



HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

This winter edition of our newsletter recognizes the important contributions that our dedicated employees make every day, features the success of our "Paris Nights" Fundraiser and highlights some of the many devoted volunteers and students that are the "Community" in Community Living - Fort Erie. Our committed team and dedicated supporters play an integral part in our ability to perform our mission. Thank you to each of you for your hard work and dedication to our organization throughout 2019.

2019 was a busy year involving consultations with our stakeholders to explore the idea of expanding our partnership with Community Living Port Colborne-Wainfleet, in addition to our efforts to create economic stability for the organization. With the decision not to merge at this time, 2020 is promising to be another very busy year.

The Ministry of Children, Community & Social Services has informed us that during 2020 organizations should continue to explore potential opportunities for administrative efficiencies without compromising service delivery. These are tall orders in an environment of ongoing financial uncertainty.

We look forward to working with our stakeholders, community partners and funders in 2020 as we create a new Strategic Plan that will propel us into this new decade. During the meetings in July our stakeholders provided many great ideas related to management, finance, administration and services that will be further explored to ensure that the MCCSS goal of financial sustainability, while achieving potential efficiencies, becomes a reality.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to Community Living – Fort Erie.

We wish you all the best in 2020!

Betty Talbot, President

Vickie Moreland, Executive Director

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CHRISTMAS IN FRANCE - PARIS NIGHTS!

EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION & YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS WESTJET WINNERS!

WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS AND STUDENTS



We Truly Appreciate Our Valuable Employees!

On October 9th, 2019 we recognized our employees for their dedication and commitment to our organization. Thank you to all staff members who work so hard each day to assist people in achieving their goals. Thank you for being part of our success and for "Inspiring Possibilities" every day.

We could not do it without all of you!

Please join us in congratulating the following employees for their years of service and special achievements.

30 Years

Brandi McKend

20 Years

Jennifer Babiy

10 Years

Pierre St. Armand

Juliana Hunt

5 Years

Jayme Lee Harasty

Tammy Taylor

Kierston MacLellan

25 Years

Kristine Huggins

Doug Willick

Lori Reay

15 Years

Stanislava Lipova

Rachel Fischer

Valri Willick

Melissa Overmeyer-

Mueller

Cheryl Bailey

Betty Talbot, President

Vickie Moreland, Executive
Director



Inspiring Possibilities

Employee Appreciation 2019



Doug Willick

Saturday at 2:54 PM · 🌐

Just wanted to say thank you to the "brass" and the board at Community Living Fort Erie for the nice recognition gifts and certificate. I appreciate the kind gesture.

👍❤️ 40

3 Comments

👍 Like

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GREG FREWIN THEATRE
WE MAKE THEATRE
MAGIC

**MAMMA
MIA!**

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

DOUG WILICK

February 11th, 1994

25
YEARS

300 MONTHS
1,303 WEEKS
9,125 DAYS
13,148,719 MINUTES

THANK YOU

THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR HARD WORK
AND DEDICATION TO OUR TEAM

VICKIE MORELAND, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Some of Our Wonderful Employees!

Left to Right: Pierre St. Armand, Sunny Lipova, Lori Reay, Jennifer Babi, Rachel Fischer, Brandi McKend, Valri Willick, Kierston McLellan

Employee Appreciation 2019



Christmas in France 2019 - Paris Nights

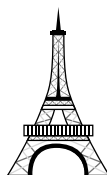


Our annual Christmas Around the World event was held on Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019.

A new theme is chosen each year to celebrate the culture and heritage of a different country.

Every penny from the money raised from this fundraiser goes toward providing support to Community Living - Fort Erie's programs and services. The funds have been used to purchase two wheelchair accessible vehicles and fundraising dollars are also available through our Inclusive Opportunities Grant. This funding is granted to assist people with intellectual challenges to be actively participating in our community.

The grant was established to remove financial barriers for people with intellectual disabilities by covering the costs, fees, memberships and equipment required to participate in community activities.



Our Awesome Fundraising Committee, 2019

Because of the hard work of our 2019 Fundraising Committee, this year's event Christmas In France - Paris Nights raised \$41,200.00!!!

Since its inception in 2012, our "Christmas Around The World" event has raised over \$230,000 for Community Living - Fort Erie. Our volunteers begin meeting in February to plan the event.

We cannot thank them enough for their hard work! All funds raised are used to further the mission and vision of Community Living - Fort Erie and promote inclusive opportunities in our community by helping to remove financial and physical barriers to participation for people with intellectual challenges.



Back: Margaret Fidler, Debbie Eggleton, Sandy Miskolczi, Kristina Phillips, Marina Parkes, Linda Beach

Front: Bobbi Raymond, Pauline Wilson, Sue Doan

Absent from Photo: Lynda Unger

Thank You to Our Table Sponsors at Our Christmas in France - Paris Nights Fundraiser



Platinum Sponsors:



Gold Sponsors:

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Niagara Casinos
Service Master Restore

Bronze Sponsors:

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A1 Appliance
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Peninsula Plastics
Maureen Brown
Attar Metals
IBEX Inclusion
Lesyk Electric
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Miller's Auto Recycling
Canadian Tire Fort Erie
Ducheron - Chris Duchene
FORTIS Ontario Inc.

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Bridgman & Durksen
Margaret Fidler
Sarah Thompson - Pampered Chef
Pauline Wilson
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Jesse & Kelly's No Frills
JW Furness Plumbing & Heating
Spartan Freight Systems Inc.
The Cooperators - Vince Francescut
Miskow Generators & Electric
Community Living Port Colborne - Wainfleet
Century 21 Today Realty
Sandy Haefner
K&E Automotive

Thank You Board of Directors!



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VICKIE MORELAND

Executive Director

*Thank you for your support throughout the year.
We are very fortunate to have such an enthusiastic and
resourceful group of individuals on our Board.*

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



Christmas in France - Paris Nights



Community Living - Fort Erie's Annual Christmas in France - Paris Nights event was a great success.

A French menu, stunning decor, Can-Can dancers, a jazz band, Photo Booth, and a Caricaturist & live sketch artist, all kept our guests entertained and ensured that they had an evening to remember!

A new theme is chosen each year that celebrates the culture and heritage of a different location. This year's theme was Christmas in France - Paris Nights. The energy was lively and fun for all who attended.

We could not hold this event without the help of MANY volunteers who donate their time, talents and gifts to ensure a successful fundraising event.



Where will they go? Italy, Mexico, or Ireland?



Community Living - Fort Erie is very thankful that Westjet generously donated to this year's fundraising initiative.

Debbie Eggleton was the excited winner of the "Gift of Flight" voucher valid for a round-trip flight for two guests, to any regularly scheduled Westjet destination.

Debbie and her husband Scott have not yet decided whether their Westjet adventure will be to Ireland, Mexico or Italy but they were thrilled when Debbie's name was drawn at our "Paris Nights" event on November 23, 2019. Congratulations Debbie and Scott!

Click the Westjet logo below to read more in the St. Catharines Standard:



Welcome New Volunteers & Students



AARON MC PHEE, a second year student, was placed with our organization through the Social Service Worker Program at Niagara College. He was a great fit for the Community Support Program and Community Inclusion Facilitators felt that Aaron truly had the skills needed for a job in this field.

"He is always willing to learn and assist with supports" and his site supervisor felt that he "quickly builds positive relationships with the individuals he supports" Aaron will be continuing with his placement until April 2020. It's a pleasure to have Aaron as a student and we know he brings a lot to the Community Living - Fort Erie team through his educational placement. Welcome Aaron!!



Aaron McPhee

RAJNISH KAUR came to Community Living Fort Erie in September to begin her student placement as a second year EASNS student.

Once completing her placement in December, she requested that she return to Community Living Fort Erie for an additional placement at a different location!! We were more than happy to say "yes".

Your "bright and enthusiastic personality" has brought a lot of joy to the people we support!! We are so happy to have you back with us until April Raj!



Rajnish Kaur

ALLYSON BUSH Welcome Allyson Bush! Allyson began her Educational Assistant Special Needs Support (EASNS) Coop placement with us in January. Allyson plans to graduate from the program and then enroll in the Autism Behavioral Sciences Program. She is a Fort Erie resident and hopes to work in Residential Services in the future. We are pleased to have Allyson as part of our team!!



Allyson Bush

MATTHEW FERGUSON began his educational placement with us through the Niagara College Social Service Worker Program in September. Matthew completed his second year placement in one of our Residential locations. Staff and people supported truly felt he was an asset to the team. He is "compassionate and enthusiastic" and "shows professionalism at all times."

Matthew was highly recommended by staff and residents and was hired in December as an employee of Community Living Fort Erie. We look forward to having you utilize the many skills you bring to our agency. We are so glad you chose us for your placement Matthew. Welcome to the team!!

No image at this time. We apologize!



Matthew Ferguson

BRITTANY GREEN Brittany began her educational placement with us in January 2020. Brittany is a first year Niagara College Social Work student. She enthusiastically requested her school placement with our organization and we are happy to have her in our Family/Community Support Programs. Thank you for choosing us Brittany, we know you will be an asset to these programs!!



Brittany Green

Service Master Restore Donates \$1000 to CLFE



Community Living has been breaking down barriers to entry for the past 50 years, and armed with a funding boost from a local business, they can make sure everyone gets an opportunity to be a part of their community.

“We looked around at a lot of different places, and we came to the conclusion that the place where our money could make the biggest difference was right here, at Community Living,” said Andrew Jackson, co-owner of Service Master Restore in St. Catharines. The business’ other co-owner, Justin Callon, had previously done some work with Community Living in Grimsby, so he had seen firsthand how much their services help vulnerable citizens. Callon and Jackson made a pair of \$1,000 donations to Community Living in both Port Colborne and Fort Erie. The money will go toward the Inclusive Opportunities Fund, which provides grants that have been used to help people supported by Community Living to attend events, get out into the community and build their self-confidence.

“People with disabilities are often marginalized,” said Sandy Leemet, director of support services with Community Living Fort Erie. “They feel disconnected from others in their community. They are socially isolated due to barriers to participation. This fund supports people to be actively included in their community by assisting with fees associated with registration, membership, transportation costs and equipment purchases. With donations from places like Service Master Restore Niagara and others, Community Living has assisted 57 applicants through the inclusivity grants.

“This fund helps people to remove barriers to participation by providing necessary funding to assist people to reach their goals,” said Leemet. Community Living is always fundraising to cover expenses, but with this latest funding boost, Community Living executive director Vickie Moreland said they were surprised to have a business come to them asking how they can help, rather than the other way around.

[Click the Service Master Restore Logo for the full
Niagara This Week Story](#)



Annual Charity Sobeys BBQ



Volunteers Serve it Up!



Swaizie Lauzon

we got all fired up!

**AND CLFE
VOLUNTEERS
RAISED \$603.00!**

You truly made a difference through
your volunteerism and we appreciate
you donating your time!!!

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR
HELP!!*