



ROBERT MAJKUT
PRESIDENT

From the President and Executive Director.... 2017-2018 Annual Report

Community Living Fort Erie was founded 61 years ago by a group of dedicated mothers and fathers looking for a way to keep their sons and daughters at home here in their own community. We've come a long way over the years but our vision, values and commitments have

remained steadfast – we look to a future where all people with intellectual challenges are able to live in an inclusive community that only sees abilities.

The end of the year is a time to reflect, take stock of the year past, and plan for the year ahead. As we reflect on the 2017-2018 year we will remember much change. It was a year filled with adaptability, resourcefulness and resilience. We celebrated achievements and identified deficiencies. Financially it was a particularly difficult year. We found ourselves stretching the current funding to manage existing service obligations and to meet many legislative requirements. Early in the year there was very little financial flexibility to increase capacity or change existing programs to better meet current service demands of our families and the people we support.

We began the year by embarking on a journey of sharing the services of one Executive Director with Community Living Port Colborne-Wainfleet. The Shared Services Oversight Committee is responsible for monitoring the arrangement to share Executive Director Services and to provide support and direction to the Executive Director. The committee includes the Board President and two additional board members of each organization. To date the sharing of this position has been very successful. Celebrating Community Living Month with a flag raising and presentation at Town Hall brought us great community pride and we are grateful for the support and recognition we continue to receive from the town of Fort Erie. We remain strong in our mission of inclusion. People are being included and we celebrated many successes this past year as people with intellectual challenges are finding paid employment, actively participating in leisure activities, volunteering and increasingly developing meaningful relationships in their community! We are very grateful for the support we receive.

Since 2010 we have continued to operate in an environment of restriction and restraint. In response to financial concerns we underwent a major residential program restructuring process that included closing two group homes that were not meeting our needs. We purchased a triplex in October and are looking to purchase another group home in the near future. Implementation of the restructuring process was important to ensure fiscal responsibility and sustainability into the future. The success of this process was made possible through the dedicated and professional work of Community Living Fort Erie employees. From working directly with individuals and families to providing administrative service we have a talented and committed workforce.

A huge thank you goes to our volunteers. From the onset of our humble beginnings in 1957, volunteers have continued to play a critical role and offer their support in so many ways. We cannot begin to express the importance of your involvement and our appreciation of the fact that you choose to spend your valuable time volunteering with our organization.

We wish to extend our sincere appreciation to the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, families and friends for their invaluable contributions and for making a positive difference in many people's lives.

It is true that we have found that we have had to become more flexible and adaptable this past year however, through this exercise we are proving that we can not only handle change... but that we can persevere and flourish. We look forward to an equally successful 2018-2019!

Respectively Submitted by:

Robert (Bob) Majkut,
President

Vickie Moreland.
Executive Director



VICKIE MORELAND
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY LIVING MONTH

Flag Waving



The month of May annually marks Community Living Month across Ontario. It is a month in which we celebrate the gifts and talents that people with intellectual challenges bring to our communities.

On May 1, 2018 Community Living Fort Erie raised their flag at Town Hall in celebration of Community Living Month. This year's flag raising brought over 50 community members out to support the proclamation. People supported, families, volunteers, staff, together with students from GFESS participated in the celebration. Pam Coulthurst (Member of Board of Directors) spoke on the responsibility of the citizens of Fort Erie to promote the development of a healthy inclusive community that recognizes and values the abilities of all its members. "As we move forward to reach our goal we welcome the support of ALL citizens of Fort Erie to promote the development of a healthy INCLUSIVE community that recognizes and values the abilities of ALL its members!!

Mayor Redekop spoke on the importance of diversity and inclusion while recognizing the contributions we have made as an organization to our community. Swaizie Lauzon shared how Community Living Fort Erie has made a positive difference in her life. All in attendance stood proudly as Selena Carlson sang our National Anthem as our organizational flag was raised.



Above: (left to right) Swaizie Lauzon, Board Members Dean Demizio and Pam Coulthurst, Mayor Wayne Redekop, Sharon Schilz, Treasurer and Vickie Moreland, Executive Director.

Together we have created a powerful example of inclusion that shines not only in our community, but throughout the province.

The Fort Erie Peace Bridge was also lit in *blue and green* in celebration of Community Living Month on May 4th, 2018, thanks to the efforts of Ray Rosettani and Peace Bridge Representatives.

Vickie Moreland, Executive Director and Swaizie Lauzon Address Fort Erie Town Council



Swaizie Lauzon (R.) and Vickie Moreland, Executive Director made presentations to the Town Council.

YOUR WORSHIP MAYOR REDEKOP, MEMBERS OF TOWN COUNSEL AND CITIZENS OF FORT ERIE:

On behalf of Community Living Fort Erie and the people who receive service we would like to thank you for giving us the opportunity to speak to you this evening.

Community Living Fort Erie exists to promote inclusion and to ensure people with intellectual challenges have their rights and privileges upheld.

As you are aware in 1957 a few parents gathered right here at Town Hall in response to a newspaper ad placed by a parent of a child with Down Syndrome asking people to come together to try to meet the needs of their children. Since this founding meeting we have advocated for the rights of people with intellectual challenges for over sixty years.

We want to ensure that ALL people are given equal opportunity. It is important we make certain that ALL people have the right to live in their own homes as friends and neighbours to other Fort Erie citizens. We want to safeguard people's rights to be contributing members of their community regardless of differing abilities!

There are many things we can do to improve acceptance in our community. We should treat others with the same degree of respect that we would like to be treated with. We should embrace our differences and not prejudice people based on first impressions or appearances.

As an organization we hope that when people we support move into new homes in your neighbourhood we ask that we work together to promote acceptance. Spending time getting to know a person with a disability gives people the opportunity to see a person's gifts and talents and not just their disability. It is essential that together we raise awareness and promote acceptance so that people will take the time to learn about others and respect their differences.

With the continued support of our community we can move forward to ensure that all people are included... regardless of abilities. We want to ensure that people with intellectual challenges are engaged in meaningful community based activities of their choice and that our community is a place where people have the opportunity to fully and actively participate in all aspects of community life.

We strive to assist people to follow their dreams, recognize their potential and accomplish their personal goals as productive and respected members of this community! Thank you for the support you have provided, we look forward to working with the citizens of Fort Erie to ensure that ALL people are included!



Above: Swaizie poses with two Town of Fort Erie Councillors Kim Zanko and Chris Knutt.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Rebecca Parton joined the Community Living Fort Erie team in June 2018 when she was sworn in as a new Board member. Rebecca has supported people with intellectual challenges for over thirty years as an Educational Assistant with the DSNB. She is also a Health & Wellness Coach and has been a citizen of the Fort Erie community her entire life.

Mrs. Parton hopes to utilize her years of experience, leadership skills and personal characteristics in the best interest of Community Living Fort Erie focusing on service excellence. She has been involved in many community volunteer projects, including being the organizer of the Terry Fox run for over 20 years.

She has participated in the Stair Climb for Cancer, has been a Public Health Educator for local service clubs, developed and facilitated "Women In Motion" and "Home & Health" Programs in our community. Rebecca is also a Rick Hansen Medal Bearer.

Welcome to the team Rebecca!! We know that you will truly be an asset to our organization and make great contributions in your role as a Board Member!!

Swaizie's Address...

Dear Mayor Redekop and Members of Council

Hello my name is Swaizie Lauzon. I have been supported by Community Living Fort Erie for 5 years. Before moving to Fort Erie 6 years ago I lived in a community where I did not feel accepted. I was bullied and often felt like I didn't belong. There were times that I didn't want to go to school because I felt like I wasn't accepted. Fort Erie has now been my home for the last 6 years and 2 years ago my family wanted to move to a different city. I did not want to move because I feel a sense of belonging in Fort Erie and feel included in my school and in my community. At this time Community Living Fort Erie helped me to find a safe place to live where I could stay at my school and stay in this community that I call home.

Community Living Fort Erie has helped connect me to achieve different volunteer placements in my community. I have volunteered at Gilmore Lodge in the feeding program and in the kitchen. I also volunteer once a week at the YMCA at the membership desk and in the children's afterschool program. I volunteer with the YMCA summer camps and March break camps and feel like a valued member of their camp team.

With Community Living Fort Erie's support and the Transitional Age Youth (TAY) program I have received my Safe Food Handling Certificate and my First Aid and CPR certificate. I work at the Pomegranate Restaurant at my school and volunteer at Community Living Fort Erie working the front desk and answering phone calls.

I will be graduating this year from GFESS. As I start to enter into adulthood Community Living will support me to get a job and hopefully go to college one day. I know that I have the skills and support to reach my goals. I know that success looks differently for everyone but for me being a valued member of my community is the most important part. I am kind, helpful, funny and I care about others. I know that the people in this community accept me for who I am because I have so much to offer this community and I am worth getting to know. Community Living Fort Erie has helped me to see how valuable I am to this Community and encouraged me to set goals for myself because they believe in me and what I am capable of.

I am part of my community, I am proud of who I am and I am excited to see what goals I will achieve with the support of Community Living Fort Erie.

Thank you for allowing me to share with you today!

Kimberley Gray was sworn in as a new board member at our 2018 Annual General Meeting. She has been a licensed lawyer in Ontario since 2015 and worked at Martin Sheppard Fraser LLP and is recently with Hurren & Gibson Law Firm.

Kimberley hopes to share her legal perspective with the Board in order to provide advocacy and assistance with our mission, and to ensure people with intellectual challenges are included in their community and have their rights and privileges upheld.

Kimberley has a great deal of experience with advocacy and support of people with disabilities and she brings a great deal of knowledge and experience to our Board.



2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Board of Directors invited our members, families & stakeholder's to attend our 61st Annual General Meeting & Stakeholder's B.B.Q. held on Tuesday, June 26th, 2018 at our Administrative Building at 615 Industrial Drive. The 2018-2019 Board of Directors was installed. Awards were presented and information was shared in regard to our Summer Camp Program and our Transitional Age Youth Program. The weather was beautiful and those in attendance enjoyed good food and heard some of our youth expound on their experiences in the summer programs. We welcomed New Board Members who joined our team this year and we continue to be very thankful for returning Board Members.

Announcing Our 2018-2019 Executive...



**PRESIDENT:
BETTY TALBOT**

Betty has been a member of the Board since 2011. She has been a resident of Fort Erie for many years. Betty's experience with charitable organizations is not limited to Community Living, she has also been involved with Big Brothers & Sisters of Barrie and Niagara, Women and Children's Crisis Centre of Barrie, Head Injury Association of Fort Erie and the Ridgeway Lioness. She brings a wealth of knowledge to our Executive and is a valued resource for Community Living Fort Erie. Betty is an Independent Mortgage Broker with Centum Omni Mortgage Corporation in Fort Erie. Betty, thank you for agreeing to serve on our Board Executive!

**VICE
PRESIDENT:
DEAN DEMIZIO**

Dean joined our Board in 2015. He is a father, businessman, and well known community volunteer. Born and raised in Niagara Falls, he currently lives in Fort Erie. Dean operates Dean Demizio Insurance Agency in Fort Erie. Thank you Dean for agreeing to serve on our Executive!



**TREASURER:
PAM COULTHURST**

Pam has been a volunteer with Community Living since 2005. She served on the Board of Directors from 2005 to 2015 and returned in 2016. Pam came to us with a wealth of volunteer service with Big Brothers Big Sisters of London, Angels of Hope and the Canadian Hearing Society as well as previous experience as a Resource Teacher of the Deaf. Pam is a very positive team member and has previously held Executive positions on our Board. Thank you Pam for your continued years of dedication to our agency and the people we support!



OUR 2018-2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Above: (Back) Vickie Moreland - Executive Director, Terry Sampson, Susan Doan, Dean Demizio - Vice President, Kimberley Gray, Betty Talbot - President, Ray Rosettani. (Front): Becky Parton, Pam Coulthurst - Treasurer, Sharon Schilz, and Robert Majkut - Past President.

The Community Inclusion Award

This award is granted to the person on the merits of their progress in self-direction, initiative, motivation and personal growth. They actively participate in their community and volunteer their time. This person demonstrates leadership in pursuing our vision of "An Inclusive Community That Only Sees Abilities."

This year's winner of the Community Inclusion Award is Swaizie Lauzon.



Above: Swaizie Lauzon and Robert Majkut, President

Swaizie is an exceptional young woman who exemplifies inclusion in many aspects of her life. She is a full time student at Greater Fort Erie Secondary School (GFESS) and yet still finds time to volunteer in her community. While visiting the Fort Erie YMCA this past year, Swaizie was actually recruited and encouraged to apply to volunteer. She has been volunteering at the membership desk, children's camps and after school programs for the past several months. Swaizie will be an Assistant Leader in the camp program this summer. She has received wonderful feedback in regards to her work at the YMCA and numerous staff have commented on what a great team member she is and how much they enjoy working alongside her.

Swaizie has also volunteered at Gilmore Lodge with the feeding program, providing support to residents as well as assisting kitchen staff to prepare meals and snacks. When Swaizie took a break from volunteering; the Resident Community Program Manager reached out to her to encourage her to return because she was so wonderful to have around and did such an amazing job there.

Swaizie also donates her time to the Pomegranate Restaurant at GFESS; preparing and serving food. She is a

reliable part of that team and does an incredible job. This experience has expanded into volunteering one weekend a month at Food for Soul, cooking and preparing food for those who may be disadvantaged in our community.

Swaizie can always be counted on to volunteer for Community Living Fort Erie as well. Whether she is volunteering at fundraising BBQ's, answering phones and greeting people at the front desk or helping us prepare and set up for different fundraisers. She is eager and willing to assist and always has a smile on her face representing Community Living Fort Erie in an extremely positive light. She is an advocate for herself and others and demonstrated that, when she spoke at a Town Hall Counsel Meeting and at our flag raising ceremony celebrating Community Living Month this past May.

Swaizie is a wonderful spirit who demonstrates leadership and inspires people to reach their goals! She has embraced this community and this community has embraced her.

Congratulations Swaizie ~ We celebrate the motivation and personal growth you have achieved this past year!!

OUR THANKS GO TO....

The Italo Canadian Club ...

For Hosting our Pasta Night Fundraiser on May 10th, 2018.

Due to the Hard Work, Commitment & Generosity of this Club, our Organization is able to raise funds with help from some wonderful people!

Thank you to all those in attendance, ticket sellers, those who served dinner and a very special thank you to all who donated baked goods!

Due to the efforts of our hard working volunteers and the support of our community we raised \$1,300.00 (ticket sales and bake sale combined).

See you next year!!



The Jacquelyn (Jackie) Sandelli Staff Award



The Jacquelyn Sandelli award is given to a Community Living Fort Erie employee in Memory of Jackie Sandelli. Jackie faithfully served Community Living Fort Erie for over 25 Years. Her leadership and dedication has left a lasting impression on our organization. We are better because of Jackie's efforts! We honor Jackie's memory by recognizing staff through this award. The award is given to an employee that demonstrates Positive Attitude, Good Attendance and Willingness to participate as part of the team.

This year's recipient of this award is Kristina Phillips. Kristina is a true role model to many of the staff at Community Living Fort Erie. Her optimistic personality is infectious and she will often work with others to see the positive side of situations. Kristina always applauds coworkers on their accomplishments and helps foster independence in others. She is resilient and supports organizational change. Kristina participates well as part of any team and has many leadership qualities. She is able to see different perspectives and deal with conflict with tact, patience and understanding. She is a compassionate and empathetic coworker who motivates others! She facilitates Person Directed Plans and is instrumental in educating her peers on the process. Kristina is a great communicator and an effective problem solver. She is always professional and takes great pride in her present role as a Community Inclusion Facilitator. Throughout her years of employment Kristina has been a Summer Camp Counselor, a Residential Support Staff and has acted as Manager of Residential Services. She is ambitious and hardworking and always promotes a healthy work environment where she consistently demonstrates good team values. She is flexible and adaptable and handles difficult situations with confidence. Kristina has good problem solving skills and evaluates for the best solutions. Her organizational skills are impeccable! Kristina values good attendance and is always punctual! Kristina's efforts go beyond her employment with our organization, she has also been a dedicated volunteer. She is a valued member of the Fundraising Committee and works hard all year to ensure a successful fundraiser in November. As the Corporate Challenge Team Captain the past two years she has assisted with organizational fundraising and coordinated events in our community that support "giving back" through our agency. She speaks positively of our organization and represents us well in the community. She is always up to the challenge when asked to take on new responsibilities and completes all tasks when called upon. She is a very talented writer and speaker and has utilized these skills consistently throughout all programs.

CONGRATULATIONS KRISTINA! You are very deserving of this award.



Wendy Henderson Bursary

This bursary is In Memory of Wendy Henderson who was a Family Support Case Manager with over 24 years of service at Community Living - Fort Erie.

Wendy's passion for the youth of our community was demonstrated frequently as she supported them to overcome barriers to further their education or obtain employment. This bursary is awarded to a young adult who is transitioning from High School.

The bursary was awarded this year. The recipient would like to remain anonymous. Congratulations!

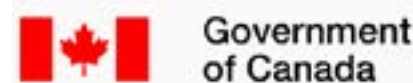


Above: Kristina Phillips receiving award from Robert Majkut, President.



INCLUSIVE SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM & TRANSITIONAL AGE YOUTH PROGRAM

Due to the generosity of the following donors we were able to offer our Inclusive Summer Camp Program and our Transitional Age Youth Program



HUMAN RESOURCES AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
CANADA: CANADA SUMMER JOBS PROGRAM



NIAGARA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SUMMER CAMP FUND



KINSMEN STEVENSVILLE



LOBLAWS PAY IT FORWARD FUND



Scotiabank Volunteer Matching Program



UPS COMMUNITY ALLOCATION FUND



The Village Church
Stevensville



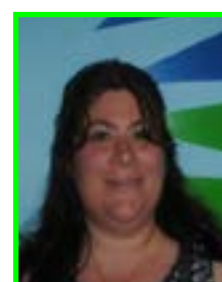
Ontario

Summer Experience Program
Grants Ontario

These generous donors allow us to hire individuals to assist in our summer programs. Without them we would not be able to offer these programs or be able to include the number of individuals currently participating.

Thank you to all those who have continued to generously fund these programs. Not only are you providing summer employment for local students, you are enhancing the lives of the people we support and helping to make our community a much more inclusive one.

THANK YOU SUMMER STUDENTS!



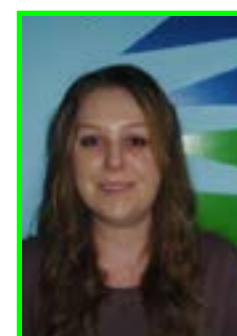
**BEVERLY
MARTINEAU**

Beverly is a first year student at Niagara College enrolled in the EASNS Program. Throughout the months of July and August Beverly has completed her placement in one of our group homes. She has volunteered at Prince Phillips School and works privately with individuals in her community! With the skills and knowledge she gained through her placement, Beverly will be able to move forward with a career in Developmental Services. Thank you for choosing Community Living Fort Erie to complete your co-op hours.



MELISSA SMITH

Through the EASNS Program Melissa has completed her student placement with us this summer. In the past, Melissa volunteered with Stamford Collegiate High School in a Special Needs classroom. She enjoys outdoor activities, hiking and crafts. She has a great deal of experience with children's camps and is looking forward to gaining a greater knowledge of Developmental Services and working with adults in the sector. Melissa has truly been an asset to one of our group home locations. We appreciate how she enhanced the lives of people through her involvement.



FAITH BROWN

Faith joined the Community Living Fort Erie team in July and completed her school placement with our organization through the EASNS Program.

Previously, Faith gave her time to the Habitat for Humanity Restore and volunteered at the Eventide Home. She demonstrated a passion for our mission of inclusion and hopes to increase skills in this field. Faith felt that she gained many valuable skills and experience needed for a future career in this field.



VOLUNTEER HOURS 2017-2018

SOURCE	VOLUNTEER	NUMBER	HOURS
Leisure Buddies	Leisure Buddy /One-On-One	11	568
Special Events	Awareness Events, Tradeshow, Volunteer recruitment	8	407
Fundraising	Fundraising events , Bingo, BBQ's, Pasta Night	22	696
Respite/Children's Programs	After School Programs, Inclusive Summer Camp Programs	2	128
Volunteer Services/Office	Administrative Support/Financial Reviews	4	380
Board of Directors	Board Members	10	260
TOTAL: Number of volunteers	Some volunteers contribute in one or more areas	49	2439

At minimum wage these volunteer hours translate in total to **\$34,146.00** in donated hours. These are unpaid wages!! Additional services and supports donated to our organization!

- Eight students from three community schools were placed in different programs this past year.
- Over 1600 student placement hours were contributed.
- Our staff also volunteer many unregistered hours throughout the year. These numbers are not reflected in these statistics



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Through the development of a Service Learning Partnership Initiative, volunteers are being recognized, students are learning, and the value of partnerships is being promoted. The Hospitality & Restaurant Service Program at the new Greater Fort Erie Secondary School (GFESS) partnered with Community Living Fort Erie to host our 2018 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.



The Volunteer Dinner was held at the Pomegranate Restaurant at the GFESS on Wednesday May 18, 2018. Over 40 volunteers attended the evening where they enjoyed a wonderful meal and entertainment provided by the students. Volunteers also received Awards in appreciation for their Years of Service.



This Service Learning partnership promotes learning in a natural environment and provides "giving back" opportunities for students. This collaborative project benefits both our organizations and helps raise awareness of the importance of volunteerism. GFESS and Community Living Fort Erie are examples of the things that can be accomplished when groups work together.



Every Community Living Fort Erie volunteer action makes a difference for others. Whether you have volunteered as a Member of our Board of Directors, provided friendship as a Leisure Buddy, contributed hours to our Bingo's or assisted with Pasta Nights you have made a difference for others.

As Fundraising Committee Members, Administrative Volunteers, Summer Camp Volunteers, Ground Maintenance Volunteers or as volunteers that complete financial reviews for people. Your volunteer contributions are significant and make a difference for our organization.

Thank You!

Volunteer Years of Service



CONGRATULATIONS on TEN YEARS OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE:

Pauline Wilson has been an employee of our organization for over 40 years. She works very hard for our organization and is always going above and beyond. For the past ten years Pauline has been a VERY dedicated member of the volunteer team. She began helping with planning small events us which led to the creation of our fundraising committee in 2011. She acts as secretary on the committee and assists in many other different capacities, wherever she is needed. Pauline was giving her time to Community Living Fort Erie long before we formally had a volunteer program. She is a dedicated volunteer who is truly passionate about the work we do in our community!! Usually before we can ask "who can help" Pauline is already there!! She is energetic, reliable, selfless and a wonderful team player. Her kind nature and generous heart make her a true asset to any team and we are very lucky to have her!! Thank you Pauline for your commitment to this organization!!

CONGRATULATIONS ON FIVE YEARS OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE:

Dee Dee Hayslip: Dee Dee has been a volunteer on our fundraising committee where she began creating the advertising programme for our Annual Fundraising Event. We quickly learned Dee Dee was a talented graphic design volunteer and we have utilized her in many other capacities over the past five years. She has completed many administrative tasks for us including designing & publishing our agency Newsletter. Dee Dee has stepped up on several occasions to help out with different events whenever she has been able to! She is a dedicated Bingo volunteer where her time truly makes a difference for our agency! She is an optimist who brings cheer and positivity everywhere she goes. You have worked so hard for this agency over the past five years Dee Dee and we really want you to know that we truly appreciate your many volunteer contributions.

Bobbie Paonessa: Bobbie began as a member of our fundraising committee and has helped to plan the last five Christmas Around The World Events. She also participates in other volunteer activities in our community as well. Bobbie has helped out at our fundraising BBQ's, Pasta Nights and she is always eager to assist in any way possible. Bobbie's dedication to helping out our Bingo's has ensured success fundraising at these events. Her willingness to jump in and help with any tasks that may arise has opened doors to new experiences and allowed her to make a difference in a variety of ways! Bobbie is confident and energetic in her volunteer role. Thank you Bobbie for your enthusiasm over the past five years!!



Elena Polko: When Elena moved to Fort Erie in 2013 she came to our organization looking for a volunteer position. Elena felt she has had "many blessings in her life" and she wanted to "give back to others". Coming from Russia she was not familiar with the concept of volunteering and she was amazed with the positive results organizations received through volunteer programs in Canada. Elena joined the Fundraising committee and she has made a significant difference through her contributions. She always has a fun and loving spirit. She is always optimistic and positive. She came to our organization with a great sense of commitment hoping to gain experience and friendships. Elena has made many new friends and has grown to be a very important part of our volunteer family! Thank you for choosing Community Living Fort Erie Elena. We are very thankful for YOU!!

Nahomie St Armand: Nahomie came to our organization wanting to help out in one of our Residential locations volunteering directly with the people we support. After volunteering for a while she made a connection with one of the ladies we support and began as a Leisure Buddy. These two ladies have become friends and have enjoyed numerous walks and community activities over the years. Nahomie is very creative, cheerful and patient. Staff always looks forward to having her visit the residence and her buddy. Nahomie has also completed many financial reviews for our organization as a third party reviewer on behalf of the agency. Nahomie we appreciate you. Thank you for making a significant difference in the lives of the people we support through your volunteerism!



Sandy Miskolczi: Sandy has been an employee of our agency for 30 years. She began volunteering at our Pasta Nights where she has become a very welcoming and enthusiastic part of the Italo Canadian Club serving team on behalf of Community Living. When Sandy joined the Volunteer Fundraising team she was responsible for planning the menu and food for our Christmas Around The World Event. As a volunteer Sandy has taken on many additional responsibilities over the past five years. She is always eager to help out whenever possible. She is creative, energetic and has shown great commitment to our volunteer team. Thank you for all you have done through your volunteerism!!



Memorial Bench in Honour of Michael Feeney

On Monday June 25th friends and family gathered at our Taylor Road location to remember and celebrate the life of our belated friend Michael Feeney. When Michael passed in March 2017, his family requested that all donations be made in memory of Michael to Community Living Fort Erie so that at a later date an item could be purchased with the hope that friends of Michael would be able to remember him.

After many discussions with the family on how best Michael could be remembered it was decided that a bench should be purchased and inscribed with a message describing the kind of life Michael lived. It was only appropriate that the location of the bench be at our Taylor Road group home due to the fact that Michael spent many years making Taylor Road his home and so many of his friends still reside there.

June 25th was a beautiful, sunny day much like Michael's disposition. Michael's family dedicated the bench while many of Michael's friends gathered to remember him and were able to catch up with his family. The small ceremony involved a speech discussing the kind of gentleman Michael was and a beautiful song that was performed by one of our volunteers. The family of Michael then said a few words about how much Michael enjoyed his time in Community Living Fort Erie and how wonderful it was to see him develop and grow as his own person once he was able to live independently. Michael's family thanked those gathered for their support and care of Michael over the years. The family presented Community Living Fort Erie with a plaque to be hung in the office with Michael and his mother's picture as the two of them spent their lives advocating for the rights of those with intellectual disabilities and tirelessly worked towards our agency mission of inclusion for all.

Michael was a dear friend to many of us and although we may miss him, we are forever grateful for the time we were able to share with him and will think of him often as we see those he cared about take a minute out of their day to sit and reflect on the new bench at Taylor Road.

[The inscription reads as follows: "In Loving Memory of Michael Feeney 1956-2017 Truly a Gift to All Who Knew Him"]



At:

SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2018

Sobeys
Fort Erie

~ VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ~
PLEASE CONTACT MARGARET FIDLER AT (905) 871-6770 EXT. 239

PLEASE COME OUT IN SUPPORT!

"LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL" AT MARDI GRAS BALL

Community Living Fort Erie will be holding their annual Christmas Around the World event on Saturday November 17, 2018 at the Fort Erie Leisureplex. This year they will be celebrating Christmas In New Orleans.

The event is volunteer driven by ten extraordinary volunteers who began planning in February. Each volunteer has a significant role on the committee from marketing, menu planning, bar coordination, decorations, program development, raffle prize securement and entertainment. This group of passionate volunteers donate over 1,000 hours a year to ensure a successful fundraising event. Without the dedicated efforts of the organizations volunteers this event would not be possible. Due to the outstanding efforts of this committed team of volunteers the organization has held sold out events over the past eight years! This year the volunteer team has planned a masquerade ball with a unique blend of Louisiana traditions and Mardi Gras festivities. **A MARDI GRAS CHRISTMAS** will be an evening of amazing food, great raffle and silent auction prizes, dancing and spectacular entertainment. Cherry Hill Club Executive Chef Jason Dyke, will prepare a feast of Cajun and Creole recipes that are sure to make attendees feel as if they have "travelled down south".

Executive Director Vickie Moreland states, "All proceeds directly benefit the people we support. Funds raised this year will be applied towards the purchase of a much needed wheelchair accessible van. In addition Community Living Fort Erie has an Inclusive Opportunity Grant. This grant promotes community participation by awarding people funds to cover the cost of fees, memberships, equipment and registration of activities in our community. The Mardi Gras Christmas Fundraiser will help ensure people can actively participate in their community by removing some of the financial barriers."



Thus far Major Event Sponsors include Erion Insurance, Boggio & Edwards Pharmacy and Scotiabank.

Event and Table Sponsors are still available.

Individual tickets are \$45.00 per person.

For additional information or to purchase tickets please call Community Living Fort Erie

905-871-6770 ext. 239.

Above: *From Left to Right:* Kelly Rotundo, Linda Beach, Vickie Moreland-Executive Director, Sue Doan, Bobbi Raymond, Elena Polko, Kristina Phillips, Sandy Miskolczi, Marg Fidler-Manager of Community Development, Marina Parkes. *Absent from photo:* Pauline Wilson and Debbie Eggleton

MANY BENEFIT FROM 2018 CORPORATE CHALLENGE

The Corporate Challenge was first started in Fort Erie over 25 years ago to raise money for the YMCA. It had a number of events that not only earned bonus points for their team, but also helped out various charities in our community. It fizzled out about 20 years ago and then Ray Rosettani and the REMAX team decided to revive the event!!

They hosted their first event in 2017 and it was a huge success! This year the "Challenge" was held on June 10th at Bridgewater Country Club. Proceeds raised benefitted Community Living Fort Erie. This year they raised \$3,500 for our organization.

The challenge also offered the teams the opportunity to participate in pre-events for bonus points which benefitted many other organizations, including:

- Canada Blood Services - Teams earned bonus points for donating blood. Through this activity donations increased from under 50 to over 100 and the REMAX team was recognized at an awards party for their dedicated efforts.
- C.O.P.E - food donations - Teams received additional bonus points for food donations and over 2000 food items were donated to help support many Fort Erie families in need.
- Cystic Fibrosis – Teams assisted in a walk raising money and awareness. The teams received bonus points for raising the most money and for attending. The winning team raised over \$800
- Fort Erie SPCA benefitted through donations raised for people to go up in the REMAX Hot Air Balloon.

The event demonstrated corporate social responsibility while ensuring all participants had a blast!!

Community Living Fort Erie Volunteers acted as referees and performed other duties as needed on the day of the event. Thank you so much to our Corporate Challenge Team and all the Community Living volunteers that supported this event.

Thank You

*to Century 21 Today Realty Ltd., and
Centum Omni Mortgages
for sponsoring our Corporate Challenge team.*



Above, Vickie Moreland accepts a cheque from Ray Rosettani and Holly Johnston of the REMAX team.

From the Team Perspective...

On June 10th Community Living Fort Erie participated in the Corporate Challenge, however the team building began months in advance as we made sure to have our presence known at each pre-event. Our team worked hard to gain bonus points for each pre-event and allowed us to give back to a community that provides our agency with so much. We had excellent turn outs from team members and volunteers who were both passionate and competitive. It was a great opportunity to network and familiarize ourselves with the many businesses and resources this great community has to offer. We could not have asked for a better day for the event itself. It was warm but not hot and had the perfect breeze to allow the impeccable athleticism of our team to be showcased.

The Corporate Challenge really is such a well-diversified event that it allows for the skills of all team members to be displayed, with a combination of strategy and physical activity our team had a great opportunity to succeed. After placing 12th last year we were bound and determined to improve our score. This year we bumped up our placement to 4th out of 18 teams. The team should be incredibly proud of themselves and all the support they generated from others in our agency. The team had a great time and already can't wait until next year's Corporate Challenge.
(Submitted by: Kristina Phillips, 2018 Team Captain)

GORE MUTUAL SUPPORTS THE 2018 "CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD FUNDRAISER: A MARDIS GRAS CHRISTMAS"

Community Living Fort Erie graciously accepted a cheque from the Gore Mutual Foundation. Through this Foundation, Canadian communities are strengthened through the support given to local initiatives in the areas where they do business. Since being created in 1998, they have donated more than \$10 million to over 650 charities through the Gore Mutual Foundation. Erion Insurance has been a long-time supporter of Community Living Fort Erie and through a Major Sponsorship of this year's fundraising event Erion will be helping Community Living to raise needed proceeds to purchase a wheelchair accessible vehicle for the people that we support!

Executive Director Vickie Moreland states "the importance of support through community foundations and local business owners is instrumental in organizational fundraising success. Partnerships like The Gore Mutual Foundation and Erion Insurance help us to raise much needed funds so that we can continue to provide quality services to people with intellectual challenges and their families in the Fort Erie community."



UPS Community Allocation Committee



The UPS Community Allocation Committee granted our organization \$1,000.00 to help cover some of the cost required to meet the needs of children in our Summer Camp Program.

In order to provide the support required for vulnerable children in our community we require assistance from local Grantors, Businesses, Service Clubs, Foundations and organizations that strive to make a difference for others.

Thanks to The United Parcel Service this donation will help to ensure children will receive the intense, specialized supports required so that they have the opportunity to develop new friends, increase their self-esteem and develop many new skills in a camp setting.



Customers can find great *Save It Forward* coupon offers in-store on the shelf, on displays, and on the coupon boards.

When the participating item is purchased, the customer redeems part of the coupon for savings on their grocery bill and the other part of the coupon can be donated at no personal cost into one of three community donation boxes.

The donation bin choices include: President's Choice® Children's Charity, and a local organization or charity chosen by the store. **(That's where we come in! We are one of the local organizations chosen.)**

At the end of the event, the donations are counted and the store makes a cheque donation to the charity for the collected amount! Easy!

Community Living Fort Erie has benefitted greatly from this wonderful program! Over the past three years we have received over \$5,000.00 in donations!

Keep an eye out for these coupons at **JESSE & KELLY'S NO FRILLS** in Fort Erie and save while helping families in need!



CHRISTMAS IN NEW ORLEANS!!

A Mardi Gras Christmas!!

PRESENTED BY
COMMUNITY LIVING
Fort Erie



**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 17, 2018**

At The Fort Erie Leisureplex

1 Municipal Drive, Fort Erie, ON

Dinner: 6:00 pm • Doors Open at 5:00 pm

Tickets Available at Community Living Fort Erie

905-871-6770 Ext. 0

TICKETS: \$45.00 EACH

~ ADULT EVENT ONLY ~

Photobooth ♦ **Favours** ♦ **Raffles** ♦ **Prizes**
Dinner ♦ **Dance** ♦ **Silent Auction**

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