

**THE INCLUSION NEWS**

SPRING/SUMMER 2024



**Welcome**

We begin with a welcome to two new staff this spring. On the Hamilton Centre team we welcome Shannon Hill in the Inclusion Facilitator role. Also, we welcome a new Children’s Inclusion Services Administrator, Brooklyn Huggins. They will make a great addition to the team. Resource Consultants have spent the last few months participating in training, gaining new skills in Facilitated Planning and this month the administration of the Ages and Stages Social Emotional 2 Questionnaire. Also, some have attended the annual Early Childhood Resource Teacher Conference of Ontario and the International Inclusion Institute. We look forward to collaborating in new ways in the Fall. We are excited to share that we have 2 new resources. First, our CLH Services presentation is now available in French, including the French audio. As well, coming soon there will be 2 versions of our new Inclusion FAQ. This was developed using the questions that are most often asked of our staff when they are out visiting you. Please reach out to any staff member to receive these.



Community Living Hamilton Resource Consultants participated in Facilitated Planning training in February.

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**Special Needs Resourcing** is provided through funding from the City of Hamilton

## THE CHEERING SECTION



At BrightPath Waterdown the team collaborated for children's success. Melissa from CLH, as well as Sheri and Naomi from Ron Joyce Children's Health Centre, guided educators by providing strategies and modelling inclusive practices. The educators implemented strategies which led to significant changes in their approach, children's response as well as improved family engagement. Thank you to Linh Pham RC from the east team for translating for the centre and family. Pictured here is Khushpreet (educator), Nicole (supervisor), Shauna (educator) and Melissa (RC). Absent is June (educator).

Way to go Brightpath Waterdown!

### **DR. SHELLEY MOORE IS COMING BACK TO HAMILTON!**

Back by popular demand, Dr. Shelley is coming back to Hamilton on September 12<sup>th</sup>. Join us for an afternoon or evening at the Courtyard Marriott where we will take a journey into Designing for Diversity. Watch for the registration flyer!



### **CHILDREN'S INCLUSION SERVICES TEAM WEST**

Our team supporting West Hamilton, Dundas and Waterdown visits 62 sites. Altogether there are 131 children being supported. Fun fact – they love their snacks when they meet!

Seen here are Kailee, Ethar, Melissa, Raghad, MariaAngela, Chandni, Sue, Lauren, Sheri and Rebecca.



## National AccessAbility Week 2024

Each year, CLH celebrates National AccessAbility Week. It's a time to recognize the contributions of people with disabilities along with the people that support them. This year was no different and we celebrated with inclusion missions, a Positivi-Tea, and the opening of the time capsule we sealed in 2019. Staff visions of 2024 back then included a reduced waitlist (we reached zero just a few months later), a more inclusive name (we now use "Children's Inclusion Services") and more support for families who are struggling with the cost of child care (CWELCC!). **WOW** – the power of positive thought! One person wrote "It would be amazing to see a more inclusive future".



*From left to right: Resource Consultants Hailey Wilson, Kelly Zerebny, Claudia Testaguzza and Erin Vanderwoude take on **The Road To Inclusion** mission.*

## Collaboration - By The Numbers



A lot has happened in the last 5 years – especially with the pandemic changing the course of our work. See here, how together, we collaborated – which meant surprising data leading to the positive impact for children in the city of Hamilton.



Staff gather to celebrate at a Positivi-Tea as part of the celebration for National AccessAbility Week.

Resource Consultant Lisa Castellan has a great idea. It just might have to do with polka dots.



Inclusion Facilitator Lauren Hay and Resource Consultant Najia Bashizadah study inclusion with a book recommended by Dr. Shelley Moore.

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## Important Dates

Children's Inclusion Services will be unavailable on the following dates:

- *Canada Day – July 1, 2024*
- *Labour Day – Sept. 2, 2024*
- *National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – Sept. 30, 2024*

**COMMUNITY LIVING HAMILTON** is an accredited not-for-profit organization and registered charity that offers a full range of services to people with special needs. We are one of the largest not-for-profits in Hamilton; each year we provide service to approximately **1,400 children, teens, adults and families.**

In offering a full range of services to our community, we support individuals with special needs from childhood through to their senior years. At Community Living Hamilton, **we hope to create a lifelong partnership to support the individuals and community we serve.**



For more information on Community Living Hamilton, please visit our website at:  
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