



connected

FALL/WINTER 2020



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welcome

The CLH community is a generous one, and as the months of the pandemic have continued on, you have found so many ways to support the individuals served by CLH. This issue is a celebration of the positive difference you have made. Thank you! As the year draws to a close and we keep an eye on the continuing impact of COVID-19 in prolonging our time #togetherathome, we are grateful for your continued support and encouragement.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope this edition of our newsletter finds you well, and that you are enjoying these fall days.

We have had a tremendously busy few months here at CLH Foundation, and we have been working hard to support the re-imagined programming that successfully ensured a safe and wonderful summer #togetherathome.

Last we spoke, we told you about the changes to programming and everyday routines for many people supported by CLH. We shared with you the impact that the closures to much-loved programs, the pause of work experiences and social outings, and visiting family and friends “virtually” has had. Through all of this, members of the CLH community rose to the challenge of learning to enjoy programs and experiences in a new way.

As we move through fall, we have been inspired by our community members and their willingness to approach new activities with an open heart, and our gaze is firmly fixed on finding new ways to support CLH with the same spirit of creativity and innovation.

As you'll read in these pages, your donations have helped us provide meaningful assistance to the people and the programs of CLH. The Backyard Project, the SIL dinner program and care baskets, and the thriving virtual day program are just a few highlights of the impact of your generous support.

Our highly anticipated annual gala has been re-invented for these times as **A Red Carpet Evening: The #togetherathome Edition**, and we are thrilled to announce that The Trews will be joining us as our special musical guests. We hope that you will join us in February, and help us raise critical funds to support CLH.

As we continue our efforts to build awareness and support for CLH, one way your generosity can have impact all year long is by becoming a monthly donor to CLH Foundation. This recurring monthly gift will help assist CLH in their mission to support, include and empower. Your donations will be put to work and make a difference throughout the year!

As always, we are grateful to each and every one of you for your support, and thank you for your generosity.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Kitchen'.

Sarah Kitchen
President
CLH Foundation Board of Directors



A REFLECTION ON 2020

What the first eight months of the COVID-19 pandemic have taught me about CLH and the individuals we serve.

I won't soon forget the date March 11, 2020 – it was the day COVID-19 became real for Ontarians. The speed with which the virus spread was something no one was prepared for, but CLH responded quickly to reduce risks and protect the individuals we serve from COVID-19. From the start, CLH staff across the agency responded with the highest level of care and concern for supported individuals, peers, and the larger community.

We originally thought the changes we made in March would only need to be in place for a few weeks – well, weeks have become months, with no clear end in sight. Since March we have implemented literally dozens of risk mitigation strategies, impacting everything from community access, staff work locations, office closures, limitations on family/friend visits, and of course infection prevention and control measures – just to name a few.

Through this pandemic I have learned a great deal about COVID-19, about leading through a pandemic, about generosity, and about community.

I have learned that we have an amazing North Simcoe Community that continues to respond to the needs of its citizens. This was exemplified through the provision of masks, activity bags, care baskets, pizza nights, and handmade signs of thanks and encouragement.

I have learned the breadth and depth of understanding that families and friends have had as they adapt to changing guidelines that affected time spent with their CLH-supported loved ones – I am grateful for their patience, kind messages of support, and donations of time and resources.

I have learned what true passion and commitment looks like, as demonstrated by all CLH staff. Their creativity, dedication, and commitment to keeping everyone safe while also adapting to very different work environments has been remarkable.

Above all, I have learned from the resiliency of those supported by CLH. They have remained optimistic and upbeat during this extreme time of change in their day-to-day lives and have not allowed these new and difficult changes to negatively impact their lives. They have been my inspiration and my motivation in negotiating the challenges presented by COVID-19.

Recently I heard that in the last year we have all experienced ten years of change in these first months of the pandemic. I may not know exactly what the future looks like, but based on what I have learned from the community of CLH, I am confident that together we will thrive and remain focused on providing exceptional services to individuals with developmental support needs.

Dean Johnson
Chief Executive Officer
CLH Developmental Support Services



THE BACKYARD PROJECT

SPRINGS TO LIFE

Donors, sponsors and supporters of our 2020 "A Red Carpet Evening" were directly responsible for a CLH Foundation summertime project that ensured that residents in our CLH supported living homes had a pleasing outdoor space to enjoy the best of the summer and fall seasons.

Keeping our supported individuals healthy and well during the pandemic by following public health guidelines has meant that they have spent many months being #togetherathome. The Backyard Project was initiated by CLH Foundation to ensure that each house would also have a comfortable outdoor space

for residents to enjoy the fine weather, eat together outside, and have shelter from the sun, the rain, and the mosquitoes! With their wish lists in hand, and the generous help of Midland Home Hardware, we were able to ensure that all of the CLH homes received what they needed to be **#togetherOUTSIDEathome**.

Thank you to our "Red Carpet Evening" supporters for their support of the CLH community, and thank you to Home Hardware's Kevin Mateff and Seasonal Specialist Martha Rushton for their generous hands-on help in getting this impactful project completed!





BRIDGING THE GAP

HOME COOKED MEALS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

A \$6,000 donation from Huronia Community Foundation through Community Foundations of Canada and the Federal Emergency Community Support Fund is making a positive impact every week with a project called "Bridging the Gap." With this support, members of CLH's Supported Independent Living (SIL) program can look forward to a delicious and hearty Friday night supper, prepared and delivered by the SIL direct support team.

SIL individuals are able to live on their own, with support from CLH. Needs vary among the 33 individuals in the program. Some find living independently enjoyable and just need help with specific tasks; others require frequent 'check-ins' to help with daily living. Every one of them struggle to make the monthly stipend they receive through ODSP stretch far enough to cover rent, food, and simple needs. It's a challenge to get through on the income they have, and many don't.

The changes in daily life created by COVID-19 have been significant for SIL individuals. The most painful has been the loss of access to their social networks; they have always received support and seen their friends in person. CLH direct support professionals have been a lifeline in navigating these challenges.

"Bridging the Gap" came from conversations with supported individuals in SIL, and from our commitment to maintaining social engagement and support even when all the usual means are not possible. Our hope was that a sense of comfort could be delivered via a home-cooked meal, and five months in we can see that it's working, providing stability as well as a wonderful meal with a "side" of comfort and care!

This has been a big undertaking for Supervisor Janet Schmidt and the SIL direct support staff but they have seen the positive impact of the program, which will continue well into the new year. Melissa Wright says she and her fellow SIL team members, Roseanne Quesnelle, Jody Woods, Amanda Shala, Glenda Mitchell and Trisha Walker, really pull together to assist each other with cooking, packaging, delivery, phone calls and all the other details involved in making the program work each week.

Karl Martell shared with us that he looks forward to the meal from SIL staff and is thankful to them and to the Foundation for funding it.

We are thankful to Huronia Community Foundation, Community Foundations of Canada and the Government of Canada's support of this initiative.



MIDLAND ROTARY CARES

A Little Help From Our Friends



Thanksgiving came early (and felt like Christmas!) to the members of CLH's Supported Independent Living (SIL) program. Thanks to Rotary Club of Midland and a donation of \$2,500 from its COVID-19 Relief Fund, each SIL member received help in the most wonderful way: a great big basketful of much-needed supplies (and a few treats!) to help keep them healthy and well. The SIL program makes it possible for adults with developmental disabilities to live on their own with support from a CLH direct support professional. All face a challenge to make ends meet on a limited income. With the support of Midland Rotary, SIL individuals received help in the way they needed it most: a basket of "extras", which are not really extras, but more expensive household items that are hard to buy when money is so tight.

Organized and assembled by SIL Supervisor Janet Schmidt, the care packages were delivered by SIL direct support professional Amanda Shala. Amanda shared this about her experience that day:

"Thank you so very much. As you may be aware many of our individuals live very tightly and cannot afford the extras. So when I arrived with a package full of these things they were over the moon. I was thanked profusely and each and every one of them said 'Wow, this is awesome'. They had a look that is seen on Christmas morning." - Amanda Shala

The Rotary Club's thoughtful support lets SIL individuals know that they are valued and cared for members of this community.





The *Foundation for Success* program was established by CLH Foundation to support individuals who access services through CLH Developmental Support Services and may need financial help for health and assistive devices, essential needs, or opportunities to build self-esteem and social inclusion. A recent donation from the Kiwanis Club of Barrie to *Foundation for Success* will help children who are served by our Simcoe County Resource Consultation Services.

Simcoe County Resource Consultation Services serves infants, toddlers, and children up to the age of 12 attending a Licensed Childcare program. In 2019, Resource Consultants worked with more than 1,800 children and their families throughout Simcoe County. Resource Consultants are specialists in early learning and child development. They provide families and childcare providers with knowledge, resources and strategies to support children who are not able to meet established developmental milestones. Children can require support for many different reasons. For example, they might have physical challenges which impact their speech, or learning

disabilities that require a different approach in order for them to progress. Resource Consultants work with families to identify and map out resources and strategies that will best meet their child's needs. Sometimes, families need financial help to be able to access the needed tools, and when regular funding channels are not available to them, the *Foundation for Success* program can help make all the difference to a child's progress.

The Kiwanis Club of Barrie is committed to improving the world one child and one community at a time. We are grateful for their partnership.



Kiwanis
CLUB OF BARRIE



THANK YOU "FORE" CHIPPING IN

When we couldn't host our annual Golf Tournament, the CLH community found a way to "Chip-In" to support valuable programming for CLH-supported individuals. Our grateful thanks to the following donors for their generous support of our campaign "Fore" CLH Foundation:



Arcade Jory Guardian Pharmacy
Dwayne and Tanya Frans
Fred Hook Limited
Georgian Electric
LeClair Cremation Centre
Pebble Tree
RBC Group Insurance
Todd Lalonde Insurance Ltd
FDT LAW

Maurice's Valu-Mart
Nicole Rourke | IG Wealth Management
One Stop Beauty Stop
Simcoe Tutoring Services
Laurene Hilderley
Dr. James Young
Pauline Lottermoser
St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
Janet Charlebois



SUPPORTER JASON MACKIE

Our generous community of supporters includes Jason Mackie of Arcade and Jory Guardian Pharmacy, a longtime supporter who recently sent this note along with his donation. We asked, and he kindly agreed to let us share it with you. Thank you, Jason!

"Having worked closely with CLH for so many years I have come to realize how important it is to our community and am glad to support them during these difficult times. I see first-hand how much CLH does for so many people and hope our donation will help them continue providing these valuable services...things have been challenging these last few months but I think the only way our community will overcome these challenges is by supporting one another." - Jason Mackie



TEEN CAMP 2.0

Town of Midland Supports CLH Teen Camp



In May, CLH Teen Camp received a first-time grant of \$8,000 from the Town of Midland in support of our annual summer Teen Camp. This matched Teen Camp Card donations made at the 2020 Red Carpet Evening, and together these are an exciting show of community support for a very valuable youth program.

For many local youths with developmental disabilities, Teen Camp is their very first opportunity to participate in a summertime group activity, and it is something they and their families look forward to each year. As with so many other things in 2020, by June we knew we would not be able to deliver a traditional camp experience and it was time to think about how to create wonderful experiences and opportunities to learn, be social, and connect with the community in an alternative way. Enter **Teen Camp 2.0**, which is being planned to run through the winter months as an evening program, Christmas break and PD days. With the input and participation of our TAY (Transitional Aged Youth) Leadership Group and working with community partners for creative activities, we will keep it fun as well as educational. We look forward to sharing more with you in the next issue of **Connected**.

MIDLAND CIVITAN CLUB

Thoughtful Support



The members of the Midland Civitan Club have been so thoughtful in their support of those who live in CLH supported-living homes. They have been mindful of the impact that COVID-19 public health measures would have, and wanted to help ensure individuals supported by CLH had plenty of activities to keep them active and engaged. Their donation in summertime enabled us to purchase Outdoor Yahtzee games for every single household, with a six-week-long competition to decide the Ultimate Yahtzee Championship. There were prizes for the winners: Lower Ottawa, Fowlie and Lescaut, and great fun all summer long.

In September the Civitans made a second generous donation, "because this has gone on for so long" and this time they were the proud sponsors of a Halloween extravaganza, with pumpkin and cookie decorating, Halloween treats, and spooktacular fun for all.

Thank you to the Midland Civitan Club for its generous and caring support.



CLH Foundation Volunteer Awards

Presented annually, these awards recognize volunteers who have made exceptional contributions during the year. The two awards were presented this year at the first-ever virtual AGM of CLH Developmental Support Services, on September 30.

The Joyce Hamelin Volunteer Of The Year Award

This CLH Foundation Award honours a volunteer who goes above and beyond, a person-centred individual who demonstrates sensitivity to individual differences while also encouraging feedback and participation. This volunteer is an inspiration to others, trustworthy and dependable. As well as facilitating greater understanding of people with developmental support needs, they fulfill the CLH vision that all people live with dignity and respect, and participate as valued members of the community.

The recipient of the 2020 *Joyce Hamelin Volunteer of the Year Award* is **Cortney Lottermoser**, in recognition of her initiative and leadership of the CLH Sunday Walking Club throughout the summer and fall of 2019. It was a welcome initiative and made such a positive difference; supported individuals who participated benefited greatly, not only in meeting their fitness goals but also in the opportunity to visit with friends and meet new people, too. We are all looking forward to the return of the Sunday Walking Club at the very first opportunity – whether that is 2021 or 2022! Congratulations, Cortney.



The Tom Kayser Volunteer Award

The *Tom Kayser Volunteer Award* honours an individual who volunteers and gives generously of their time and effort to support CLH Foundation by serving on a committee, helping at fundraising events, or representing CLH Foundation as a community ambassador.



The recipient of the 2020 *Tom Kayser Award* is **Leanne George**. Although Leanne never takes the spotlight or looks for recognition for her support of CLH, she has been a longtime member of the Gala fundraising committee, is a loyal donor both personally and through her business, Fresh Flowers by Leanne, and actively promotes awareness and support of CLH all year round. It is more than time to honour Leanne for her generosity and her role as a wonderful community ambassador for CLH Foundation and CLH Developmental Support Services! Thank you, Leanne.

THIS JUST IN!



We are so delighted to share with you that the amazing team at TD Thor Wealth Management Group has made a generous donation to our Foundation for Success Program. We would particularly like to thank Mike Thor and Doug Thorhauge for their commitment to Support, Include and Empower!

(Photo L to R: CLH's Dean Johnson and Sue-Ellen Boyes with Doug Thorhauge and Mike Thor.)

SAVE THE DATE!

A Red Carpet Evening

The #TogetherAtHome Edition

FEATURING

THE TREWS

A Night of Story and Song

FEBRUARY 20, 2021

We are going ONLINE this year for our annual CLH Foundation Red Carpet Evening, and we hope you and your family will join us for a night of energizing music and inspiring stories!

Your participation will help us raise awareness and funds to support individuals served by CLH Developmental Support Services with meaningful programs and initiatives. Your donations will help provide opportunities that positively impact CLH-supported individuals when and where they most need help.

The Trews Trio • Online Silent Auction • Inspiring Stories of Possibility and Opportunity

Stay tuned – and plan to join us!





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