

## A Message from the Executive Director

On February 27, 2014, Community Living Hamilton celebrated a significant milestone - achieving Accreditation status from Focus Accreditation. I felt it was important to have a celebration in which clients, employees, board members and volunteers had the opportunity to get together to take pride in a job well done. I would like to take the time to once again recognize the staff who helped to make Accreditation a reality for Community Living Hamilton.

### Team Members (in no particular order):

Robin Garnier, Kelly Mancini, Nicole Ponte, Jacquie Poppa, Patti Harvey, Caroline Scruby, Erin Ferguson, Ann Manning, Lynn Grayley, Jo-Anne Brown, Nikki Coulson, Leslie Smith, Lucio Barcaroli, Tanya Sizer, Jennifer Cook-Grigsby, Carol Myke, Kristina Hearn, Elaine Clarke-Bliedung, Karen Bouverat, Deb Sullivan, Theresa Speers, Sue Gordon, Danielle Meville, Dan Chartier, Brenda McLaughlin, Deb Kunz, Rebecca Salisbury, Sue Cooper, Dee Peebles, Mimma Musitano and Rachel McCarty.

### Team Sponsors:

Janet Monahan, Director, Client Services  
Claude DiFruscia, Director, Corporate Services  
Jennifer Krawczyk, Director, Operations  
Pat Senft, Director, Client Services



### Team Leads:

Alison Binns & Mary Lanosky  
Dan Horton & Kelly Hancox  
Courtney Lilek & Andrea Lewis & Dan Rankin  
Steve Rothwell & Kathi Soules  
Emily Ricker & Evelyn Jansen



A special thank you goes out to Jennifer Krawczyk, Director of Operations. Jennifer was the point person and held the ultimate responsibility of leading Community Living Hamilton through the Accreditation process.

Sherry Parsley  
Executive Director

# Drum Corps 2014 Performances



**SATURDAY MAY 3**  
**Indoor Drumline @ St. Mary's**

**SATURDAY MAY 24<sup>TH</sup>**  
**Hamilton Boy Scout Parade**

**SATURDAY JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup>**  
**Burlington Sound Of Music Parade**

**SUNDAY JUNE 29<sup>TH</sup>**  
**GWN Wrestling**

**THURSDAY AUGUST 14<sup>TH</sup>**  
**Dundas Cactus Parade**



**Interested in joining?**  
**There are still some spots available.**  
**Contact Robyn 905-528-0281 ext 254**

## The Advisors Attend the CYO Dinner

The Advisors would like to give out a big thank you to the Board of Directors for sending us to such a wonderful dinner, the CYO Celebrity Dinner Fundraiser.

The dinner was held at the Hamilton Convention Centre by Carmen's on February 27th. We all had a great time! The music and food was wonderful. We had roast beef, chicken cutlets, manicottis, roasted potatoes and green beans.

We all liked the slideshow that the CYO put on about the athletes. The speeches were great and some of them brought tears to our eyes.



A great time was had by all The Advisors in attendance at the CYO Dinner on February 27th.

It was such an honour to be asked to share such a wonderful evening with friends.

Thank you again, from the bottom of our hearts.  
-The Advisors

Editor's Note about the event:

The Catholic Youth Organization (C.Y.O.) has been holding the C.Y.O. Celebrity Dinners since 1986. This annual fundraiser raises the \$50,000

needed each year to administer a unique One-to-One Counsellor Program for children with special needs that enables these children to participate in the C.Y.O.'s summer day and residential camping programs offered at Camp Marydale and Camp Brébeuf. Community Living Hamilton is proud to be a partner with an organization that was one of the first camps in Ontario to integrate special needs children into mainstream camp programs.



Celebrating our C.Y.O. Special Champions  
2014 Celebrity Dinner, February 27, 2014



# Special Needs Tax Planning Information

Courtesy of: <http://www.specialneedsplanning.ca/tax.html> - The Special Needs Planning Group

## **The Disability Amount (Disability Tax Credit)**

Perhaps one of the most commonly missed and often the most valuable tax credit available to people with disabilities is the Disability Amount. This credit is most often called the Disability Tax Credit (DTC). It is a non-refundable tax credit which can reduce the amount of tax that a person with a disability has to pay. If the DTC is not required by the person with a disability to reduce their taxable income to zero, then it may be transferred in whole or in part to a family member who supplied some or all of the basic necessities of life such as food, shelter and clothing to the person.

In the 2013 Taxation Year, the Disability Amount for a person who was 18 years of age or older is \$7697.00. If the person with the disability was under age 18 then there is also a Disability Tax Credit Supplement of \$4490.00 that is added to the disability amount. Both of these amounts can be transferred if necessary. Details of the Disability Amount can be found on Canada Revenue Agency's web site by following the link at:

<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdl/tpcs/ncm-tx/rtrn/cmpltng/ddctns/lns300-350/316/menu-eng.html>

## **The Caregiver Amount (Caregiver Tax Credit)**

Another commonly missed tax credit is the Caregiver Amount or Caregiver Tax Credit. If, at any time in the year, you maintained a dwelling where you and a dependant lived, you may be able to claim this amount. The caregiver tax credit is the same dollar amount as the Disability Tax Credit Supplement which is \$4490.00 for the 2013 taxation year. The credit is equal in value to the Disability Tax Credit Supplement which ends at age 18. (the Disability Tax Credit itself continues after age 18). The dependant must be 18 years or older when they lived with you and must be dependent on you due to a mental or physical infirmity. This credit cannot be claimed for a person who was only visiting you. It cannot also be claimed if you claim the "Infirm Dependant Credit", an amount of similar value to "The Caregiver Tax Credit". The Family Caregiver Tax Credit can increase this amount by \$2040.00 for qualified people. More information on the Caregiver Tax Credit can be found on Canada Revenue Agency's web site by following the link at:

<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdl/tpcs/ncm-tx/rtrn/cmpltng/ddctns/lns300-350/315/menu-eng.htm>

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## Best Buddies - Another Year Ends

It's almost the end of the school year and Best Buddies is coming to a close! We celebrated another successful year with over 51 great matches.

Best Buddies is an organization that pairs students from McMaster to individuals with intellectual disabilities. Being involved in the program is a great way to build new friendships, learn more about one another, and remove any stigma associated with intellectual disabilities. Through our group events, and our new initiative, "Hang Out With the Execs", Buddies and students were provided the



Students and Buddies display their creative side through pumpkin carving at a Meet and Greet!



(left to right) Charles Gilbert, MJ Jurrians, Keeth Krishnan, Oscar Chan, Kim Dennis, and Graeme Smith step into their festive roles!

opportunity to really share their laughter, joy and support, in order to build a strong friendship.

Some of the events from this year include Meet and Greet, where buddies and students had the opportunity to dress up and scare their peers, the holiday event where everyone embraced their festive spirit singing along to carols, and Buddies and Board Games, where everyone left as a winner!

-Keeth Krishnan, McMaster University

From Dominoes to puzzles and card games, our Buddies and students enjoy an afternoon of fun and games at our Buddies and Board Games event that was held in February.



## 2013 Employee & Volunteer Recognition

Our success at Community Living Hamilton is the result of the efforts and commitment of our staff and volunteers.

Congratulations to all the Community Living Hamilton Employees and Volunteers who achieved years of service milestones in 2013.

### 5 Years-Employees

Sandra Harse  
Yannick Rafferty  
Christine Smith

### 10 Years-Employees

Rita Bowdring  
Christopher Lambert  
Linda Page  
Ria Quiambao  
Jennifer Schultz  
Kathleen Sumner

### 15 Years-Employees

Linda Carson  
Scott Green  
Janet Mayer-Lawson  
Editha Picache  
Karen Ratcliffe

### 20 Years-Employees

Elaine Clarke-Bliedung  
Jonathan Costello  
Kathi Soules  
Tanya Sweers

### 25 Years-Employees

Nikki Coulson  
Christine Gray  
Clare Sandig

### 30 Years-Employees

Patti Harvey  
Heather Krick  
Deb Sullivan

### 40 Years-Employee

Shelley Kajaste

### Retirement

Deb Kunz  
Pat Senft

### 5 Years-Volunteers

Tiffany Cho  
Nesta Cooper  
Bea Criminisi  
Allie Pollard  
Richard Wu

### 10 Years-Volunteers

Donna Kudlowich  
John Kudlowich



Community Living Hamilton's annual Employee and Volunteer Recognition Evening will be held this year at the Waterfront Centre on Wednesday April 23rd. Employees and Volunteers will gather to celebrate the milestones achieved by the names above.





# 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Fun Run

Sunday May 25, 2014

9:00 am start time



T. B. McQueston Park

ALL PROCEEDS RAISED BY THIS EVENT WILL SUPPORT COMMUNITY LIVING HAMILTON RESPITE SERVICES

*Please visit :*

*<http://clham.com/1st-annual-fun-run>  
for pledge sheets and more information  
on how to register*



**Free  
T Shirt!**



# Accreditation Celebration Event!

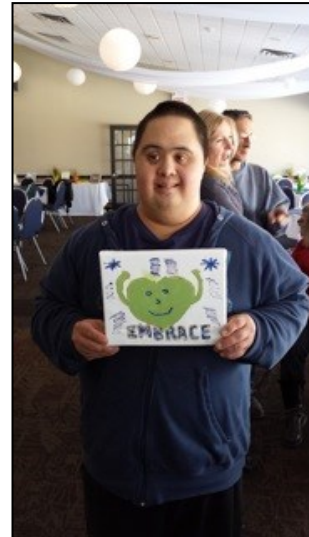
Clients and employees of Community Living Hamilton gathered on February 27, 2014 at the Waterfront Centre to celebrate receiving our Accreditation status.

The event proved to be a great day trip for most clients, giving them the opportunity to spend time with peers that they don't often get to see during the day.

Earlier in the month, programs were challenged to create a canvas that represented what it meant to them to be a part of Community Living Hamilton. The response was overwhelming and the results were inspirational. The artwork was displayed throughout the room for all to see during the event.



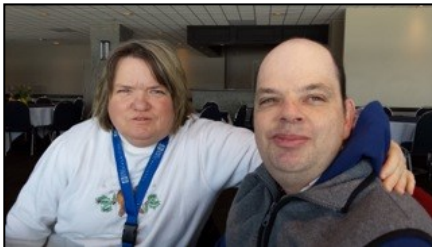
Clients and staff from Central Memorial enjoy their time at the Waterfront Centre.



Eric proudly displays the artwork made by him and his housemates.



Program art work was displayed throughout the Waterfront Centre for everyone to see.



Colleen and Michael enjoy the afternoon and each other's company!





## The Advisors are Looking for Members

We need clients from **Residential or SIL programs.**

The Client Advisory Group of Community Living Hamilton represents all programs and services.

We advise and make recommendations to staff, senior management and the Board of Directors to make Community Living Hamilton the best it can be.

Recently we made a presentation to the Board of Directors to adopt a plain language Mission Statement that we wrote so that everyone could understand it better.

**To JOIN THE ADVISORS you have to:**

- be a client of Community Living Hamilton,
- be an active listener,
- maintain a positive attitude,
- be open-minded and have a non-judgmental attitude, and want Community Living Hamilton to be the best it can be!



**THE COMMITMENT:**

- Members are asked to commit to one year with a maximum of 3 years
- The Advisors meet at least 3 times a year

**INTERESTED?**

Call: Ann Manning at 905-526-9339 OR Tanya Sizer at 905-318-3943

## Employee of the Month @ Boston Pizza

Employment Access is honoured to announce that Jason, Kitchen Staff for Boston Pizza Queenston Rd. Hamilton received Employee of the Month for October 2013. Steve Franks Manager at Boston Pizza says: "Jason received Employee of the Month because of his dedication, hard work and positive attitude. Jason exceeds expectations. He is an all-round great employee. Boston Pizza is a great company. Recognizing our staff, for their hard work is important because it shows our appreciation of their dedication. Boston Pizza believes in community involvement, inclusion and equal opportunity as well as great staff like Jason."

Susan Manager at Employment Access has this to say about Jason's achievements "We are so proud of Jason. He is enthusiastic about learning new skills and has a positive attitude. He certainly worked hard to achieve his goal of competitive employment."

In conclusion, Jason has this to say, "I do work hard so it is really nice to be recognized for it." Jason, we are all proud of you.

Theresa Speers, Job Developer  
Community Living Hamilton - Employment Access.



## Hurononia Grounds Open for Class Members

Hurononia Regional Centre (HRC) Class Members (former residents or a family member) can now access the former HRC grounds as part of the recent settlement agreement. Three initial opportunities are available to access the site. You must register ahead of time so an appropriate number of visitors can be accommodated and visitors can be notified in case of any possible cancellations or changes.

The dates are:

Friday April 25 and Saturday April 26

Sunday May 25 and Monday May 26

Friday June 20 and Saturday June 21

To register, please provide:

- The date you are coming.
- Your expected check-in time (9:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m.).
- Your name and the number of people such as family, friends or support workers coming with you.
- Your phone number. (We will use your phone number only to call you if the visit needs to be cancelled because of extreme weather or other unforeseeable issues.)



### For more information:

Email: [huroniasitevisit@ontario.ca](mailto:huroniasitevisit@ontario.ca)

Phone: 1-855-372-3364 or 416-325-6659

## Learn and Grow Calendar for 2014

Included in this month's mail out is Community Living Hamilton's Learn and Grow calendar for the 2014 fiscal year. Each session will last 3 months, with programming closed on holidays. We will have additional one day events that will be sent throughout the year for special events.

Registrations are now being accepted. You can fax, mail, email or drop off in person the payment details and the forms. Please note that if you are paying for all four sessions of a program there will be a 10% discount.

Most programs will be starting the second week of April. You will receive confirmation of start date two weeks prior to start date or upon receipt of payment/registration.

If you have any further questions, please contact [gpetitti@gmail.com](mailto:gpetitti@gmail.com) or call 905 528 0281 ext 241.



## In Memoriam

Community Living Hamilton is grateful to have received donations in memory of:

Pasqualina Arcari  
John Carrick  
Arthur Darch  
Olimpia DeLuca  
Saverio DeLuca  
Elizabeth Duncan  
Kenneth (Ken) Fyfe  
Rose Gallagher  
William (Bill) Galvin

Ron Genereaux  
Charles Edward Greco  
James Honda  
Ross Inglis  
John James  
Emily Knapman  
Dennis Leeson  
Sally Munroe  
Jeanne Nolan

Peter Nolan  
Ernefto Ravida  
David Skingley  
Alice Spratt  
John Swidersky  
Loretta Taylor  
Josef Wagner  
Peggy Williams



## Special Needs Tax Planning Continued

### **T2201 Disability Tax Credit Certificate**

In order to apply for the Disability Tax Credit, information relating to your disability must be reviewed by Canada Revenue Agency. This information is collected on form T2201, "Disability Tax Credit Certificate" which is submitted to CRA. This form can be obtained on line at <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pbg/tf/t2201/> . In order to assist you in determining whether or not you may qualify for the DTC, the T2201 form contains a self-assessment questionnaire. This questionnaire may be useful in helping you decide on how to proceed with the application.

It should also be noted that the Disability Tax Credit Certificate is a requirement for participation in the Registered Disability Savings Plan. Therefore, even if a person cannot use the Disability Tax Credit (due to income levels) there is still significant benefit in obtaining it. If a person needs assistance in filling out the form and if they wish to appoint another individual or organization as their Representative for income tax matters, they must complete CRA's form T1013, "Authorizing or Cancelling a Representative". This form can be found on the web at <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pbg/tf/t1013/> The completed form will allow the named representative to have access to your records with CRA and to act on your behalf with respect to issues surrounding your tax matters.

If you have story ideas or photos you would like to share, please contact:

**Danielle Meville**, Editor & Administrator, Special Projects:  
**dmeville@clham.com** or **905-528-0281 ext.238**

**COMMUNITY LIVING**  
Hamilton

# People First-Annual Conference & AGM

SAVE THE DATE

MAY 23 & 24



## PEOPLE FIRST MOVING FORWARD

### People First of Ontario - Annual Conference and AGM

#### Conference fee:

\$100 for People First Members  
\$150 for Service Providers and Allies

#### Location:

Best Western Primrose Hotel  
111 Carlton St, Toronto, ON M5B 2G3  
For individual bookings, go to [www.torontoprिमrosehotel.com](http://www.torontoprिमrosehotel.com)  
or call 1-800-565-8865 and enter/mention  
the group code PFOAGM14

- We will focus on the settlements of the three Class Actions...for the individual survivors and the possibilities for PFO
- We will celebrate 'Our Communities, Our Lives: Strengthening Ontario Communities Active Living and Social Inclusion'...one of the biggest and most important projects ever undertaken by PFO
- We will celebrate outgoing Board members and community heroes for our movement.
- We will also have the opportunity to get together, socialize with old friends and meet new ones.

RIGHTS  
EQUALITY  
STRENGTHS  
DREAMS



People First of Ontario

[www.peoplefirstontario.com](http://www.peoplefirstontario.com)

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