

December 2021



Community Living South Muskoka

Serving those with a Developmental Disability

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



Community Living South Muskoka



CLSouthMuskoka



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Community Living South Muskoka



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A Message From Your CEO

It is hard to believe that almost 2 years has gone by since our whole world turned upside down due to the Pandemic. It has been another fast and furious year, with our dedicated staff teams working 24 hours a day to keep people safe and well supported and families who have gone above and beyond to be adaptable and patient with us as we all navigate the rules and changes to supports. I am grateful to be working with such a dedicated team of staff and resilient families, and most importantly, amazing people supported who have done so well this year to keep busy and active despite all of the restrictions in their lives.

As with most business in the province, we have faced staffing shortages, PPE shortages, ever changing rules and policies, and yet, one thing that has not changed here at CLSM is the high quality of services our staff provide each and every day. Thank you for all you do!

I would like to end by highlight the generous spirit of our community. This past giving Tuesday we focused on providing Food Security and household items to the people we support who live independently as part of our Supported Independent Living (SIL) Program. We were thrilled to receive over \$3000 in donations from our friends and supporters as well as a van full of donated items from our staff. I don't know about you, but it is acts of kindness like this that help me deal with the COVID fatigue that we are all feeling.

Please make sure you take some time this Holiday Season to rest, renew and relax. You deserve it for making it 20 months and counting through a Pandemic!

Wishing you all a joyous festive season and a fun-filled holiday. May you and your families create happy memories that will last a lifetime, and start the New Year refreshed and invigorated.

Happy Holidays!



Krista Haiduk-Collier
Chief Executive Officer
Community Living South Muskoka



"One thing that has not changed here at CLSM is the high quality of services our staff provide each and every day. Thank you for all you do!"

***- Krista Haiduk-Collier
CEO***



Community Living South Muskoka

Serving those with a Developmental Disability

ARE YOU LOOKING TO MAKE AN IMPACT? DO YOU WANT A REWARDING WAY TO CONTRIBUTE YOUR TALENTS TO BETTER YOUR COMMUNITY?

A place on the CLSM Board of Directors might just be the place for you!

We support over 450 people with a Developmental Disability throughout the Muskoka area. You may have seen us at the North end of Muskoka Rd N in Gravenhurst, or across from the Home Depot in Bracebridge. What you don't see are the homes and services we operate in Gravenhurst, Bracebridge and Honey Harbour. What you seldom see are our close to 200 staff who daily help those we support. What you might not realize is that we annually spend almost \$10,000,000 on things like salaries, daily needs, transportation and equipment, most of it right here in Muskoka.

The CLSM Board of Directors help to build an inclusive community that embraces children, youth and adults with developmental support needs and their families.

If you would like to find out more about this exciting opportunity or simply more about the agency itself please contact Krista Haiduk-Collier by email at khaiduk@clsm.on.ca.



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Success Factor - A Highly Valued Community Organization

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

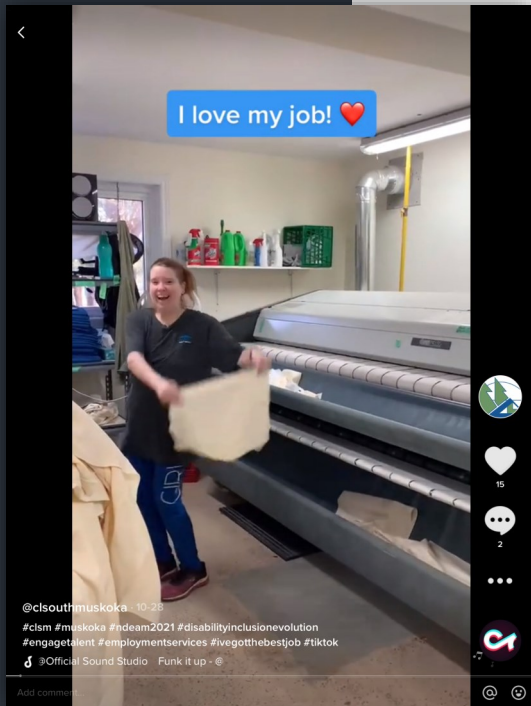
CLSM Debuts on TikTok For #NDEAM2021

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (#NDEAM2021) and this year, the Ontario Disability Employment Network (ODEN) came up with a great way to engage with both employment service providers and their communities using TikTok! CLSM jumped on the opportunity to take part! The idea was simple; make a TikTok video that highlighted your agency's employment programs and services and submit it to ODEN for judging. ODEN's mission was to spread awareness about NDEAM while also exposing employment service providers to a new, wildly popular form of social media that will provide another channel for connecting with our communities.

We are proud to announce that our submission, and our first ever attempt at generating TikTok content, earned us third place in the competition! A special thank you to the CLSM Employment Services Team, LOCS and YMCA Peterborough, and ODEN for working together and helping us to dip our toes into the world of TikTok!

You can follow CLSM on TikTok @ CLSouthMuskoka, and be sure to check out our other social media channels listed on the front cover of this newsletter!

Submitted by Taylor Watson



78%
of Canadians
are more likely to
buy from a business
that hires people
who have disabilities



Businesses
hiring people who
have disabilities
experience a
72%
increase in
productivity



Inclusive
Businesses
grow profits up to
3x faster
than their
competitors



#NDEAM2021

Success Factor - Person Centered

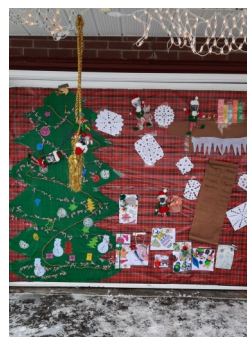
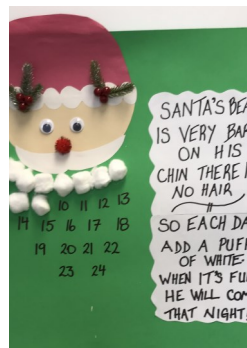
Providing broader community experiences for the people we serve

Christmas Spirit Abounds with Annual Door Decorating Contest

We all agree it's the best time of year when the CLSM Annual Door Decorating Competition is here! Every December we kick off the Christmas festivities by inviting staff, individuals and families to join in and decorate their doors for all to see. This year, we decided to do things a little differently. In addition to the standard door decorating competition, we thought we would take advantage of our new TikTok channel and offer the chance to submit a video of your Christmas decorations. In the end, we had 12 doors submitted and 7 entries for the TikTok video contest which we narrowed down the top three winners in both categories. Congratulations to our Door Decoration winners! Third place went to CPS Gravenhurst, Second place was awarded to Honey Harbour and our first place winner is Douglas Drive! Third place for the TikTok Video contest goes to Maddy Rebelo, in second place we had a tie with Dawn DeCaire and Manitoba Street, and our first place winner was Tara Prout!

Head to our Facebook and TikTok pages to see all of the entries and make sure you subscribe to keep up to date on everything that is going on at CLSM!

Submitted by Taylor Watson



Door Decorating Winners:

- 1st - Douglas Drive
- 2nd - Honey Harbour
- 3rd - CPS Gravenhurst

TikTok Video Winners:

- 1st - Tara Prout
- 2nd - Dawn DeCaire,
Manitoba Street
- 3rd - Maddy Rebelo

Success Factor - A Highly Valued Community Organization

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

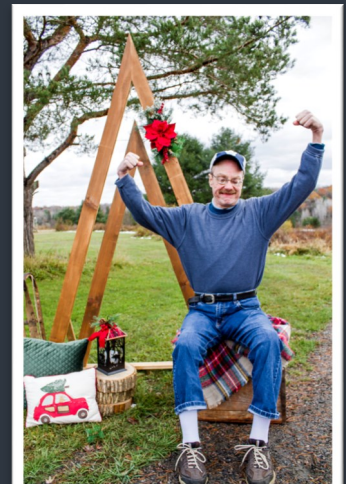
Christmas Minis Fundraiser, a Picture-Perfect Weekend

Earlier this fall, Amy Pritchard of Pritchard Perfect Photography approached CLSM and together we organized the 2021 Christmas Minis Session Fundraiser at Morrison Meadows. We were excited to be able to offer the property and it's stunning natural landscape as a backdrop for what would be some beautiful photos.

Amy has lived in Muskoka and has been working in photography for over 15 years. She has a keen eye for catching the perfect moment, and with her skills and expertise she took the leap and officially made "Pritchard Perfect Photography" a business. After seeing some of her work, we were even more thrilled to partner with her for this fundraiser. We set the dates for November 6th and 7th with a total of 45 people signing up for the shoot. It was an amazing weekend and everyone who attended, including Amy, had a blast. When the shooting had wrapped, Amy had captured a lifetime of memories and raised a total of \$1125 to be donated to CLSM!

Thank you to Amy and Pritchard Perfect Photography for your generous donation and amazing photos. We hope to work with you again!

Submitted by Taylor Watson







Success Factor - Person Centered

Providing broader community experiences for the people we serve

Santa Claus Making Spirits Bright at CLSM

T'was early in December, and all through CLSM, our individuals waited anxiously for Santa to visit them!

We got word he was in town, so we gave him a call, hoping he would be free to spend some time with us all. He jumped at the chance to come and say hi to as many of us as he could before he had to fly. He went home to home, his smile big and bright, his white beard and red suit were a welcoming sight. We were filled with joy as he came to the door, a visit from the big man himself, who could ask for more? After each visit, as Santa would turn to go, he was sure to leave us all with a great big "HO HO HO!"

Although we were sad when it came time for him to leave, we knew he would be back on Christmas Eve! Thanks again Santa for all that you do! Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year too!

Submitted by Taylor Watson





Community Living
South Muskoka

MORRISON MEADOWS



**BOOK A MUSKOKA WINTER EXPERIENCE
TODAY AT MORRISON MEADOWS!**

INCLUDES USE OF YURT, SNOWSHOES & TRAILS, FIRE PIT & WOOD, LUNCH, & S'MORES!

**CONTACT PASSPORT@CLSM.ON.CA
FOR MORE INFO AND TO BOOK!**



Vanessa, Frank & Nathan
CLSM Employment Program at
Morrison Meadows

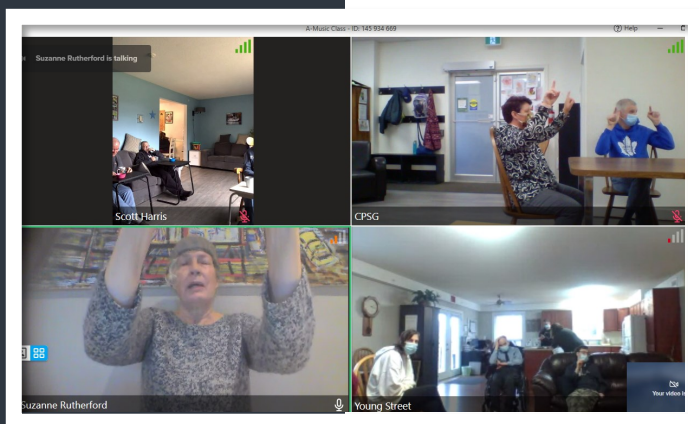
Enjoy a magical Muskokan experience, whilst helping to support our Employment Program, enabling some of our supported individuals achieve their goals of having meaningful employment and being active members of their community!

**CONTACT PASSPORT@CLSM.ON.CA
FOR MORE INFO!**

Success Factor - A Leader in Innovation

Exploring Innovative Service Programs

A Virtual World - Through the Pandemic, and Beyond

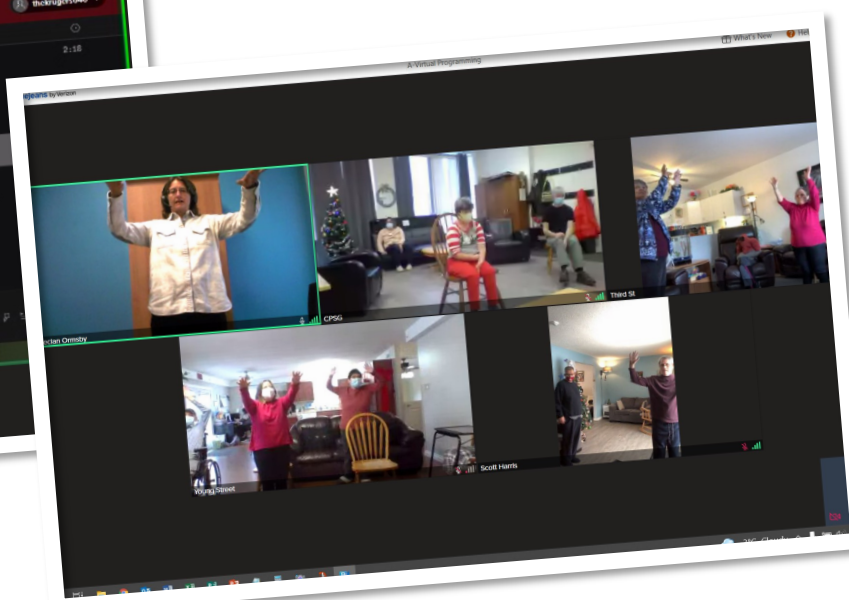
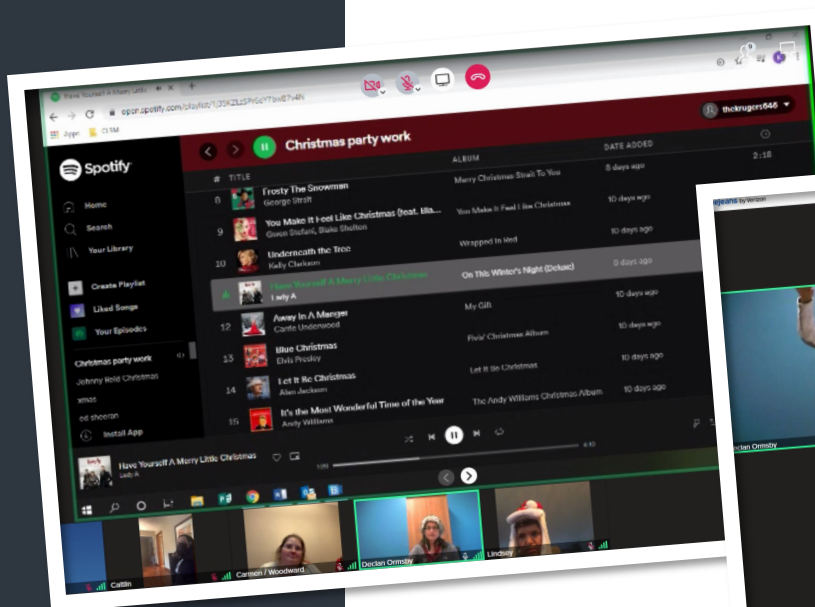


It was just under 2 years ago that CLSM started putting together our virtual programming and 21 months later, our supported individuals continue to log in each and every day to join in the fun, learn something new and say hi to their friends. Kathy Kruger has been instrumental in making the virtual programming what it is today and she continues to find new ways of keeping us all engaged and connected.

Each week, Kathy and her colleagues run 18 different activities. From cooking to exercising, meditation to dance parties, there is something for everyone to enjoy. The most popular activity is BlueJeans Bingo, which can draw up to 40 participants! Other popular sessions include Zumba with Caitlin, Coffee with Kathy and Book Club with Lisa. We even hold a church service for those interested. There is truly something for everyone and Kathy and her team are working hard to continue to grow the virtual programming and the various activities they can offer.

Back in the summer we had our first guest-appearance in our virtual programming with Magician Rick signing on for 8 weeks of magic performances. Throughout the fall, we had our second guest Suzanne Rutherford-Holmes who conducted “Feel the Music”, another 8 week program that taught us about the world of music. Thank you to both Rick and Suzanne for joining us and spending some time in our Virtual World. More virtual programming to come!

Submitted by Taylor Watson



Success Factor - Person Centered

Providing broader community experiences for the people we serve

In-Person Visits Once Again a Reality For Dale

The beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic meant that visits with friends and family had to come to a halt. In recent weeks we have seen glimpses of light at the end of this very long tunnel and with certain restrictions being lifted, some of our individuals have been able to resume visits with their families once again. Dale, who has been thriving in our virtual programming, says nothing can replace an in-person visit with the people she loves.

"I miss my family and I am excited to go visit! I love spending time with my brothers and catching up with my mom and dad!"

Every second Thursday, Dale heads down to Orillia for an afternoon with her parents and two of her brothers. They have lunch and are able to spend a meaningful couple of hours together catching up. Dale is always excited to spend this time with her family, and always has her container with her to bring home Mom's freshly baked cookies!

Although COVID-19 will be with us for some time, it is nice to see signs that we are slowly navigating our way to a 'new normal' where we can once again visit in-person with those we love.

Submitted by Taylor Fry



Success Factor - A Highly Valued Community Organization

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

Community Helps to “Jam the Van” on Giving Tuesday



Tuesday, November 30th, 2021 was Giving Tuesday; a movement of giving and generosity that helps provide support for charitable organizations worldwide. It marks the opening day of the giving season; it's a time when charities, companies and individuals join together and rally for their favourite causes. Especially in these turbulent times, it is a day that provides hope to many organizations who are struggling to find their footing and make ends meet.

For this year's Giving Tuesday campaign the CLSM Wellness Team organized “Jam the Van”, with the aim to collect donations for individuals in our Supported Independent Living (SIL) program who are in need due to their limited income and high cost of living. On Tuesday morning Jeff and Frank hit the road to collect donations of hygiene items, cleaning product and non-perishable food items, and in the end we were able to collect donations for 11 individuals and families supported in our SIL program. We were over the moon to see that we also raised roughly \$3000 in monetary donations. We are forever grateful to everyone who chose to support us this year, and every year.

A special thank you to Jeff and Frank who drove the CLSM van to each of our residential homes to collect donations, and thank you to everyone who donated to our agency this year!

Submitted by Taylor Watson





Respite Services a Welcome Relief!



The Respite Services at CLSM provide families with some much needed support, in that they provide temporary relief from the physical and emotional demands involved in caring for a family member who has a disability. This vital service creates greater opportunities for all family members to live actively and participate in community activities and allows parent/guardians time for themselves.

Of the 154 individuals and families currently accessing the agencies Respite services, 134 are children and 20 are adults. Tracy a parent of one of our supported individuals commented on the program:

"I wanted to send a huge thank to your agency for the respite funds. My son had an amazing summer the best of his life. Along with his Respite provider he was able to go to Wonderland, spend time at a farm and have fun at Santa's Village. He benefited so much from getting out, being social, making friends and participating in activities he may not have been able to do. The program has changed our lives and it is a pretty good feeling watching your son go from not having very many friends, to having lots of friends".

If you would like to learn more about our Respite Services please contact Madalyn at mrebelo@clsm.on.ca or call (705) 706-3051.

Submitted by Declan Ormsby





Community Living South Muskoka

Serving those with a Developmental Disability

Respite Services

What is Respite?

- Respite Care is a family support service that provides temporary relief from the physical and emotional demands involved in caring for a family member who has a **disability**.

What are the Benefits ?

- Respite creates greater opportunities for all family members to live actively and participate in community activities and allows parents/guardians time for themselves.

Result!

- Empowered individuals with differing abilities and their families leading active and rewarding lives.

Role of a Respite Provider:

- To provide motivating and safe recreational options both in the home and in the community.
- Support new opportunities (both leisure and skill building), companionship and personalizes care according to the needs of the person.

Role of a Parent/Guardian:

- As a parent you know your child best, it would be your role to choose the respite provider who is the best match for your child and complete any extra screening you feel necessary.
- Respite care is a mutual agreement between the families and the provider. You choose the care that suits your family!

Contact Information

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mrebelo@clsm.on.ca

Website:

www.clsm.on.ca

Make a connection today!

Celebrating Our Staff

We would like to take a moment to congratulate staff who have retired from CLSM over the past year. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication and we wish you all the best as you move on to the next chapter in life!

Kim Hawn

Linda Carley-Raithby

Jeff Jocque

Cathy Meyer

We would also like to welcome the many new staff who joined our Team in 2021. We are so happy to have you as part of the CLSM Family and we look forward to working with you all in the New Year!

Amanda Hutchinson

Joseph Abraham

Joseph Manuel

Leigh Kramer

Darnelle Stevens

Ammar Riaz

Rocky Rajan

Emily Sparham

Kent Lee

Rahul Pushpangathan

Zachary Perron

Angela Bailey

Kathleen Hillman

Cheryl Halsey

Doug Bush

Shannon Hunt

Rianna Warren

Thank You

To all of our donors, sponsors, partners & supporters from 2021, thank you. It is with your generous contributions that we are able to provide our services to the hundreds of people we support each & every day. From everyone at CLSM, we are sending you the best of wishes for this holiday season & a very Happy New Year.

If you would like to read more about what we do or would like to make a contribution to our cause, please visit www.clsm.on.ca. By donating to CLSM you will forever make a difference in the life of someone living with a developmental disability in Muskoka.

- Sincerely, the Team at Community Living South Muskoka

