

Arrival of New MV-1's at CLH



You may have noticed some exciting new vehicles in our parking lots, or you may even have been able to go out for a ride in one. Community Living Hamilton was very happy to be able to add two (2) new MV-1's to our fleet in April. The new vehicles, one silver and one green, are fully wheelchair accessible, without being as large or bulky as some of our other accessible vehicles.



The MV-1 is billed as the first “ground up” accessible vehicle, meaning that it is designed and built to be accessible, not modified after the fact. One of the really exciting things about the MV-1 is that it allows a passenger in a wheelchair to sit in the front passenger seat, an experience that may be new for many of the people we support.

It was quite exciting when the vehicles were first delivered to York and many of us gathered in the parking lot to get a first look and maybe even be one of the first to go for a drive.

Accessible vehicles are a key part of inclusion in the community, and the new MV-1's will go a long way to helping plan more community based activities.



- Dan Rankin
Director, Corporate Services

Accreditation Begins Again at CLH!

November 2017 will mark 4 years since Community Living Hamilton was accredited for the first time. What an achievement that was! It was such an exciting and proud moment – and we have been proud to “sport” the FOCUS Accreditation seal on our website and all of our correspondence for these past few years. That seal announces to everyone that Community Living Hamilton has committed to a cycle of continuous improvement and proving that we are improving by have FOCUS come and “inspect” us every four years.

There is going to be a lot of activity over the next year as we prepare for FOCUS to come and visit us. The biggest piece of work is that we need to assess ourselves again and hand in a report to FOCUS that outlines how we meet each of standard that FOCUS has given us. Standards are like rules. For example, one standard (or rule) says that Community Living Hamilton must “educate staff and volunteers about the rights of people using services, and ways to uphold rights”. We need to show FOCUS how Community Living Hamilton does this. So over the next year, we are going to look at all of the standards and show how we meet them. There are 183 standards that we will need to look at, so we will certainly be busy!

I will keep readers of “The Advocate” up to date with the activities of Accreditation 2017 and the progress we are making. If you have any questions or would like to participate, please contact the main office and ask to speak to me!

- Jennifer Krawczyk, Director, Operations
Acceditation Lead



Drum Corps Announcement

On Wednesday June 29th the members of the Community Living Hamilton Drum Corps, family members and supporters gathered together at 191 York to hear the announcement that the Community Living Hamilton Drum Corps has been asked to represent Community Living Hamilton and Canada at the 2018 Drum Corps International World Championships, 2018 SoundSport International Music & Food Festival and the 2018 Drumline Battle World Championships taking place in Indianapolis Indiana. We will be competing on a world stage against 40 Drum & Bugle Corps, SoundSport Teams & Drumlines from over 15 different countries. We are honored to have been asked to participate and look forward to the upcoming Journey.

- Robyn Garnier
Corps Director



Employee/Volunteer Recognition Awards

On April 28, 2016 Community Living Hamilton celebrated the many accomplishments of our staff and volunteers once again at the annual Employee/Volunteer Recognition Evening.

Held once again at the Courtyard Marriott, this year's event was a packed house with every seat taken as we welcomed staff, volunteers, clients and family members to join us for an evening of celebrating the many accomplishments of the last year.

This evening allows us to recognize significant milestones in service, starting at 5 years and going all the way to 35 years.



5 Years of Service

Not pictured: Bethany Newman

10 Years of Service

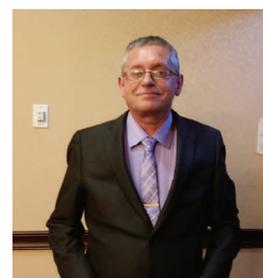
Nancy Oomen, Betty Jean Taylor and Cesidio Dirienzo

Not pictured above: Marie Allan, Shane Case, Nancy Clarke, and Margaret Williams

15 Years of Service

Irene Wenzel

Not pictured above: Linda Boucher, Frank Caprani, Gary Consunji, Elaine Gordon, Vincent Hoang, Noel Ocampo and Mary Sicurella



20 Years of Service

Andrea Lewis

Not pictured below: Evelyn Jensen, Brenda McLaughlin

25 Years of Service

Steve Mesaglio

Not pictured above: Linda Alaimo, Karen Bourverat, Joanne Brown

30 Years of Service

Alison Binns

Not pictured above: Kelly Steward

35 Years of Service

Paul Noon

Not pictured above: Karen Almas

Special Award Presentations

In addition to recognizing the years of service, we were also able to recognize the significant contributions made by our staff by presenting two awards, the Helping Build Great Lives Award, and the President's Award of Excellence and Continuous Improvement.

The first recognition award was a special presentation to the York and Unsworth for all their efforts in transformation the old ARC industries into the York program.

This year we were very pleased to present the "Helping Build Great Lives" award for the second time. This year's winner was Patti Harvey who was recognized for her commitment to assisting newly hired employees feel welcomed and supported as they join our Community Living Hamilton team.

New to this year was the President's Award of Excellence and Continuous Improvement, which is presented to a staff member who has made significant contributions to ensuring the delivery of exception service to our clients and the community. The inaugural winner was Dee Peebles who accepted the award in front of colleagues, clients and client's family members who were on hand to cheer her on.

To all our staff and volunteers, thank you for on-going contributions to Community Living Hamilton.



*Patti Harvey:
Winner of the Helping Build
Great Lives Award*



*Special Recognition:
Jackie Spence, Robyn Garnier, Denise
Kidd, Lisa Cameron and Steve Mesaglio*



*Dee Peebles:
Winner of the President's Award
of Excellence and Continuous
Improvement*

Interested in Being a CLH Board Member?

We are always pleased to receive applications from people who want to join our Board of Directors. If you're interested in joining our Board please let us know.

You can call our main office and ask to speak with Kathia Francia; Kathia will have one of our current Board members call you back. Or, if you'd like, you can forward a letter of interest and your resume to kfrancia@clham.com.



Community Clean Up at Rosedale Arena

In early May we noticed a sign near the entrance to the parking lot for the Rosedale Arena.

It was advertising a Community Clean Up Day for an upcoming Saturday. We as a group decided that we would go out a couple of days early and help do our part in cleaning up the community in which we are involved in.

Everybody enjoyed helping and it soon became a “competition” to see who could find the most litter. Everybody was very proud of themselves and felt good about giving back to our community .

- Rosedale Program



Clients of the Rosedale Program were eager to give back to their community. Cleaning up the recreation centre grounds was a perfect way to pitch in!

Endowment Fund

I'm very pleased to announce that Community Living Hamilton has established an agency endowment fund, titled the "Community Living Hamilton Endowment Fund", held by the Hamilton Community Foundation. This is an important step for our organization; I think it is important that all of our organization's members know about it.

What is an Endowment Fund?

Endowment funds are funds that are restricted – that means that only the interest from the fund can be spent, not the principal that anchors the endowment. Only a portion of the interest earned can be spent on an annual basis and that helps ensure that the original fund grows over time. Essentially, it is a "forever" investment. The principal stays in the fund in perpetuity – that's for generations to come - and we will benefit from the interest.

Why do we need an Endowment Fund?

Stability is the main reason to have an endowment fund. Charitable organizations, like Community Living Hamilton, establish funds like these to provide a source of income to carry out their work. Essentially, charitable organizations like ours establish endowment funds to provide a guaranteed source of stable income for the future.

Additionally, establishing an Endowment Fund is a signal to our community that we are good stewards of our finances, that we're a stable organization, and that we will ensure that Community Living Hamilton continues to operate and do good work in Hamilton for many, many years to come.

What are we going to do with our Endowment Fund?

Again, it's one more way for us to generate income – particularly for investments or purchases that are not usually provided for by our funders. For example, one year our Board of Directors might decide to use our Endowment Fund interest to purchase adaptive equipment for our soon-to-be-built Community Respite Centre. And the next year our Board of Directors might decide to use our Endowment Fund interest to support some of our clients to pay for post-secondary education. Unlike most of our funding, which comes with directives and parameters, our Board gets to choose how Community Living Hamilton will spend the interest from our Endowment Fund.

Where is Community Living Hamilton's Endowment Fund?

The Community Living Hamilton Endowment Fund is held by the Hamilton Community Foundation. The Hamilton Community Foundation, Ontario's first community foundation, was founded in 1954. The Hamilton Community Foundation links the philanthropic interests of Hamiltonian's with the community's need and opportunities.

The establishment of the Community Living Hamilton Endowment Fund is one more tool in our toolbox that helps us continue to build a community that demonstrates our vision and our mission

- Sherry Parsley, Executive Director

ABILITY WALK & ROLL

When

**Sat. August 27, 2016
10:30-3:00**

Where

**City Hall
Front Court**

PRESENTED BY•

L'Arche • Community Living Hamilton • YWCA • Choices

**To purchase tickets please contact
Lisa Cameron at 905-385-3434**

**JOIN US FOR AN
AWARENESS
EVENT TO
SHOWCASE THE
GIFTS OF PEOPLE
WITH
DISABILITIES**

TICKETS

**\$10 each
Includes:
T-Shirt &
Lunch**

SCHEDULE

**10:30-11:15 Welcome
11:15 Guest Speakers
12:15 Walk
1:30 Entertainment,
Art & Lunch
3:00: Closing**