



As we prepare for our 2019 fundraising event, we are reaching out to our community for assistance with our **"Christmas In France" PARIS NIGHTS** event.

This event is driven by an AMAZING ten person VOLUNTEER team. They work hard all year to raise funds for our organization. Our Annual "Christmas Around The World" event is sold out every year, and our talented volunteer committee has made this the event of the year in the Town Of Fort Erie. In 2017 and 2018 we were able to purchase wheelchair accessible vans that directly benefit the people we support!



Fundraising money **always** directly benefits the people we serve!

If you or someone you know might be interested in becoming a sponsor, donating a prize, or placing an ad in our program, we want to hear from you! We look forward to increasing fundraising support within our community.

On behalf of the **2019 Volunteer Fundraising Team**, we thank you in advance for sharing this information. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Marg Fidler at mfidler@clfe.ca or 905-871-6770 ext. 239.



As we reflect on the 2018 – 2019 fiscal year we are happy to report that it was a very successful year. Our main funder, the then Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS), provided an additional \$275,926 to provide us with increased financial support in order to ensure that we are able to continue to deliver high quality services. We were fortunate to have this one time additional funding to address much needed repairs, maintenance and equipment needs, to address compensation issues and assist with underfunded benefits. We appreciate the ongoing funding provided by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) that allows us to provide a wide range of support services to children, adults and their families in Fort Erie.

This past year we also had significant, and much appreciated support, for our organization from many community partners, funders, individual supporters and community minded business owners listed in the program.

Our Annual Fundraiser, “A Mardi Gras Christmas” raised over \$36,000.00 for CLFE. This event is volunteer driven by a group of individuals who work hard all year to ensure a successful fundraiser. We are truly grateful to these volunteers who worked so hard to make this the event of the Season!

In July 2017 we embarked on a journey of sharing the services of one Executive Director with Community Living Fort Erie. 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. While this arrangement has been very successful to date, both Boards of Directors met in February and agreed to explore the idea of merging Community Living Fort Erie and Community Living Port Colborne - Wainfleet.

The Boards felt that a merged organization would build on the strengths of both. It would offer benefits to people supported, to their families and to staff. Benefits that would be achieved through efficiencies that come with having one organization rather than two. Initially the merged organization would focus on streamlining and increasing administrative capacity.

In June a Planning Survey was distributed to stakeholders, and, in July we will be holding eight stakeholder meetings. These will be opportunities to have input from everyone involved from both organizations about what should stay the same and what should change, if the merger proceeds.

Feedback from interested stakeholders through the survey and stakeholder meetings will be very important for the future of our organization. Input provided through the surveys and stakeholder meetings will be presented at the September Board meetings. If both boards recommend moving forward with an amalgamation, membership meetings will be held in October for final approval.

We wish to extend our sincere appreciation to the Board of Directors, volunteers, families and friends, and to our dedicated employees for their invaluable contributions throughout the year. Everyone plays an important role ensuring Community Living Fort Erie continues to provide quality services to our community. We look forward to another successful year in 2019 – 2020, inspiring possibilities in an inclusive community that only sees abilities.

Betty Talbot, President

Vickie Moreland, Executive Director

Message from Board President and Executive Director



Over the summer, work continued on the exploration of a merger between Community Living Fort Erie and Community Living Port Colborne - Wainfleet. An important part of the process was consultation with the various stakeholder groups connected to both organizations, including people supported, families, unionized and non-unionized staff, management and Boards of Directors. This step acknowledged the importance of input from the people involved with the organization.

It was undertaken on the Boards' behalf by Tom Little and Nancy Collins of CMCS Consulting Services, using a survey and eight focus groups. The survey produced 169 responses and the focus groups engaged 91 participants. This large amount of input gave Tom and Nancy confidence in their findings.

Key Theme

The key theme that emerged from stakeholder input is that:

- CL Fort Erie and CL Port Colborne - Wainfleet take very different approaches to service provision;
- People connected to each organization believe very strongly in their respective approaches; and
- These same people saw a merger as threatening those approaches; and
- For this reason, they were strongly opposed to a merger of the two.

Decision

All of this was communicated to the two Boards of Directors at a joint meeting held on Tuesday July 30th. After discussion and deliberation, the two Boards agreed to end the exploration of a merger with a decision not to merge at this time.

Challenges

With the decision made not to move forward with a merge, Community Living Fort Erie is still faced with the following challenges:

- Filling the Executive Director position;
- Resolving a number of financial pressures, including the cost of a full-time Executive Director, as already noted, as well as outstanding pay equity obligations, lack of administrative infrastructure (Finance, HR and IT), and possible funding cuts by the provincial government; and
- Overcoming the concerns raised to any kind of change, which CLFE stakeholders indicate exists in residential services, resulting from a reorganization in 2018.

It is the intention of the Board of Directors to seek input from management and staff in an attempt to overcome these challenges in a way that ensures our continued success as a community organization.

Thanks to Everyone Who Contributed

The Boards of Directors want to thank everyone who contributed to the discussion. The Board believes that the voices of the stakeholders are critical to the welfare of the organization and must be heard.

Betty Talbot, President

Vickie Moreland, Executive Director



Employee Appreciation Event

October 9, 2019

This year we will be recognizing employees for their **Years of Service** on October 9th, 2019!

We will be celebrating in a special way and acknowledging the following staff for their dedicated years of service:

30 Years

Brandi McKend

20 Years

Jennifer Babi

10 Years

Pierre St. Armand

Juliana Hunt

5 Years

Jayne Lee Harasty

Tammy Taylor

Kierston MacLellan

25 Years

Kristine Mod

Doug Willick

Lori Reay

15 Years

Stanislava Lipova

Rachel Fischer

Valri Willick

Melissa Overmeyer-

Mueller

Cheryl Bailey

Congratulations to each of you and thank-you for your commitment to Community Living Fort Erie!

A special Evening has been planned at the Greg Frewin Theatre and invitations are to follow.



Inspiring Possibilities

2019 Fort Erie Corporate Challenge

This year's Corporate Challenge team captain was Chris Wolfe. Chris encouraged his teammates to participate in all pre-game events. His ability to inspire, great communication skills, creativity and commitment helped lead the 2019 team to third place in the "Challenge."

Here are our Community Living Fort Erie 2019 Team members. Congratulations to the "Inclusion Fusion" team members for your participation at this year's event.

Each of you represented our organization with a positive competitive spirit and integrity!! You have made our organization and team sponsors proud!!

INCLUSION FUSION



(BACK ROW) DIANE ORR, SHERRI VIGNA, CHRIS WOLFE, KRISTINA PHILLIPS, SIMON REEVES, RUTH SPARKS, LACEY TOPOLINSKY, ANTHONY COMEAU, ROB PRIMO

(FRONT) JUSTIN KRIEGER, RACHEL BEACH



PRESS RELEASE Fort Erie Observer:
Things are Shifting into Gear for
Community Living Fort Erie with the
arrival of a new Van

Fort Erie – On Tuesday, June 25th, over 60 people gathered at Community Living Fort Erie's AGM to celebrate and recognize what's been accomplished thanks to a \$38,500 Capital grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) earlier this year. Local MPP Wayne Gates attended the meeting and spoke about the impact the grant will have both today, and in the years to come.



"I want to say a very big thank you to the Community Living Fundraising Team for putting this successful proposal together," said Wayne Gates, MPP for Niagara Falls. "Their efforts mean that over 100 people will be able to participate in more active and healthy lifestyles. This is the kind of work that truly makes a difference in the lives of those in our community and I could not be prouder to support them in their mission."

The 10-person Community Living Fort Erie Fundraising Team used the OTF grant and raised an additional \$14,000 to buy the van they needed to help the people they support to increase opportunities to be engaged in community life. They now have a new, accessible van. This vehicle will provide enhanced service in addition to the Accessible Specialized Transit (FAST) that is currently available to people supported by Community Living Fort Erie. The van will provide barrier-free transportation to medical appointments, and community activities, including those happening in the evening and on weekends.

Transportation is one of the greatest barriers to inclusion. With this accessible vehicle people will have greater freedom and independence to be more active in their community," said Vickie Moreland, Executive Director, Community Living Fort Erie.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada's leading granting foundations. OTF awarded more than \$108 million to some 629 projects last year to build healthy and vibrant communities in Ontario. For more information, please visit: www.otf.ca



Ontario
Trillium
Foundation

Fondation
Trillium
de l'Ontario

62nd AGM & Awards BBQ 2019

On June 25, 2019 over 60 people attended our 62nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & AWARDS BBQ.

The evening provided an opportunity for Members, Families and Stakeholders to meet our Board of Directors.

We also acknowledged a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation which allowed us to purchase our new accessible van, and we celebrated the outstanding attributes of our organizational award winners.



Back row left to right: Dean Demizio (Vice President) Kimberley Gray, Pam Coulthurst, Robert Majkut (Past President) Rebecca Parton

Front row left to right: Ray Rosettani, Sue Doan, Sharon Schilz, Betty Talbot (President)

Absent from photo: Terry Sampson, Vickie Moreland (Executive Director)

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 Community Inclusion Award Recipient is Tony Hill. Tony has been a dedicated volunteer at Intercede International for the past several years where he donates his time weekly. He is a valued member of their volunteer team and is often invited to attend conferences, lunches, and events with other volunteers. He has received awards at Intercede for Volunteer of the Year in years past. Tony independently takes the barrier free transportation system to and from his volunteer placement each week and is often asked to volunteer extra amounts of time as his contributions are so valued and respected.

Tony is an active participant in a local bible study where he attends every Tuesday. He is a member of Opry Niagara where he joins others performing weekly. Tony is an active member of the YMCA where he swims and walks the track several times a week. He also enjoys utilizing our local arena to skate weekly. Tony has been working towards his independence with these activities and his staff is supporting him and strategizing together to attain these goals.

Tony is a very active member of our community and is an incredibly talented artist who often attends local arts events.

Tony is an active member with Community Living Fort Erie’s Advocates in Motion group where he meets with other like-minded individuals who advocate for inclusion within our community.

Tony is an extremely motivated and independent individual who should be recognized for breaking down barriers in our community through demonstrating all of his talents and gifts.

CONGRATULATIONS

We celebrate your motivation and the personal growth you have achieved this past 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 have 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 a positive attitude, good attendance and willingness to participate as part of the team.

This year's recipient of this award is Jennifer Culp.



We would like to present Jenn Culp with the Jackie Sandelli award. This award goes to someone who demonstrates traits and skills that Jackie valued and appreciated in the employees who work for Community Living Fort Erie.

Jenn is a reliable and valued employee who is respected by her coworkers. She is extremely dependable, maintains excellent attendance and is always enthusiastic and positive about her work. She covers shifts when needed and does not discriminate based on location. She sees the people we support in a positive light and supports in a way that brings out the best in people. Jenn goes above and beyond on every shift; whether it's deep cleaning, rearranging furniture or getting people out into the community to do meaningful activities. She is a person that gets things done. Jenn treats the homes and resources of the agency respectfully and models how the people she supports should live in a home that they can take pride in.

Jenn is incredibly humble, when you thank her for a job well done, her response is simply, "It's my job!" She is a great team player and her co-workers know that they can count on her. Jenn often puts the needs of people supported before her own and has spent many holidays providing services to those who remain at home, ensuring that the people she supports participate in celebrations with people who respect and care for them.

Jenn is present at many CLFE events along with her family members and has demonstrated to others the friendships that she has made with the people she supports. Often Jennifer invites people that she supports to family events and does activities with them on her own time because she truly enjoys their company and loves what she does. Congratulations Jenn! It is with great honour that we award Jennifer Culp with the Jackie Sandelli staff award this year!

Congratulations

You are very deserving of this award!



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.

This year we recognize Natasha Auclair as the recipient of the Wendy Henderson Bursary. In the past three years, Natasha has moved to Fort Erie and became a part of the Home Share program. Natasha has become an important role model for others in her new family and is a great example of the success of this program and the benefits it has to offer.

Natasha was a student at Lakeshore Catholic High School where she was a dedicated student who studied hard. Last June she graduated with her OSSD but she decided to attend one more year to upgrade her marks in hopes of getting into college. Natasha applied to several colleges to their Personal Support Worker programs and was accepted into all that she applied for. She will be starting her post-secondary courses this fall and has taken on a full-time curriculum.

Natasha plans on obtaining a college degree and fulfilling her goal of helping others in the future. We wish you the best of luck as you continue to further your education. Today we celebrate all your hard work and perseverance!

CONGRATULATIONS

You are an exemplary role model for other youth in our community!!



Serving up Help for Families in Need

Throughout the year we ask for support from our community in many different ways. We believe that it is important that as a service organization we also “give back”!!

On Wednesday May 8, 2019 Community Living Fort Erie Board of Director members Dean Demizio and Rebecca Parton joined other Community Living Fort Erie volunteers, staff, and people supported to serve up Big Macs, McCafe beverages and Happy Meals to benefit Ronald McDonald House and other Children’s Charities across Canada.



Nikki Boon & Dennis Dowling

Nikki Boon, Marina Parkes, Marg Fidler and Dennis Dowling teamed up to support this annual day of giving on behalf of Community Living Fort Erie.



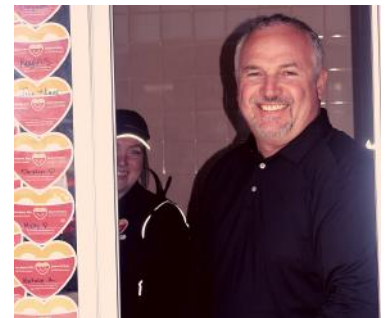
Board Director,
Rebecca Parton




RONALD McDONALD
HOUSE CHARITIES



Marg Fidler & Marina
Parkes



CLFE Vice President,
Dean Demizio

PASTA NIGHT & ANNUAL
BAKESALE RAISED FUNDS
FOR CLFE! 



On May 9th, we partnered with the Fort Erie Italo Canadian Club where they hosted our 2019 Pasta Night.

Through this partnership, they helped us to raise **\$1,381.00** and additional **\$350.00** through our bake sale for Community Living Fort Erie.

Thank you to all who helped make this a success!!

Like Us on Facebook!

Keep up-to-date with CLFE
news and events in real time!





Thank you for allowing me to speak this evening in celebration of Community Living Month! I wanted to share with you some of the things that Community Living Fort Erie has helped me with. Community Living has helped me in many ways, like giving me the chance to speak to you this evening. They have helped me greatly financially and are helping look into my health. I have cerebral palsy.

People see how willing I am to help make a difference, this is where my volunteering is important to me. I volunteer at the Crystal Ridge Community Church Soup Kitchen. I am also a member of the Fort Erie Historical Advisory Committee where I express my opinions and share my love of history.

I believe that ALL people should be accepted for their skills. I am included in my community through work and volunteering. As a member of the United Empire Loyalist Association for the past 40 years, I have the honour of being the Flagbearer at the Federal Level. I have also volunteered with the March of Dimes and was selected to be a Katimavik Youth and traveled to British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec where I participated in all kinds of volunteer work.

I want to sit on committees in Fort Erie where I can share my experiences and knowledge. I want to educate people and encourage others. I AM A Person first although I have a disability I will not be overlooked, as I can do a job and do it well.

I believe in working hard and proving to people I can do whatever I put my mind to with a little bit of assistance. I need support to make some of my dreams come true. I have set goals to improve my experiences in my community. I have been a citizen of Fort Erie for the past 59 years. I am the eldest son of Brian and Betty Ellsworth, a brother and a friend. I am a person with a disability... BUT I am a PERSON FIRST!



David Ellsworth Speaks to Council



David Ellsworth & Betty Talbot

Betty Talbot updated Mayor Redekop, and members of council on organizational activities. She said, "Our organization is dedicated to helping people live quality lives. We work in partnership with organizations and businesses in Fort Erie so people with intellectual challenges are able to live as interdependently as desired and experience full inclusion in our community."



Ridgeway Garden Club “A Blooming Partnership”



It's that time of the year again: the days are a bit longer, the weather's a bit warmer, and the yard requires a bit more maintenance. On June 21 and 26 the Garden Club joined staff and residence at our Ridgeway Group home location for a garden and yard clean up.

Debbie Eggleton Garden Club President and Community Living Fort Erie volunteer stated “it was a natural partnership for me. We did a beautification project last year at one of the group homes and our Garden Club volunteers really enjoyed helping out with that project. We volunteered to help out again this year and it is easy to see that our work has made a difference and is truly appreciated”

The Ridgeway & District Garden Club encourages an interest in gardening and horticulture with a focus on conservation through knowledge and experience, promoting public awareness and supporting home and community beautification projects. The club was founded in 1926 as a group of people wanting to learn more about gardening and help others do the same.

We would like to thank the Ridgeway Garden Club team for all of their hard work! You have truly made a difference!!





let's get all fired up

IT'S BBQ TIME!
SEPT 14TH, 2019
10AM - 4PM

Community Living Fort Erie Volunteers are running
our Annual Charitable BBQ in partnership with
Sobeys (Fort Erie). Please join us in raising funds
for our organization!

450 GARRISON ROAD, FORT ERIE, L2A 1N2

*Thank you to our community partner Sobeys for supporting
this event!*

