

*A caring way*

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 1

WINTER 2014



## Honorable Deb Matthews visits Project Hope!

On November 29th, 2013 Minister of Health, Deb Matthews, was welcomed into Project Hope on York Street. The visit was a happy one as the Hon Deb Matthews, along with Michael Barrett, CEO of the South West LHIN made an Ontario Community Funding announcement that allocated a \$109 Million investment in the health care sector. This investment includes \$38.5 million for increased home care, personal support, homemaking services and enhanced integration between hospitals and Community Care Access Centers. It also includes \$22 million in new priority funding for Ontario's Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) to invest in local solutions to further address ALC (Alternate Level of Care) pressures. What does this mean for the people supported by Participation House Support Services? This investment will provide funding for day/night respite services to help families in our community.

For many families, who have members with complex needs, including those who are ventilator dependent or have other technological dependencies, their life depends on constant support and

attention from caregivers. It is primarily their families that provide this care which can take its toll and



families are often physically, mentally and emotionally exhausted. Participation House is delighted to receive a portion of this funding as it means we can provide day programs or individualized day supports and overnight respite services to this very vulnerable and under-served population and of course, the spinoff of this service is much needed respite for their families. Without respite from the on-going and demanding caregiver role, families can collapse and individuals end up in hospital or other inappropriate facilities. Also, individuals with complex care needs have a welcoming place in the community, where they can be engaged with others, have fun, socialize with peers and receive excellent and compassionate care

and support. While this funding will allow us to provide service to some individuals on health-funded waiting lists, we are aware that others will continue to wait, and that the need persists as children and youth become adults. We want to acknowledge and applaud the LHIN and the Ministry of Health for their efforts and commitment which have resulted in new resources to provide *direct service* to individuals with significant and complex care needs in our community.

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### And much more!

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# Check out the new look of Participation House Support Services!

Font size: **AAA**



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## Who We Are

Participation House Support Services is a non-profit, community based agency providing support to people with significant complex needs.

**LEARN MORE »**



Who We Are



Support Details



Events



Get Involved



How to Donate

[www.participationhouse.com](http://www.participationhouse.com)

Donate online • Information on upcoming events • Purchase tickets online • Sign up for Speak Out • Get Involved

**Lorrinda Hicks**  
**1954~ 2013**

*Forever Loved, Never Forgotten*



Family surrounded Lori as she passed peacefully at Parkwood Hospital on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The persons supported by Participation House and our agency were fortunate to have spent much of Lori's working life together. Lori brought to each person she supported a sense of connection, commitment and an incredible belief in all that the person could do. She believed each person had a gift, and it was that belief that enriched the lives of everyone she knew. We wanted to honor Lori and recognize all her contributions. In discussions with Lori she was very supportive of having a fund in her name which would assist supported individuals to travel. She was very committed to consumer's vacations and Disneyworld. This fund seemed the perfect reflection of her love of Disney and her commitment to the people she loved, supported, and traveled with – this fund will help those supported to have their dream vacation and Lori will be "the angel" in the background as folks travel.

To donate to the Lorrinda Hicks Memorial Vacation Fund, visit [www.participationhouse.com](http://www.participationhouse.com)

**Donald Reid**  
**1942 - 2013**



Surrounded by staff and friends at Victoria Hospital on Saturday, October 19th, 2013, Donald Reid, of London, in his 71st year passed away. Donald will be missed by many friends and the staff at Participation House. He is fondly remembered by the Kiwanis Seniors Centre BINGO group. "Donald enriched the lives of those he touched. He brought fun and laughter into the community that embraced him as one of their own" says fellow BINGO player. "They loved his stories, his close to the bone hair cut, his smile, and infectious optimism...Many people said that Mondays will not be the same and he will be greatly missed."

### Got Wool?

Participation House is looking for wool donations for the Crochet Club of London. Drop off at the PH main office or Call 519-660-6635 or email [info@participationhouse.com](mailto:info@participationhouse.com) to arrange pick up!  
Thank you to the Crochet Club of London for donating towards this years Bowl-a-Thon and helping us stay warm this winter!

**The Crochet Club of London**  
Blanketing our Community





## Inspired Individuals

Jamie Anderson has had a dream to go to Disney land for quite some time but has hit many road blocks to accomplish this dream. In September 2013 he did it! He made it to Disney - the place **were dreams come true**. Jamie was extremely excited through his whole journey. It was a success from start to finish with memories he will never forget from the laying in the grass at rest stops and have it tickling his face with grass to meeting MICKEY MOUSE.



On January 3rd, 2014 Cathy celebrated being 61 years young at Swiss Chalet with her roommates!



Cathy and her Birthday Cake at Swiss Chalet

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
CATHY!**

## Enjoying the Sounds of Christmas

A barbershop quartet came to rehearse their Christmas repertoire on Phair Crescent in November of 2013. Dennis, Gary, Janet and Brenda welcomed them into their home to share this special gift. Brenda tapped her toes and laughed happily while Gary drifted in and out of sleep responding once they were done with a shake of his maraca and some hearty vocals. Dennis, although under the weather managed to shake his hips periodically to the tunes. The greatest gift of all was watching Janet's heartfelt reaction to these four handsome gentlemen. It was as if they were singing just for her alone and she was all smiles, giggles and very focused eye contact. She would look from one to another then to me again, letting out a little chortle. It is my belief she would gladly welcome these talented gentlemen back to rehearse again and again in her home.



Members of the 'Back in Time' Quartet



Everyone enjoying the Christmas melodies (left)



Janet reveling in the music



## Participation House Support Services Gives Back!

### Operation Christmas Child

In collaboration with Fanshawe College, staff from Participation House and students from Fanshawe planned events, raised money, accepted donations, packed boxes, and sent away 110 overflowing Operation Christmas Child boxes!



*Thank you to all the staff and students at Fanshawe College for making Operation Christmas Child such a success this year!!*

### Philippines Donation

In December, staff at Participation House collected donations and held a 50/50 draw to raise money for the Philippines Fund. This drive was sparked by Tita Sombilla, a staff at Participation House whose family has been affected by Typhoon Yolanda.

**Together, Participation House raised and donated \$500 towards the relief fund through ABS-CBN Foundation Inc.**

Congratulations to **Betty Bannerman**, the big winner of our 50/50 draw!

Thank you to all who contributed! You have made a difference!!



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Thank you to all who donated canned goods at the 25th Anniversary and Christmas Celebration, or during Ugliest Christmas Sweater Day! Participation House donated 215lbs of food to the London Food Bank!

### FROM THE MAIL ROOM...

Hi David,

I am a past physio buddy volunteer for Participation House London and I just wanted to give you all a HUGE thank you for the amazing opportunity!! I volunteered at Creston from Oct-Jan of last year working with Mark, under the supervision of Cherese and Renee. I was hoping you could maybe pass on the message to them that I was accepted into physical therapy at U of T and McMaster, and that there is absolutely no way I could have done this without them! I have accepted my offer to U of T, and it has been challenging but absolutely AMAZING so far. My experiences at Creston armed me with new skills, experiences, and insight in regards to working in the healthcare field as well as care for persons with disabilities. The program you guys run for volunteers is truly one of a kind and the experience that students gain is invaluable. So please give my biggest thanks to Mark, Cherese and Renee, because I could not have done this without them.

Thank you,

*Thank you, Yalda for all of your hard work and dedication as a volunteer!*

Yalda Zameni

*Best of luck at U of T!!*



## Meet Mary Cherniak, Sutton Group-Select Realty

### ***Tell us a little about your family and professional back-ground.***

From birth at St. Joe's Hospital, I have enjoyed London for many years. As a permanent resident since 1989 after returning to Ontario from residing in Calgary, I am privileged to have gained a healthy knowledge of the City, local organizations, businesses and social/cultural attributes. London has proven to be a wonderful environment for my husband and I to raise our three children, who are fourth generation graduates of Ryerson Elementary and Central Secondary Schools. Altruism has been instilled in the upbringing of our children, who participate in various forms of volunteerism through such organizations as their schools, Big Brothers Big Sisters, St. Joseph's Hospital, Special Olympics, Amabile Choir and more. Altruism runs in the family as our children's great-uncle, Samuel Lerner, and great-grandfather, Mayer Lerner, were very active in Parkwood Hospital and the War Memorial Children's Hospital (now Children's Hospital), respectively. My father-in-law, Earl Cherniak, was on the Board of Victoria Hospital, and my husband, Steve, was on the Children's Hospital Capital Campaign.

### ***How did you first learn about Participation House, and what prompted you to become involved?***

My introduction to Participation House was through Brian Dunne, a fellow Board Member of Big Sisters of London. Brian sought my professional assistance as a Realtor in the acquisition of residential property for participants in 2011. Thus began a discovery of the intricacies and logistics of residential needs for those who benefit from the amazing efforts and support of Participation House. I toured/studied a number of homes and facilities supported by Participation House, and quickly realized the importance of this organization to those qualifying candidates.

Fortunate in health and family, I have been active as a community volunteer as a matter of course. In Calgary during the 80's, I volunteered in the neo-natal unit of Rockyview Hospital. Volunteer work at my children's schools has been a big part of my life. Aside from participating in numerous fundraising committees and school activities, I was a long term member of the Ryerson School Council, as well as a volunteer basketball coach for junior girls in-house Ramblers league. I became involved with Big Sisters in the early 90's with the annual Gala, the

major fundraiser for the organization. I chaired the Gala Committee for several terms, and enjoyed contributing during this period to Big Sisters through this event. I also assisted in the sale/purchase of two properties for Big Brothers Big Sisters and donated my entire commission to this worthy cause. I continue to be a loyal supporter of Big Brothers Big Sisters of London and Area.

### ***In what ways did you participate in the Capital Campaign that raised funds to build the new four-plex residence on Southdale Road?***

Upon discovering the need for additional housing requirements for Participation House, I facilitated the development of the new four-plex residence on Southdale Road by sourcing the builder, Mike Hussein of Willowbrook Homes, and the available property. I assisted in the negotiations and agreement to purchase and build the accessible structure, coordinating meetings with PH, Willowbrook and their lawyers, City of London Planning Department together with the referral of the Project Manager, Sharon Lomas. I further explored various options for this project with the

assistance of Brian Dunne, Carmell Tait and their staff, together with input from participants in existing support homes. As a Sales Representative of Sutton Group Select Realty Inc., Brokerage, I donated a significant portion of my realtor fee to the Capital Campaign. As well, I sought out and facilitated the help and support of Professionals in our community fundraising sector to assist in the strategy and launch of the capital campaign.

### ***What inspires you to give back to the community in the non-profit sector?***

Giving back to the community is an integral part of my life, and the needs of the disabled/challenged community members are daunting. However, the empowerment and benefits derived from volunteering in this non-profit sector are enormous. The sense of pride and identity resulting from community volunteering through challenging times is a personal reward.

Helping others truly does kindle happiness, as well as the benefits of voluntarily applying personal and professional skills to a worthy cause: teamwork, ingenuity, communications, problem-solving, project planning, task management and organization.

***Thank you Mary for all of your support and commitment to our Capital Campaign!***





**25th Anniversary and Christmas Celebration  
2013 Highlights**



*Thank you to all who attended and contributed to the Participation House Support Services 25th Anniversary and Christmas Celebration.*

The December 19th celebration opened with a special welcome from South West LHIN Chief Executive Officer, Michael Barrett, followed by a few words from Brian Dunne reflecting on the past 25 years. ***“At the core of the organization is the people and their families...and I hope always will be”*** said Brian as he began. His speech was followed by ‘then and now’ videos that took everyone on a trip back to the early years. As dinner continued, Carmell Tait presented staff appreciation gifts and recognition of the years of service to Hennie Minten as she headed into retirement. Lastly, Board of Directors president, Maria Sinosisic, said a few words on behalf of Brian and Carmell for their hard work and dedication for the past 25 years. The evening was rounded off with the musical talents of “Cam and his Sidekicks” and a visit from Old St. Nick himself! It was an exciting evening filled with heartfelt gratitude, great memories, fabulous food, and lots of dancing. Definitely a night to remember by all for years to come.



**Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year from your friends at Participation House Support Services — London and Area**



## Upcoming Events

15th Annual Laudable Londoners (*see below*)

**When:** April 29, 2014

**Where:** London Hunt and Country Club, 1431 Oxford Street West

14th Annual Bowl-A-Thon

**When:** June 1, 2014

**Where:** Fleetway Bowling Lanes

13th Annual Leo Kirwin Golf Tournament

**When:** August 22, 2014

**Where:** East Park Golf Gardens

- *Save the Date* -

**Participation House  
Support Services**

**Annual General  
Meeting 2014**

- **August 14th, 2014** -

For more information visit [www.participationhouse.com](http://www.participationhouse.com) or  
contact [elliem@participationhouse.com](mailto:elliem@participationhouse.com) or 519-660-6635 ext. 221.

*Laudable Londoners*

*15th Annual Laudable Londoners*

*Celebrating the contributions of  
Janet and Jamie Caskey*

*Tuesday April 29, 2014 ~ 5:30pm to 7:30pm*

*Save the Date!*

● Visit us online at [www.participationhouse.com](http://www.participationhouse.com) ●





## A Donor of Distinction

Participation House would like to extend a special **Thank You**  
to the Iveys for their continued support!

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You make all the difference!**

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*Thank you!*



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OWEN, PAULINE  
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RANKIN, BRUCE  
REDMOND, JEAN  
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RILEY, MAUREEN  
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ROGERS, SHIRLEY  
ROMAO, LINDA  
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SALE, BARB  
SALIHVIC, BAHRIJA  
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SNELL, BRENDA  
SNELL, HARRIS  
SOCKETT, BOB  
SOPER, HEATHER  
SOPER, KEVIN  
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SPENCER, SUSAN  
SPORBECK, WILLIAM & JENNIFER  
SPRIET, ANDREW & HELEN  
SPRINGER, NANCY  
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STEPHENSON, RUTH ANNE  
STEVENSON & HUNT  
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STEWART, MONICA  
STEWART, NORMAN  
STONE, IAN & M. J.  
STRICKLAND, ROSS & DORIS  
STRICKLAND, SARAH  
SURRY, DR. DAVID & MRS. JEAN  
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SZILASSY, MARGARET  
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LONDON  
THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
THOMPSON, G. WALTER  
THOMPSON, JAMES & BEVERLY

*Thank you!*

THOMPSON, GARY & PHYLLIS  
 THOMPSON, PHIL  
 THOMPSON, LEN  
 THORPE, MICHELLE  
 THORPE, TERESA  
 THRASHER, DIANE  
 TICKLE, BRIAN & MAUREEN  
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 WATTERWORTH, REBECCA  
 WEBB, DAVID & AUDREY  
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WHATMORE, PAUL  
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 WIENS, MARION  
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 WITCHELL, MARION  
 WITTSTEIN, AILENE  
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 WOOD, BRUCE  
 WOOD, MIKE  
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 WOODSTOCK GENERAL  
 WOROZBYT, LORI  
 YATES, BRUCE & JOAN  
 YOUNG, RUTH  
 YUREK HOMEHEALTH CARE (WELLINGTON)  
 YVES, RENEE ROBERT  
 ZAIFMAN, BEVERLEY  
 ZAVITZ INSURANCE INC.  
 ZSEMBER, ELIZABETH

*A special thank you to Deanna Yates from  
 Learners LPP for making Project Hope your  
 "casual day" recipient!*

***We thank you for your  
 generosity and ongoing  
 support!***





Make a **Green** Choice! Sign up to receive our newsletter straight to your inbox. Visit [www.participationhouse.com](http://www.participationhouse.com)

**Participation House is inviting Families to a Family Social!**

Open to family members of those supported by Participation House and any other family members who may be interested.

**Tuesday March 18, 2014, 1pm to 3pm**

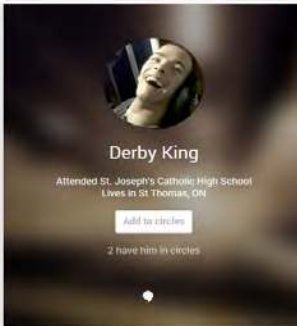
**Unitarian Fellowship of London, 557 Clarke Road (between Dundas and Oxford)**

*Members of the Communication team will do an exciting and dynamic presentation!  
You won't want to miss out!*

Please R.S.V.P. by March 11th to [info@participationhouse.com](mailto:info@participationhouse.com) or call 519-660-6635 x221  
*Refreshments and light snack provided*

Interested in attending but need a ride? Transportation can be provided. Call or email for further information.

**A Member of the Power Pack strikes again!**



Derby King

Attended St. Joseph's Catholic High School  
Lives in St. Thomas, ON

Add to circles

2 have him in circles

*Friendships.... seems like an easy concept...but is it?*

Check out the Derby Kings latest blog at:

<http://friendsandmywheelchair.blogspot.ca/>

New mobile massage offered by Deb Hache, certified aromatherapy massage practitioner.

**First 30 minute massage free to all PH clientele.**

519 317-2211 or [deb.hache@allaboutwellness.ca](mailto:deb.hache@allaboutwellness.ca)

**Meaningful Day Board**

The Meaningful Day Board is located at the Participation House office and was created to inspire staff to record what they are doing to help people have meaningful days.

Had a birthday celebration with family and received Knights tickets from Dad!

Met with my brother at a Knights game. Learned some family history and made plans to attend another game together in March!

Competed in a 10 mile bridge run with a family member! Finished 203rd overall out of 706! Way to go!!

Received flowers from family members!

Bought a necklace at the market

To add your posting, feel free to bring it to the office or fax it to 519-660-1654.



Participation House Support Services—London and Area is always searching for innovative ways to support people with developmental and/or complex physical needs to live in their own homes, participate in community and enjoy life with family and friends. We do our best, but we're not always perfect. We want to hear from you about our services and supports. "You" could be a parent, an advocate, a member, a person we support or a concerned citizen.

However, first you should try speaking with the person with whom you normally communicate. If you're not satisfied, contact the Chief Operational Officer, Carmell Tait.

If you feel your problem remains unsolved, contact the Executive Director. We will work to resolve your issue, and if need be, the President will raise it with the Board of Directors.

This procedure is intended to address issues that are within the power of Participation House Support Services—London and Area to resolve. Issues such as insufficient government funding for services cannot be rectified through this route.

We are confident that if we all work together we can come up with solutions which will benefit all of us. We would also like to hear from you if you are pleased with our programs and services, and we will make sure your comments reach the staff and volunteers involved.

**Key Contacts:**

**Brian Dunne**  
 Executive Director  
 (519) 660-6635 ext. 227  
 briand@participationhouse.com

**Carmell Tait**  
 Chief Operational Officer  
 (519) 660-6635 ext. 223  
 carmellt@participationhouse.com

Make a **Green Choice!**  
 Sign up to receive our newsletter straight to your inbox, visit [www.participationhouse.com](http://www.participationhouse.com)

**Diversity Team Quiz! Enter and WIN!!**

- dnetffrie \_\_\_\_\_ Another word for diversity
- mdtnoriinisai \_\_\_\_\_ To treat some less favourably than others
- nigeialstol \_\_\_\_\_ What protects individual's rights
- slnniuoci \_\_\_\_\_ Placing individuals at the centre of planning and support
- Inpoiadm \_\_\_\_\_ What action to take if discrimination occurs
- icioslep \_\_\_\_\_ Support for equality and inclusion

Send your answers to PHdiversity@execulink.com (or call/fax the office) and have a chance to **win a \$10 Tim Hortons gift card**  
 Entries close March 3rd, 2014

**Do you have great diversity ideas? Do you enjoy the thought of creating a diverse work place?**  
 Come check us out!!

Contact Leslie Giesbrecht at [leslieg@participationhouse.com](mailto:leslieg@participationhouse.com) or 519-660-6635 ext. 221 for information



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 London, Ontario N6B 3R9  
 Phone: 519-660-6635

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[www.participationhouse.com](http://www.participationhouse.com)

