



RIISING ABOVE IT ALL

69th Annual Report 2021-2022



TERRI GRAY

Executive Director
Community Living
Oshawa/Clarington

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The theme of this year's Annual General Meeting and Report is *Rising Above It All!* It has been two and half years since the initial impact of COVID-19. Today, we reflect on the past year and what we have been through; the changes and challenges; the positives outcomes and surprising accomplishments. We now see some incredible triumphs that may never have been achieved without the sacrifices and pressures we endured. *"Life doesn't get easier or more forgiving; we get stronger and more resilient."*, Dr. Steve Maraboli. CLOC is proud of how responsive, flexible, creative, and focused our employees and stakeholders have been, allowing them to meet and conquer challenges, stay focused on what is important to the people we serve and their families, and rise above it all.

Near the beginning of the Pandemic our government acknowledged the essential work being done by frontline employees in the developmental service (DS) sector with a temporary wage enhancement. CLOC collaborated with other DS agencies to advocate for this wage enhancement to be made permanent, and we are very pleased that our government has responded, recognizing the important, crucial, valuable role DS employees play in the lives of people supported. This wage enhancement helps to stabilize our workforce so that we can provide the right services for people.

Over the course of the pandemic, CLOC evaluated how day services could be re-envisioned to be more in line with our mission that promotes full citizenship, personal growth, community inclusion and empowerment. Our reimagined *My Day, My Way* (MDMW) program, introduced last year, strives to ensure that people have meaningful days with individualized plans that reflect their goals, and foster inclusion and citizenship. Our initial focus was on people residing at home with their families and MDMW is now being rolled out in residential locations, with CLOC staff working with people, their families, and care partners to plan their day with activities that reflect their dreams and goals. The MDMW team is excited to move forward with this vision for increased community participation, inclusion, and opportunities for skill building and connections.

In January 2022, CLOC unveiled the new *My Stay, My Way* (MSMW) respite program at Ashley Court. This location provides respite care for adults and children within Durham Region. What makes this respite home so unique is that we have adopted a model that creates a place for participants to look forward to attending, and bases their stay on interests and

activities they want to partake in. We want their stay to feel like a vacation. It has been an exciting process watching the MSMW program come to life. We can't wait to see the new adventures for those visiting with us.

Great strides have been made in our *My Life. My Community. My Way*. (MLMCMW) Fundraising Campaign. The MLMCMW Campaign aims to improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families, who are supported by Community Living Oshawa/Clarington. Thanks to our hard-working Campaign Cabinet for all their creative initiatives to inspire these possibilities.

Infection control and prevention continues to be a part of our everyday lives, but we have moved forward and are experiencing new opportunities and growth, and together with the people we serve, their families and our community, we are stronger than ever. We are very proud of our many new partnerships, including CLOC being designated Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Champion for Durham Region. The IPAC collaboration with local Public Health, healthcare and MCCSS funded service partners helps to resource our community with information, tools, materials, supplies, and N95 mask fit testing. CLOC is pleased to act as the hub for Durham Region and Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge (HKPR) for personal protective equipment (PPE), offering access to PPE for MCCSS funded service providers for emergency usage.

Not only did we continue to focus on health and safety over this past year, but we have also begun to learn to live in our new world. Our friends, family and community have come together uplifting and inspiring us to live our best lives, with strength and pride for overcoming many challenges. We join together with and for people with developmental disabilities to truly be included, to reach their full potential, flourish, and succeed. We couldn't do this without our wonderful employees, union CUPE 2936-02 and 2936-03, volunteers, stakeholders, community partners, families, and friends. We are thankful to you all for being the wind that propels the people we serve to soar, dream, and achieve.

Within us we have the power to rise above it all, to change struggles into opportunities and to be the greatest, brightest versions of ourselves. May the upcoming year bring more strength, collaboration, and success in helping people to live their best lives and reach their goals.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS



MAC MOREAU
Board President
Community Living
Oshawa/Clarington



It is hard to believe that another year has come and gone, and that we are once again gathering for our Annual General Meeting. Time is such a precious yet precarious thing, and the speed at which it passes can be startling.

Although the focus of 2022 was, once again, the COVID-19 pandemic, my hope is that this message, and the report that follows, focuses more on our collective success as an agency, and less on the battle with the virus.

The 2022/2023 year will spell out some changes on the Board of Directors, and I would be amiss if I didn't recognize them. Firstly, I want to extend a sincere 'thanks' to our Secretary-Treasurer, Joel Yelle, who has reached the end of his term on the Board. I also want to recognize Amber Derby, who left the Board table earlier this year to pursue a career in local politics. Finally, we bid a fond farewell to our advocate and all-star volunteer, Darlene Day, whose term has also wrapped up. I have had the privilege of serving alongside these folks for their entire terms, and I am proud to not only call them close colleagues, but friends.

As members, your role is to 'elect' the new Board of Directors. The 2022/2023 roster strikes an impressive balance on the Board, and proposes two new members – Marcia McCrae and

Andrew Marsden. I trust you will recognize the skills and competencies in both candidates, which led to our recommending them to you.

2022 was a year of unprecedented growth for the Board, with a focus on our mandate of *'governance excellence'*. By-law and policy reviews, streamlining process, realigning work plans, Board development, and nurturing a shatterproof relationship with the operations teams, have been priorities this past year. I am proud of the work that the team has done, and look forward to the year ahead.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I extend my wholehearted appreciation to the senior management team, the admin and operations teams and the frontline heroes. I also extend sincere thanks to the people we support – for their contagious zest for life – and to their families and caregivers who are unmatched in their support for CLOC.

I wish you all the very best in the upcoming year, and look forward to connecting with you many times between now and the next AGM.



MISSION

CLOC is a charitable organization offering opportunities for personal growth, community inclusion and empowerment to people with developmental disabilities, and their families.

VISION

For all people to be included in a community where everyone lives, works, participates, succeeds and flourishes.

STRATEGIC GOALS

A YEAR IN REVIEW 2021—2022

It has been a very long time since we have had the opportunity to gather together to celebrate CLOC. We are so excited to finally be meeting in person again.

Over the past 2 1/2 years, we have all learned to Zoom, and text, and stay connected through virtual tools. It has been an adventure that has truly changed how we interact and engage. Although we are slowly easing back to meeting in person, socially and for business, we certainly appreciate the technology that kept us together, and we have now found there are many ways in which we can continue to use it.

As we finish the third year of our four year Strategic Plan, CLOC takes pride in the many accomplishments we have achieved, overcoming the challenges presented and changes around us.

IMPROVING COMMUNICATIONS, STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT & SECTORAL ADVOCACY

- Meetings with all local MPPs to raise awareness and influence public policies
- Three Town Halls
 - November 2021, February 2022, April 2022
 - combined Town Halls to include employees, people supported and their families
- Communique for Employees
 - reduced to weekly distribution in January 2022
 - June 2022, the COVID Communique was renamed IPAC Communique to accommodate all future Infection Prevention And Control issues
- Memos and Bulletins
 - continue to be shared with people in a timely manner
- Outbreak Debriefs
 - structured meetings were introduced for employees at locations who worked through a declared outbreak, to share their experiences and contribute to improvement
 - provided the opportunity to help build strength among teams and overcome challenges together
- Phoenix Advocacy Group
 - the group continues to meet virtually
 - there have been meetings with other community/advocacy members from DS sector agencies
 - Phoenix continues to expand its membership and is looking forward to new knowledge and adventures

ENHANCING SERVICE INNOVATION & STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE

- Ashley Court, Oshawa, was transferred to CLOC in April 2021

- renovation was completed over the winter
- doors officially opened in March 2022 for full respite services for adults and day respite for children
- May 2022, CLOC continues to work towards children's licensing to provide full respite services for children
- Transformation of day supports based on individual plans and goals launched, and the reimagined My Day, My Way community participation has continued to evolve
- Specialized training in specific areas, to increase the number of trained staff and qualified services to meet the ever changing needs of the people CLOC supports
- Sub-committee for affordable housing has been established to look for improved living conditions for some people supported by CLOC who do not live in designated support housing (DSH) or CLOC owned housing

MODERNIZING ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY & IMPROVING FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

- My Life. My Community. My Way. Campaign
 - 2019—2023 has been extended for one (1) year to 2024 to compensate for the impact of COVID-19
- As of March 2022, approximately 73% of the total Campaign goal has been reached
- With the reduction of COVID-19 restrictions, the Fundraising Cabinet has embarked on reaching out to community partners to re-establish relationships

USE OF TECHNOLOGY ACROSS THE ORGANIZATION TO ENHANCE QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY

- *My Day, My Way* (MDMW) program has had great success with virtual experiences and started moving forward with participation in the community
- Hybrid connectivity
 - CLOC acquired Meeting OWL technology that allows people to participate in person, and virtually
 - hybrid model technology will allow continued engagement when people are unable to physically attend a gathering
- CLOC upgraded to Microsoft 365 this year
 - improved capacity for cloud storage
 - improved access for email
 - improved, updated programs
- Integration of technology through the purchase of devices was made available during COVID, creating an opportunity for CLOC to assist in the available government programs to bring these tools to many people supported. This has initiated the development of resource materials and tools to enhance community participation and supports for people supported.

CLOC HOLIDAY ADVENTURES



MY LIFE. MY COMMUNITY. MY WAY. CAMPAIGN

2019—2024



The 'My Life. My Community. My Way.' Campaign aims to improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families, who are supported by Community Living Oshawa/Clarington, through two different streams:

QUALITY OF LIFE focuses on community involvement, health, safety, respite care, augmented communication, experiences and providing further personalized opportunities for inclusion within the community.

BRICKS & MORTAR focuses on ensuring that people live in safe homes that are adapted to their needs, including repairs & maintenance, and accessibility features such as lifts & ramps, retrofitting and fire & safety.

Originally planned as a four year venture, with a \$500,000 goal, the 'My Life. My Community. My Way.' Campaign was extended for an additional year in 2021, anticipating that funding would be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. In year three we are pleased to have reached 73% of our goal, with \$364,112 raised. Thanks to our hard-working Campaign Cabinet for all their creative initiatives to inspire these possibilities.

PROJECTS FUNDED

Roof at Holt Road
Masonry at Old Scugog
Creation of the Hub @ 39 Wellington
'Cercle Social' French Culture Club
Four Months of COVID Isolation Activity and Food Kits
Renovations at 947 Adelaide
Morale-boosting activities for COVID outbreak locations
Multisensory room at Respite location (in process)

CAMPAIGN CABINET MEMBERS

Honourary Chair

Dan Walters, Ontario Tech University

Campaign Chair

Derek Grieve, W.B. White Insurance

Campaign Vice-Chair

Darlene Day, Advocate, CLOC Board of Directors

David Barber, Piper Barber Insurance

Paul Beauvais, Peak Benefit Solutions Inc.,
CLOC Board of Directors

Amber Derby - Holiday Inn Express & Suites,
CLOC Board of Directors

Cheri Smith - Kinark (on hiatus)

Joel Yelle - TD Canada Trust,
Secretary/Treasurer, CLOC Board of Directors

Additional Contributors

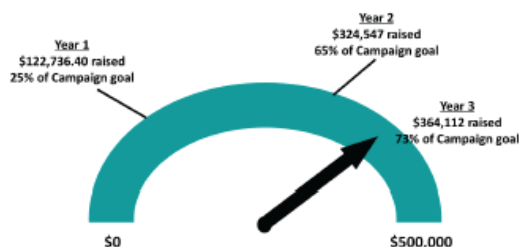
JC Legault - Immediate Past President,
CLOC Board of Directors

CLOC Support to the Cabinet

Marnie Salenius - Manager, Resource Development
& Public Relations

Terri Gray - Executive Director

Marisa Fortune Hall - Director, Engagement



DONOR BREAKDOWN

Events:	\$30,097.21	8%
Grants:	\$265,456.60	72%
Individual Donors:	\$24,594.00	7%
Business:	\$21,582.00	6%
Service Groups:	\$12,976.90	4%
In Kind:	\$6,590.00	2%
Funds/Foundations:	\$1,958.25	1%
Employee Giving:	\$858.00	.002%



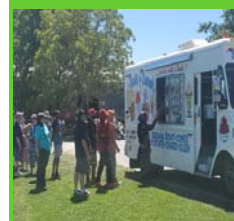
THANK YOU TO ALL OF CLOC'S DONORS



100 Men of Clarington
Kathleen Alcantara
Nicole Aldridge
Sean Bailey
Daniel & Debra Baird
Urszula Baranski
David Barber
Amanda Beaulieu
Benevity Community Impact
Peter and Teresa Blair
Margaret Boehm
Joanne Bond
Heather Borg
Michael Bouma
Buchwald Solutions
Jane Burgess
Margaret Burgess
Charities Aid Foundation
Hans Collmorgen
Kay Corbier
Frank Cormier
Henry Corvers
Costco
CRCS DKI
Mary Cruise
Grace De Jong
Trish De Jong
Pushpal Desarkar
Terrance DeYoung
Stephanie Doan
Durham Regional Police
Services Board
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Enterprise Holdings
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Anita Green
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Shannon Greene

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Knights of Columbus
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Gordon Lee
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Greg Lewis
Kevin Logeman
Ferdinando Longo
Lululemon
Krista Main
Kathy Mangunatmodjo
Gillian Mann
Maple Grove United Church
Christine Martinelli
Murray McCaig
Osamu Minami
Jamie Montgomery
Suzanne Nobes
Ontario Pipe Trades Council
OPG Employee's &
Pensioners
OPG
Aubrey Oppers

Oshawa Power
Oshawa West Lions Club
Petrina Peyton
Kathleen Pikaart
Piper, Barber Insurance Agency
Tim Platt
Nicki Porter
Elizabeth Powers
Jackie Pozenel
John Prata
Noel Pratt
Colin & Jane Rae
Angela Rasheed
Rotary Club of Oshawa
Corrie Rowe
Mike Shannon
Doug Sirrs
Bill Skitch
Bev Sturtevant
Roly Tessier
Maureen Thorne
Milton Thorne
Kris Totosko
Vicky Tran
Kayee Tung
Edmond Vanhaverbeke
Lee Varley
Syd & Heather Visser
Collin Vollick
Diane Wacławek
Jennifer Walker
Dan Walters
Sheila Walton
Jeff Wilson
Magdalena Woloch
Terry & Shelley Wood
Hans Wunderlich
Leslie Younger
Julie Zabizewski
Anna Zielinski
Monica Zielinski



***We hope the
'My Life. My Community. My Way.'
Campaign continues to Inspire
Possibilities for many years to come!***

TREASURER'S REPORT 2021-2022

(AS OF MARCH 31, 2022)

SUBMITTED BY JOEL YELLE

SECRETARY/TREASURER, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

March 31, 2022 ended the fiscal year on a positive note that gave hope with the decline in COVID-19 cases, increase in vaccinations and reductions of COVID restrictions. Financial relief from the pandemic was in sight.

CLOC is pleased to present a positive year, financially, in spite of COVID-19. Revenues increased from \$21,696,881 to \$22,182,580. Expenses continued to be higher over the past year with additional costs contributed to COVID-19. Please note the excess of approximately \$87,833 is not actual surplus, but in fact Generally Accepted Account Principles (GAAP) entries with a portion converted to capital assets and accumulated unrestricted deficit. The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) is 98.5% of CLOC's funding as outlined in the Statement of Operations. The pie chart shows the percentage of various expenses recorded throughout the year. Service delivery accounts for 95.03% of CLOC's expenses with an additional 4.97% for administration.

CLOC has continued to grow as it has navigated through the pandemic. There have been many upgrades to several systems and processes within the organization to maintain and improve efficiency and quality for long term sustainability.

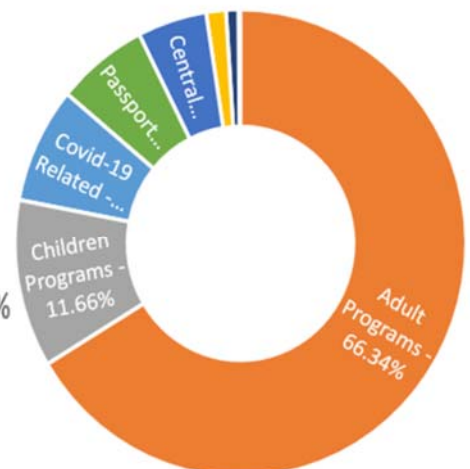
CLOC's financial picture can be seen in detail through our Audited Financial Statements. Electronic and paper copies of the Audited Statements are available upon request.

COMMUNITY LIVING OSHAWA/CLARINGTON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2021

CLOC's Year-End document is approximately 50 pages. With good environmental practices in place, we recommend that you review the content on CLOC's website.

2021—2022 TOTAL GROSS EXPENSES

■ Central Administration - 4.97%	■ Adult Programs - 66.34%
■ Children Programs - 11.66%	■ Fundraising - 1.41%
■ Covid-19 Related - 8.04%	■ Passport/Individualized Funding - 6.54%
■ Employment Support - 0.88%	■ Ontario Trillium Foundation - 0.15%



FINANCE

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS



\$22,182,580

**TOTAL
REVENUE**

\$22,094,747

**TOTAL
EXPENSES**

Revenue	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Ministry Revenue	20,365,558	20,843,189
Program Fees	1,122,650	1,116,019
Fundraising/Donations	80,184	67,107
Other Revenue	128,489	122,767
Ontario Trillium Foundation		<u>33,498</u>
Total Revenue		\$22,182,580

Expenses	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Salaries	16,768,690	17,246,445
Training/Travel/Communication	557,169	84,281
Building Occupancy	873,621	785,255
Travel and Communication	805	510,120
Supplies and Equipment		699,055
Other Program/Service Expenditure		2,596,262
Amortization/Loss on disposal of capital assets		<u>173,329</u>
Total Expenses		\$22,094,747

Excess of revenue over expenses	
(expenses over revenue)	\$87,833

Please note the excess of approximately \$87,833 is not actual surplus, but in fact, GAAP entries with a portion converted to capital assets and accumulated unrestricted deficit.

SERVICE AT A GLANCE



31 Residential Locations



Employing 370 People



Serving 593 People



**Providing Summer Respite
for 21**



**Brokering Passport Funds
for 197 People**



Virtual Engagement



250,530 Website Visits

4,139 Social Media Followers

**196,748 Social Media views
for the year**

CLOC's BOARD OF DIRECTORS—2021/22



Mac Moreau
President



JC Legault
Past President



Wayne Klinowski
Vice President



Joel Yelle
Secretary/Treasurer,
Chair, Finance Committee



Frank Cormier
Chair, Governance Committee



Kay Corbier
Chair, Policy Committee



Krystal Manitus
Chair, PQE/RM Committee



Darlene Day
Self Advocate



Amanda Willett



Amber Derby



Julia Fineczko



Paul Beauvais



Pauline Matchett

To our amazing
Board of Directors

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Community Partner Awards 2021/22

Clarington Library

In 1997, CLOC embarked on a grass roots response to the needs of people with developmental disabilities living in Clarington, in order to meet the growing requests for support for people in the area. The Clarington Project was born.

With this came many amazing partnerships in our community. One of the many great community supporters that stood out was the Clarington Library. It was a welcoming place to go for people attending CLOC's Clarington Project. As time passed, a new venture was created. Much planning and collaborating took place in order to find a way to take this project from a vision to a reality, and Dewey's Café emerged! CLOC and the Clarington Library would partner for CLOC to open a café within the main branch to provide drinks and snacks to the library patrons and people from businesses close by. The café would serve as a job training location for people supported by CLOC, so they could learn skills in the food service industry. Once trainees had completed their employment contract at Dewey's Café, they would be prepared to find employment at businesses in the community.

Throughout the many years that the café was in place, the Clarington Library and its Board of Directors continued to support CLOC, the Clarington Project and Dewey's Café. Without the



support of the library, we wouldn't have had the opportunities and successes we were fortunate to experience.

Due to economic forces and the impact of COVID-19, CLOC made the difficult decision to close the final chapter on Dewey's Café toward the end of 2021. Community Living Oshawa/Clarington and the Clarington Library continue to embrace the on-going partnership, and both organizations look forward to future opportunities to work together.

We are extremely happy to present the Clarington Library with the 2021/22 CLOC Community Partner Award.

Derek Grieve



Derek is the Vice President – Commercial Lines at W.B. White Insurance. In 2016, Derek joined CLOC's Gala Fundraising Committee, and, as part of the team, successfully raised many thousands of dollars to support the needs of Community Living Oshawa/Clarington. In 2018, Derek helped to spearhead fundraising efforts during CLOC's 65th Anniversary year as the Vice Chair of CLOC's newly formed Fundraising Cabinet, and CLOC's Golf Tournament Committee. Derek acted as MC at the Pub

Night Kickoff of CLOC's anniversary year, and took us on a journey *Thru the Decades* at the 65th Anniversary Cocktail Celebration.

One of the Fundraising Cabinet's mandates that year was to embark upon planning a 4-year fundraising campaign for the organization. Derek brought his experience with CLOC and other organizations to the table as he moved into the role of Chair

of the Fundraising Cabinet and acted as an advisor for the planning of the new Campaign, *My Life. My Community. My Way.* When the MLMCMW Campaign launched in 2019, Derek assumed the role of Campaign Chair. Year 3 of the Campaign took a serious hit due to the pandemic, and Derek was instrumental in helping the committee pivot into a new plan, which included extending the Campaign for an additional year to help recoup lost funds. We are so pleased that under Derek's leadership, the first 3 years of the Campaign raised more than 364 thousand dollars, 73% of the Campaign's 500 thousand dollar goal.

As of September 2022, Derek has decided to step down from his role as Chair to pursue new adventures but will remain as a member of the Fundraising Cabinet.

Thank you, Derek, for your many years of commitment to CLOC's fundraising efforts. Your leadership has helped to *Inspire Possibilities* in all of us and has encouraged everyone to *Rise Above It All* throughout the challenges faced during COVID-19. Congratulations on receiving CLOC's Community Partner Award!

Community Adventures 2021/22



Hey Teams! 
I decided to make
these for all the
house vehicle keys.
I hope they will
add a little joy to
your drives :)
sincerely, Katherine
(Holcan)



President's Award Winner

2020/21—Pinecrest Team

C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S



The Pinecrest team was the President's Award Winner for 2020/21.

Pinecrest is a very unique home that supports six amazing people who not only require full care due to their high medical needs, but offer challenges at times beyond and out of our control. Although in saying that, the staff have always accepted these challenges head on which makes this team an amazing group of humans!

COVID-19! Who would ever have thought after 17 months, we would still be talking about the pandemic. We all thought maybe a couple of weeks, then months.....but we all persevered. We were all scared of the unknown, especially for all 6 people living at Pinecrest. Staff began to pull together right away, disinfecting three times a day, then again on the overnights, ensuring no one entered the building without a mask/shield; every staff took this incredibly seriously and followed all the guidelines without hesitation. We did have a few scares with people having to be isolated, but we did it together as a team and kept them all safe as well as staff. When I asked the staff to refrain from going out to public gatherings when the numbers reached a high peak, they didn't even hesitate to put the people supported first and always took it into consideration putting

their needs second and the people supported first!

We also had a scare with one young woman who required brain surgery on Christmas Day. It will be one that we will never forget; we spent the entire time together over the holidays. Even though full time staff were off, we face-timed, texted, talked on the phone at all hours of the night, with her

parents and each other, just keeping the prayers going. Many tears, but we kept an email going for ALL staff so everyone was aware and updated on her progress.

On a few occasions, we struggled to fill weekend shifts but the full timers did what they could and rearranged their personal schedules to assist with the shifts! Even this past weekend someone called in and before scheduling called to see if anyone would be willing to extend their shift, the staff already had it figured out and were able to figure it out amongst themselves.

Their knowledge is shared on each shift, brainstorming with doctors, physiotherapists, dieticians, pharmacists and so many more specialists to come up with the plan of care, hoping this time it might be the right one. Usually this takes several attempts, but perseverance of the dedicated staff continues on several attempts later.

The commitment to high quality of care that this team demonstrates is second to none and continues to excel with every challenge.

Families of the people supported at Pinecrest submitted letters of support as well for this amazing team!

Mark Forgette Award Winner

2020/21—Prudence Nurse



Prudence Nurse was the Mark Forgette Award Winner for 2020/21.

Exceptionally committed to her job and the people she serves, Prudence calmly, but confidently, sets high expectations for herself and for those she supports—and then as each person meets those expectations, she raises them, which challenges everyone to continually improve.

Concerns for people's well-being drives everything she does. From the moment she begins working, until the end of the day, Prudence goes above and beyond to ensure she provides experiences full of natural learning moments. She is always willing to lend an ear when someone is in need and her gentle and caring approach allows the people she supports too grow and learn. Additionally, the people supported truly enjoy their time with her—she is all about supporting them to have the active social life they want.

With the pandemic and social isolation in place, normal social activities have been halted. Prudence has gone to great lengths to find new ways too keep the people busy, entertained and engaged. She always tries to fill each day with meaningful and worthwhile activities. She did lots of research and developed a monthly calendar which included several virtual activities. Activities such as karaoke, Name That Tune, Dance Inclusion, Social Circle, Bingo, Online Sunday Service and much more. The people she supports also explored all kinds of great new attractions from the comfort of the vehicle, and have explored many drive-through events/venues which they enjoyed immensely.

Prudence sets the bar high in terms of work ethics. The people she supports, family members and



colleagues recognize her hard work, dedication and enthusiastic personality. Prudence was nominated last year by the people she supports, as well as her colleagues for the 'Blue Ribbon—Front Line Worker Inspired Wreath Giveaway'. Prudence received the most votes and won the challenge which was so greatly deserved. What a great role model she has been! The families, people she serves and her colleagues value her for who she is and the contribution she makes to the team.

She is truly a valued asset to Community Living Oshawa Clarington!



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CHANGING TIMES AT CLOC

DEWEY'S CAFÉ

It was with great sadness that CLOC officially closed the doors to Dewey's Café in 2022.

In 2006, CLOC was excited to have the opportunity to partner with the Clarington Library to open a café. This would provide an a program where people with developmental disabilities could be trained for jobs in the community. It would be a door opening to so many great things for the future!

This was a small café, and successful. There was a sustainable clientele from the municipal buildings and businesses close by, as well as patrons of the library. Tucked in a corner on the second level, overlooking all of the great knowledge below, Dewey's Café flourished. Over the years, customers were met with a smile when they arrived on the mezzanine level by support staff and trainees. The process of this opportunity created leaders in the training of others who came to gain skills. Under experienced leadership, peer training was the basis of Dewey's, which was only possible with the commitment of the Team.

As with so many wonderful things in our lives, the world moved forward. The internet became a staple at everyone's fingertips and the library became a place you didn't really need to go to when you needed to collect information. It was decided that the library would begin a transformation and construction was set to begin in late 2019. This would require Dewey's Café to take a short break until construction was complete. It was during this time of construction that we watched the onset and lingering of COVID-19. Everything



would be changing. The library did not reopen when it had hoped to, and the pandemic delayed the hopes even further.

When communities began to reopen and there was the possibility that the library and Dewey's Café would reopen, it became apparent that things had changed and may not be what they once were. The many patrons of Dewey's Café were now working from home more, less people were visiting the library, and the potential to reopen the café doors no longer looked like a sustainable option. Time had taken its toll, and change had ended an era.

The announcement of Dewey's Café closing, sent out in April 2022, brought with it the realization of how change can create positive outcomes when you least expect it. There were many people who benefited from the training and the experience of working at Dewey's Café over the years, and staff who had a positive impact on those trainees and the community. So much good came from this program. As many of CLOC's long time employees look back on the planning, creation, implementation and success of Dewey's Café, there are smiles, knowing opening and closing of Dewey's Café were just a few of the many steps taken in CLOC's journey.

We now look forward to where our next adventure will take all of us!

By Erin Perry



ADVENTURES WITH CLOC





'A JOURNEY TO BELONGING—CHOICE AND INCLUSION' AT *MY DAY, MY WAY*



Vito's Day, Vito's Way

Vito Garacci starts every day on a positive note. Monday can't come soon enough for Vito who anxiously looks forward to an action-packed day supported by Community Living's *My Day, My Way* (MDMW) program.

After his morning routine, including a delicious homemade breakfast (thanks dad), he grabs his lunch box and excitedly awaits the Handi-Transit bus which swiftly brings him to his friends and supporters at the MDMW program on Adelaide Avenue in Oshawa. Here, Vito thrives on his involvement in a variety of in-house and community-based programs, all tailored to meet his own goals and needs.

During the pandemic, CLOC re-imagined the structure of their day services. Following lock down, Community Living shifted their focus away from congregate settings to a more progressive, community inclusive model. MDMW was born from a comprehensive planning process and finally set into action in October, 2021. The program is designed to provide individualized, unique experiences, shaped primarily on each person's vision of living their best life.

Vito is currently among 27 other adults and families supported through the program. Each person attending MDMW schedules their day on their own terms. Some, like Vito, like to get an early start. Others arrive later in the morning or choose to participate only in the afternoon workshops. There is no requirement to begin or end the day at a specified time. The weekly calendar of activities accommodates everyone's needs, interests and schedule.

When asked about his day at MDMW, Vito has difficulty deciding which story to share first. His descriptions always include interactions with staff and close friends. Details of the workshops and excursions he participates in each day are most often accompanied by passionate hand gestures (typical Italian) to ensure we fully comprehend the experience or the intricate skills involved. It's no wonder he prefers to spend his day at the program than at home. "I Love It" says Vito, referring to MDMW.

Rosa and Nick Garacci, Vito's parents, are now in their 90's and require some Personal Support Worker (PSW) assistance themselves. While the Garaccis

remain independent, without outside resources they are unable to provide Vito with the social interactions and community partnerships integral to a full and happy life. The opening of Community Living's new MDMW program, came as a relief for the family. Rosa, among many mothers and caregivers of developmentally disabled adults, found it challenging to structure a productive and meaningful day for Vito during the pandemic. Both Rosa and Nick indicated that Vito was going a little "stir crazy" toward the end of the lockdown. The lack of engagement with friends and outside experiences was taking a noticeable toll on his mental health.

Overall, the Garaccis related that *My Day, My Way* has provided them with the support they desperately needed. Moreover, the program has afforded Vito the opportunity to establish new friendships and increased community involvement. The family further reported that they enjoy a close relationship with Vito's staff with whom they share frequent communication.

Now seven months into his participation at MDMW, Vito has adjusted to his new routine. Although weekends and holidays tend to throw a wrench in his "groove", Vito is happy to be reminded that he will be returning to the program within a few days. Some of the activities Vito chooses from his monthly calendar are bowling, karaoke and drumming. These are his priorities. Crafts, bingo, baking, equestrian farm



....continued



excursions, and theatre are among the many other interactive programs Vito enjoys. Special outings to Ripley's Aquarium, the Science Centre and Mini Putt are also on the calendar. Further community adventures are being planned for the spring and summer months and will continue to be explored as the program evolves.

If asked to how he would like to spend his day, evening or weekend, Vito doesn't hesitate to shout out for BOWLING. Vito is quick to boast that he is a champion bowler and can beat anyone. His claims are not far from the truth. I've played against him many times. He always "cleans up" with the top score!



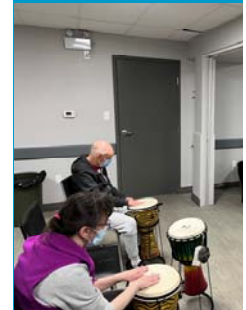
Prior to the pandemic, Vito was involved in a recreational bowling league at North End Bowl, "The Mis Fits". Both Vito and his team benefited from his involve-

ment. Vito made lasting friendships with team members and was instrumental in earning the teams' year-end trophy! Probably more importantly, Vito prides himself on the many personal awards and prizes he won as a result of his consistent high scores. While I can't quite figure out or imitate his self-taught technique, I can tell you that Vito knocks down those pins like lightning. Strikes and spares galore! It's obvious why he plans to enlist in a community league again this year.

Aside from the many MDMW program events Vito participates in, Vito treats himself to special weekend or weeknight outings, accompanied by family members or his hired support staff. Movies, wrestling matches, Jay's games, trips to the Toronto Zoo, walks at the lake and coffee at Tim Hortons have been among his regular community activities. Now that COVID restrictions are lifted, he plans to compile a new entertainment wish list.

There's no question that, between MDMW and his home life, Vito's days are complete. Both family and staff at the program have noticed positive growth in Vito since he began attending *My Day, My Way*. Vito is taking full advantage of all opportunities for community participation and learning new skills through in-house activities. He is clearly more confident and empowered and well on the path to realizing his full potential.

Story submitted by Catherine Garacci

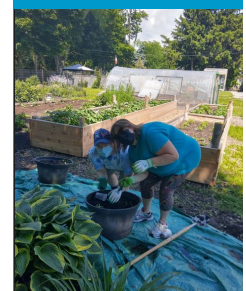


MORE ADVENTURES AT MY DAY, MY WAY



A wonderful new partnership with **Camp Samac** in Oshawa has provided a fun opportunity for the *My Day, My Way* gang to get together for a campfire lunch with smores and mores, and adventures in the great outdoors.

Alexandra's Bounty Gardens in Oshawa have opened their doors to *My Day, My Way*, where volunteering offers shared experiences and hands-on learning about the plants and gardens and how to take care of them.



Thank You to CLOC's Employees,
People Receiving Services, Families,
Community Partners and Stakeholders



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

THANK YOU
*to everyone who has
supported CLOC. Your
generous support
inspires people with
developmental
disabilities to
RISE ABOVE IT ALL!*



Rotary
Club of Oshawa



ONTARIO POWER
GENERATION



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