



Annual Report

2022-2023



**People live in dignity and share in all aspects of living
in their community.**

Our Board of Directors

President

Frank Moore

Vice President

Mia Berg

Treasurer

Joan Winter

Secretary

Donna Martin

Directors

Randy Carroll

Liz Hardy

Sean McDade

Louise Thauvette

Helen Watson

Thank You



2022-2023 Board of Directors

Absent: Joan Winters

Message from our Executive Director

Guided by our Strategic Plan we have made notable progress in a year filled with, changes, growth and reestablishing relationships as we transition out of the pandemic. The landscape as we know it here at CL-CH has transformed this year. New leadership has settled into their roles with several new staff joining our CL-CH family throughout the year. With new faces, beginnings and fresh ideas we remain deeply rooted in the support we provide to people, families and community. We are working on strengthening the culture of the organization and are proud of how far we have come in the past year; knowing we still have work to be done.

The Government of Ontario's 10-year strategy for developmental services, "Journey to Belonging: Choice and Inclusion", includes a commitment to allow people to receive funding directly and manage their own supports. It is crucial that this change be implemented in a way that actually works for people and families.

This is the time to move the organization forward, and a call to action for inclusion and belonging for all. We need you, families, people we support, self-advocates, volunteers and our community partners, to stretch our thinking beyond our own perspectives. Let's live the vision in the work we do, the places we go and connections that are made.

Thank you to the people we support, volunteers, our partners, and staff who never fail to amaze me. We want to especially thank and recognize the financial support from the Ministry of Community and Social Services, Ministry of Health, and our donors. The future moving forward is bright, and we are very proud of the work we have done this year, and will continue to do in the upcoming months.



Natalie Steenstra
Executive Director

Message from our Board President

Thinking of all that we have accomplished together this past year brings to mind a quote by Barack Obama: "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

It is said that there are 3 constants in life, change, choice and principles. CL-CH's Vision and Mission statements are based on sound principles, and each of us can choose to make the changes required to see them fully realized.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you all for your hard work and dedication. We wish you the best in the days ahead.



Frank Moore
Board President

Committees

A.C.T.I.O.N. Committee (Active Community Through Integrating Others Now)

Committee Members: Joan Winter (Co-Chair), Donna Martin (Co-chair), Mia Berg, Marlene Campbell, Robert McFarlane, Frank Moore, Mike Murdoch (Golf Committee Chair), Louis Thauvette, Liz Hardy, Sabrina Vastag.

The objectives of the A.C.T.I.O.N Committee are to support public education initiatives which provide awareness of the Agency's Vision; promote Agency membership and coordinate/organize events to raise funds to benefit individuals accessing services.

Last year, the ACTION Committee, coordinated the following annual events: Holiday Campaign; the first ever Agency Holiday Open House; Gerbera Daisy Sales, 33rd Heartwarming Luncheon, 16th Golf Classic; and the Annual General Meeting. These yearly events provide entertainment, social time and monetary resources that allow the Board to approve funding requests from those in need of assistance. Proceeds have been used to: assist with camp registrations and one-to-one support; special assistive devices; Snoezelen room upgrade and provide financial support for daily living expenses.

With continued success and many positive comments received, it is without a doubt that this Committee will continue to forge ahead with annual events. The Committee welcomes fresh and new awareness and fundraising ideas for continued fellowship within our Community.

Finance & Audit Committee

Committee Members: Joan Winter (Treasurer), Frank Moore, Donna Martin, Randy Carroll

The Committee oversees the financial aspects of the Agency and makes appropriate recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding revenues and expenditures. The Committee also ensures adherence to the Agency's Tender Policy as it pertains to potential suppliers. This year the Finance Committee met four times with business regarding the following:

- Vehicle tenders
- Agency banking/Investments
- Accounting software
- Insurance Policy
- Review of year-end financials
- Review of Terms of Reference and Memorandum of Understanding
- Audit Tender



Quality Review Committee

Committee Members: Mia Berg (Chair), Sharon Creighton, Naomi Pelss, Frank Moore, Mary Gregg

The Committee monitors the delivery of services to individuals supported by Community Living-Central Huron. The Committee provides a more inclusive forum to consider supports and services to all individuals, children, youth and adults served by CL-CH. The Committee ensures the Agency is in compliance with all necessary rules and regulations from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, Ministry of Health and other funders, as well as, reviews the effectiveness of quality supports.

This past year the committee met regularly with various programs presenting on initiatives and updates of their programs. A presentation by the Agency's Trainer, Katie Robson occurred which provided the committee a fulsome understanding of the Agency's priority for training and development. Both Community Support for Families and Connie Goodall presented over the course of the year as well.

Policy & Procedure Committee

Committee Members: Frank Moore (Chair), Helen Watson, Randy Carroll

The Committee has convened in person and by email to consider new and revised Policies and Procedures, Requests to Access Board Funds and to consider applications for Board Scholarship Funds. In making recommendations to the Board of Directors, the Committee ensures that all Policies and Procedures are consistent with the Agency's Vision, Mission and Service Principles and in accordance with government legislation, Ministry Directives and Compliance requirements, and the Collective Agreement. They have also worked diligently over this past year to update the By-laws in order to comply with ONCA.

A review of all policies was initiated this year to work toward first person language with the following policies approved or updated over the course of the year:

- Staff Recognition E-019
- Employee Supervision E-007
- Health and Safety Policy Statement D-001
- Human Rights Employee A-007
- Police Record Check, Vulnerable Sector Check E-003
- Right to Disconnect E-024



Years of Service Recipients for 2022

Community Living- Central Huron was pleased to recognize the following staff and volunteers for their years of dedicated service. Each of their unique contributions has furthered the vision of Community Living and has enhanced the lives of people who have an intellectual disability.

5 Years

Shelley Gloucher
Dana Thompson

10 Years

Judy Sinclair
Stefanie Font

15 Years

Joelene Scully
Derek Quinlan

20 Years

Lisa Kirven
Loretta Boucher

30 Years

Sharon Allison
Audrey Patterson
Dale Robertson



Our Impact

71

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

1675

HOUR OF TRAINING PROVIDED TO STAFF

29

ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS OF CL-CH. THANK YOU!

Program Updates

Community Participation Supports

Community Participation Support Program, which consists of Passport Administration Services and Foundations Huron, served 148 individuals jointly.

In Passport, for many individuals, it was a return to full participation in the community. Post Covid, folks were energized to re-engage in community activities including exploring new passions and interests. Many took advantage of the continued Covid flexibility guidelines including the purchase of tech items, crafts and hobby items. As a result, there was a marked increase in individuals utilizing a large portion of their allocations requiring frequent adjustments to their individualized plans and budgets.

Community Mentors support people in CPS. Over the course of the year, there was an increase in people interested in receiving individualized supports with a mentor. A targeted recruitment drive for the South Huron area was initiated. Recruitment continues to be an area of focus and plans/strategies are being implemented to address the ongoing needs across CPS.

In the Foundations Huron program, we welcomed new school representatives Heather Jones (AMDSB) and Jessica Langan (HPCDSB) to the Foundations Steering committee. The Committee reviewed the Terms of Reference and eligibility criteria with a renewed focus and commitment made to serve transitional aged young adults who have completed and/or are exiting high school. Committee members participated in a visioning session focusing on our annual Work Plan. Some exciting and positive ideas were generated and much work and collaboration was completed with both school boards to ensure effective transitional planning.

112

**PEOPLE SUPPORTED
IN PASSPORTS**

36

**PEOPLE SUPPORTED
IN FOUNDATIONS**

44

**ACTIVE COMMUNITY
MENTORS**



Community Support for Families

The Community Support for Families program delivers services and supports to Families in Huron County who have children with disabilities. This year the Program served 187 children, delivering over 300 services, along with Co-Facilitating monthly Sibshops workshop for children and youth who have a sibling with a disability.

CSFF partnered with other agencies and services in developmental health, education, child and youth mental health sector, as well as child welfare. They continue to create new partnerships throughout Huron County. Staff of the CSFF program are members of the Family Support Workers of Ontario.

At the end of this year, the CSFF team worked hard on developing a workplan that aligned with the Agency's Strategic Plan priorities of Increasing Partnerships, Move Towards Full Inclusion, Deliver Exceptional Support Services, and Make CL-CH a great place to work. Staff have been busy sharing resources, hosting online events and information sessions, creating, and updating the CSFF Program Facebook page that helps families and foster identified goals.

The CSFF team members took part in relevant training and workshops to enhance their skill set within Community Living-Central Huron and supports quality work with families and children.

Other support duties include Intake, helping families find screened contract workers, administering Special Services at Home funding, Complex Special Needs funding, aiding families to apply for and update services and make referrals to other services as required.

187

**CHILDREN AND
THEIR FAMILIES
SUPPORTED**

21

**ACTIVE CONTRACT
WORKERS**



Huron Respite Network

This year the program hired 3 new staff, Laura Kirk, Melissa Milligan and Katie Robson! The program focused on evaluating the Selection Committee process to ensure the eligibility criteria and waitlists were both equitable and consistent. Management Committee and Advisory Committee continued to meet regularly throughout the year. Discussions consisted of topics such as trends in respite, provision of respite supports in Huron County and potential partnerships.

Over the course of the year the program worked on creative ways and opportunities to engage community as well as provide respite for families across Huron County.

Film Club and Gardening Club were established and open to the entire community.

Teen Talk was facilitated throughout the year for youth in Huron County who may have a diagnosis of ASD. Over the course of the year the group met monthly with 10 or more participants each month! Topics included employment, meal planning, cooking and relationships.

Caregiver Mornings continued in partnership with Rural Response for Healthy Children. The support group was offered in person and virtual. Plans for next year include evening sessions to provide opportunities for caregivers working outside the home to attend.

Staff are hosting a film club commencing in April 2023, which is open to anyone in the community and meets on a monthly basis to watch and discuss films that are by, for, and about people with disabilities. Meeting location(s) and film(s) to be reviewed will be determined on a month to month basis. We are currently exploring a community café to host a future meet-up.



93

**INDIVIDUALS
RECEIVED SUPPORTS**

46

**ACTIVE RESPITE
PROVIDERS**



Employment Supports

This year the program supported 40 people with their employment goals. Several people this year went on to secure competitive employment within their community. We've added virtual reality technology as a tool in employment readiness. With the pandemic behind us, people were eager to get back to work! We are looking forward to re-envisioning services this next year to ensure the supports we provide are relevant and in line with the current employment trends.

Alf's Story:

Alf has lived in Goderich for most of his life. He is well connected in his community and has always enjoyed contributing to the workforce. Alf has worked at Wendy's Restaurant Goderich for over 3 years.

By exemplifying the founder of Wendy's Dave Thompson's core values, Alf Tebow was awarded the Annual Wendy's Dave's Legacy Award in 2022. Alf lives his life with honesty and integrity, while serving the customers and helping the staff at Wendy's with excellent service and being nice to everyone who walks through the doors at Wendy's. He also takes on opportunities so he can grow as an employee. Lastly, Alf often helps around Wendy's prior to his shift and after his shift to make it the best experience for customers and staff. Congratulations Alf on your award, and thank you for all you do for our community!



Supported Independent Living

Supported Independent Living offers the required amount of assistance to adults who live on their own, in order to make independent living possible. This year the team assisted 34 people with accessing community resources, banking budgeting, menu planning, meal preparation, shopping, landlord and tenant negotiations, and participating within the community.

Cheryl's Story:

Cheryl is known for her positivity, caring and friendly attitude. She currently lives in Goderich and has for over 30+ years. She has been in the Supported Independent Living Program since 2018.

Cheryl loves to keep busy; knitting, being employed with seasonal jobs through the Employment Support Program and taking her bicycle for a spin around town.

One of the activities that she started and has really enjoyed this past year, is going to the Goderich YMCA. She loves to walk the track and use equipment such as the elliptical or treadmill. She has also had the opportunity to meet and become familiar with the staff. Cheryl mentioned that she feels comfortable in the YMCA environment and would recommend trying it out!



Accommodation Services

Over the past year 3 new Supervisors joined the team. Staff worked through the changes with Covid ensuring supports were maintained in a way that was meaningful and following Public Health recommendations. CL-CH supported 39 people. The job title of Residential Support Worker was changed to Support Worker to better define position. The Support Worker's role is to recognize the value that every person contributes to our community and to making each day meaningful. Providing support at peoples' homes and community at varying levels depending on the person. Accommodation Services encompasses residential and diversified supports.

A Story of two Roommates:

Bob and Brian had lived in a youth therapeutic residential staff modeled program for multiple years. As they were transitioning to life as an adult, each of them were unsure what the next stage would bring. Bob describes a life of staff rotating through his life, he noted, "I stopped learning the staff's name". He went on to describe meeting several staff only one time. Bob further explained that he was told the staff had more experience and were wiser, so he should do as they say.

During the time he was supported as a youth, Bob describes the program as very structured with little choice. Brian voiced his experience that his goals were not supported. If he expressed something he would like to do, it was brushed aside. Bob also voiced little choice in his day to day activities.

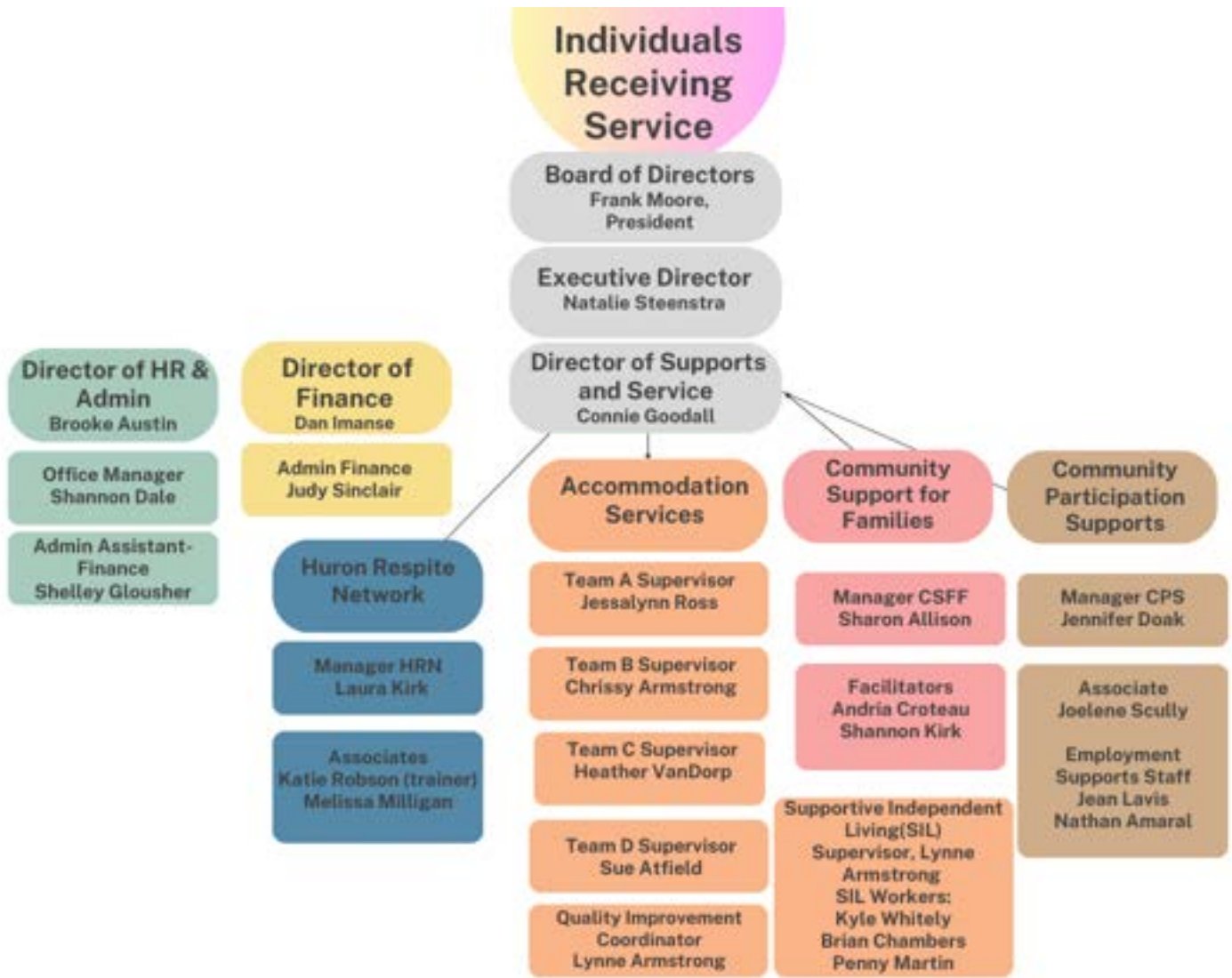
As they were moving into adulthood, they were looking into housing options and decided on the diversified program. They started their house hunting and were able to find a spot that they both liked and could afford with some help from the rent subsidy fund. Where they currently live is a bright and airy apartment that is attached to a house. Both voiced liking the spot, Bob particularly likes the shower and Brian is happy to be out of a basement.

When asked about the supports they received through the diversified program, Bob appreciated the freedom to make his own daily choices and the weekly scheduled support. He also has benefited from consistent staffing. Bob has some employment goals he is working on. Brian spoke about the way the staff listen to his goals and helped him achieve those goals. Brian has always wanted to go to a Drake concert and the tickets are purchased and the staffing is arranged for him and a friend to attend. He is now thinking ahead to other things he would like to do and accomplish. As excited as he is about Drake, he expressed "it is really the little things that make this authentic, my support worker takes me on drives and we have real conversations, he listens to me and that means a lot to me".

Both Bob and Brian are living lives with needed supports but with the independence they want. They both expressed that they are happy in the new apartment. Bob said "When we first moved in my cheeks hurt from smiling so much for so long!"



Organizational Chart



Strategic Plan Update

1. Move Towards Full Inclusion

2. Deliver Exceptional Services

3. Make CL-CH a Great Place to Work

4. Increase Awareness, Advocacy & Partnerships



In 2022-23 our agency made significant progress with the 4 Plan Priorities. We connected with people supported to ensure everyone's voice was heard. Training and development became a key priority across the agency to better support staff in the career development, improve the quality of supports, offer opportunities to people supported and for families to have access to training and development. Partnerships have increased, most notably with our two school boards for transition planning and advocacy for supports. The Together Better Committee comprised of Board Members and Staff, met this Spring to prioritize the key areas of focus that support the 4 Plan Priorities.

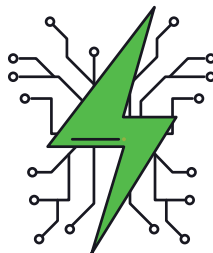
Key Areas of Focus for final year of Strategic Plan:



Housing



**Employment
Supports**



Technology



**Partnerships
&
Advocacy**



**Staff
Recognition**

People Truly Missed

Ruth Mensinga of Goderich passed away on Saturday, November 5, 2022 in her 47th year. Those who had the privilege of supporting her over the years, miss her tenacity and vibrant personality as well as her bright smile. She will be dearly missed.



Bradley Haw of Goderich was in his 54th year. He always enjoyed going for a drive, especially with his dad on the tractor. We admired Bradley's determination and good sense of humour. He loved a good dessert especially when out at a restaurant. Family was everything to Bradley and he continues to be missed and remembered.



Lois Skillen a dedicated staff member from our Clinton office passed away September 9, 2022 in her 65th year. We will forever miss her sense of humour, quick wit and strength in character.



Community Living Month



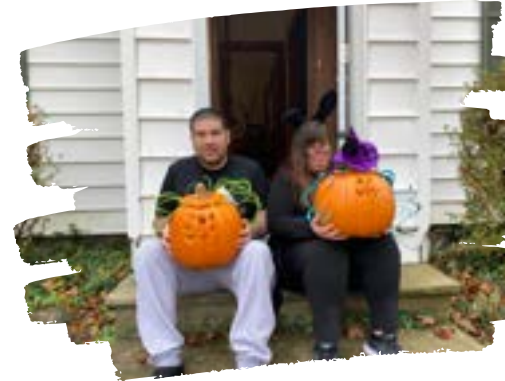
The movement of Community Living is a call to action 365 days a year. Raising awareness and, ensuring people supported have the opportunities to live their very best lives. In May the focus is heightened with initiatives to highlight the roles and responsibilities of Community Living.

In 2022, CL-CH participated in the following CL Month events:

- Lighting up the Agency Blue and Green
- #TakeABreak Campaign
- Radio and Newspaper ads sharing stories of Inclusion
- Social media posts
- Gerbera daisy sales across Central Huron
- Wearing blue and green!

What is Community Living Month?

A province-wide annual awareness campaign to recognize the accomplishments of the Community Living movement. CL-CH, along with and 115+ local associations across Ontario, show why #InclusionMatters for people who have an intellectual disability and their families!



Did you know...

Community Living-Central Huron will celebrate 65 years in 2024!



Thank You 2022 Golf Sponsors!

Platinum Sponsors

- John Anderson
- Canada Steel

Gold Sponsors

- Pat Baker
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- Town of Goderich
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Connect with Us!



@communitylivingcentralhuron



www.clch.ca



www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/community-living-central-huronontario/

Want to become a Member of CL-CH? Want to join our Board of Directors?

Connect with Natalie Steenstra, Executive Director, nsteenstra@clch.ca or 519-524-7362 ext 203.

Looking for supports or services?

Connect with Connie Goodall, Director of Supports and Services, cgoodall@clch.ca or 519-524-7362 ext 216



COMMUNITY LIVING-CENTRAL HURON

519-524-7362

267 Suncoast Dr. E. Goderich N7A 4C7

clch@clch.ca