

## ***Christmas with a New Orleans Twist!!***

Community Living Fort Erie's Annual Christmas Around The World Event was a huge success.

A New Orleans inspired menu, beautiful Mardi Gras decorations, Stilt walkers, a jazz band, Photo booth and Christmas Crooners ensured our guests had an evening that they truly enjoyed.

A new theme is chosen each year that celebrates the culture and heritage of a different country. This year's theme was A Mardi Gras Christmas, and the evening offered our guests a New Orleans fun filled evening! The energy in the Leisureplex Banquet Hall was exhilarating.

We could not hold this event without the help of MANY volunteers who donate their time, talents and treasures to ensure a successful fundraising event. Community Living Fort Erie volunteers worked especially hard to ensure our guests were in a New Orleans state of mind and together they raised **\$36,225.00**.

Due to the hard work of our volunteers and the generous support of our community we were able to purchase a new wheelchair accessible van.

Additional fundraising funds also support people to actively participate in their community through the Inclusive Opportunities Grant. Since inception we have granted \$12,188.00 to promote inclusive opportunities for the people we support.

Thank you to the 2018 fundraising committee for making a difference in so many ways through your dedication to our organization!! Each of you made significant contributions in many areas to the evenings

success. The 2019 Volunteer Fundraising team begins planning in February for this year's event. If you are interested in being a member of this volunteer fundraising committee please contact Marg Fidler at 905-871-6770 x239 or [mfidler@clfe.ca](mailto:mfidler@clfe.ca)

Community Living Fort Erie's executive director, Vickie Moreland, says all of the proceeds raised from A Mardi Gras Christmas will directly benefit the people the organization supports. Funds this year will be put toward the purchase of a much-needed wheelchair accessible van for Community Living Fort Erie clients.

### **2018 Fundraising Committee:**

Sue Doan - Co-Chair/Decorations  
Marina Parkes - Bar/Beverage  
Sandy Miskolczi - Menu/Food  
Debbie Eggleton- Entertainment  
Kristina Phillips - Raffle/Silent Auction  
Linda Beach - Program/Marketing  
Kelly Rotundo - Public Relations/Marketing  
Bobbi Raymond - Food/Raffle  
Pauline Wilson - Secretary/Raffle

Community Living Fort Erie also offers an Inclusive Opportunity Grant, which promotes community participation by awarding people funds to cover the costs of fees, memberships, equipment and registration of activities in our community.

THANK YOU for continuing to support this event!! Please plan to attend next year!



## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Betty Talbot  
Board President

In 2018 Community Living Fort Erie experienced program expansion, leadership appointment and increased prosperity. We recognized the accomplishments of the people we support, staff and volunteers and we celebrated our organizational history. We raised awareness and support for our mission and acclaimed the work we are doing in the Fort Erie community.

Our organization underwent many new and exciting changes. As we embark on our journey into a new year we look forward to organizational growth and stability. Reflecting on the past year can be a valuable exercise to take note of our accomplishments and experiences that have made this year most memorable.

Sandy Leemet was appointed as the new Director of Support Programs in April. She now provides supervisory support to the Residential and Community Support Manager and acts as Executive Director designate. Kristina Phillips and Nikki Boon were also appointed as Residential Managers joining Sandy Miskolczi and Simon Reeves as a part of the Residential leadership team. In November Shari Allen was appointed as Community Support Manager.

This past year we expanded our Residential Services through the addition of our Complex Special Needs Program (CSN). We welcomed seven new young adults that are being supported in a variety of settings here in Fort Erie and throughout the Province. Residential Manager, Nikki Boon, has taken the lead with this new program.

Residential restructuring was a huge undertaking in 2018. Staff were dedicated in ensuring the people we support transitioned into their new living arrangements comfortably. We sold Catherine Street and Lindbergh Drive group homes and purchased a triplex on Lavinia Street and, most recently, a home on Brookfield.

The hard work and tenacity of our volunteer teams paid off this past year. Our Bingo Fundraising Team and our "Christmas Around the World" annual fundraising team contributed many hours of their time to raise additional funds for our organization. We purchased an accessible van for one of our Residential Programs and a car for the CSN Program through a "Bingo Capital/Special Projects" Grant. The Board of Directors of the Fort Erie Gaming and Development Corporation provided funding totalling \$75,000.00 for these purchases. We are very grateful for the continued support we receive from that organization.

The Mardi Gras Christmas in New Orleans Fundraiser was definitely one of the highlights of this past year with more

than 350 people in attendance. Fort Erie Leisureplex was alive with the traditional purple, gold and green, and with people in colourful costumes, masks and beads. The Cajun food provided by Jason Dyke Catering was enjoyed by all. Due to the incredible efforts of the volunteers more than \$36,000 was raised that was used to purchase an additional much needed wheelchair accessible van.

Ray Rossitani /SellingFortErie Team hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Corporate Challenge with assistance from organizational volunteers. The RE/MAX Team diligently worked to raise \$3,500.00. The event was a huge success and last year's participants are anxiously awaiting this year's event.

The Transitional Age Youth (TAY) and Children's Inclusive Summer programs were very popular. Nikki Boon partnered with Rita Smith from Community Living Port Colborne-Wainfleet and both organizations accessed community programs for children to attend including: Safari Niagara, Boys & Girls Club and YMCA Day Camps, I-CANTER, and Heartland Forest. Andria Willick oversaw the Transitional Aged Youth Program (TAY) in which 22 youth's participated in the summer program for teens, which included opportunities for paid employment, volunteer work at community events and pre-employment development. Work, pre-employment and volunteer placements included Gilmore Lodge, YMCA Day Camp, March of Dimes, Lighthouse Restaurant, Friendship Festival, I-CANTER, DSBN GOAL program, Fort Erie Historical Museum and AutoPits Canada in Fort Erie.

So many people contributed to the successes of Community Living Fort Erie this past year. Our organization provides the highest quality of service to the people we support because we have such a strong team of staff and volunteers. We live in a very giving community where we have received wonderful support from magnanimous donors, funders, and community partners who believe so strongly in our mission that, **'an inclusive community that only sees abilities'** is becoming a reality!!

The challenges we faced in 2018 brought growth! *"Without continual **growth** and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning"*

Benjamin Franklin

Your support this past year has truly made a difference. Wishing you peace love and laughter in the New Year!!



Vickie Moreland  
Executive Director



# A SINCERE THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR SPONSORS OF THE CHRISTMAS IN NEW ORLEANS FUNDRAISER



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# THANK YOU SO MUCH TO OUR TABLE SPONSORS OF THE CHRISTMAS IN NEW ORLEANS FUNDRAISER!!



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# ~ THANK YOU ~



**To the Following Donors for Their Generous Contributions of Cash  
& Prizes to the Christmas in New Orleans Fundraiser!!**

Alfred Beam Excavating Ltd.  
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rectors & Managers  
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Wainfleet  
Dave Hawkins - Niagara This Week  
Delta Bingo and Golden Nugget Bingo  
Elena Polko - Fashion Touch  
Elite Hair Fashions  
Fort Erie Fire Hall  
Fort Erie Golf  
Glenn Miller  
Gloria Moon  
Goco - Four Corners Gas

Grand Niagara Golf Club  
Grapes on the Ridge  
Greg Frewin Theater  
Happy Jacks Restaurant and Tavern  
Heavens Hair Studio  
Henry of Pelham  
Hope Goodyear  
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Sandy Miskolczi  
Seville Hair Salon  
Shari Allen  
Sharon Schilz  
Shaw Festival  
Sherry Reinhardt - Norwex  
Sobeys Fort Erie  
Southcoast Cookhouse  
Sue Doan  
The Buffalo Sabres  
The Commercial Roadhouse  
The Office Source  
The Old Bank Bistro  
Trailsides Bar & Grill  
Vaticano Italian Restaurant  
Wines with a Twist  
YMCA Niagara - Fort Erie Branch  
Yoga Joy  
Yuta Yongchang  
Vickie Moreland  
Zen Day Spa of Fort Erie  
... and many other  
FRIENDS OF COMMUNITY LIVING  
FORT ERIE

***OUR GENEROUS COMMUNITY IS THE REASON FOR OUR SUCCESS!!  
THIS EVENT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT!***



## 2018 'Years of Service Awards' To Reward Employee Loyalty & Longevity

Community Living Fort Erie recognizes that our greatest asset is our dedicated employees. Our employees are our most valuable ambassadors.

Every year we celebrate employee years of service with a luncheon that is held in May. With the 2018 restructuring we found staff busy preparing for moves and readjusting so we moved the celebration to October.

Executive Director Vickie Moreland brought some new and exciting ideas on how to celebrate staff in a "magical" way.

On October 16, 2018 Community Living Fort Erie recognized Employee Years Of Service. This years "Thank you" to our employees included limousine transportation, dinner and a magic show at the Greg Frewin Theatre. Each staff member that was celebrated also received a gift certificate of their choice.

The evening offered opportunity for employees to have fun with other team members while we celebrated their many contributions to our agency.

The evening was a huge success and there was a wonderful turn out for our first annual Employee Appreciation Event.

*(Note: Service was calculated up to December 31, 2018)*





## 2018 'Years of Service Awards' To Reward Employee Loyalty & Longevity

**35 YEARS:** (below) Vickie Moreland with Margaret Fidler



### **30 YEARS:**

Recipients pictured with Vickie Moreland are:  
Andria Willick,  
Melanie Timbers,  
Sandra Miskolczi,  
Sandra Leemet and  
Michelle Della Ventura



### **25 YEARS**

Elaine Burger · Kelly Forrest  
Linda Lawrence · Greg Reed

### **20 YEARS**

Catherine Cameron  
Renee Russell



### **15 YEARS**

Andrea Baczynski · Cheryl Bailey  
Kristy Johnson · Lisa Jukosky  
Marcey Matthews · Simon Reeves  
Heather Winger

### **10 YEARS**

Kristin Foley · Mira Ivanova · Farisai Mapeka  
Rebecca McIntyre · James Qua · Sarah Tappan  
Christina Shandala-Mason · Yong Chang Yu



### **5 YEARS**

Audrah DeHeus · Amy Mallette · Joelle Grech  
Elizabeth Nolan · Chelsey Lever  
Laurie Armstrong · Silvia Acevedo  
Brandon Cross  
Brian Coatsworth · Joshua Brown

*Congratulations on your years of  
commitment and dedication to our  
organization and to the people we support!*



# CONGRATULATIONS CURTIS!



**C**urtis Moore has been supported by Community Living Fort Erie since the age of 5 and we have been fortunate to watch him grow and flourish into a young adult. In speaking with Curtis and his mom they have identified that life has not been without challenges but they are very grateful for where this journey has taken them.



*Joanne (mother) and Curtis Moore*

**C**urtis has received support throughout his academic career although he never really cared for school until he was able to secure a co-op placement, gaining valuable work experience at Sobey's in Port Colborne. That co-op provided skills that he was able to carry over to Sobey's in Fort Erie and Harvey's in Welland. Curtis has maintained employment since graduating from high school, however with the introduction of Bill 148 at the beginning of 2018 Curtis found himself presented with new challenges. Like many of those out there Curtis found himself with reduced hours as employers tried to fiscally respond to those new guidelines given to them by the government. However instead of feeling defeated by these challenges Curtis and his family took action. With 2 brothers' as an example Curtis and his family brainstormed as to how to get and secure a job that would provide more hours and sustainability. Their thought process was "how to get a better job is to get a better education". With that in mind Curtis decided to enroll in the CICE (Community Integration through Co-operative Education) program offered through Niagara College. This is an inclusive post-secondary program that offers individuals with developmental disabilities and other significant learning challenges the experience of college life while obtaining vocational, academic and social skills.

**S**ince entering into this program in the Spring

of 2018 Curtis and his family have seen significant improvements in a variety of areas. Curtis' reading and writing skills have noticeably increased and with the help of assistive devices and applications provided by Niagara College his communication is thriving. He is able to better understand time and is able to have frequent conversations

with family members through text, along with many other valuable skills looked for by employers. Curtis is currently learning to take the local transit system, taking the bus to and from the Niagara College Campus in Niagara on the Lake to attend his classes. Curtis' desire for independence is at an all-time high and he and his family couldn't be prouder of the progress he has made over the short time he has been enrolled in the CICE program. It is also important to mention that even while attending College Curtis has maintained his employment at Harvey's in Welland where he is responsible for making the fresh cut fries many of us have come to enjoy. When asking Curtis what is one piece of advice he would like to share with others who may be interested in following this path he said it was very important for him to have a couple of years off between high-school and college. This provided him with the opportunity to grow, mature and really figure out what he wanted out of his life. Where other's might have become discouraged by the events that proceeded attending CICE, Curtis and his family see it as a blessing in disguise as it led them to this great opportunity. Curtis is a great example as he is someone who has overcome barriers and found his own version of what success means to him.

**C**ongratulations to Curtis for his perseverance and hard work thus far, we look forward to your graduation date as we celebrate all you have accomplished!

## THE FORT ERIE OBSERVER RECENTLY FEATURED OUR LEISURE BUDDY PROGRAM



Sarah Ferguson of the Fort Erie Observer recently wrote an article featuring three pairs from Community Living-Fort Erie's Leisure Buddy Program.

The article stated, "Stuart Walsh and Vince Francescut hit it off right from the start. They love to watch movies, go for a couple of drinks and while others would turn up their noses, the two friends occasionally chow down on slices of anchovy and pepperoni pizza."

When Margaret Fidler was interviewed about the program she said "Volunteers from the community are matched with individuals supported by Community Living. Volunteers receive formal orientation and on-site training with staff members. Volunteers can participate in a wide variety of activities with their buddies including attending events in the community, visits to the library, workouts at the YMCA or even sharing conversation over a coffee or shopping. Fidler says a lot of people that are supported by Community Living don't necessarily have a lot of people in their lives, so having a leisure buddy gives them a chance to meet new people and make lasting connections in the community. "Meeting Stuart has been the best thing that could have happened to me. I've made a friend for life," Francescut says. The two usually meet once a week and spend a few hours together. Fidler said Walsh's request for a male leisure buddy sat on a desk for two years, waiting for the right volunteer to come along before he was finally matched with Francescut.



**Stuart Walsh is pictured here with his leisure buddy, Vince Francescut.**

According to Fidler, Community Living has more than 50 volunteers, and aside from the organization's board of directors, there are only eight male volunteers. She hopes the number of male volunteers increases as there are a number of Community Living clients that are looking for a male buddy as part of the Leisure Buddy Program.



**Anna D'Amore is pictured here with her leisure buddy, Glory Kaminski.**

Anna D'Amore, an Early Childhood Education student at Niagara College, was paired with Glory Kaminski about a year ago. When she first met Kaminski, D'Amore says she spent the first few weeks getting to know her new buddy, who is non-verbal and relies on the use of a wheelchair to get around. One day, D'Amore brought a keyboard from home and set it on Kaminski's wheelchair and the two spent the next few hours pressing the keys and making music. "Glory really likes music so that's what we do. I like making her happy and it's nice to see her happy and excited about something," D'Amore says. While D'Amore prefers easy listening tunes, she doesn't mind that her friend enjoys more upbeat and hip hop songs.

"My favourite thing to do is trying to find different songs that she likes." When D'Amore grabbed her cell phone to play one of her buddy's favourite songs, Kaminski began to squeal and sway the moment she heard Black Horse and the Cherry Tree KT Tunstall.

It was about 15 years ago when Anne Courtney moved to Fort Erie. Interested in meeting new people and getting to know her new community, Courtney visited a volunteer fair.

Marissa Tedder. "I think we compliment each other in many ways. I think we learn a lot from each other," Courtney said.

Courtney would encourage anyone who might be interested in volunteering for the program to do so because it has enriched her life in many ways. "I think if people volunteer for Community Living, they'll realize that the people they are volunteering for will bring out the kid in you and it keeps you young."

The Leisure Buddy Program was formally established in 2005 and since that time many people have benefitted from the friendships that have been developed. It does not take special skills or a great deal of time to make a significant difference in the lives of others," says Community Living Fort Erie's Executive Director, Vickie Moreland. "Volunteers enhance the services and supports we are able to provide through the donation of their valuable time."



**Anne Courtney has been a volunteer with Community Living Fort Erie for about 15 years. She is pictured here with her leisure buddy.**

**For more information on the Leisure Buddy Program or other volunteer opportunities call Margaret Fidler at 905-871-6770 ext. 239 or by e-mail at [mfidler@clfe.ca](mailto:mfidler@clfe.ca). You can also find an online volunteer application on the organization's website at [www.clfe.ca](http://www.clfe.ca).**



# WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS!!



**NICHOLAS THOMPSON**

is no stranger to volunteering. He wanted to become a volunteer with our organization because he felt Community Living-Fort Erie

made such a positive impact on people's lives. Nick has been volunteering as a "Leisure Buddy" since September 2018. He has developed a very special relationship with a gentleman through our volunteer program. Nick and his wife, Amanda have two daughters six and two. His family has opened their hearts and home to their new friend and they look forward to every time that "their" buddy comes to visit! Nick and his buddy are very active in the community and have spent time enjoying many recreational activities over the past four months. A true friendship is flourishing between these gentlemen. Nick has also introduced his "buddy" to his family members and friends and many other new and wonderful relationships have developed!!



**KRISTEN ROCKY**

contacted our organization in November to enquire into what volunteer positions might be available to her. Interested in giving back to her community

and fulfilling her desire to make a difference for others she thought the "Leisure Buddy" program might be a good match for her. Kristen has actively volunteered with her church for many years and assisted with fundraising events. Her skills and talents brought her to ask about fundraising opportunities within the organization and she is excited about assisting with future events. Kristin has experience in graphic design and also brings this to any volunteer position. She also hopes to pursue a career in Developmental Services/Educational Assistant in the future. We welcome Kristen to the Community Living-Fort Erie team and look forward to seeing the



**CARL WEAVER**

felt he wanted to give back to his community so he took the advice of another one of our volunteers and came to Community

Living Fort Erie to see how he could make a contribution through volunteerism. The best way to recruit volunteers is through positive recommendations from other volunteers. Carl stated he had heard "wonderful things about the organization" so he came in for an orientation in December. Carl is interested in volunteering to provide First Aid/CPR Training to staff and people we support. He has volunteered at The Greater Niagara General Hospital, The Fort Erie Fire Department and the Fort Erie Rescue Unit. Carl brings many skills to the organization and we welcome him to our volunteer team. Carl has expressed an interest in being involved in organizational fundraising and is exploring the possibilities available to him. We welcome Carl to the team and look forward to having him share his many skills!

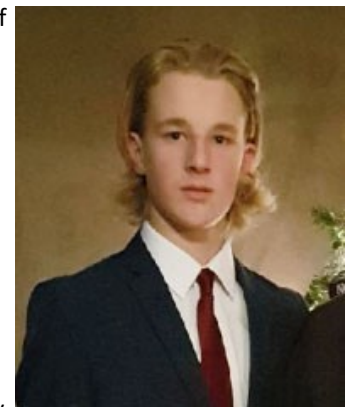


**KELLY ROTUNDO** quickly caught on to volunteering when she joined our 2018 team in April. She attended fundraising meetings two days after completing her orientation and hit the ground running!! As a part of the fundraising team Kelly solicited table sponsorships and ads with the Manager of Community Development.

Whether walking around the community in a Mardi Gras mask and feathers or contacting friends and family for fundraising support Kelly worked hard with the fundraising team to support this years "Christmas Around The World" Event. Kelly has had past fundraising experience through the Evening of Hope as well as coordinating a fundraiser for a friend in the community with Lyme Disease. Thank you for joining the Community Living Fort Erie team Kelly, we truly appreciate your hard work.

**BRYSON ALLEN** has been aware of the supports provided by Community Living Fort Erie his entire life and has always been encouraged to give back to his community through volunteerism. Bryson volunteers at his High School with youth with special needs and has been a member of Student Council. He hopes to further his education in the field and seek employment in the future in Social Services. He is very

involved in sports as a participant and referee. Bryson volunteered in our 2018 Summer Camp Programs and was truly an asset to the Inclusive Summer Camp Programs. The campers developed friendships with Bryson and always look forward to having him volunteer in their programs. Thank you Bryson for giving your time to the children in community summer camp programs. You truly made a difference for them through your dedicated volunteerism.



## WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEER!!



**SHAWN TURNER** met his “Buddy” at the Legion and decided he wanted to volunteer with our organization. As a volunteer Shawn has also been involved in Lyme Disease Charity Events helping to raise awareness and funds over the past several years. He was a dedicated volunteer hockey coach for many years. Shawn began volunteering with his buddy in October 2018. They have spent many hours together in the community enjoying karaoke, Ice Dog hockey games, attended monthly fire hall meetings, and this Fall they volunteered together at a fundraising marathon. These two gentlemen have spent time together “day camping” and they enjoyed spending a lot of time over the holidays together. They are true hockey fans and appreciate watching the sport together! Joe describes Shawn as a “wonderful person” and feels his life has been enriched through the development of their “buddy” relationship!

Welcome to the Community Living Fort Erie Volunteer Team Shawn, we are so happy you chose US to donate your valuable volunteer time to!!



**Thursday, May 9th, 2019**

# PASTA NIGHT

**Hosted by The Fort Erie Italo Canadian Club  
1101 Di Pietro St., Fort Erie, ON**

**4:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.**

**Proceeds to Community Living-Fort Erie**

**Pasta \* Meatballs \* Italian Salad**

**“Always a Delightful Meal”**

**Take-out: \$8 — In Advance: \$9 — Door: \$10**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SERVE & SELL TICKETS!!!**

**For Tickets or To Volunteer Please Call (905) 871-6770 ext. 239.**



# BECOME A MEMBER....



**COMMUNITY LIVING**  
Fort Erie

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ (please email newsletter)

YES! I WILL SUPPORT COMMUNITY LIVING ~ FORT ERIE!!

CATEGORIES:

☐ INDIVIDUAL \$10.00      ☐ CORPORATE \$50.00      ☐ SELF-ADVOCATE \$2.00

ONE TIME GIFT OF:

☐ \$25.00      ☐ \$50.00      ☐ \$100.00      ☐ \$250.00      ☐ OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUE PAYABLE TO: COMMUNITY LIVING ~ FORT ERIE

Mail To:  
COMMUNITY LIVING ~ FORT ERIE  
615 INDUSTRIAL DRIVE, FORT ERIE, L2A 5M4  
Phone: 905-871-6770 • Fax: 905-871-3339

*As a Registered Non-Profit Organization, Community Living~Fort Erie Issues Official Tax Receipts For Donations*

Mail to:

**Attn: Administrative Assistant**  
**Community Living-Fort Erie**  
**615 Industrial Drive, Fort Erie, On L2A 6T3**  
**Phone: (906) 871-6770 Fax: (905) 871-3339**

**As a registered non-profit organization,  
Community Living-Fort Erie issues official tax receipts for donations.**

## Our Mission

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

## Our Vision

*An Inclusive Community That Only Sees Abilities.*