



**Community Living
Oakville**

"Supporting full community participation for people with developmental disabilities"

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CLO Chooses to LIVE UNITED

For the past three years, the United Way of Oakville has contributed funding to our agency. To show our appreciation for their support, Community Living Oakville hosted a series of fundraising events benefiting the United Way during their 2012 Campaign.

Throughout the campaign, the CLO family enjoyed charity barbeques, dress down days, basketball tosses and putting contests.

Thanks to the support from all our staff, the people we support, our managers and the Board of Directors, our organization was able to raise over \$7,000 for the United Way.

Congratulations to everyone that participated and thank you for your efforts.



My Trip to Edmonton

By: Robin Coster

I went to Edmonton, Alberta to visit Tammy. I had to get up early to go to the airport. On my way to the airport, I was excited because I was going to see Tammy again. On the plane I fell asleep. When I woke up, I was in Edmonton airport and Tammy and Tim picked me up.

In Edmonton, Tammy and Tim took me shopping and bought a lot of tops and stuffed toys. I also saw a policeman at the mall.

It was fun being with Tammy because I miss her a lot.

I was very sad when I had to come back to Ontario, because I knew that I wasn't going to see Tammy for a while.

Back in Oakville, all I talk about is my visit with Tammy and Tim in Alberta. I can't wait to see them again.

Tammy is engaged to Tim and I am happy for them.

****Tammy Thomas supported Robin Coster for several years as a live in manager before moving to Alberta***

Inside the Front Cover...

As we approach another Christmas season, with all the joy, excitement and merriment that is part of the tradition, I extend Season's Greetings to all of the stakeholders, friends, associates and partners of Community Living Oakville.

Your support during the year helped us on the journey to achieving our vision of being the service provider of choice in Oakville in support of people with developmental disabilities and their families. Thank you for your confidence in us as we seek to enable the people we support to live active, rewarding and fulfilling lives.

A Brief Retrospective Look at 2011

- We welcomed:
 - Lori Vaanholt to assist us in implementing a new vision for Day Services
 - Kelleigh Melito as Residential Manager
 - Jennifer Parent as Human Resources Assistant
 - Amber Hughes as Administrative Assistant
 - Michael Kmeth as our Buildings and Properties Coordinator
 - Ray Taylor, who is providing strategic oversight on a contract basis for all financial matters.
- With the support of the Central West Regional Office of the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, and the very hard work of managers and staff, we have been able to reduce our operating deficit significantly from the 2010 level.
- One-time capital funding from the Ministry – not to be confused with annual operating dollars – has allowed us to paint the walls and ceilings in Best Pack and Speers Place Industries, replace the rooftop air conditioner in the cafeteria, and grade and pave the parking lot. The results are fantastic; however, there will be many disappointed geese next spring when they see that they no longer have the pond at the west entrance!
- Work has begun on renovating kitchens and bathrooms in our homes from resources raised through our successful fundraising events, including The Chair Affair and the Annual Charity Golf Tournament. The results are outstanding. Thank you to Moen for providing the kitchen and bathroom fixtures at no extra cost.
- We were the beneficiaries of \$16,000 from the proceeds of this year's Mayor's Invitational Softball Tournament. Thank you Mayor Burton.
- We were the beneficiaries of \$22,000 from the 5th Annual Premier Charity Comic Classic – 'Chuckles for Charity'
- To commemorate each of their ten years in business within the Oakville Community, ServiceMaster Restore has offered to clean CLO's homes; and they have combined forces with Speers Road Broadloom to refurbish the flooring for ten of our residential settings.
- Through the generosity of the Oakville Foundation for Intellectually Handicapped People, we will receive the funds to build a Snoezelen Room, which is a controlled multi-sensory environment.
- We had another successful United Way of Oakville Campaign raising \$7,359. Thank you Tina and Kara for another joint management/union campaign. I was pleased to sit on the United Way Cabinet as Chair of the Agencies Division.

So, what will 2012 bring? One thing is certain - lots more hard work. We will continue to revitalize our residential services while we forge ahead with implementing our vision for Day Services. And we will move forward with vigour in building on the foundation we have created for ensuring compliance with the Ministry's Quality Assurance Measures. The footings for the foundation have already been put in place and include the following:

- Person-centred assessment and discovery
- Person-centred planning
- Supports and services that are flexible and accessible
- Community connections that facilitate personal opportunities
- A stable and qualified workforce
- Good organization governance
- Quality and Accountability

Stay tuned.

I wish you a wonderful Holiday Season.

John Wilson
Executive Director

Transitional Age Youth



The following paragraphs are excerpted from the Summer 2008 edition of Connections – the newsletter published by LOFT Community Services located in Toronto.

It often surprises people to learn that within Ontario’s social services system youth aged 16 to 24 - often referred to as “transitional age youth” - are one of the most underserved populations. They fall between the cracks; too old for the child welfare system, yet not old enough for adult programs and services.

The basis of the problem is that transitional aged youth are just that – they are in “transition” from childhood to adulthood. Even in high-functioning families, it is understood as a risky time for young people as they face the complex challenges of adolescence and young-adulthood; when they move away from home for the first time and begin in earnest the task of discovering their own identities. How much more challenging for young people whose backgrounds have not provided them with many advantages and who may already be seen to be “at risk” before they even reach these transitional years? Because, of course, this is also the time when kids are likely to have their first experience with a major mental illness, addiction, homelessness or trouble with the law.

With the support of the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and the Ministry of Community and Social Services, Community Living Oakville welcomed two transitional age youth to our Victoria Street home in early December. The following message from Adewale, one of our Victoria Street staff, says it all: “Wow, Cody could not stop talking about how excited he is to be here and all the wonderful things he now has, such as his bed, pillows, and staff that he likes a lot; being able to sit down and have meals with staff and not be alone; wonderful and tasty meals prepared with staff; and on and on he went!”

This is an exciting time for the agency and the Victoria Street staff. But it is an even more exciting time for the young people who joined Whitney and now call Victoria Street their home. Welcome Cody and William.



Passages and STEPP are happy to say that Santa came early this year. We have received, as a donation, 4 iPads. We would like to thank Susan, Greg and Cam Johnson for the generous donation in addition to technical support from Liam Hawes. This new technology will be used for enhancing communication and social skills within the program as well as group programming with the individuals we support. This will allow for building independence and confidence for all participants. Thank you from all of us here at STEPP/Passages.

Christmas Tea

The scent of cinnamon was in the air, the lights on the tree were twinkling and Christmas carols played on softly, when CLO held our first annual Christmas tea.

Joined by members, community partners, the Board of Directors and the people we support and their family members, CLO kicked off the holiday season with hot tea, delicious baked goods and friendly conversation.

Thank you to all of the people that contributed their time or their baking. It was a fun, festive afternoon and we look forward to doing it again next year.

Dancing the Night Away

On December 2, more than 250 people arrived to hors d'ouvres and corsages at CLO's annual Christmas dance.

The evening featured door prizes, a cash bar and plenty of dancing to a great live band. It was *the* place to be that night – even Santa heard about the party and decided to drop by with some gifts for everyone.

Many thanks go out to Shannon for spearheading the organization of the dance. Shannon spent numerous hours planning, and preparing for the dance. Without her dedication, this dance would not be possible.

Thank you to the volunteers who offered their time and energy to ensure that the dance ran smoothly.

We look forward to seeing everyone at next year's dance.



A Christmas Feast



Linda Mott and Rapinder Dhillon put together a stellar team to serve a Christmas lunch to over 180 CLO personnel. Everyone enjoyed a lunch comprised of ham with raisin sauce, mashed potatoes, vegetables, salad, fresh bread and cake. The lunch was served by some CLO staff members and some very enthusiastic Appleby student volunteers.

The food was great, the atmosphere was festive and it was good to see everyone sharing the holiday spirit and giving of their time and energy to make this happen.

A special thank you Toby, Bev and Kathy and the volunteers that helped to cook the meal – I'm not sure if their fingers have recovered yet from peeling all of those potatoes!

A debt of gratitude is owed to our sponsors for the lunch; RBC, AKM Services, Lyons Graphics and Appleby College. Without their generosity, this lunch would not have been possible.



The Work Keeps Flowing at Moen

The relationship between Moen Canada and CLO is long-standing and has had many facets over the years but in July a new opportunity was presented for a team of people from SPI and the community to come together to work at Moen. The project was to last approximately two weeks, but we're still there as 2012 approaches. On any given day there will be two to seven people from CLO working at Moen's Oakville warehouse on Bristol Circle on assembly projects or building and filling point of sale displays. We have just been asked to create a second team to work on another project that is going to last about a month.

Partnerships like the one at Moen are fantastic in so many ways. As a Job Placement Coordinator it gives me the opportunity to bring in an individual to do a Skills Assessment or to provide a short term work placement for someone who otherwise might not get a chance to work in a community job, at least for a while. This enclave at Moen is supported by Employment Service staff and is such an amazing tool for us to be able to fully understand how an individual will handle a full time position in the community. There have been a few changes to the original team that started in July but the people who have been there since the beginning have now demonstrated that they understand the expectations and know Moen's systems. The skills that these workers have developed over the last five months will benefit them in many future endeavours.

The managers, supervisors, and other employees of Moen have been great at taking the time to teach our personnel how to do certain tasks. A few of the people are now totally independent in assembling tap displays and building point of sale displays for products such as towel bars and shower curtain rods. They have also learned how to use a pump truck, garbage compacter and various power tools.

Each person brings something to the team.



Brett who has been working at Moen since July "finds it challenging but likes the different challenges every day" and the people are really nice.

Brian C. has been at Moen since October and says that the people are really nice and he likes the work and the friendships he has made.

Surjit has been working at Moen since July and says that he really enjoys learning all the new things and he likes interacting with the people.

Colin, a supervisor at Moen, said that the individuals are great!! They are always on time and they adhere to the time lines of getting a project done. He also added that they are all really friendly and very thorough.

Liz, an employee of Moen, said that the guys are really polite and nice to talk to. They have a great sense of humour and have been very hard workers. Great Job everyone!

Happy Retirement

After a long career and many years with Community Living, Franki Marcussen decided to hang up her work clothes in September. The appeal of travel, relaxation and extra time with her family and friends proved to be too tempting for Franki, and she opted to retire.

Franki's cheerful disposition and enthusiasm will be missed. From all of your friends at Community Living Oakville, we wish you a happy and healthy retirement. Come back and visit us anytime.



**Community Living Oakville and the people we support would like to thank the
5th Annual Premier Charity Comic Classic – ‘Chuckles for Charity’
for choosing CLO as a recipient of proceeds raised from the event.**

Community Living Oakville and the Golf Committee want to thank all of our sponsors, participants and volunteers for their generous support of the CLO Open and the Ladies Classic golf tournament which was held June 14, 2011 at Saw Whet Golf Course. With your support the tournament was a huge success.

A heartfelt thank you goes to the staff of Saw Whet Golf Course whose friendly professionalism assured that the tournament went off without a hitch.

Because of YOU we raised over: \$30,000

Let's not forget that you also helped to raise over \$100,000 at our Chair Affair, as reported in our last newsletter. Thank you for your continued support.



Golf

Volunteers Wanted!



If you would like to join our team of dedicated and fun-loving volunteers, let us know!

We need people with all types of skills and interests.

Volunteering is a great way to meet interesting people, network, and have fun while contributing to a great cause.

Contact tina@oakcl.org

This year's Golf Tournament will be held on Tuesday June 12, 2012. The event will be held at Saw-Whet Golf Course. Please contact: tina@oakcl.org

238 Third Line Undergoes a Remarkable Makeover

The residents of 238 Third Line are just getting back into the swing of things, after many weeks of renovations at the house. We had our own "Make it Right" guru - Graham, who not only oversaw the work as the contractor, but completed the majority of renovations on his own! A man of many talents, he kept the project moving along smoothly with only a few minor bumps in the road. The ladies asked him endless questions and were always curious as to what he was doing, how it was going to look and of course, when he would be finished so they could have their space back! It was quite the adventure for everyone!

Now to the nitty gritty. First came the dumpster to hold all the construction garbage. It was large enough to house a small family! It was supposed to contain all the items discarded out of 238 and eventually Sutton house, however, once it appeared on site, it was "open season" in the neighborhood! Everyone tossed household furniture inside under cover of darkness! Each morning the ladies were excited to see what the bin had gobbled up overnight! TV's, mattresses, futons, mirrors, mysterious garbage bags, endless pieces of wood, parts of a bbq - who knew what the day would bring!

The smaller bathroom was the first to be renovated - out came the old pink cast iron tub, pink sink and vanity - I can't say we were too sad to see the back side of those. The toilet and the linoleum flooring were also torn out. In no time at all, Graham had designed and installed a fabulous new bathroom! Wonderful soaker tub, twin sinks, medicine cabinets and topped it all off with beautiful tile work! We have completely forgotten the old pink bathroom ever existed.

Within a couple of week the second bathroom had been gutted and turned into a wheelchair accessible bathroom. Once again, Graham's talents as a designer/contactor were evident - it's beautiful! Rainshower showerhead, hand-held showerhead, more detailed tile work - the staff are tempted to use the shower!

Lastly, but probably the most important and largest undertaking, was the kitchen. It was completely gutted and for a week or so, we had the refrigerator and stove out in the dining room while construction was ongoing in the kitchen. Not so bad, as we were able to utilize the kitchen of our local Metro store just down the road - they offered several weekday specials for family sized meals. The ladies LOVED eating take-out - they looked forward to this almost as much as they enjoyed watching Graham transform their home!

Needless to say, the kitchen is fabulous - cherry wood cabinets, granite-look countertops, double sinks, new flooring (gone, gone, gone is the 80's laminate floor) and the color on the walls is reminiscent of Debbie Travis - right out of a designer magazine! A special thank you to Moen for providing the kitchen and bathroom fixtures at no cost!

It doesn't end there - our hallways were completely repainted, new modern light fixtures installed, new flooring, larger baseboards and door trim - the house has been transformed into a real show stopper!

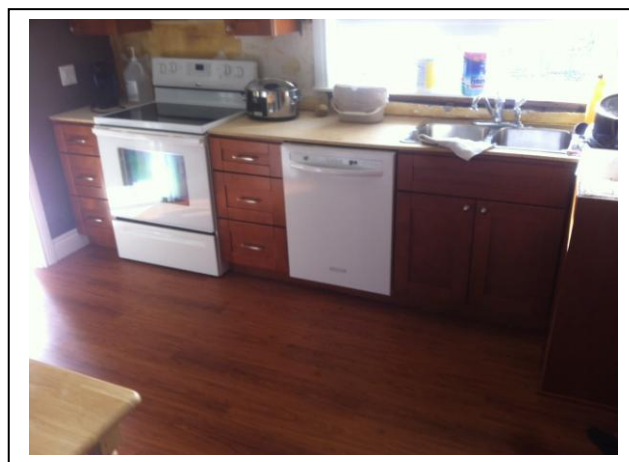
The living room will undergo painting and floor refinishing in the near future - it seems we have hardwood hiding under our grey carpeting. Couches and chairs are also in the budget for replacement in the New Year.

This past week, ServiceMaster has been in the house to repaint the basement and install new flooring- and they are picking up the entire expense! How wonderful is that? Our manager, Helen Sinai, will be setting up her office headquarters in the basement quite soon. The generous donation of time and materials from ServiceMaster are an unexpected bonus on top of the extensive renovations already completed, from fundraised dollars!

So, if you're in the neighborhood, drop in for a chat, a cup of tea, or maybe just for a rainshower - you're always welcome!



Above left: The kitchen before the renovation



Above right: The kitchen after the renovation

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partager cette information avec vos amis.

 education@larche.ca

Volunteer Work

By Kaitlin Nesbitt

My name is Kaitlin Nesbitt. I am 30 years old. Over the past 9 years I have spent time on Friday afternoons volunteering at the Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital. I have many different kinds of jobs while volunteering that include; delivering mail, meal trays, visiting patients, reading to patients, delivering supplies such as gloves to departments such as the ICU or the Operating Room and many, many more.

Volunteering at the hospital has also taught me to listen to others, show empathy, and not sweat the small stuff.

Recently I was offered a new job at the hospital; I am now responsible for working the information desk on the 2nd floor on Friday mornings from 8:30am to 1pm.

I am really glad that I work at the Hospital. Volunteering is so much fun! I have over 603 hours and I hope to volunteer for many years to come.

ServiceMaster Partnership is a 'Ten'

Service Master Restore is celebrating 10 years in business within the Oakville Community. To commemorate each of their ten years, Service Master Restore has combined forces with ICC flooring vendor, Speers Road Broadloom, to refurbish the flooring and provide deep cleaning to ten of our residential settings. This initiative will take place over the next 10 months.

Both partners are excited about the upcoming projects are thrilled to be able to give back to their community.

Thank you, ServiceMaster.

SupperWorks

By: Whitney Lichacz

If you are like me, you are in love with all the not so good stuff that we like to call 'junk food' and 'fast food' – pizza, pop, burgers and fries. Yumm! I used to be the same way, but thankfully my staff and family are helping me to make smart food options, like SupperWorks. If you have never heard about this place, I suggest you Mapquest it and go to the store nearest you. For six very good reasons:

1. You can have wine or pop when you go in to make your meals
2. Everyone that works there is friendly and helpful
3. All of your ingredients are prepared for you
4. You get to make the food that you choose from their website menu
5. At SupperWorks, you get a label with all of your ingredients and directions so that you aren't lost when you take your food home
6. The only thing you have to clean is a couple of pots and pans that you use

I eat three meals a day and the best part is that I know I can control my weight. For the first time in my life, I am getting to where I am happier in my life. I think everyone owes it to themselves to take care of their body – you only get one! Go for walks or join a gym instead of reaching for a package of cookies. Just remember, the sweets may be good at the time but, 'a moment on your lips is an eternity on your hips'. Remember that the next time that cake calls for you. Well, I have to hit the gym now to keep fit and have fun.



Butch Maunder

Our good friend Butch Maunder died suddenly this week while on vacation in Florida with his mother. Butch started at SPI in 1991 after working at Claycrafters for many years. A staple on Andrew and Susan's team, Butch was a hard-working team player, a friend and support to everyone. Always ready to share a joke, Butch had a kind heart and a great sense of humour and lots of friends.

He was an avid and talented bowler and competed in many tournaments over the years. He was tough to beat in the bowling alley and will be remembered for his love of the game.

We would like to express our condolences to Butch's family. They will hold a service for him in Florida this week and when his mother returns in January they will plan a small service for his friends here in Oakville.

We will let you know when we have details for the memorial service here in Oakville.

After School Program

The After School program provides a safe, caring environment for individuals 5 to 21 years of age. The program runs Monday - Friday from 2:30 p.m - 8:00 p.m.

The people that are enrolled enjoy activities including park and library visits, life skills, arts and crafts, and basketball. Activities are geared towards individual interests. The After School Program is a purchase of service program.

For more information or to register for September please contact Mary White, Alternative Day Program Manager at 905-844-0146 ext. 210 or 905-464-1133.



Happy Birthday, Canada!

A summer barbeque is one of life's simple pleasures - good food, good friends and good conversation. Sherin House hosted a Canada Day party that offered all of the elements of a great barbeque and more.

With mouths watering, the guests were treated to hamburgers, cheeseburgers and salads - not to mention a rousing rendition of Oh Canada.

Mother Nature was in a good mood that day and showered everyone with beautiful temperatures and sunny skies

Thank you to everyone at Sherin House for their hospitality.

