

December 2022



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



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Community Living South Muskoka



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"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."

**- Krista
Haiduk-Collier
CLSM CEO**

Another holiday season is upon us, and I can easily say I am grateful that 2022 is almost behind us. Our agency faced the greatest pandemic challenges to date with almost 100 of our staff off at one point with covid and an additional 150 staff off for other illnesses; every one of our service areas experienced a COVID outbreak; and over half of the people we support were sick with the VIRUS. I am so very grateful that we did not lose anyone and almost all have fully recovered. On top of this we have been dealing with a staffing shortage crisis and raising costs of living. Yes, we are happy to say goodbye to 2022! However, despite all the challenges of this year, we have had a number of positive experiences that I am pleased to share below.

Our staff have demonstrated an unparalleled commitment to service throughout these most difficult times, and the support of our community has been integral to this work. In a time where little is certain, one thing remains: CLSM staff and volunteers continue to provide the same 24/7/365 compassionate and professional care that they always have, regardless of the challenges.

To each and every one of our devoted staff, we could not have survived this year without you. Thank you for your continued dedication to the individuals we support.

With rapidly rising prices over this past year and new funding challenges, we were thrilled that our community came forward to support those in need. We have been able to provide food security to over 30 people living on ODSP independently in the community along with hot meals for the holidays and support with housing. We did our first ever back pack and school supply drive for the children and youth with disabilities we support, and were thrilled to provide 70 back packs filled with supplies and food thanks to our generous donors. We opened a new to us home to replace a rental space in Gravenhurst and hosted our first ever Music Festival Fundraiser at our Morrison Meadows property. Our staff worked hard to create new and innovative programming and we began the slow journey to 're-open' our Community Participation Supports as COVID guidance and personal safety and staffing allowed. Overall, there has been much to celebrate!

In my over 30 year career in Developmental Services, I would say that this was one of our most challenging years ever. I want to extend my appreciation to our volunteer board members, families and the community who helped us make it through! And a special big thank you to our staff for all you do each and every day. It is understandable that you are feeling fatigued and this Holiday Season is the perfect time to make sure you find the time you deserve to rest and rejuvenate as we start a new year.

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.

Happy Holidays!

Krista Haiduk-Collier
Chief Executive Officer
Community Living South Muskoka

Success Factor - A Leader in Innovation

Exploring Innovative Service Programs

Celebrating NDEAM 2022

Every October CLSM joins ODEN (The Ontario Disability Employment Network) along with countless organizations, businesses and individuals to celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). It is an opportunity to reflect upon the achievements and successes of employees who are living and working with a disability; it is a chance to showcase that an inclusive workforce is a superior workforce.

In 2021, over 300 locations across Canada participated in #LightItUpForNDEAM, lighting their business or storefront in purple and blue, the colours of NDEAM. “The event ignited conversations about the importance of disability-inclusive recruiting and hiring” (odennetwork.com, 2022). Now in 2022, for the second year in a row, CLSM has worked with the Town of Bracebridge and Bracebridge Generation to illuminate the falls in blue and purple to show our support for the initiative.

Back at our AGM in September, we presented our Employer of the Year award to Simcoe Block who employ two of our supported individuals, Jeff and Josh. Josh is still fairly new in his role but Jeff has been working at Simcoe Block for almost a year. In that time he has completed his certification in WHMIS, Harassment and Bullying in the Workplace, Abuse and Rights Training, Confidentiality Training, and has obtained certification for specific job skills like High Falls and Ladder training. He has even become a certified forklift driver! We can’t thank the team at Simcoe Block enough for facilitating these opportunities and for working towards a fully inclusive workforce.

To further honour NDEAM, pictured to the right you will see Laura thanking her employer at Santa’s Village and Jen doing the same for her employer Allport Marina.

From everyone at CLSM, thank you to all employers who support inclusivity in the workplace and to ODEN for highlighting the importance of disability-inclusive hiring.

Submitted by Taylor Watson



Providing broader community experiences for the people we serve

Renee Marks Impressive Career Milestone

This October, CLSM and our Employment Team celebrated a very special career milestone for Renee. On October 7th, coinciding perfectly with National Disability Employment Awareness Month, Renee marked her 15th anniversary at McDonald's in Midland. What an achievement!

It was another busy day at the restaurant but Cathy, Renee's manager, wanted to take a moment to recognize Renee for this amazing accomplishment. Renee was presented with a blue topaz & silver necklace as a token of her success, along with a 15-Year recognition booklet highlighting her hard work and dedication to her job.

This anniversary came just shy of a month from Renee's November birthday, making for a wonderful fall season full of celebrations and memories that she will never forget.

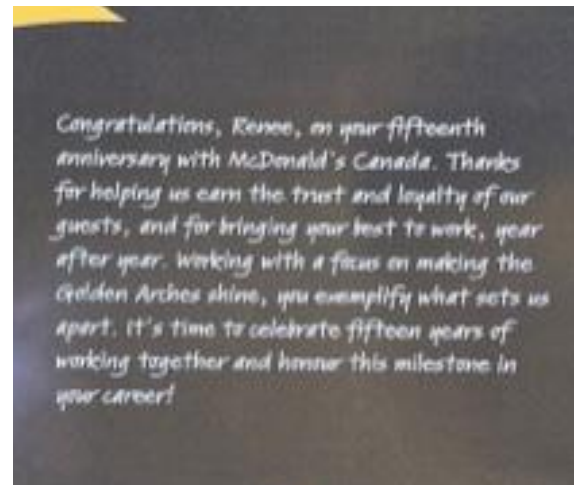
Way to go Renee and keep up the great work at McDonald's in Midland, and thank you to McDonald's for helping to create a fully inclusive workforce!

Submitted by Taylor Watson



"It is because of the talent, efforts and contribution of people like Renee that McDonald's continues to thrive. I am honoured to celebrate her anniversary!"

*- Carol Cruden
Owner,
McDonald's, Midland*



Success Factor - Valued, Skilled Staff

Investing in our staff to build skill, confidence and tenure

CLSM Joins ODEN to Rethink Disabilities

As a part of raising awareness for NDEAM, ODEN holds their annual Rethinking Disability Conference (RDC22). Rachelle, one of CLSM's Employment Team members, had the privilege of attending the conference to learn more about the future of disabilities in the workplace.

The conference offers countless networking opportunities with other employment service providers and potential employers and showcases various guest speakers and sponsors who support employment for individuals with a disability. Rachelle attended numerous workshops throughout the three-day conference. Some examples of the various workshops offered by ODEN:

- ⇒ Employment as a Goal: Engaging with Families-Developing Talent for the Future of the Employment Service Sector
- ⇒ Mental Health and Burnout: A Toolkit from CMHA
- ⇒ Project SEARCH, a unique school-to-work training program for students with disabilities: Why your Community Needs It

The conference closed with presentations from the Government of Ontario's Panel on Transformation, Enabling Change, AODA and Other programs. The presentation focused on the new System Service Manager (SSM) pilot project and since our agency is part of this project, Rachelle was proud to discuss the SSM with other delegates still waiting for their region to join the SSM.

When asked about her experience, Rachelle commented *"On several occasions I heard the reoccurring message, which was "early intervention", in other words starting with young adults just finishing high school is considered the sweet spot as they are already in a routine. We should be combining talent as we all have the same mission to create an inclusive workforce. Rethink Disability 2022 was very engaging and enlightening. It was amazing to see so many people and organizations on the same page, networking and inspiring each other on ways to break down employment barriers for people with a disability."*

Thank you Rachelle for representing CLSM at the conference and to ODEN for inviting us!

Submitted by Taylor Watson & Rachelle Lawrence



"It was amazing to see so many people and organizations on the same page, networking and inspiring each other on ways to break down employment barriers for people with a disability."

***- Rachelle Lawrence
CLSM Employment Team***



odenetwork.com, 2021

Success Factor - A Highly Valued Community Organization

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

Giving Thanks to Old Mill for Ongoing Support



In December of 2021, CLSM partnered with the Old Mill Family Restaurant in Gravenhurst to spread some holiday cheer to the people we support. The restaurant graciously donated turkey dinners to 25 of our most vulnerable individuals who live independently in our community as part of our Supported Independent Living (SIL) program; people who receive limited income from ODSP and who struggle with food security.

Fast forward one year, and once again the Old Mill has come to our aide for the holidays! This year the restaurant went well out of their way, opening their doors just for us to make Thanksgiving 50 dinners for our not only our SIL program, but also families and children who we support that were in need. We will be working with them again for the Christmas season to ensure that everyone has a warm meal on the table.

From everyone at CLSM, thank you to the Old Mill restaurant for everything they do for us. You play a large part in helping to brighten the days of those living with developmental disabilities.

Submitted by Taylor Watson





Success Factor - Person Centered

Providing broader community experiences for the people we serve

Giving Back with Canadian Red Cross

As we slowly progress through to the other side of the pandemic, our Community Participation Support (CPS) teams are committed to getting the people we support back out into the community and participating in daily activities that are meaningful and fulfilling. We strive to develop routines that are tailored to each person's individual wants, needs and wishes.

When Michael Cunliffe was offered a chance to give back to his community, he jumped at the opportunity! Michael now volunteers for the Canadian Red Cross every Thursday, delivering meals to individuals at their home who are unable to purchase and/or prepare their own meals.

He starts his shift by picking up the meals at his local hospital outside the main entrance. Each meal is packaged in single-use containers, placed in a white bag with a label on front stating the recipient's contact information, and organized nicely into large thermal bags. Michael loads all the meals into his vehicle and heads out to make his deliveries.

Michael delivers to between 8-10 meals each week and the experience has been a great way for him to stay active and give back to his community. His volunteer placement is something he looks forward to each week and gives him an opportunity to venture out despite the varying pandemic risks as the hospital has ensured that all safety measures are in place for this task.

Canadian Red Cross is always seeking more volunteers. Contact them today at (705) 721-3313 if you are interested in lending a hand!

Submitted by Taylor Watson & Tristan Lisle



"Michael delivers to between 8-10 meals each week and the experience has been a great way for him to stay active and give back to his community."

***- Tristan Lisle
CLSM CPS Staff***





Success Factor - A Highly Valued Community Organization

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

September 30th, a Day to Listen, Learn & Grow

SEPTEMBER 30TH

NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION



On September 30th, CLSM Staff, families, the people we support and guests from our community gathered at Morrison Meadows for a special ceremony to commemorate the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. We were honoured to be joined by Roger Jacklin, an Elder from Magnetawan First Nation, alongside Veronica Orozco, Daniel Pell Justin Pringle, Wylder Pell and Angee Pell, members of the Magnetawan First Nation Community Healing Circles. Together we listened and learned as they taught us about the many rich and diverse cultures, voices, experiences and stories of Canada's indigenous peoples.

The group performed traditional ceremonial songs, conducted a drum circle and shared stories, both traditional and personal. Roger spoke of how all of our peoples can work together to move towards reconciliation and a brighter, more unified future.

A very special thank you to Angee at Sky River Meadows for organizing this experience for us and for everything you do for CLSM.

Submitted by Taylor Watson & Amy DeCaire

"A very special thank you to Angee at Sky River Meadows for organizing this experience for us and for everything you do for CLSM!"

*- Amy DeCaire
CLSM Supervisor of
Services & Supports*



Success Factor - Person Centered

Providing broader community experiences for the people we serve

OPP Demonstrations Educate & Fascinate

This fall we welcomed the Ontario Provincial Police to our Morrison Meadows property for some very special demonstrations for the people we support. Our first session took place back in October with Officer Sam Bigley who discussed all aspects of “road safety”. Officer Bigley gave us an up-close look into the life of an OPP Officer; she showed us her cruiser and all the equipment inside and out, allowed us to try on police vests and demonstrated how she uses a breathalyser. It was a truly enlightening experience!

More recently in November, we were joined by Officers Trevor & Al with the OPP Underwater Search & Recovery Unit. Throughout their presentation they showed us the equipment they use when performing their duties, the suits they wear and the supplies they keep on their truck. They explained that they travel far and wide to help people in need and assured us that if they are required, they are going to give it their all to help those who need it.

Thank you to Officer Bigley, and Officers Trevor & Al for taking the time to educate us about the Ontario Provincial Police. It was an unforgettable experience and we hope to welcome you back to Morrison Meadows in the future!

Submitted by Taylor Watson & Nadine Bowen



Providing broader community experiences for the people we serve

CLSM Opens Doors at New Home in Gravenhurst



Over a year ago, during the height of the real-estate market, our long standing landlord at our residence in Gravenhurst notified us that he was planning to move into one side of our duplex rental and sell the other side. We were left with the challenging position of finding an accessible home for six people to rent in a market that had 0.4 % vacancy and with a fixed budget for rental fees. After an unsuccessful search, we switched gears and started looking at the possibility of a purchase.

After an lengthy and exhaustive search, we were thrilled to find a home this time last year that could potentially fit our needs and we breathed a collective sigh of relief when our offer was accepted during one of the hottest markets in Muskoka's history.

Now came the long process of renovations to meet all of our needs. We unfortunately encountered asbestos and had to bring the home back to studs. This did help with the sprinkler installation, and we then did a renovation to create two new accessible bedrooms with an accessible bathroom and ramp up the front steps. We installed a generator for back up power and had to insulate and shingle the roof, among a long list of items. A special thank you to our landlord Jack for allowing us to push back our move-out date month after month!

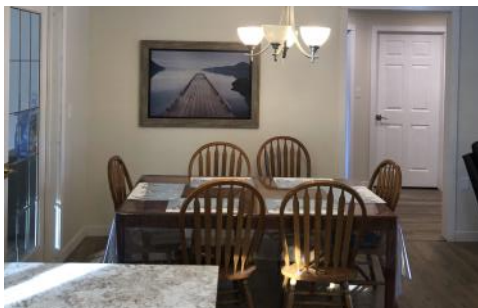
We were excited to finally move in to the home in the fall, and are looking forward to welcoming our family and friends, neighbours and supporters for a 'grand opening' in the spring.

A special thank you to the staff for all of their hard work to make the transition as smooth as possible, to Gene Greenhalgh who came out of retirement to be our construction lead, to all of our funders and donors for your amazing support to make this a reality, and our community partners for your help with what seems like a never ending renovation.

Submitted by Krista Haiduk-Collier

"We are looking forward to welcoming our family and friends, neighbours and supporters for a 'grand opening' in the spring."

**- Krista
Haiduk-Collier
CLSM CEO**



Success Factor - A Highly Valued Community Organization

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

Connecting with the Community at Our 2022 AGM

On September 26th, we were thrilled to be able to gather once again in-person at Morrison Meadows for our 2021-2022 Annual General Meeting. After another turbulent year with COVID continuing to keep us on our toes, it was wonderful to be able to see all of the families, people we support, employers and community partners who make up the CLSM family.

Throughout the night we shared stories, enjoyed a great meal together, celebrated successes and conducted our annual awards ceremony. We've had many notable achievements to celebrate over the past year; we launched our first Music at the Meadows fundraiser, we built new relationships with employers and community partners and we opened our new group residence in Gravenhurst, to name a few. It warms our hearts to be able to reflect on all of the amazing things made possible by CLSM staff and everyone in the community who helps those we support flourish.

We say it every year, but we cannot express how thankful we are for the support of everyone who stands by CLSM. We hope to see you again next year for our 2022-2023 AGM where we will showcase another year of achievements made possible by all of you.

To read our full 2021-2022 Annual Report, please visit clsm.on.ca/annual-reports.

Submitted by Taylor Watson



Congratulations & Thank You to CLSM's "Years of Service" Award Recipients!

5

Susan Newman
Leslie O'Neill

20

Francis Kettle
John Potter
Wendy Miller

10

Heather
McFarlane

25

Tina Chatillon
Tara Prout

15

Christine Newman
Nicole Beaudry
Jeff Dewetering
Madalyn Rebelo
Delia Desroches
Carmen Yeo

30

Shawna Painter
Peggy Jeffrey
Dawn DeCaire

Success Factor - A Highly Valued Community Organization

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

Shred-It Fundraiser a Successful New Venture



Throughout the pandemic, our fundraising committee has been actively brainstorming new and innovative ways we can not only raise the much-needed funds for the agency, but also connect and give back to our community.

On November 5th we partnered with Shred-It to launch our first-ever Shred-It Drive-Thru Fundraiser, and we were overwhelmed with the response! The idea was simple; Shred-It would spend the day on location at our CLSM office at 15 Depot Drive in Bracebridge and businesses and individuals were invited to drop off their shredding for a donation in the amount of their choice to our agency. When all was said and done, we had received hundreds of boxes to be shredded and raised a total of \$4,530 to help our Supported Independent Living program meet the needs of the individuals they work with. The event was such a success that we have confirmed that we will run another shredding event in May as part of our Community Living Month celebrations.

Thank you to Shred-It for partnering with us for this event and to all who participated and supported our cause.

Submitted by Taylor Watson



Success Factor - A Highly Valued Community Organization

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

'Tis the Giving Season at CLSM & Beyond

Since 2012, organizations across the globe look forward to the last Tuesday of the month, known worldwide as Giving Tuesday. It marks the opening day of the giving season and it is a day where people come together to rally for the causes that they hold dear.

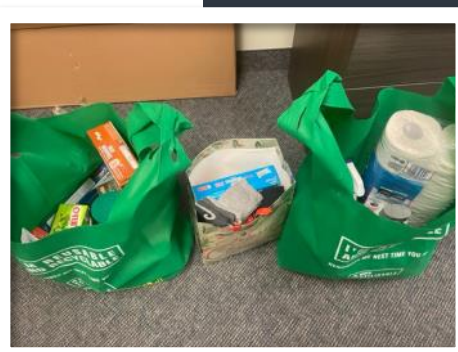
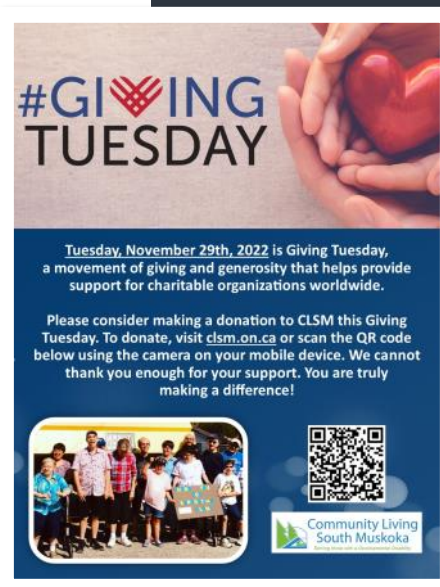
This year, we wanted to highlight the needs of our Supported Independent Living (SIL) program. Unfortunately, our SIL individuals don't always get the Christmas they deserve. They rely solely on their limited ODSP allowance to make ends meet and this has become especially challenging as of late with the rate of inflation and increasing cost of living that is impacting us all. With the support of our VERY caring community, we are thrilled to report that we raised \$580.00 in monetary donations this year for Giving Tuesday to help with food and housing security for the program.

But we didn't stop there. On December 1st we launched our Holiday Giving Advent Calendar to further provide for our SIL individuals over the holiday season. We have had an outstanding response and we continue to receive bags of donated goods each week.

We cannot express how thankful we are to everyone who supported our advent calendar initiative and to all who donated on Giving Tuesday. Your contributions will help to ensure that these individuals will have a warm meal on their table over the holidays, something that is only possible with the support of donors like you!

If you would like to consider a donation to CLSM, please visit clsm.on.ca/donations or see our Holiday Giving Advent Calendar below.

Submitted by Taylor Watson



Holiday Giving Advent Calendar

The people we support in our **Supported Independent Living Program** do not always get the Christmas they deserve. **You can help!**

Beginning on **December 1st, 2022**, we are encouraging you to collect and donate the items you are able to:

1 Box of Cereal	8 Jam	15 Canned Tuna
2 Peanut Butter	9 Fem. Hygiene Supplies	16 Toothpaste
3 Canned Fruit	10 Toilet Paper	17 Tooth Brush
4 Pasta Sauce	11 Body Wash	18 Shampoo
5 Package of Pasta	12 Cleaning Spray	19 Socks or Gloves
6 Can of Soup	13 Tea or Coffee	20 Slippers
7 Dessert/Baking Mix	14 Granola Bars	21 Gift Card

Items can be donated to CLSM at 15 Depot Drive in Bracebridge anytime Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm. Charitable receipts available only if itemized purchase receipts are provided.



Providing broader community experiences for the people we serve

Rolling with Santa at the Santa Claus Parade



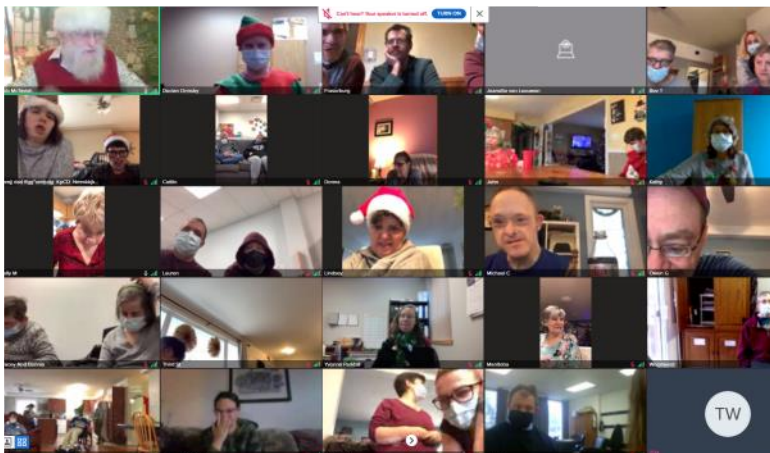
The 76th annual Bracebridge Santa Claus parade took place on December 2nd and for the first time in the long history of the event, attendees got a chance to take in the sights for the first-ever “night” parade. It was a resounding success with the 75+ floats lighting up the town and putting smiles on the faces of all who took part.

The CLSM “float” was not to be missed. We were lucky enough to have Terry & Greg Mournahan offer to drive their 1915 Model-T Ford along with a VERY excited group of CLSM staff and individuals. The car looked stunning under the Christmas lights and everyone had an absolute blast as they marched along, handing out chips and candy canes to many cheerful onlookers.

A very special thank you to Terry & Greg for joining us, Don MacKay with the Rotary Club of Bracebridge/Muskoka Lakes and the Town of Bracebridge for including us in the parade. It has been confirmed that next year’s parade will take place once again in the evening and the date has been set for December 1st, 2023. What a perfect way to welcome in the holiday season! Hope to see you there!

Submitted by Taylor Watson







Community Living
South Muskoka



To all of our dedicated staff, supporters, donors, sponsors & community partners, THANK YOU. It is because of YOU that we are able to provide our services to the hundreds of people we support each and every day. We are sending you the best wishes for this holiday season & a very Happy New Year!

- Sincerely, The CLSM Management Team



Dear Friends of Community Living South Muskoka.

The holiday season is upon us and I hope this letter finds you well. Here at Community Living South Muskoka, we have had a very busy year!

As you will have read in this newsletter, our focus throughout 2022 has been on the people who live independently in our community as part of our Supported Independent Living (SIL) program. Our goal was to ensure food and housing security at a time when inflation and the high cost of living is making it increasingly difficult to make ends meet. With your generous and ongoing support we have been able to find innovative solutions for overcoming these barriers, opportunities for community engagement and new fundraising initiatives, just to name a few.

But even with this extraordinary support, we have more work to do.

All of our supported individuals are experiencing these challenges. You may or may not know that CLSM provides exceptional care 24/7/365 for over 350 adults and 150 children throughout South Muskoka and like every household, increased expenses are a reality – all with no additional funding from our government to offset these costs.

We are committed to providing the best quality of care, quality of experience, and quality of life for each and every supported individual, but we **need** your help. This holiday season, I ask that you consider a gift to Community Living South Muskoka. Your support can make a life-changing impact. Every single dollar means so much.

From all of us here at Community Living South Muskoka, we are deeply grateful for your support in 2022 and send our best wishes for joy, peace, and the happiest of New Years.

Sincerely,

Krista Haiduk-Collier
Chief Executive Officer
Community Living South Muskoka

