



COMMUNITY LIVING  
Peterborough

# Opening doors

September 2012

*to Building Inclusive Communities*

## In This Issue belong

- Our Wish Fund is Making Dreams Come True
- I Achieved My Goal!
- Calvin's New Smile Has Brightened His Life
- Message from the C.E.O.
- Blue Jays Get the Win & the Hockey Hall of Fame Does Not Disappoint
- They Grow Up So Fast...
- *Home of Our Own* Campaign Update

**Mission:** To inspire respect and equality for people living with an intellectual disability by promoting: community knowledge, organizational excellence and individual quality of life.

## My Home, My Choice

- Heather Grosney, Community Living Peterborough

The average 27-year old female would not say that one of her favourite aspects of living alone is her new found appreciation for cleaning, but since Meagan moved into her own apartment in September 2011, she now equates the freedom of cleaning her own space when she wants and how she wants, with the freedom to be able to make her own choices in other aspects of her life.

"I like to be able to decide on my own what time I go to bed, how loud my music is and what I do with my day. I call my friends and family every night, but I like the quiet and I think living alone is fun." A typical 27 year old!

Meagan's first time living out of her family home was in 2010 when her Best Buddy from Trent University, Steph, asked her to move in with her. "It was a three bedroom house and one of the girls dropped out so they asked me to move in." Meagan's mother, Teresa, believes the experience was a perfect bridge between moving out of the family home and moving into her own supported independent living option "Steph and she did everything together – cooking, cleaning, keeping an organized schedule – it was a great experience for Meagan to build the skills she needed to be

able to live on her own. Cause living on your own is a skill."

Meagan, a two-time silver Special Olympic medalist in the 25-metre free style and back stroke, and a ribbon gymnast, also participates in cross country skiing, singing and dancing. An accomplished painter, her work has raised hundreds of dollars for Community Living Peterborough during fundraising events. She believes that living on her own has given her a new level of confidence and has made her more outgoing and mature. This experience, in turn, gave her the courage to meet and speak with Prime Minister Stephen Harper as part of her work with the Young Women's Leadership Group. "I was really shy before. Now, I'm not."



Meagan's two silver Special Olympic Medals from the 2012 Special Olympic Games.

The Glaeser family look at Meagan's supported independent living as a long-term goal. Together, they are building the skills that Meagan will need to support herself for the rest of her life. What is the next phase in the plan to continue building her self-confidence and skill base? Cooking lessons! "I want to be able to make lasagna and have my family over for dinner."

# Our Wish Fund is Making Dreams Come True

- Lisa Clarke, Community Living Peterborough

Community Living Peterborough assists the people receiving our support and services in making personal plans and priority goals for their future. For some people however, reaching their goals is difficult due to the lack of financial resources.

This is where the **Wish Fund** comes in. We encourage people we support to take pride in their accomplishments and in turn we can assist them with any extraordinary expenses that will allow them to achieve their goals. The Wish Fund is not a supplement or income; it is an opportunity to ensure personal goals are met through planning and applying to the Fund. Past wishes have included assistance to purchase dentures, orthotics, sports tickets, vacations and trips to the Special Olympics, as well as



Community Living Peterborough's Wish Fund has granted wishes to take art classes with local professionals, purchase new walkers and other important assistive devices, and to attend sports events like the Lakers Lacrosse games

funds for music, art, dance and swimming lessons. Realized dreams make a difference in the lives of the people we support, and are things that many of us take for granted in our own lives.

At our Market Hall event on April 28, 2012, we asked our guests to help fund some of the 51 wishes currently on the Wish Fund list. At the event, six wishes were fully funded while nine were partially funded. The Wish Table on this night was sponsored by

Motion Specialties, so many of the additional wishes were funded by this gracious donor.

Are you inspired to create a world where anything is possible? There are always dreams that are waiting to be fulfilled. Help us to make these wishes come true through your donation to the Wish Fund. Contact **Ben Taylor, Wish Fund Committee Chair**, at 705-743-2412 ext. 521 or [btaylor@communitylivingpeterborough.ca](mailto:btaylor@communitylivingpeterborough.ca) for more information.

## I Achieved My Goal! independence

It was Lexie's goal to learn how to ask for and use transfer passes on the city bus. She has been independently riding the bus for few years now but was uncertain of how to get further than downtown. With this new skill, Lexie will now be able to meet her friends and visit family members without depending on rides from others. This new found independence can be difficult because, as she says, "sometimes I'm shy and nervous about riding the bus and trying new things, but I'm doing it!" Good for you Lexie!



## Calvin's New Smile Has Brightened His Life



Hi, my name is Calvin and, in February, I moved into my new apartment at Myrtle Terrace. It is a one-bedroom, and I love it!

Since I moved in, I have met many new friends and I feel I am more active here than when I was living in an apartment in downtown Peterborough. I am very happy here. My new friends invite me to go to functions that I would not have known about before.

I like to stay busy, so in addition to working five days a week at Walmart, I go fishing with my friend, Buddy, and attend many dances and community events. My neighbour also

recently introduced me to a painting class offered in town, and after some practice, I would like to say that I'm pretty good.

Even with all my activities, one thing that has always held me back was my smile. Due to the cost, I have never been able to visit a dentist on a regular schedule so my teeth were not in very good shape.

Because dentures are quite expensive, I was unable to pay for the full cost, but luckily, with the help of Community Living Peterborough's Wish Fund, I was able to receive a grant to help offset the costs of the new dentures. I received my new teeth in June and I am proud to say that my new smile has really changed my life. My dentures make me feel more confident, less self-conscious and they look great!

The timing for my dentures was perfect! I received my new smile just in time for a volunteer position interview with Little Lake Music Festival's Manager, Tom Little. I did very well in the interview and I am pleased to say that I was offered the volunteer position. Now, my summer will consist of working at Walmart, fishing, painting, enjoying the community, and meeting celebrities and listening to some amazing music at Little Lake Musicfest!

## Message From the C.E.O.

In this newsletter, you have read accounts of various goals, dreams and activities that people we support have accomplished since my last message. The general theme that plays out in each article however is just how vital sufficient funds are in order to fulfill such Wish Fund requests as Calvin's new dentures, to assist people we support take part in such special events like attending Blue Jays games, and how our *Home of Our Own* campaign could not prosper without proper funding and our generous donors.

While the physical support from the Peterborough community, family members and our staff all keep the wheels of the Community Living Peterborough vehicle moving, without the fuel, that is the funding, the pace of our vehicle would begin to slow and could run the risk of coming to a complete halt.

To add to the complexity of maintaining sufficient support, in June the provincial government announced they would remove

\$133 million from the direct benefits to people relying on the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). Thankfully, the City of Peterborough has seen fit to maintain the current funding rate to ODSP discretionary benefits for the remainder of 2012. However, there is no guarantee that the City will follow the same commitment for the 2013 budget year (for more information on these provincial cuts, visit our website).

By withdrawing almost \$2 million alone from rent supplement programs, there will be a greater funding gap for the citizens of Peterborough, including the many people we support who rely on ODSP for housing costs, living essentials to aid in the progress of achieving their personal goals and to fund significant events in their lives. These cut backs will make it increasingly more difficult to pay for housing, fund their support networks and, most importantly, participate in our community.

Now more than ever, our campaign of *Home of Our Own: 100 Homes for 100 People*

reaches an even higher sense of importance. Our fundraising will help to increase the opportunity for decent affordable homes. With 35% of our goal reached, we are able to break ground on our Jane Street, a 12 person occupancy home and expect residents to be living in the home in the New Year.

The future of the discretionary and other funding resources is of great concern to members of Community Living and our local Social Planning Council, and together we are committed to advocating the maintenance of the current funding rate to ODSP discretionary benefits for the citizens of Peterborough. Please watch the media for updates on ODSP discretionary benefits to know what action we can take to get our voices heard.

Respectfully yours,



Jack Gillan  
Chief Executive Officer

## Blue Jays Get the Win, and the Hockey Hall of Fame Does Not Disappoint

- Sean Quinlan, Community Living Peterborough

It was one of the only days that it rained in July, but nothing could keep us from heading to Toronto to see the Jays take on the Oakland Athletics and to visit a Canadian landmark...that is, the Hockey Hall of Fame.

On July 26, Bryan, Jasmin, Jonathan and I made the drive with hopes of seeing the Jays squash the A's from sweeping the series. We were not very optimistic given that the Jays had lost 15-0 the night before, but our presence must have brought Canada's only MLB team some luck because they won the game 10-4. We were lucky enough to see not only one homerun by the Jays, but two!



## They Grow Up So Fast... experience

Nate, a 21-year old self-advocate, is very independent and regularly sets new goals for himself. Nate has experienced many exciting firsts this year. In April, he was awarded the Anne Stafford Light Up the Future Bursary and was able to use the money to take driving lessons at Kawartha Driving Training. In June, Nate wrote and passed his G2 driving test and shortly thereafter, he purchased his first vehicle!



A hardworking, dedicated and friendly individual, Nate has also worked hard to find part-time employment and was recently hired on at the Magic Rolling Pin to work two evenings a week.

# Home of Our Own Campaign Update

## We Need Your Support!

- Lisa Clarke, Community Living Peterborough

In April, Community Living Peterborough celebrated the public launch of our *Home of Our Own: 100 Homes for 100 People* campaign at our Skydiggers event at Market Hall. With the success of the event, as well as our additional fundraising initiatives, we have now **reached 35% of our \$5 Million over 5 year campaign goal** and have successfully found new homes for 12 people!

To date, Community Living Peterborough has received **\$1,067,000 in funding support through the Investment in Affordable Housing Program from the Province of Ontario and the City of Peterborough** for two accessible duplexes on Jane Street. In addition, we have received over **\$520,000 in funding towards supported independent living for Transitional-Aged Youth**.

Our organization continues to seek funding for the Jane Street capital project, family-directed housing initiatives, community housing partnerships with local housing non-profit organizations, and home-ownership support for families.

The *Home of Our Own: 100 Homes for 100 People* campaign is part of an important solution by us to address provincial funding freezes for agencies supporting people living with an intellectual disability.

# Community Living Peterborough BOARD OF DIRECTORS

# believe

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Through this campaign we will provide innovative housing options, including the purchase of housing or building of accessible housing and start-up housing funds, to assist the people we support who are currently waiting for supported living options.

Waiting lists for residential support, which is now a provincial centralized process, have risen to 12,000 people in a sector that currently provides residential support to 16,000 people, yet social services funding has been frozen until 2017.

Community Living Peterborough is committed to reducing wait times by finding housing alternatives, reducing the dependence on government funding, and increasing quality of life by finding the most suitable supportive housing options for each person living with an intellectual disability. These housing options will

honour each person's preference about the neighbourhood in which they live in, the person(s) with whom they may wish to share their home with, how they personalize their home, and ensure accessibility.

To find out more about our innovative campaign and to make a donation, please visit our website or contact our **Community and Fund Development Officer Lisa Clarke** at 705-743-2412 ext. 539 or [lclarke@communitylivingpeterborough.ca](mailto:lclarke@communitylivingpeterborough.ca).

**YOU can make a difference locally by giving to Community Living Peterborough's *Home of our Own: 100 Homes for 100 People Campaign*.**

[www.communitylivingpeterborough.ca](http://www.communitylivingpeterborough.ca)



# Thank You... involved to each of our donors. Your support has already made a difference!

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