

ISSUE  
September 2020



# 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

It is hard to believe that we have been facing the challenges of a pandemic for over 7 months now. I believe that the stories you will see reflected in this newsletter demonstrate the resilience of our staff and the people we support to not only face adversity but to also continue to grow and accomplish great things. There is so much to celebrate as we reflect back on the many accomplishments.

During the first two months of COVID-19 CLSM experienced a decrease in our overall behavioural incidents, and we have continued with that trend going forward. This was despite the need to redesign all of our services and make significant changes to everyone's routines. As the pandemic continues, it has become increasingly difficult for those we support to live with the restrictions we have been required to put in place to keep people safe. I would like to thank the people we support and their families and friends for their patience and understanding as we have slowly been able to incorporate visits and limited physical distancing activities back into routines. We understand how difficult this has been for everyone and appreciate your support in helping us keep everyone safe and healthy.

It is also important to recognize that much of what we have accomplished has been due to the extraordinary efforts of our staff. We introduced a recognition program called Shining Star Awards and had over 40 staff nominations by their peers for exceptional efforts. It was wonderful to celebrate how staff have been thinking outside the box to find ways to keep people engaged and doing meaningful activities.

Early on in the pandemic we heard the phrase 'we are all in this together'. As we are facing a second resurgence in our community I think it is more important than ever to remember that we need each other to stay strong and resilient. It has truly taken a team approach to keep up with the speed of decision making and the ever evolving changes to service delivery. I want to take this opportunity to thank the management team for their support and efforts to ensure that the agency has been prepared and responding efficiently and effectively to each crisis as it has occurred and to each staff member for ensuring they are up to date with new protocols and following all of our enhanced infection prevention and control measure to keep everyone safe.

Stay safe and be well,

Krista Haiduk-Collier

*Thank  
you*



*"I believe that the stories you will see reflected in this newsletter demonstrate the resilience of our staff and the people we support to not only face adversity but to also continue to grow and accomplish great things."*

*- Krista Haiduk-Collier  
(CEO)*



### Providing Broader Community Experiences for the People We Serve

## Woodward's Escape to the Cottage

When the going gets tough, the tough get going! This is definitely how the members of our Woodward Street residence felt back in July as they packed their bags and headed to a cottage on Doe Lake for a week. With their protective gear and face masks close at hand, they spent their week on the beach, in the water and hanging out by the fire. During their short time spent indoors, everyone had their own room with plenty of room to play and practice social distancing. This was not an issue however, as the weather was amazing all week and the team was able to spend time outdoors every day. They took turns in the paddle boat, had beach parties, built sand castles, went on nature walks, swam and cooked s'mores, of course!



***"I really enjoyed the fishing. I was sad that we didn't catch enough for dinner. We had to have steak instead!"***  
**- Frank Assisi**



Everyone had a blast. Vanessa loved spending time by the campfire, Tom enjoyed spending time on the beach and building sand castles. Joni swam and cooked s'mores, Frank lounged and fished. There was a plethora of activities for everyone to enjoy.

"I really enjoyed the fishing. I was sad that we didn't catch enough for dinner. We had to have steak instead!" said Frank while reflecting on the getaway.

The team wanted to achieve two goals on this trip; have fun, and be safe. They returned with memories and stories that will stay with them for years to come, and have their sights set on next year when they hope to do it all again!

Submitted by Team Woodward





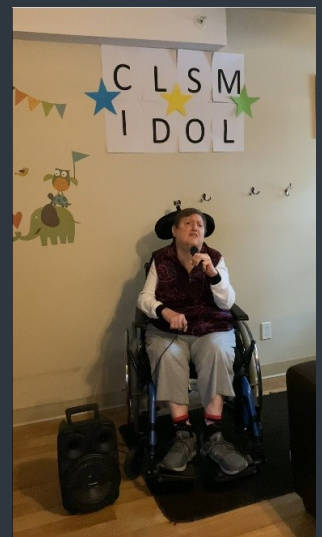
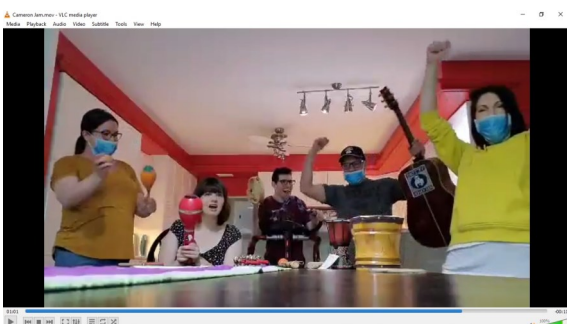
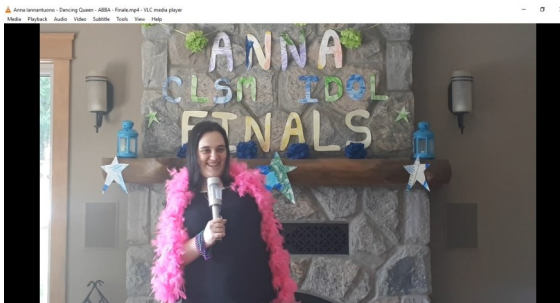
# Success Factor - A Leader in Innovation

## Exploring Innovative Service Programs

### A Virtual World - CLSM Idol

The past few months have been a period of adjustments for everyone, and the staff and individuals at CLSM have been working hard to stay connected while at the same time, staying isolated and safe. In past years, the welcoming of spring has meant something very special for everyone at the agency; CLSM Idol! Although we were facing unforeseen challenges, we knew we had to find a way to make Idol happen. We decided to utilize BlueJeans, which has become a staple in almost everything we do at CLSM. We had 16 performers this year and instead of hosting our regular live performances at 15 Depot Drive, we had everyone submit videos of their performances that we could stream virtually. Similar to past years, Idol ran throughout the month of May with roughly 5 performances each week that were judged graciously by friends in our community who we can't thank enough for joining us. Every performance was truly amazing. There were laughs and tears of joy as we narrowed it down to our winner; Josh Cutting! Josh won the competition a few years ago and his performance this year was no less emotional and well deserved. Way to go everyone and congratulations Josh!

Submitted by Taylor Watson





# Success Factor - A Leader in Innovation

## Exploring Innovative Service Programs

### A Virtual World - Being Present, Even When Apart



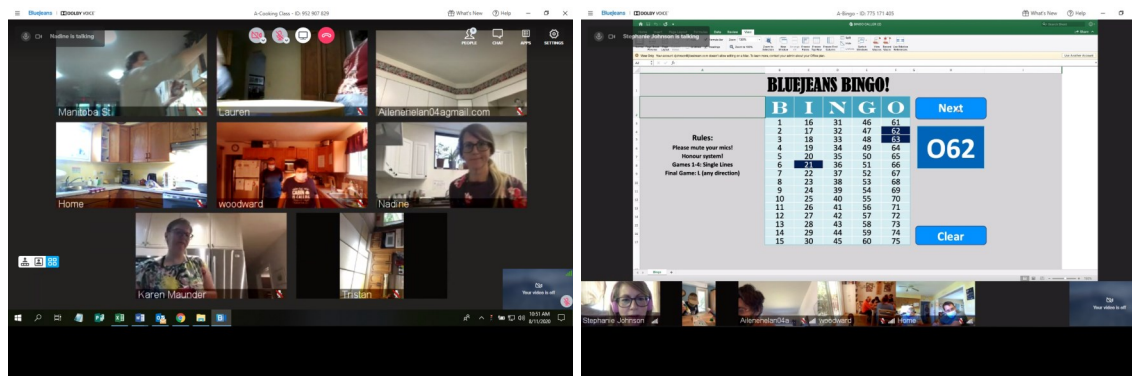
The importance of friends and remaining connected has never been more prevalent than in recent months. With social distancing and COVID-19 preventative measures the norm, CLSM sought new and inventive ways to bring our supported individuals together whilst remaining apart!

To this end, our activities committee was formed with the sole purpose of providing fun, meaningful activities for those we support and staff alike. Spring and Summer days were filled with dance parties, games, and a whole lot of fun, fun, fun as well as the chance for everyone to learn new skills with our ever popular cookery class.

The biggest hit of the summer however, was to prove to be our online bingo, with 20-30 people in attendance each week!

The excitement was palpable as number by number someone got closer to that winning bingo call, and with at least 5 winners every week, everyone kept coming back for more! A big thank you to Nadine and Taylor for hosting our bingo and cookery events and to the entire CLSM family for making them so enjoyable. The bingo and cooking classes will be continuing through the fall due to popular demand.

Submitted by Declan Ormsby





# Success Factor - A Leader in Innovation

## Exploring Innovative Service Programs

### Passport During the Pandemic

COVID-19 has forced change in all areas of our work and our community, and our Passport program has been no exception. Our one-to-one Passport support had a brief pause while we researched and redesigned our services to operate in new and innovative ways. We are now successfully utilizing Facetime & BlueJeans, as well as playing many different online games, to make sure we stay in touch. We feel very lucky to have this technology at hand, giving us an ability to see each other when it is most needed (and play with some fun photo filters!).

Another change in the world of Passport allowed for one-time access to items that may not have been funded by the program pre-COVID. As you will see in the following pictures, Bobby purchased a new exercise bike, Dale treated herself to a new camera, Nathan got a new bike, and Will picked up some new fishing gear. These are just a few of many items that have been purchased to help during these tough times. Others include therapeutic purchases such as sensory pillows and weighted blankets, craft supplies, gardening supplies, active wear & sporting equipment. Some purchased electronics like TV's, Nintendo systems, laptops & Ipads, webcams, printers & USB keys, while others picked up recreational items such as audiobooks, DVD's, CD players, games & apps.

We would like to thank MCCSS for recognizing the need to keep people connected and engaged during the pandemic and providing the financial resources for people to do so. The excitement and ability to participate in what people have not been able to access in the past has been very much appreciated by all.

Submitted by Sara Hartin









# Success Factor - A Highly Valued Community Organization

Ensure That the Community Recognizes, Respects & is Inspired by CLSM

## 2020 CLSM Beautification Contest



No sooner was Summer in full bloom than thoughts turned to the annual CLSM Beautification Contest! This year's contest was to be one of the most hotly contested to date with 8 of our homes taking up the challenge. Green fingers were put to good use and a lot of sweat equity expended as each team vied for the coveted title.

Walls were built and planters planted in an attempt to wow the community judges. It was heartwarming to see the vibrant colours adorning all the grounds but there could only be one winner, and this year that was to be our Young Street Home with a second place finish to

Fraserburg and 3rd to the people who live at Thirst St. Congratulations to everyone on a job well done and I'm sure some are already drawing up their garden plans for next year!

Submitted by Declan Ormsby

**2nd Place  
Fraserburg Road!!**



**1st Place  
Young Street!**



**3rd Place  
Third Street!**



**Spencer St.**



**Muskoka Beach Rd.**



**Woodward St.**



**Honey Harbour**



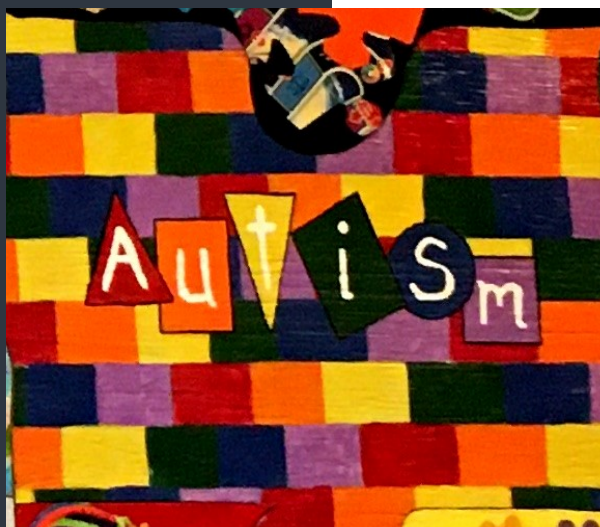
**Manitoba St.**



## Success Factor - A Highly Valued Community Organization

Ensure that the Community Recognizes, Respects & is Inspired by CLSM

### World Autism Awareness Puzzle



'Together we aspire, together we achieve, together we will make it if we do it as a team'. April 2nd 2020 saw team CLSM come together to celebrate World Autism Awareness Day and embark on an exciting and challenging project of bringing together every section of the agency in the 'Big Puzzle'!

The concept was to make 24 puzzle pieces, one for each team in the agency, and have them decorate that piece to represent them. The result is an outstanding piece of art which is truly representative of everyone at the agency and demonstrates our connectivity with one another.

The puzzle is proudly displayed at our 15 Depot Drive location for staff to see, and for everyone to see once COVID restrictions are lifted.

Submitted by Declan Ormsby





## Continued Employment During the Pandemic

The onset of COVID-19 saw many changes to the world around us, not least to employment in our community. Whilst many people were unable to work due to restrictions, others kept on going in essential roles. Over the summer, we had more people enter back into the work force, and excel despite the challenging time. One such individual was Josh who not only gained employment with Food Basics, but excelled to such an extent that he became a vital member of their team. Josh's enthusiasm and willingness to undertake any task meant that he quickly moved from reduced hours to almost full time within weeks.

The Food Basics logo is displayed on a green background. The word "food" is in white lowercase letters, and "Basics" is in large, bold, yellow uppercase letters.

*"I find Food Basics very easy to work with from a Job Coach perspective. Food Basics and the Assistant Manager Peter are great supporters of CLSM and everything we do."*

*- Rob Habel  
CLSM Job Coach*

Josh's Job Coach Rob was a great support finding ways to provide 'COVID type' job coaching, checking in virtually with Josh on a regular basis and helping him navigate any issues that he encountered. Rob also recognized the management team and staff at Food Basics for their valuable contributions to CLSM. Rob commented "I find Food Basics very easy to work with from a Job Coach perspective. Food Basics and the Assistant Manager Peter are great supporters of CLSM and everything we do. They have donated food for many of our yearly functions and are always willing to help when it is needed. Thank you to everyone at Food Basics, and way to go Josh!

Submitted by Kelly Cleland





# Success Factor - A Highly Valued Community Organization

Ensure that the Community Recognizes, Respects and is Inspired by CLSM

## Fundraising During the Pandemic

When the nice weather arrives, CLSM usually embarks on preparing for the many events we put on each year to help raise funds for the agency. Our largest fundraiser is held annually in August on the Wenonah Steamship but unfortunately we had to cancel this event, making it especially hard to meet our fundraising goal for 2020. Like everything we have been going through since March, we had to find a new way to approach fundraising. Throughout July and August we ran a fundraiser with Epicure where we promoted their "Weeknight Dinners" spice package. The kit sold for \$25 with \$10 being donated back to CLSM. This venture managed to raise us \$780! Thank you to all who participated and supported our cause.

Following our Epicure fundraiser, we decided to launch the CLSM Online Auction Fundraiser. This was the first time we ran an auction of this sort and it proved to be a success. We reached 83% of our \$5000 goal, raising a total of \$4149.00. The auction consisted of some amazing items donated by local businesses and friends in our community. A special thank you to all who donated items and helped to make the auction the success that it was, and congratulations to all who won!

Submitted by Taylor Watson



<p><b>FEATURED</b></p> <p>\$500 Allport Marina Gift Certificate</p> <p><b>Sold!</b></p>	<p><b>FEATURED</b></p> <p>Beau Lake "The Tremblant" 179" PubliWood</p> <p><b>Sold!</b></p>	<p><b>FEATURED</b></p> <p>Foursome of Golf at Grandview Golf Club</p> <p><b>Sold!</b></p>	<p><b>FEATURED</b></p> <p>Foursome of Golf at Muskoka Highlands</p> <p><b>Sold!</b></p>
<p><b>\$500 Allport Marina Gift ...</b></p> <p><b>\$475.00 CAD</b></p> <p>value: \$500.00 CAD</p> <p> bids: 1</p>	<p><b>Beau Lake "The Trembla...</b></p> <p><b>\$1,420.00 CAD</b></p> <p>Buy Now: \$2,500.00 CAD</p> <p>value: \$2,700.00 CAD</p> <p> bids: 11</p>	<p><b>Foursome of Golf at Gran...</b></p> <p><b>\$270.00 CAD</b></p> <p>Buy Now: \$575.00 CAD</p> <p>value: \$600.00 CAD</p> <p> bids: 14</p>	<p><b>Foursome of Golf at Mus...</b></p> <p><b>\$320.00 CAD</b></p> <p>value: \$320.00 CAD</p> <p> bids: 29</p>
<p><b>FEATURED</b></p> <p>Foursome of Golf at Windermere Golf &amp; Country Club</p> <p><b>Sold!</b></p>	<p><b>FEATURED</b></p> <p>Plak-It Mountable Lake Muskoka Map (30.7" x 26.5")</p> <p><b>Sold!</b></p>	<p><b>FEATURED</b></p> <p>Capital/Norwood Theatre Passes for Family of 5</p> <p><b>Sold!</b></p>	<p><b>FEATURED</b></p> <p>Hamilton Beach Slow Cooker</p> <p><b>Sold!</b></p>
<p><b>Foursome of Golf at Win...</b></p> <p><b>\$270.00 CAD</b></p> <p>Buy Now: \$390.00 CAD</p> <p>value: \$400.00 CAD</p>	<p><b>Plak-It Mountable Lake ...</b></p> <p><b>\$20.00 CAD</b></p> <p>Buy Now: \$70.00 CAD</p> <p>value: \$70.00 CAD</p>	<p><b>#1. Capitol/Norwood The...</b></p> <p><b>\$40.00 CAD</b></p> <p>value: \$50.00 CAD</p> <p> bids: 12</p>	<p><b>#1. Hamilton Beach Slow ...</b></p> <p><b>\$45.00 CAD</b></p> <p>Buy Now: \$60.00 CAD</p> <p>value: \$60.00 CAD</p>

## Success Factor - Valued, Skilled Staff

### Investing in Our Staff to Build Skill, Confidence & Tenure

## Shining Stars

It is incredible to reflect on the amount of hard work and changes that CLSM staff have had to endure over the past few months. Everyone has had to continually adapt to new ways of providing working and providing support, and they definitely rose to the challenge! To recognize this, in June we introduced a five-week initiative called “Shining Star”.

*“We know that everyone has been working so hard under incredible stress and we wanted to take a moment to reflect on that work and recognize achievement.” - Krista Haiduk-Collier, CLSM CEO.*

Staff were asked to nominate their coworkers who they thought were worthy of this recognition. People were highlighted for their honesty and integrity, adaptability and positivity, and their advocacy. Others were nominated for their dedication and drive, their calming demeanour, and for going well above and beyond in their work. Names were placed in a weekly draw for prizes, and the various submission stories were shared each week in our COVID Communication sent agency wide. Over the 5 weeks that we ran this initiative we had an incredible 45 submissions. Thank you to all who took time to nominate their colleagues, and thank you to everyone for your hard work during these dynamic times. It does not go unnoticed!

Submitted by Krista Haiduk-Collier

*“We know that everyone has been working so hard under incredible stress and we wanted to take a moment to reflect on that work and recognize achievement”*

*- Krista Haiduk-Collier,  
CLSM CEO*









# THANK YOU TO OUR AUCTION SPONSORS



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## Auction Item Sponsors



Community Living  
South Muskoka

*Serving those with a Developmental Disability*