

In This Issue

- Community Living Month of May
- Our Goal
- Mark your Calendar
- Celebrations
- CLASS Strategic Planning
- The Art of Authentic Person-centered Planning
- Greetings from Human Resources
- The Grate Groan Up Spelling Bee
- RBC – Registered Disability Savings Plan
- Become a member of Community Living Access Support Services

Contact Us

89 Culver Street
 Simcoe, Ontario N3Y 2V5
 t - 519-426-0007
 f - 519-426-9549
 access@kwic.com
 www.access-support.on.ca

Community Living Month of May Pay it Forward!!!!

The Communications Committee had such great feedback from last years Pay it Forward campaign (Community Living Day) that Community Living Access Support Services, Norfolk Association for Community Living, R.E.A.C.H., Contact and Community Living Haldimand have decided to do it again! This year we will be celebrating Community Living day on May 18th, 2011. On that day members will be given flowers. Like last year, we would ask that you give these flowers to someone who has contributed to making our community inclusive or to someone that has had a great influence or impact to your life. There will be 4000 flowers distributed throughout Norfolk and Haldimand. With that many flowers the committee will be looking for volunteers to help us on May 17th here at the CLASS boardroom to put tags on all of the flowers and get organized for flowers to go out the next day. If you are interested in helping us, please contact Michele Silverthorn at the office 519-426-0007 ext. 106. We would love your help!!!

Our Goal

A dult
C ommunity
C hoices
E nhancing
S ocial
S upports

“That all persons live in a state of dignity, share in all elements of living in the community, and have the opportunity to participate effectively”

Mark your Calendar!

Board of Directors

President

Posie Ross

Vice-President

Jennie Chanda

Treasurer

Heidy VanDyk

Directors

Amy Chanda

Patricia Stengel

Jennifer Baic



ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

JUNE 25, 2011

**It will be held at The School in St. Williams
at 67 Queen Street, West, St. Williams**

12:00 - 4:00 - meeting to begin at 2:00 p.m.

Please bring a main dish, salads, desserts or vegetables etc.

We will supply the plates, utensils and Chicken.

**A donation of canned goods for the caring cupboard will be
greatly appreciated.**

Celebrations!

For a long time now I've wanted to take a train ride. Well last summer that dream came true. A lot of planning went into this. Was there an accessible car on the train from Brantford to Toronto? Yes, but only one per train and it had been booked ahead. I asked my friend Helen if she would like to do this with me. We then looked at dates and made our plans. We found out once we boarded that we were travelling first class. After a very fancy and delicious breakfast, we were soon in the big city. At the terminal, Jillian had to search out the way we could all get on the subway. From the subway we got on a ferry. It was my first time on such a big boat. It was a little rough. On the island we saw animals, a big long snake, a tiger and monkeys. There were beautiful flower gardens to see and we rested and had a snack. There was a restaurant but it was so busy I could not get in. Jillian brought our food out and we had a picnic. Then it was back on the ferry, to the subway and then onto to the train. Once the train was out of the city, we were served another really good meal. It was a long eventful day, but I had fun.

Written by Patricia Stengel





CLASS STRATEGIC PLANNING: WHERE ARE WE GOING, HOW WILL WE KNOW WHEN WE GET THERE??

Community Living Access Support Services (CLASS) is celebrating its 20th anniversary. It is a time to reflect on where “we” have been and where “we” want to go. To take advantage of this opportunity, the CLASS Board of Directors is developing a new Strategic Plan with all the organization’s stakeholders. The stakeholders include people receiving supports, family members, Members of CLASS, volunteers, staff and community partners. The Board of Directors believe it is important to do this work with all of you to ensure we have a common vision or goal for the future and that we agree on how we are going to get there.

The strategic planning process will include four steps. The first of these happened on January 15, 2011. At that time the CLASS Board of Directors hosted a meeting to work with stakeholders to begin to draft our “Vision” or dream for the future. As we move forward with the planning, the Vision will be refined.

The second step is currently underway and the Board of Directors is holding meetings with stakeholders to discuss the following:

- What does CLASS do well?
- What could CLASS do better?
- What trends and opportunities can we identify for CLASS?
- Are there any barriers of which CLASS should be mindful?
- What ideas could help CLASS overcome these obstacles?

On April 1, 2011 the Board of Directors will review a summary of the information collected. This will be used as background to draft our Strategic Plan for CLASS.

The third step will occur in mid April 2011. The Board of Directors will host a retreat to develop our Strategic Plan. It will be a blueprint for the future and will include what we are going to do, why we are doing it, how we will measure success and how we will inform you, our stakeholders, about our progress.

The fourth step will occur in May and June 2011 when the Strategic Plan will be shared with you. On behalf of the CLASS Board of Directors, I want you to know what an important part you play in ensuring our continued success. If you have any questions about the strategic planning process, please contact Tricia Morris, CLASS Executive Director, 519-426-0007, ext 109.

Thank you for your continued interest in and support of CLASS.

Posie Ross
CLASS President





The Art of Authentic Person-centered Planning

Engaging in authentic Person-Centered Planning is fun, creative and synergistic work. This life planning process is rooted in what is most important to the person and involves the person directly with his or her community, network of connections, and close personal relationships in order to look at innovative ways to attain life goals and dreams.

The greatest reward in engaging in this process as a supporter is being able to witness a transformation occurring in a person's life when creative new directions and approaches are taken. To a person who has been supported in this process, there is nothing better than having a circle of collaborative supporters fully engaged with him or her as he or she moves towards the realization of specific life dreams and into a world of greater possibility for new goals to emerge.

Authentic Person-Centered Planning - What it is:

Authentic Person-Centered Planning processes have a number of common elements:

- The focus is entirely on the person, never the system.
- Numerous mainstream resources are unearthed, considered, researched and used. These resources are the ones that would be tapped first and foremost. For example, local community/neighborhood linkages, social programs, and assets; foundation grants; Community Development Block Grants; income generating ideas (jobs, micro-enterprise, self-employment); resources available from the person's place of worship; free cell/mobile phone programs; state and local housing programs; utility company discounts; extended family resources, if any; local business grants and collaboration; and many others.
- System resources are considered after the person's dreams, interests and gifts have been discovered and only in relationship to how those resources can be used to support people in achieving their dreams and contributing their gifts.
- System resources are not used to determine if something is feasible or can be reimbursed or as an approval or denial process.
- The process asks "How can we do this?" rather than finding reasons why we can't.
- The process and participation in the process depends more on our heart connections with the person than on our professional connections to the person.
- People are invited (as opposed to required) to attend.
- Many of the people attending are not paid to be there and might include neighbors, co-workers, friends, family, and community members from various affiliations.
- The group usually meets on some kind of regular basis to connect and follow-up and keep the energy and momentum moving forward.
- The space is usually not a conference room. Living rooms, church social halls or private rooms in restaurants are good choices. There is usually food to share and gatherings often occur at times other than Monday-Friday between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm.
- Notes are usually taken on big pieces of paper with colored markers, or pastels and chalks, often with images instead of words.
- Wacky ideas are often considered - and the rules of creative brainstorming are embraced.
- Not every dream and idea that is generated will become the ones that happen - the person's foremost priorities, dreams, and preferences become the focus of action.
- There is no checked-off documentation that has to be turned in somewhere.
- Lives are transformed through an authentic Person-Centered Planning Process.
- When and if a second Person-Centered Plan is completed, it will not look or feel anything like the first one, as the person's life will have changed and there will be new opportunities and challenges to explore.

Authentic Person-centered Planning: What it is Not

(These examples indicate “Systems-Centered” not Person-Centered Planning)

- A case manager, service coordinator, and/or another professional who called and facilitated the meeting and services are the main focus vs. the person.
- The majority of (or all) attendees are paid professionals with titles. The meeting takes place annually in a meeting or conference room.
- Assessments are done ahead of time by titled professionals with recommendations.
- The meeting lasts for one or two hours, and forms and documentation are circulated and signed off on during that time.

- Programs, services and hours are the primary discussion, not a person’s life dreams.
- Everything “wrong” with the person is pointed out and discussed.
- The person is nervous, uncomfortable, doesn’t participate or is not present Afterwards the documentation is filed. away - every person served has one of these standard documents with their name on it in the official “case” file.

Engaging in authentic Person-Centered Planning vs. Systems-Centered Planning can be truly transformational to the person and supporters involved. This type of process can create major positive life changes for an individual. It is an enjoyable and collaborative endeavor that can reap amazing rewards because it doesn’t rely on a system in order to make change happen. Instead, it creates increasing opportunities for a person to be included in their local communities as a reciprocating member. The person’s social capital, inclusion and capacity grows leaps and bounds when his or her identification is with community, neighbors, friends and loved ones vs. a system of services.

From the website of CQL - The Council on Quality and Leadership - www.thecouncil.org



Greetings from Human Resources!!!

The coming months will continue to be busy at Community Living Access Support Services. Projects are currently underway in the province concerning the adoption of Core Competencies in the Developmental Services Sector. Pilot sites have worked through implementing Core Competencies over the past months and the intent is to roll out province wide sometime this spring, including Community Living Access Support Services.

Behavioural (core) competencies are the behaviours of an individual that are important contributors to predicting outstanding performance in a position, within a particular organization. They mark the difference between good, solid job performance and outstanding performance. As we are currently looking for new staff to assist in the coverage of time off in the coming months, the adoption of Core Competencies in the hiring process will assist in hiring the right people, for the right job, at the right time.

The Grate Groan Up Spelling Bee

With apologies to real poets and people who appreciate real poetry!

The teams were ready, the room was abuzz
The night had fallen and we knew where we wuz
We were there to spell, we were there to win
Miss Pronouncer was there, it was time to begin!

There were sailors and judges, and ladies and bowlers
There were ball players of basket and base
There we were in our blue shirts, there they were in their red
There was a smile on everyone's face.

But serious now, though the room never hushed
We practiced and scribbled and sometimes felt rushed.
Sometimes we guessed, and sometimes we knew
And somehow, some way we spelled our way through!

Round after round, teams began to fall off
The words they got hard, then **MORE** harder. Don't scoff!
We resolved we would get further this year than last
But alas we regret that did not come to pass.

The word, it was PHYLLODE, a right cursed word
We asked for a sentence to make sure we'd heard.
We asked for the origin, just to buy time.....
We decided – P-H-I-L-L-O-D-E – but did not get the chime.

So dear reader we lost, but had great fun on the way
And next year we'll be back and longer we'll stay
So say thanks to The Rotary Club for the work that they do
With the money we raised spelling words wrong – BOO HOO!

Respectfully and ruefully submitted, Cheri Emerson

With a nod to teammates Sandy Pond, Karen Sinnesael and Bruce Robinson (who pinch hit for us)!
Thank you to our team sponsor Bev Anderson from Anderson Construction, we will be there next year with
our Hard Hats on.





RBC Wealth Management®

Registered Disability Savings Plan

**Information Session for
Community Living staff,
individuals, and families.
Hosted by Rhonda Baker of
RBC Royal Bank**

**When: Tuesday April 26, 2011
1:00pm – 3:00pm**

Where: 89 Culver Street, Simcoe

The RDSP program is a federally regulated plan designed to help individuals, under the age of 49, save for retirement with the goal of not affecting their existing income.

**Individuals that would like to open account on this date, please bring 2 pieces of ID including SIN.
If anyone cannot attend at this time, I can be contacted at 519-861-6154**

Presented by the CLASS Newsletter Committee

If interested in being a part of our committee, or you have a submission for the next issue, please contact Shelly at 519-426-0007

Become a member of Community Living Access Support Services

89 Culver Street
Simcoe, Ontario
N3Y 2V5
Telephone: (519) 426 - 0007
Fax: (519) 426 - 9549

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION and RENEWAL FORM

E-mail: access@kwic.com
www.access-support.on.ca

Please Print

Name: _____ Address: _____
City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____
Telephone: _____ (home) _____ (business)

Please check each that applies to you

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent | <input type="checkbox"/> Relative/Guardian | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend | <input type="checkbox"/> Supported Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> Employee | <input type="checkbox"/> other Agency |

Representative

General Membership

Open to any person who supports the purposes and objects of the Organization and who pays annual membership dues, except persons employed by this Organization, any similar organization or acting as a representative of such organizations.

Associate Membership

Open to any person who supports the purposes and objects of the Organization and who pays annual membership dues, and are employed by this Organization, any similar organization or acting as a representative of such organizations.

We shall issue your receipt and membership card once we have received your payment.

Annual Membership Fee of \$5.00 is due each January 1st.

Please check the membership you wish to purchase:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Associate Membership |
|---|---|

Please check the areas which would be of interest to you:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Directors | <input type="checkbox"/> Committees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer (support enhancement) |

Preferred method of contact?

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone | <input type="checkbox"/> Direct Mail | <input type="checkbox"/> E-mail |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|

Would you like to receive your written correspondence by e-mail?

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|

If yes, e-mail address to be used _____

Can we add your name to our Community Living Ontario mail out list?

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|

Can we forward your e-mail address to Community Living Ontario?

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|

If you require any further information, please contact
Community Living Access Support Services
519-426-0007

Thank you for considering a membership with our Organization