



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 Board Chair

To all CLSM Staff please accept the heartfelt thank you from myself and other Board members. Krista has kept us up to date with your tremendous dedication to the people that we serve.

We have been impressed with the lengths that Krista and staff have gone to in order to locate and acquire needed PPE and other needs. As you may have noticed, some supplies have arrived from out of country and more are on the way. If, like me, you have ordered on line and waited a month or more for something to be shipped from China, please understand that despite the urgent need, the same timelines seem to apply to PPE ordered from Asia.

The Board has given Krista the authority to source what is needed despite our very tight budget. We are pleased that the Ontario government has now assured us that budget overruns for purchasing needed equipment will be covered.

Last month the Board authorized Krista to provide frontline staff with a small gift to let you know, that despite our funding problems, as a Board we want to support you as best we can. That is why we are very pleased that the government has now approved a substantial payment to recognize “the valiant efforts of our frontline workers in the fight against COVID 19.”

As a Board we will continue to support you, Krista and her staff as we all work together to end this terrible scourge.

Gord Haugh

On behalf of the CLSM Board of Directors.



“To all CLSM Staff please accept the heartfelt thank you from myself and other Board members. Krista has kept us up to date with your tremendous dedication to the people that we serve.”

*- Gord Haugh
(Board Chair)*



*Gord Haugh
CLSM Board Chair*



*Linda O'Hallarn
CLSM Board Member*

Providing broader community experiences for the people we serve

CLSM Easter Door Decorating Contest!

As we are all promoting social distancing and staying at home as much as possible, we thought what better way to spruce up your living space, get creative, and connect with our “virtual” community than to launch a CLSM Easter Door Decorating Contest! The contest was open to staff and supported individuals alike, and we had some amazing entries! Judging took place through the CLSM Facebook page and ran over the four-day Easter weekend. After some tough deliberation the community decided on Anna Iannantuono as our 3rd place winner and our Manitoba Street residence as our 2nd place winner. Finally, 1st place and winner of the 2020 CLSM Easter Door Decorating Competition was... Spencer Street! Congratulations to everyone who participated for their beautiful entries!

Submitted by Taylor Watson

1st Place
Spencer St.

2nd Place
Manitoba St.

3rd Place
Anna Iannantuono



Success Factor - Valued, Skilled Staff

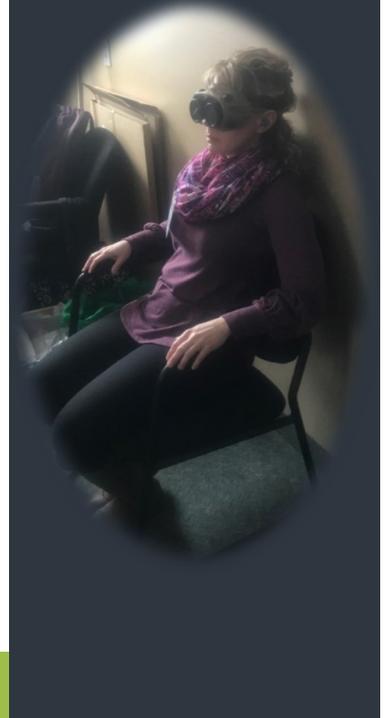
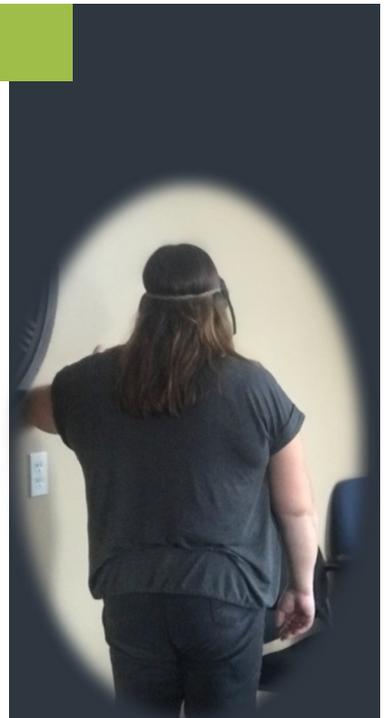
Investing in our staff to build skill, confidence and tenure

Intervenor Training: A Sensory Experience

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, CLSM's Frontline Staff took place in a four day Intervenor Training course that provided them with further insight into the various challenges faced by the people we support. The course was hosted by Deafblind Ontario and consisted of a series of sensory simulations that help Staff to better understand what it is like to live with certain disabilities.

One activity that hit home for many of the participants involved them donning some goggles that simulated various visual conditions such as glaucoma or cataracts. Courses such as Intervenor Training provide an opportunity for our Staff to step into the shoes of the people we support and learn how to better understand how they feel, how to connect with them, and how to serve them best. Thank you to Angela and Deafblind Ontario for facilitating this course!

Submitted by Rebecca Leeder



Exploring Innovative Service Programs

Tammy Working To Keep Her Clients Safe



“When you look after a resident’s needs, it makes you feel like you are giving back to your community in the best way possible”

- Tammy Laskowski

CLSM Employment Services are still operating through COVID-19. We are proud of the people we are supporting who are out there working in essential services making valuable contributions to our community. We currently have people employed at grocery stores, Home Depot, Walmart, and a senior’s residence. One individual who continues to work hard is Tammy, who joined the team at the Manor in Gravenhurst roughly 2 years ago. Things have been a bit different at work these days, but Tammy is happy to be on the Front Line and helping the residents at the Manor to keep safe and healthy.

Tammy feels really lucky to be a part of her team. “When you look after a resident’s needs, it makes you feel like you are giving back to your community in the best way possible. The Manor provides a new chapter for residents on their life’s journey, and I am so happy to be a part of it!”

Her day-to-day duties include prepping 107 meals for her residents’ breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks. She is on call to help whenever someone rings for assistance. Nothing stands in her way when it comes to making her residents feel supported and happy, not even a pandemic. Tammy continues to work, mostly nights, and is more than happy to do so even with new changes implemented in the recent weeks.

“We are fully tested for symptoms every time we enter and exit the building, without question, and we are really focussing on sanitation and keeping things extra clean. We wear full protective gear including plastic suits, masks, and gloves, and make sure we keep our distance wherever possible. It keeps me busy and keeps things interesting!”



Keep it up Tammy, you are a hero!

Submitted by Tammy Laskowski & Rob Habel (CLSM Job Coach)



Success Factor - Person Centred

Providing broader community experiences for the people we serve

Amy Hall Shines as Bright as Her Smile at Fire & Ice



Even in the depths of winter, Amy never fails to warm our hearts! This was made especially evident this past January at the Annual Fire & Ice Festival in Downtown Bracebridge, where Amy was awarded with the “Can Do Attitude” Award for her hard work and dedication! This year approximately 9000 people came out to celebrate and take part in the festivities, and Amy was on hand to assist every step of the way.

Tracy Larkman, the Fire & Ice Volunteer Coordinator, could not speak more highly of Amy, stating in a letter to CLSM that “No matter what task we assigned her, she flashed a big smile and replied “I can do that”. Her willingness to take on assignments no matter what they were

was invaluable to me as the Volunteer Coordinator. I wish I could clone her!”

Amy was officially recognized at the Festival’s Volunteer Appreciation event at Bracebridge Hall on February 11th, a night that she will never forget.

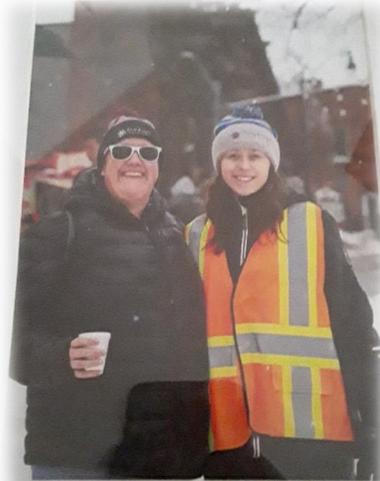
Amy has been eager to assist at almost every CLSM event, contingent on her being able to switch shifts at McDonald’s where she has worked for over 10 years, or as long as our event lines up with her day off. If she is able to make it work, she will be there! From everyone at CLSM, thank you Amy for all that you do!

Submitted by Taylor Watson



“No matter what task we assigned her, she flashed a big smile and replied “I can do that.”. I wish I could clone her!”

*- Tracy Larkman
Fire & Ice
Volunteer Coordinator*



Can Do Attitude Award
Amy Hall





Providing broader community experiences for the people we serve

Anna & Lauren's Act of Kindness

Anna, one of the individuals supported at CLSM, and Lauren her support Staff displayed remarkable kindness recently in bringing some much needed fun and laughter to their friend Alyssa. Alyssa suffers from a rare form of acute lymphoblastic leukemia, and has lived a very isolated life for the past few weeks.

Anna and Lauren went above and beyond to bring some cheer to Alyssa's world. Alyssa's mother Roberta had this to say about the experience: "Over the last few weeks Anna and Lauren have created a couple of fun things to cheer up Alyssa. They made a sign to be put up in Lauren's window so Alyssa could see her special birthday wish, and they also worked really hard at painting some rocks to create a scavenger hunt for her to do. We were able to do that today and Alyssa had a blast! It was a fun activity that we were able to complete practicing social distancing in a safe way. It was really great to have Alyssa engaged and feel a part of her community. Thank you so much Lauren and Anna! "

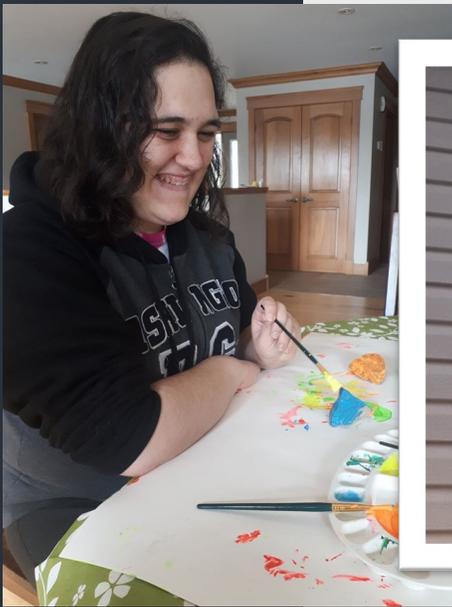


"Over the last few weeks Anna and Lauren have created a couple of fun things to cheer up Alyssa. It was really great to have Alyssa engaged and feel a part of her community. Thank you so much Lauren and Anna!"

*- Roberta Snoddon
Alyssa's Mother*

Thank you Anna and Lauren for showing such great community spirit!

Submitted by Declan Ormsby



Success Factor - Person Centred

Providing broader community experiences for the people we serve

A Journey of Advocacy and Self Discovery



On February 20th, Frank Assisi and Gordie Merton attended A Journey of Advocacy and Self-Discovery Workshop at Camphill Communities in Angus Ontario. Camphill Communities is a not-for-profit organization that provides support services to adults and seniors in Simcoe County who have an intellectual disability.

The workshop was about Fionn, a young man with Down's Syndrome, and how he has followed his dreams in life. Fionn was a featured speaker at the event, and the workshop included the speakers playing instruments, sharing their stories, and empowering the participants to feel a greater sense of self advocacy.

Frank really enjoyed hearing Fionn and his father's stories of their travels all over the world. Gordie said he felt empowered by Fionn's story and he felt like he could really relate with him. Overall, Frank and Gordie had a fantastic day and were very thankful that they got to attend the workshop.

Submitted by Caitlin Syvret



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

CLSM Stories - Meet Blaine

As stated above, one of our priorities at CLSM is to ensure that the community recognizes, respects and is inspired by what we do and who we are. What better way to do this than to tell our stories! New to our Newsletter this spring, we are featuring a very familiar face at CLSM and telling his story. Read on to “Meet Blaine”, and hear how he became one of the most recognizable individuals supported at our Agency.

Meet Blaine

A 53-year-old man with a magnetic personality, contagious smile and strong self-advocacy. He loves to be social, help out in his community and enjoys local sporting events! Many people in Muskoka recognize Blaine when he is in the community and enjoy his company.

Life was very different for Blaine before Community Living South Muskoka. When he was born his family was encouraged by medical professionals (like many at that time) to have him in an institution because of his disability. His mother and father agreed they did not want that for him and had him home for 5 years until his needs became too much for them to support on their own. He spent time in a couple of different facilities until he eventually landed in Smith’s Falls at Rideau Regional Center. Blaine spent many years there, more than half of his life to date.



Blaine has speech impairments; often it takes a lot of practice to understand him fully. So you can imagine the frustrations he would have had trying to express himself all while having a developmental disability as well. Often this break in communication would translate to “behavior”. Blaine would require deep pressure to help himself calm in situations that got over escalated. When he was in the institution, they created a means for this release. It was called a papoose board. It was a full body length padded board that Blaine could lay in and get that deep pressure release he needed to feel calm. He would carry the board around with him and use it multiple times a day at the center. When the institutions started to slowly close down and people needed to be re-located, Blaine was transitioned to Community Living South Muskoka. With some new skills, strong advocating supports and a belief in him as a person, Blaine became one of the favourite smiling faces of CLSM. Community Living helped give Blaine a voice, the skills to self-regulate and the acceptance of his exceptionalities. Working together with partnered agencies to create behavior support plans and positive reactions to his frustrations he was able to learn the skills and tools needed to express himself in an encouraging and meaningful way.

“I love Blaine, he is literally like family to me. I hope that telling his story provides a glimmer of how great he is and how immensely far he has come since joining the family at Community Living South Muskoka.”

*- Madalyn Rebelo
Family Support Worker*



Success Factor - A Highly Valued Community Organization

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

CLSM Stories - Meet Blaine



Meet Blaine *cont.*

Blaine's Residential Support Team, alongside our Community Participation Support Program, have provided him with the necessary supports to enable him to access his community and contribute in a positive way. He loves sports, and loves to travel. He swims, hikes, plays basketball, and is on the Special Olympics teams for Bowling and T-ball. He has gone to Florida to see the Blue Jays spring training and he is an honorary player for a local softball team, to which he attends games in his jersey and cheers on his team. He has been on camping trips, been to Wonderland, attended Blue Jays games, and toured Ripley's Aquarium. He has also been on a "guy's" trip to Cuba to relax and experience their culture!

Blaine also loves his community. He is always one of the first people to volunteer to help others and participate in his community. He has created life-long friendships, and has strong bonds with the gentlemen he lives with. He helps do the mail run for the agency and other odd jobs around town.

Perhaps most importantly, he calls his mom every Sunday and has a strong love for the important people in his life.

The sky is the limit for Blaine now. Everywhere he goes he brings a smile to the faces of people around him. He is energetic, outgoing and charming. He is empathetic and kind, while still having such a strong sense of self-worth and advocacy. CLMS has helped him channel what he always knew but had a hard time expressing in a positive way. That he is important, capable and has no limits.

Blaine is what it means to be inclusive in our community. Being supported by CLSM showed him and those around him that barriers are breakable. No matter where you have come from or what obstacles stand in your way, with determination and advocacy the possibilities are endless!

Submitted by Madalyn Rebelo & Cass Beaumont



"Blaine is someone you would be incredibly lucky to have in your life. He never fails to put a smile on my face. Through his person-centered plan our team assist Blaine to achieve his goals, keeping his wellbeing, positivity and growth at the forefront of everything we do!"
Cass Beaumont,
Blaine's Lead Staff



Success Factor - A Highly Valued Community Organization

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

THANK YOU!

At CLSM we are extremely lucky to work with all of our community partners, especially during these difficult times. To all who have donated to our individuals and staff, and gone out of their way to show their support, we can't thank you enough!



Alongside our community business partners, we are also very grateful to the individuals in our community who are thinking of CLSM during these times. To Darlene Hodgson, Wendy Davidson, Amy Wheler, Diana Trusler, Katrina Cutting, and Lisa Swyer for your donations of groceries and homemade masks, thank you so much for your kindness and generosity. We are honoured that you are here for us and helping to make the days a bit brighter for all of us at CLSM!



THANK YOU!

MANGAGEMENT THANK YOU!

Our Management Team and Board of Directors wish to extend our heartfelt appreciation to our front line staff members working directly with our supported individuals whilst facing the specter of COVID 19. Your dedication to keeping everyone safe and happy is remarkable! THANK YOU!



A Message from your CEO

I would like to begin by expressing my gratitude to all of the people working so hard during this time of uncertainty and rapid change. I have been truly amazed by the ability of our staff to be open to new ways of supporting people, adopt new health and safety practices and adapt to daily changes in routine.

It seems that we no sooner have new protocols in place when we are notified of yet another set of new recommendations for safeguarding people and staff; and so we have to start all over again. In some instances, we have had to implement wide spread changes in a matter of hours. Through it all, the teams have been superstars, accepting the need to change and making it happen!

We have also had unprecedented support and recognition from our community. From individual people making us cloth masks, partner agencies donating PPE and resources, local retailers scouring suppliers for necessary supplies, grocery stores ensuring we have enough food in our homes, volunteers doing our shopping and others donating food and PPE; I want to extend a BIG THANK YOU for including us in your thoughts and hearts. It has been humbling to see the generosity of so many at this most challenging time for everyone.

I would be remiss if I missed recognizing the people we support and the reason we are here. Your resilience has been incredible. To have your life uprooted, routines changed and contact with all family and friends suddenly taken away has been difficult and yet, you have managed to adapt well and are making the 'most of it'. I understand how hard this has been and how much many of you miss your friends and family; with this in mind we have been ensuring you have ways to stay in touch with technology such as FaceTime and BlueJeans.

During times of change, I feel it is important to keep traditions alive. With this in mind, we are keeping some of our CLSM spring traditions; however, we have had to find ways to have them in different ways. For example, we are having a 'virtual' pancake breakfast and a week-long fundraiser through A&W to kick off Community Living Month. We will receive 100% of the proceeds for all pancake sales! A big thank you to A&W for their support and Food Basics who will be donating pancakes, syrup and sausages/bacon to all of our homes. We are also still hosting Community Living IDOL! You will still see your favourite performers on a weekly basis and we will have judging and finalist... all done via BlueJeans. We have had a team of staff working on weekly themes and keeping everyone connected through activities and technology; a special thank you to all participants for your creative ideas and enthusiasm.

We have also been working with another Community Living to problem solve PPE challenges and share resource solutions. We continue to meet via BlueJeans on a weekly basis with the other Developmental Service agencies in our region to keep on top of what is happening and share best practice. And for a few more weeks, I will continue with weekly OASIS Board meeting calls as we all try to navigate COVID on a provincial basis.

In ending, I want to express my sincere appreciation to the management team, staff, Board of Directors, families, community partners and the people we support. You have brought true meaning to the phrase 'we are all in this together'!

Stay safe and be well,

Krista Haiduk-Collier



"I want to extend a BIG THANK YOU for including us in your thoughts and hearts. It has been humbling to see the generosity of so many at this most challenging time for everyone."

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

CLSM Idol!



Community Living
South Muskoka
Serving those with a Developmental Disability

CLSM IDOL 2020!

May 12 | May 19 | May 26 | June 2 @1pm!

THE 2020 CLSM IDOL PERFORMANCES WILL BE TAKING PLACE VIRTUALLY OVER BLUJEANS! KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE CLSM FACEBOOK PAGE AND WWW.CLSM.ON.CA FOR LINKS TO JOIN THE FUN!



ALL PROCEEDS WILL HELP TO SUPPORT THOSE LIVING WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY IN MUSKOKA

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Community Living
South Muskoka

Community Living Week!



Community Living Week!

To kick off our celebrations for Community Living Month, May 1st - May 9th is *Community Living Week!* Our theme, pancakes! Enjoy pancakes for breakfast, lunch or dinner to honour Community Living locations Province-wide, our staff, and everyone we support. Take pictures and send them in to dormsby@clsm.on.ca for us to share! Enjoy!

Special Promotion!

A&W Bracebridge will donate \$1 to CLSM for every pancake sold from May 1st - May 9th!



Need more info?
Contact us!

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



Community Living South Muskoka