank proving to be master fishermen. The calm waters and tranquil beach proved to be the perfect playground with paddle boat queen Heather and sand castle king Tom M leading the way, Indeed Joni even braved the chilly waters for a quick swim. The fun and laughter could be heard far and wide as the gang enjoyed the various outdoor games and especially the water soakers. Nights were spent by the campfire regaling the days fun, playing board games, and just enjoying each others company, with some tasty S'mores thrown in for good measure.

The highlight of the week was a surprise visit from some of their friends in the Community Participation Support program, who came to enjoy a tasty lunch.

As they set off for home everyone agreed that they could not wait to do it all again next year!

Submitted by Lucille Beaumont



Success Factor - Person Centred

Focus on the individual to maximize their abilities

A CPS Summer!!

The summer of 2019 will be remembered by all in the Community Participation Supports program for the many wonderful activities and fun times which were had. Visits to Elmvale Zoo, Santa's Village, Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary and Northern Escapades Mini Golf were just some of the fun adventures embarked upon, with picnics in the park, fishing and swimming becoming the norm!

The crew made many memories on their road trips to Medieval Times, as well as cruising the lakes on the Wenonah Steamship and the Lady Muskoka. Adventures to Arrowhead Provincial Park, and SWS Water Park were real highlights of the summer, as was the surprise visit from Smokey the Bear.

The summer was a tale of old friends and new, and the importance of inclusion in helping our supported individuals live meaningful lives.

Submitted by:
Carmen Yeo





Success Factor—Person Centred

Providing broader community experiences for the people we serve

Backstreets Back Alright!!

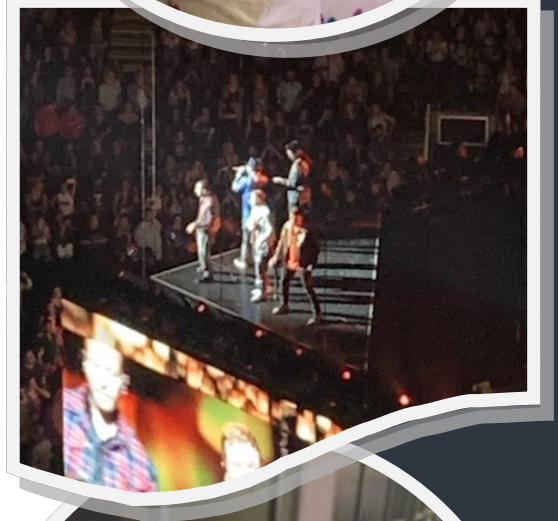
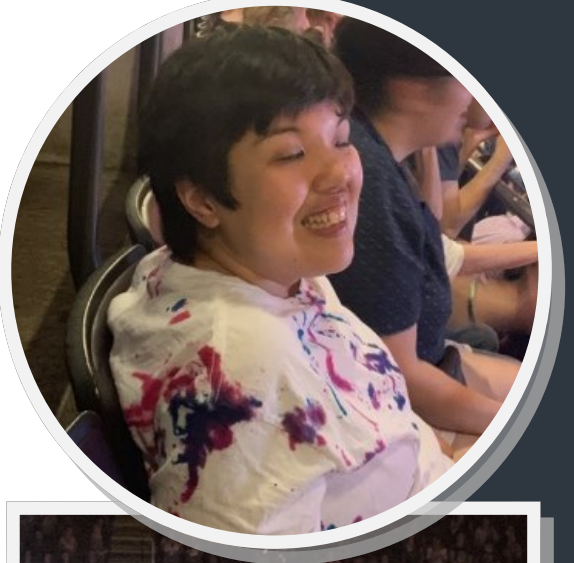
July 17, 2019 will live long in the memory for Ethel, Ailene, Vanessa and Randy as they got to be part of the spectacular that is the Backstreet Boys on Tour!

As the crew set out for Toronto the excitement was palpable! Life long fans Ethel and Ailene could not wait to see their idols, with Randy looking forward to his first concert ever. The first stop on the trip was to Kelsey's for some much needed nourishment, with Ailene bringing the group up to speed on everything that is Backstreet.

A capacity crowd and electric atmosphere awaited at the Scotiabank Place Arena with every song being cheered loudly, and sung with great gusto. As the lights went up on a fantastic night Ethel exclaimed "it's hard to pick my favorite part, I loved every minute of it" with Ailene adding "It was pretty awesome".

The journey home was filled with much laughter and singing, and a common goal to do it all again soon!!

Submitted by Taylor Fry



Sawdust City Brewery Bingo

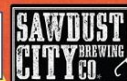
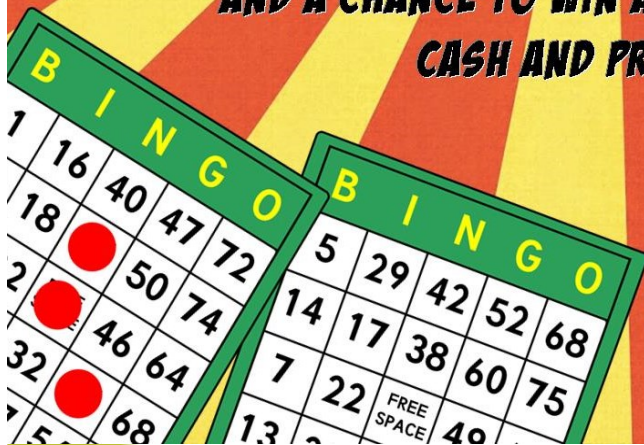
BREWERY BINGO!

*Hosted by Community Living South Muskoka
& Sawdust City Brewing Co.*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24TH @ 7:00PM

**@ SAWDUST CITY BREWERY IN
GRAVENHURST**

**\$10 FOR 1 ROUND, \$30 FOR 3 ROUNDS,
AND A CHANCE TO WIN ALMOST \$500 IN
CASH AND PRIZES!**



Proceeds raised will help support Community Living South Muskoka and those living with a Developmental Disability

*Back by
popular
demand!
Join us on
Thursday
October 24th
at Sawdust
City for
Brewery
Bingo!*

Success Factor - A Highly Valued Community Organisation

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

Passport, a support workers perspective!

Over the past year I have been blessed to support 15 individuals out in the community. Some have done bucket list activities like NHL games, Raptor games, Casaloma, Wonderland, Concerts, and WWE, whilst others have completed goals, found a job, enrolled in school, attended church, joined a baseball team and much more.

I have had the privilege of supporting these individuals in things that they have always wanted to try but never had the means or how's to do. Horseback riding, wakeboarding, kayaking, paddle boarding, drive inn, comedy shows, boat tours, science center, Ripley's aquarium, Comic-Con, skating, roller skating, pottery, drawing classes and dog sledding just to name a few.

I have seen the magic that happens when everyone gets to participate and has a sense of inclusion. I have been blessed to see all the individuals get to partake in dreams coming true and it is breath taking to watch the excitement and joy it brings each and every one of them.

Submitted by

Sara Hartin



Success Factor - A Highly Valued Community Organisation

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

Anchors Away for Fantastic Fundraiser!

On August 9, 2019, Community Living South Muskoka set sail for our 3rd Annual Fundraising cruise on the Wenonah Steamship. With last years cruise still fresh in the memory, expectations were high that this year would be the best yet. Mother nature again played her part, bathing the boat in blissful sunshine, and once again Blue Moon had nearby cottagers dancing on their docks! The Catering by the Bohemian Caterer was the perfect addition to this wonderful evening, providing something for everyone on board.

We are proud to report that this years event raised in excess of \$30,000! This could not have been achieved without the support of our community, local business, the team at Muskoka Steamships, all those on board, and all those who continue to support us each and every year. We cannot thank you enough!

Submitted by Taylor Watson



**Community Living
South Muskoka**
Serving those with a Developmental Disability

Thank You To This Evenings Sponsors

PLATINUM

**Rexall
PharmaPlus**

GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE

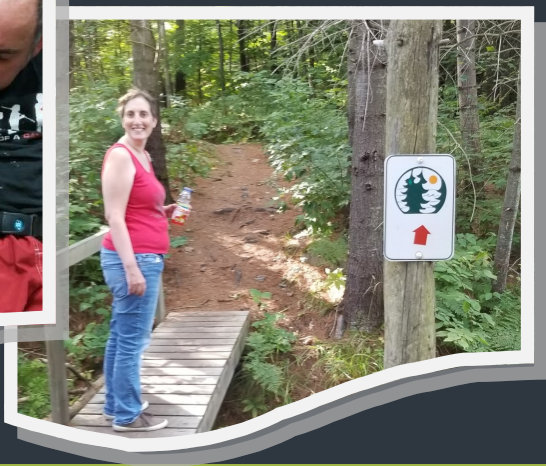
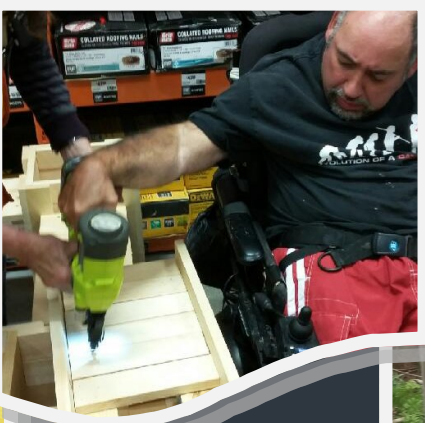
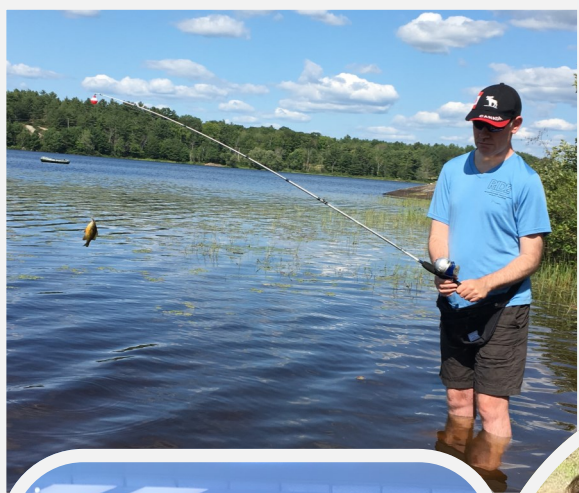
LEON'S MUSKOKA
NUCLEUS LABS
ALLPORT MARINA
MUSKOKA WINDOW & DOOR CENTRE
GAGNON'S YIG

HUB INTERNATIONAL
COLDWATER PHARMACY
HURONIA ALARM & FIRE SECURITY
NORTH COUNTRY REALTY INC
MUSKOKA KIA

DIGITAL OFFICE SOLUTIONS
KUBOTA NORTH
T&A TIRE
MUSKOKA MECHANICAL
TWO GUYS AUTO

www.clsm.on.ca

Community Living South Muskoka CLSouthMuskoka Community_Living_South_Muskoka



Success Factor - A Leader In Innovation

Explore Innovative programs to offer a variety of individual accommodation choices

A place in your heart, a place in your home!

Family Home is a program which supports individuals to live in a family setting. The program is devised to help individuals develop interpersonal relationships, have a sense of belonging and value, and learn social and life skills. Our Family Home Providers ensure that their new family members are provided with a stable, loving and caring environment.

As with all of us, home providers do need to recharge their batteries from time to time, and this is where our respite services plays an important part. Respite providers can be a family friend, relative or another caring family in the community who are willing to share their home with those in the family home program and provide a safe and caring place for the short term. Along with family home providers they play a crucial role in enriching the lives of the people we support.

Rita and George Colyer respite providers with Community Living South Muskoka have opened up their home to Patrick and Don welcoming them with open arms. On the family home program Rita commented *"The Family Home Program is a wonderful way to expand a person's confidence and social skills while providing a safe environment for them"*. Rita and George have enjoyed getting to know Patrick and Don, learning about their likes, dislikes and fun personalities. The Colyer's truly feel that Patrick and Don have become a part of their extended family over the time they have spent together and are looking forward to more time together in the future.

For anyone considering the family home program Rita commented *"It is a wonderful experience that has definitely enriched our lives and has given us a feeling of pleasure seeing someone enjoy the blessings we have and are able to share."*

Community Living South Muskoka is currently looking for family home providers in the Muskoka area. A family home can be singles, couples or large families. Providers receive orientation, training and are provided with non-taxable remuneration, as well as ongoing 24hr support.

Help an adult with a developmental disability live a more inclusive life in their community.

For more information contact Madalyn Rebelo at (705) 645-5494 x236 or mrebelo@clsm.on.ca

Submitted by Madalyn Rebelo

Success Factor - A Leader In Innovation

Exploring Innovative Service Programs

Colton one of the crew at Muskoka Party Rentals!

Since joining the team at Muskoka Party Rentals in June, Colton has flourished and become an integral part of the crew. Working 4 days per week Colton's work ethic, willingness to jump in, ability to take on most tasks, and most of all his great sense of humour have really endeared him to his colleagues.

A real team player Colton assisted with deliveries, setting up equipment, as well as working in the warehouse and performing various other duties. Colton commented that "The team were really nice and fun to work with! I really enjoyed working outside and being on the road with the crews, and the money came in very useful as I am saving for a snowmobile"

Marie Colton's supervisor added, "Colton was a great asset to our delivery crew. He always had a positive attitude and a smile on his face. He was always willing to help where needed and he was very punctual and reliable. It was a real pleasure to have him as part of our 2019 team and we hope to have him return for 2020"

Colton is currently back at school finishing his high school education, but thoughts of joining up with his friends at Muskoka Party Rentals again next summer are never far from his mind!

Submitted by Shane Collins



Success Factor - Valued, Skilled Staff

Investing in our staff to build skill, confidence and tenure

Continuing Education with the help of CLSM!

Ellina Rayner was the grateful recipient of the Barb Luckasavitch Award at the 2018 AGM, we caught up with Ellina to find out how this scholarship has enabled her to continue her personal development through learning:

"I am grateful and honored to be the recipient of the 2018 Barb Luckasavitch Award which has given me the opportunity to continue to further my education which has made me more successful in my job. I have completed a course on cognitive behavior therapy at Udemy, as well as completing the bridging DSW program with Loyalist College. I intend to continue my education through Loyalist to help me support the individuals that I work with to the best of my ability"

Submitted by Ellina Rayner



Encouraging Personal Growth through Continuous Learning!

June 2019 saw Cassie Dietl travel to Ottawa for a two day training course aimed at assisting her in her role as respite network co-ordinate. The course which was led by Samantha Biron a performance management consultant, focused on the communication model, public speaking, body language and active listening, as well as giving feedback and sharing difficult criticism. Cassie commented that "the course was very helpful and insightful. As respite Network Coordinator it will help me grow my communication skills across all levels of agency personnel in multiple agencies"

Submitted by Cassie Dietl



Clean Water a Necessity!

Congratulations to Jessica Stevenson and Keifen McQueen who recently passed their Well water testing exam. They will continue to ensure that the residents of Fraserburg have clean water.

Success Factor - Valued, Skilled Staff

Investing in our staff to build skill, confidence and tenure

CLSM Staff Testimonials!

What's it like to work here at Community Living South Muskoka! We recently asked some of our staff members both old and new why they liked working for the agency, and what was one of their most memorable experiences to date.

Rachelle has worked for the agency for over 30 years, and currently is a member of the Community Participation Team in Bracebridge. On why she likes working for the agency Rachelle commented that "being part of a great friendly community participation team who put our supported individuals best interest first makes my job very enjoyable. Putting smiles on people's faces, helping them access their community, seeing their self esteem grow and helping them build natural friendships, makes my job a very rewarding one." Rachelle noted that her most memorable experiences to date have been 'assisting individuals with the transition from an institution to a home, as well as accompanying individuals on a magical trip to Walt Disney World Florida, seeing their excitement as they experience their first plane ride, and witnessing first hand the joy that fostering a sense of inclusiveness can bring!'

Kayla has worked for the agency for just over a year and is also a member of the Community Participation Team in Bracebridge. Kayla commented that "working for the agency for the past year has been a lot of fun! My team have made me feel really welcome and I enjoy the fact that no two days are ever the same. I love my team's ability to cultivate an inclusive environment and provide amazing experiences for the Individuals we support. My role within the CPS team is very satisfying and fulfilling and I love putting a smile on everyone's face!" On her most memorable experience to date Kayla commented "Our day trips to Cleveland House in Rosseau have been so much fun, with the water park a highlight. The participants truly pushed their limits in the water and I could not be more proud of them!"

Working for Community Living South Muskoka you never know when wonderful experiences might occur. Shannon one of our Resource Teachers had one of these moments recently on a visit to Morrison Meadows with a family she supports. Shannon noted 'after almost an hour of play, watching the little one take bigger and bigger risks and explore more of the world around them, for the first time ever they went down a slide! Afterwards they even felt comfortable enough to come to me for a cuddle! Shannon commented "I love that I have a job where satisfaction and success comes at the most unexpected times and in the simplest and most beautiful ways"

Submitted by Rachel Lawrence , Kayla Veysey, Shannon Briese



Fall Harvest Festival



FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL

1177 Fraserburg Road, Bracebridge

September 20, 21, 22 2019 | 10am-4pm

Admission Includes:

- Magic by the Magical Duda, Saturday and Sunday @ 11am!
 - Hay Wagon Rides
 - Caterpillar Tractor Rides
 - 3 Wheel Bikes
 - Field Maze
 - Accessible Playground
 - Walking/Hiking Trails
 - Various Field Games
 - Sand Box
 - Face Painting
 - Crafts Station
 - 1 Free Pumpkin Per Family
- AND MUCH MORE!!**



Also Included:

- Special Guest Appearances
- Snack Bar (additional fee)

Admission Rates:

- Under 2yrs - FREE
- 2-5yrs - \$5
- 5yrs + - \$10
- Car Load - \$30

**FEATURING MAGIC BY
THE MAGICAL DUDA!**



Morrison Meadows is owned and operated by Community Living South Muskoka
15 Depot Drive, Bracebridge ON P1L 0A1 TEL: (705) 645-5494 | www.clsm.on.ca



**Need more
information?
Contact us at**

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www.morrisonmeadows.com

Senior Leadership Team

Krista Haiduk-Collier
Chief Executive Officer

Kelly Miles
Chief Financial Officer

Colleen Kelly-Berrichi
Director Accommodation Services

Cathy Meyer
Director Services & Supports

Send your
newsletter story ideas to
Declan at
dormsby@clsm.on.ca



**Community Living
South Muskoka**