

Newslink

November 2018

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



A grateful "thank you" to everyone who contributed to the success of the walkathon with special mention to the Muir, Rossetti, Holland, Langdon and Van Dyke families for their exceptional support. Please go to our website www.communitylivingstmarys.ca for a complete sponsorship listing.



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.

Community Living St. Marys and Area invites you to the annual **Christmas Dinner and Dance** Friday Dec. 7th St. Marys Golf and Country Club (Invitation enclosed) RSVP by Nov 23rd



Central Administration



RRSP Matching Benefit : December 14th 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 2017 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 18, 2019.

Health Spending Account: As a reminder, funds from 2017 must be used by the end of 2018.

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

Payables: Please ensure payables that would be submitted the week of December 21st are into Central Admin by Friday, December 14th no later than 10:00am.

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

A new strategic plan is on it's way! Community Living St. Marys and Area has been gathering information and feedback from people supported, families, employees, board members and community over the summer and even back to John O'Brien's visit in March. There have been gatherings and an on-line survey and the resulting input is now being compiled into strategic priorities. The one to two-page strategic document will go to the board of directors and discussed at their November meeting. They will guide how the plan will be shared with everyone and the next steps. One of those steps will be forming a committee that can help in carrying out the plan. This committee will need to have different perspectives from across the agency including people supported, family members and employees. If you are interested in being part of this exciting group that will set directions for the next four years, please contact Marg McLean or Jennifer Leslie. Some people have put their names forward but more are needed.

From Presence to Citizenship

Our group of ten agencies from across the province is hosting a third Learning Exchange February 6 to 8 in Toronto. *People Driving Change* will have dynamic speakers and many opportunities for shared learning. If you're interested, please talk with Marg McLean.

United Way St. Marys Committee needs your help to raise money for two projects identified as priorities for our community. Curious? Like to learn more? Contact Marg McLean or United Way.

*Come out to the Pyramid Rec Centre and support the **United Way St. Marys Campaign** on **Nov 30, 2018** by cheering on the St. Marys Lincolns.



Community Christmas Supper

Community Living St. Marys and Area will be hosting the community supper on Monday, December 3

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



Core Gift Master Facilitator Group

“The meaning of life is to find your gift.
The purpose of life is to give it away!”

Our gift culture will mean nothing without both parts of this quote. Knowing our gifts is only half of our purpose in life, equally important is searching for the people and places that need it. Bruce Anderson was back in St. Marys in September to help us think more about this. He gave a one-day workshop at the St. Marys Golf and Country Club for over 70 people on *5 Ways to Know Your Gift*. We also had a two-day Core Gift Master Facilitator course for 12 people. On Bruce’s last day, we hosted a community gathering for 15 people to talk about how St. Marys can be a welcoming place to live. Bruce shared stories from a number of communities that have done welcoming projects. Some of the people that attended that day have met since and are discussing ideas they would like to work on here. One of the questions they asked each other is, “who are the most welcoming people you know in town?” Are you curious? Want to know more? Give Jennifer Leslie a call at (519)284-1400 ext. 228



Join Community Living St.Marys and Area for Giving Tuesday

Community Living St.Marys and Area is promoting welcoming communities and doing something nice for your neighbour! We are encouraging everyone in the Town of St. Marys and surrounding communities to spend some time with their neighbour or people in your neighborhood between now and November 27th.

Need an idea?

Help rake leaves/shovel snow
Bake some cookies and deliver them
Visit someone in your neighbourhood
Send a handwritten note of thanks for something

Send us your photos and stories!

Send us your photos and stories about how you are being a great neighbour to slee@clstmarys.ca
Take a photo of the cookies you baked, the leaves you have raked or smiling with your neighbour.

What is Giving Tuesday?

Giving Tuesday is a global movement for giving and volunteering, taking place each year after Black Friday. The “Opening day of the giving season,” it’s a time when charities, companies and individuals join together and rally for favourite causes. In the same way that retailers take part in Black Friday, the giving community comes together for Giving Tuesday.

Celebrate Being a Good Neighbour with Us

November 27th from 4-6pm

James Purdue Center
300 Elgin Street East, St.Marys

We will celebrate, share stories and other surprises!

Community Living Employment Corner:

We are well into developing employment support for people using services from Community Living St. Marys. I wanted to share a few important details: I will be setting up meetings with those interested in finding employment. We are working with local employers and agencies to increase the success rate of maintaining a job for people with disabilities in the workplace. I will also be assisting people to find volunteer and paid employment. If you or a member of your family is interested in employment, please reach out to me by calling 519-284-1400 Ext. 246

Some important statistics to consider; did you know that the disability market touches 53% of consumers and represents a huge opportunity for business. Studies reveal that 97% of employees who have disabilities rate average or above in **safety**. 86% of employees who have a disability have **average to above** attendance records. **Retention rates** are 72% higher among people who have disabilities. 78% of Canadians are **more than likely** to buy a product or service from a business that hires people who have disabilities.

****Let’s engage talent and be counted in these stats by working together to find your next job!****

Kelly Boudreau, Employment Facilitator

How to reach our office: 519-284-1400

Marg McLean	225
Jennifer Leslie	228
Kim Monden	222
Vickie Logan	241
Candace O’Hearn.....	221
Laura Cannon.....	245
Becky Huffman	224
Linda Pickering	243
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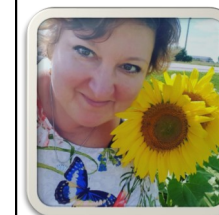
If you would prefer to receive this newsletter electronically or wish purchase a membership, you can sign up on our website at www.communitylivingstmarys.ca. You may also send your email address and request to: centraladmin@clstmarys.ca



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



Ruth Glendon

Employee of the Month

Ruth has been a Support Worker with our agency since March 2016. Fun facts about Ruth: She is a Certified Foot Reflexologist, Indian Head Massage Practitioner and Hot Stone Massage Therapist. Ruth loves to sew and paint and draw, is an avid reader, and loves to meditate to keep grounded and balanced. She hopes to sign up again for Belly Dancing classes soon!



Jayden Aylward was the recipient of the 2018 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, Connie Seaton, Tamie Robertson-Coward, Carol Ackersviller, Marg McLean, Jennifer Leslie & Kim Monden

CHECK OUT THE INSPIRING SHORT INTERVIEWS WITH LEADERS IN THE DISABILITY MOVEMENT AT

**Conversations
that Matter**

(GO TO STAFF LOGIN ON WEBSITE)

More New Videos: Self-Injurious Behaviours (Ruth Myers) & Misconceptions about being Deaf

The Joint Health & Safety Committee

Items of interest, dealings of the H&S 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

Members include: Paul Williams, Jackie Haycock, Carol Ackersviller, Kim Monden, Linda Pickering, and Marg McLean.

