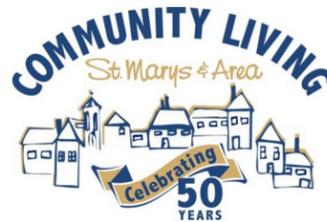


Newslink

February 2015

Community Living St. Marys and Area
"A community where everyone belongs."



Coming Events

General Staff Meeting
Wed, April 1
10am



Annual General Meeting June 15

Big Bike Event
Friday, May 8th
at 5:30 p.m.
Interested in participating
Contact:
Linda Munro



STAY IN TOUCH

Remember to check your
clstmarys.ca email

Community Partner—Little Falls Public School

Community Living St. Marys & Area and Little Falls Public School partnered together in November 2014. Each class at Little Falls partnered with a total of 22 different health and wellness organizations in the community.

Grade 5 students took time to learn about what services Community Living St. Marys and Area provide. Together we discussed our organization's values, labels, what support workers, team leaders and planners do, where people live, who people live with, what is support, relationships and independence. After the presentation the students produced educational posters with various messages they learned.

Little Falls Public School hosted a 'Passport for Community Partnership' open house to provide community awareness. The students posters were included in a presentation at the open house.



Central Admin

Health Spending Account

The 2015 amount has been deposited into full time employees' Health Spending Accounts. As a reminder, funds from 2014 must be used by the end of 2015. Otherwise the funds will go back to Community Living.

Employee Assistance Program

As a reminder, the Employee Assistance Program is available to all employees. If you have any questions please email Nancy @ nmarriott@clstmarys.ca or call 284-1400 ext 221

Business Year Ends March 31st

To ensure reimbursement of your expenses (mileage, alternative support) Admin will need to receive your receipts no later than **Wednesday, April 1 2015**. Claim dates must be between April 1, 2014 and March 31, 2015,



Ontario's Special Needs Strategy

Having a child with special needs may present parents with some unique challenges in getting the services they need. It can often be confusing to know where to turn.

Locally, agencies providing services to children and youth with special needs residing in Huron and Perth Counties have come together to develop local proposals to improve the coordination of services and to integrate rehabilitation services.

"An Ontario where children and youth with special needs get the timely and effective services they need to participate fully at home, at school, in the community, and as they prepare to achieve their goals for adulthood." (Special Needs Strategy vision)

To achieve this vision, a provincial strategy is being put in place to:

- Identify children's needs earlier and get them the right help sooner;
- Coordinate service planning for children and youth with multiple and/or complex needs; and
- Make rehabilitation services (speech-language therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy) more seamless from birth through the school years.

Parents and youth have an important role to play in helping to plan improvements in the coordination of services and the integration of rehabilitation services in Huron and Perth Counties.

Parents of children or youth with special needs who are or were involved with service providers from multiple agencies, or who are or were receiving rehabilitation services, are asked to share their experiences and thoughts. This can be done using an on-line survey which can be found at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/huron-perth-parents>. By calling 211, parents can ask for a paper copy of the survey or they can arrange for the survey to be done over the telephone.

Young people who receive or who have received rehabilitation services, or who have received services from more than one agency, are also being asked to share their thoughts and experiences. An on-line survey can be found at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/huron-perth-youth>. By calling 211, youth can ask for a paper copy of the survey or they can arrange for the survey to be done over the telephone. If you would like to learn more about the provincial Special Needs Strategy visit: <http://specialneedsstrategy.children.gov.on.ca>.

CHECK OUT THE INSPIRING SHORT INTERVIEWS WITH LEADERS IN THE DISABILITY MOVEMENT AT **CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER** (LINK IS ON OUR WEBSITE)

Visit our website:
www.communitylivingstmarys.com

THE GIFT CORNER



Spend Some Time Thinking about your Gifts

What comes naturally..

It's not rocket science but it takes some reflection on what activities make you happy and then narrow down what it is that makes you feel that way. For example you may have always loved to travel but is it because you are excited by the freedom and adventure, enjoy meeting new people or have a deep connection to nature. Try peeling the layers back, just like an onion, as far as you can go. This takes some practice for sure!

What things are hard..

It may seem strange but think about what challenges you most and you'll find some clues to what motivates you most. For example if your pet peeve is inaction and passivity then it makes sense that your gift is connected to being decisive and leading action. It also might mean that if you are feeling particularly frustrated at making something happen others could see you as being pushy or too direct.

Keep track of success..

Next time something goes well for you try to link this to your gifts. If you threw a great party, think about the reasons why it was a hit; was it how you organized, what a great hostess you were or the selection of people you chose.

Ask other people..

Things you don't recognize in yourself often seem obvious to the family and friends who know you best.

Connect with people..

There is an old saying, "iron sharpens iron" and so it is with our gifts. Spending time with someone who shares our interests and talents helps us to focus on our own gifts and how to use them.

It takes work..

Think of it like a seed you're planting. Your gift may be growing but you still need to water it, mulch it and weed around it. That's why we use the core gift interview process to help people begin the process. If you're interested in finding out more, contact Jennifer at (519)284-1400 ext. 228 or jleslie@clstmarys.ca

Community Living is involved in a unique housing project. We have partnered with a private developer and Stratford Perth Housing to create some new affordable and accessible units. For more information contact Marg McLean

Sunday, March 8th



First day of



Friday, March 20th



FOCUS accreditation

Becoming an accredited organization through FOCUS is a process that we embarked on a year ago. Some will remember the orientation meeting in March 2014 and others got involved in the five groups that met over the summer months of 2014 to develop goals to help us meet the standards. In the fall a work plan was developed and various committees across the association have been given tasks specific to their role that will bring us up to the level of accreditation. Some of the goals are small such as changing the wording in policies and some take more time and thought such as how we are accountable to the mission and principles in measurable ways. Once the work plan is complete we will look at having the peer review team visit later in 2015 for the actual review. For more information on accreditation, it's benefits and what some of the standards are please contact Jennifer at (519)284-1400 ext. 228 or e-mail jleslie@clstmarys.ca You can also visit the FOCUS website www.focusaccreditation.ca



How to reach our office:
519-284-1400 ext.

- Marg McLean.....225
- Jennifer L.....228
- Kim M.222
- Nancy M..... 221
- Vickie L.....241
- Laura C242
- Brenda K..... 224
- Linda M..... 243
- Don D.....223
- Jenn C.....232
- Tracy B.....234
- Connie S.....305
- Stephanie L.....226
- Candace O.....245
- Mirjam S.....227

Social Role Valorization

In October two employees attended a four day training in Social Role Valorization (SRV).

SRV is a theory developed by Wolf Wolfensberger to address devaluation. Devaluation occurs when a person or group is perceived by society as different and that difference is negatively valued. People who are devalued include people who are elderly, people who have nowhere to live and people with disabilities.

The theory emphasizes using the appropriate methods to achieve valued social roles. It has been an eye-opening intensive four days, which generated lots of ideas to bring back to the teams.

Since we feel this is so important in supporting people, five more employees will attend the same training in March. After this training we will form a group and discuss how to bring this back to all the teams. So please stay tuned!

More information can be found: <http://www.socialrolevalorization.com>

The Joint Health & Safety Committee ***Needs a Support Worker Representative***

Paul Williams, Jackie Haycock, Kim Conard, Linda Munro, Kim Monden, Marg McLean.

Items of interest, dealings of the Health & Safety Committee and the minutes are posted at JPC in the photocopy room. Any concerns of a health and safety nature can be forwarded to the Chair Paul Williams at pwilliams@clstmarys.ca or (519) 284-3620

2014 Christmas Party Celebration

Great music by the Chris Brine Band



Thank you to the Board of Directors for another memorable Christmas Celebration.

