

Newslink

November 2017

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



Central Administration



RRSP Matching Benefit : December 15th is the deadline to notify Central Admin if you:
● Wish to opt out of the matching RRSP benefit ● Wish to opt in (check with Central Admin to see if your 2016 earnings meet the gross earning requirement) ● Wish to change your percentage
Contact cohearn@clstmarys.ca or call 519-284-1400 ext 221

Please note: The gross earning requirement is also checked at this time for all participants. If you no longer meet this requirement you will be notified by letter. All changes will become effective pay period ending January 12, 2018.

Health Spending Account: As a reminder, funds from 2016 must be used by the end of 2017.

Christmas Closure: Central Admin will be closed Monday Dec 25 (Christmas Day), Tuesday Dec 26 (Boxing Day) and Monday, January 1 (New Year's Day)

Payables: Please ensure payables that would be submitted the week of December 22nd are into Central Admin by Monday, December 18th no later than 10:00am.



Community Living St. Marys and Area invites you to the annual **Christmas Dinner and Dance**

Friday Dec. 8th
St. Marys Golf and Country Club
(Invitation enclosed)

RSVP by Nov 24th to Central Admin
New Drop-in time
5-6:00pm drop-in time for those who cannot make Christmas dinner

VOLUNTEER BELL RINGERS NEEDED!
Ring a bell...help change a life

Community Living St. Marys has volunteered to assist with the Salvation Army kettle drive Dec 11 & 18th. If you would like to help, please contact Nicole Everitt at 519-284-100 ext 231 or email neveritt@clstmarys.ca

Create A Smile



A grateful "thank you" to everyone who contributed to the success of the walkathon with special mention to the Muir, Rossetti, Holland, Webber, Shearer and Van Dyke families for their exceptional support.



Over \$16,600 pledged!

The money raised will pay for things that enhance the lives of people with disabilities, their families and the communities they live in. This includes essential items not covered by government funding, some mobility and communication devices, summer supports for a number of young people, People First and accessibility equipment needed in our community.

Upcoming

ALL STAFF MEETING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2018

1:30-4:30PM AT THE JAMES PURDUE CENTRE

Enjoy some general discussions and presentations from:

- Family Services Employee Assistance Program - Tammie Ross
- RWAM - John Harkins - (Health Benefits)
- Great West Life (RRSP Benefits) - Laura Hetu

Each session will discuss any recent changes and an overview of the employee benefits.

All families are invited!!

**Join us as a panel of families answers this most important question ...
'What I wish I knew when I started!'**

Date: Wednesday November 29, 2017

Time: 6:45-9:00pm

Place: St. Marys DCVI high school library

RSVP to Celina at cthomashicks@clstmarys.ca or call (519) 284-1400 ext 228 no later than Nov 25th.

Please note there is support funding available for families to attend. Please ask for more information.

Learn from those who have lived the experience!!



Volunteer **CHRISTMAS** Dinner

Community Christmas Supper

Community Living St. Marys and Area will be hosting the community supper on Monday, December 4

at the St. Marys United Church. We are looking for volunteers to help with serving and cleanup.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Tracy Brant at 519-284-1400 ext 234 or email at tbrant@clstmarys.ca

3 December International Day of Persons with Disabilities

- take action disability-inclusion
- women with disabilities understanding disability mobilize action
- promote dignity plan events mainstream disability
- organize forums ensure equality
- develop social policies employment inclusive education
- social integration advocate human rights
- children with disabilities empowerment
- accessible healthcare
- data collection awareness-raising
- end stigma and stereotyping



Be informed! Get involved!
www.un.org/disabilities
enable@un.org

THE GIFT CORNER



Gift Corner

Have you noticed that the gift wall has a new look? Drop by and check out some familiar faces and their stories about how they use their core gift on a day-to-day basis. It's not enough to find out what our core gift and talents are; we need to contribute them and be recognized for this! There is always room on the wall for more stories so if you want to share please connect with Nichole Everitt at (519)284-1400 ext. 231 or e-mail her at neveritt@clstmarys.ca

"What are the gifts that we have been given? To deny that we are gifted is, perhaps, to indulge in false humility which allows us to shirk responsibility for the gift. But the gift is a sacred trust...it asks that we develop it. And it asks that we pass it on." Deena Metzger

In more gift news... one team is working together to support the person they work for to discover his core gift and to find opportunities and places for him to use it. If you are interested in knowing more about this please contact Nichole Everitt.

Eight local youth attended this years Re:Action4Inclusion youth conference in Orillia, Ontario in October. The conference brought together youth, educators and community allies from all over the province for three days. Throughout the weekend, Youth Advisors coordinated activities that helped participants become more familiar with the movement, foster thoughtful conversations around disability, and enhance the abilities of the larger group to recognize their capacity to transform the schools and communities they return home to. Well-known and reputable speakers brought forth ideas and raised awareness amongst the group. Local youth, Johanna Hainer and Cameron Stanger, were recognized at the conference as 'Youth Hosts' and leaders.



Engaged youth leaders have been inspired to use their voice and are empowered by their connection to a movement. These youth are ready to create change in their schools and community. If you know a local youth who might be interested in learning more about Re:Action4Inclusion locally please contact Stephanie Lee, Youth Facilitator slee@clstmarys.ca



Celebrating 20 Years of Family!



Tony, Jennifer & Gord

Twenty years ago on November 24th 1997, Gord left the Mid-Western Regional Centre, the only home he had known for 25 years of his life. Gord's family had sold the family farm he remembered as a boy. He missed the farm, the farm life and working outdoors. With the support of his mother and Community Living St. Marys and Area, Gord met the Plauses, a family living not far from where he had grown up. With horses, sheep and chickens to care for as well as keeping up with all the regular farm chores, the day Gord walked into Tony and Jennifer's he knew he had found his forever home.

*Congratulations Tony, Jennifer and Gord
Celebrating 20 years of sharing a home, sharing life!*

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

Marg McLean225
Jennifer Leslie228
Kim Monden222
Vickie Logan241
Candace O'Hearn221
Laura Cannon245
Becky Huffman224
Linda Pickering243
Jenn Costello232
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Inima Luque Tamayo242
Don Dingwall223
Stephanie Lee226
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Maintenance244
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If you would prefer to receive this newsletter electronically or purchase a membership, you can sign up on our website at www.communitylivingstmarys.ca or you can send your email address and request to: centraladmin@clstmarys.ca

Why be a member?

A \$5.00 membership entitles you to:

- * vote on policies and bylaw changes at our Annual General Meeting
- * receive newsletters, annual reports, financial statements (on request only)
- * receive invitations to planning retreats and workshops
- * serve on our Board of Directors or one of its committees

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please contact Candace O'Hearn at 519-284-1400 ext 221 or email cohearn@clstmarys.ca

FOCUS accreditation

Stay tuned for more information from our on-site visit with Focus Accreditation the week of Nov 13-16th.

Visit our website:
www.communitylivingstmarys.ca

Are you interested in strategic planning? If so, you may consider joining the Strategic Planning Committee. For more information contact Marg McLean at 519-284-1400 ext 225 or email mmclean@clstmarys.ca

Join us on **Facebook**

Scholarship

Jennifer Jones was the recipient of the 2017 Community Living St. Marys & Area Scholarship
Congratulations!

Employee Management Relations Committee

Provides a forum for discussion for all staff through their representative for matters of mutual interest and/or concern.

Members include:
Becky Huffman, Jen McCauley, Vanessa Martin-Loree, Nicole Zandstra, Connie Seaton, Tamie Robertson-Coward, Carol Ackersviller, Marg McLean, Jennifer Leslie, Kim Monden

SAFETY

The Joint Health & Safety Committee

Paul Williams, Jackie Haycock, Carol Ackersviller, Linda Pickering, 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

Conversations that Matter

CHECKOUT THE INSPIRING SHORT INTERVIEWS WITH LEADERS IN THE DISABILITY MOVEMENT

If you don't have a computer or internet access and would like to book a time at the JPC to watch the videos, please contact Laura Cannon at lcannon@clstmarys.ca

You will have recently received an email with the link to a step by step User Guide recently created to assist employees in using the Conversations the Matter website.

Don't forget to log in and be inspired - informed - involved!

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL OF US AT JPC!