



Creating Community

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At the end of the year, everyone seems to be in the spirit of giving and we are grateful to have such passionate people in our corner. Between Giving Tuesday and the end of the calendar year, people were so generous and we received about 6% MORE donations this year compared to last.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT!

Brian Orr gives his time and talent all year long as the Chair of the Board of Directors. He truly understands the importance of giving, has taken our cause to heart, and his dedication is inspirational.



He often represents the organization at meetings and conferences, works closely with senior management, and shares his skills with us through leading the Board and serving on many different committees. Because Brian believes so strongly in our vision and mission, he recently gave a

significant donation to the Enriching Lives fund, dedicated to helping the people we support participate in activities that will enrich their lives.

The people we support face various barriers to participating in such activities. The lack of extra staffing hours, dollars for specialized instructors/trainers, specialized equipment, travel/transportation costs, and registration fees were widely recognized as significant obstacles.

In response, Participation House has created the **Enriching Lives Fund**. The purpose of this fund is to provide financial assistance to individuals we support to allow them to attend a function, take a class, purchase equipment, or possibly visit family and friends – whatever it is that aligns with their person centred plan and creates a more *enriching life*.

Mission: Participation House supports individuals with developmental disabilities and/or complex physical needs to live in their own homes, participate in community, and enjoy life with family and friends.



SHOUT OUT CORNER

“A huge shout out to **Danielle Carrie** for organizing John’s weekend getaway to Tobermory and Pete’s 60th surprise birthday party!”

“I would like to give a shout out to **Kynan Staley at Halls Mill** for always going out of his way to help out his team and the men he supports. We appreciate it so much!”

“Special shout out to **Brayden Cottel**, Denise’s 13 year old son, for so generously giving Christine a tablet, and to the **staff at Fanshawe** for assisting Christiane with it. They also deserve a shout out for helping Brandy to move around without her wheelchair! She has been taking walks as well as walking to the mailbox to mail newsletters to her family!”

“A HUGE shout out to **Corrie** for covering shifts at Wickerson, so we could cover shifts at Kains Woods. THANK YOU!!!”

“Shout out to **the staff at Phair** for their commitment to Janet, Brenda, Denny, and Joe, both in their homes and the community. Special thanks to the part-time and on-call staff for covering so many shifts—your efforts are admired and appreciated!”

“I would like to send shout outs to **Chelsea Crawford and the team at Waterwheel** for creating amazing Halloween costumes for Alecia and Bekah. Chelsea invested so much time and even her own money so the girls could rock Halloween!”

“I’d like to recognize **the Greenfield team** for working so hard and taking on extra responsibilities!”

“Please give a huge shout out to **Hailey Wright** for her creativity in making the policy review FUN at each monthly staff meeting!”

“Shout out to the **staff at Timber** for helping Maureen attend Ford Crescent to enjoy the hot tub and snoezelen room.”

“I want to do a HUGE and well-deserved shout out to **Ian Marchell and Marianne Forget** for their years of services teaching CPI!”

“I’d like to send a shout out to **all staff who have helped fill hospital hours for Eden**. You are all so amazing and on behalf of Karen and myself we sincerely appreciate you and your support!”

“I would like to send out a shout out to the **staff at Jeffreybrook**. While I was on vacation the staff here banded together and covered unexpected shifts and medical situations. They went above and beyond by giving moral support to co-workers and ensuring that they were okay. This team always amazes me. Ricky, Chelsey and Denise appreciate all that you do to support them in their home and how you assist them in making their lives enriched to the fullest.”

“I would like to give **Courtney Patrick and the Wickerson team** a massive thank you for all working together so effortlessly while I unexpectedly had to take a week off.”

“A huge thank you to **all the employees that have been at Possibilities in Paint**—you always help to make experiences very positive and memorable for the people we support!”

“Thank you to the **staff at Westlake** for helping Sean get involved with basketball and an integrated hockey league on Sundays!”

“I’d like to give a shout out to the **staff at Optimist** for finding different ways to enrich Ted and Laurie’s lives. Ted has started swimming, and Laurie has become more confident to ride Paratransit on his own, which is amazing!”



Who Doesn't Love Chocolate?

Each year, Donna organizes a fundraiser with all proceeds being donated to Participation House Support Services. She connects with Rheo Thompson in Stratford to sell their delicious mint smoothies, and gets the word out agency-wide! Donna sells these yummy treats for only \$2 each and this year raised \$640!

Thanks to all those who bought Rheo Thompson mint smoothie bars before Christmas. The funds were donated toward the purchase of much-needed medical equipment for a PH resident. Thanks again!



Crochet Club of London

We would like to thank the Crochet Club of London for their ENDLESS generosity! Every year, they crochet and donate afghans for the people we support to bring comfort and warmth to their homes.

Last year, they celebrated the fact that they have donated over 10,000 blankets to various organizations, and we were lucky enough to be chosen as the recipient of #10,000!

We'd like to take the opportunity to say THANK YOU to the Crochet Club of London, for your generosity! We sincerely appreciate what you do. Because of you, so many people have beautiful, warm, cozy afghans! We look forward to being the recipient of more beautiful afghans in the future!!

Make a Green Choice!

Sign up at www.participationhouse.com to receive our newsletter straight to your inbox.



Remembering Katie

She wasn't here for a long time, but made the time here count, and touched the lives of every one she met!

Thank you so much to the staff at McLean for making Katie's life so meaningful.

A donation in memory of Katie was recently received, which will go toward the Enriching Lives Fund to benefit those we support.



What's Happening in Owen Sound?

Although the weather is cold, we still get out to friendship club on Wednesdays and church on Sundays. We enjoy having tea parties and gatherings with our new friends. If anyone is in the area, you are more than welcome to stop by for a visit!

Stay tuned for the Owen Sound activity calendar!



Gord Teaches SRV to Fanshawe Students



Back in October, Gord, Stacey and Ryan were invited to be guest speakers in a DSW class at Fanshawe College to teach students about Social Role Valorization (SRV). What does this mean?

Social Role Valorization is a concept used for identifying and reflecting on how people are perceived by society according to the roles they hold. Gord stepping into the role of teacher in this case, is a great example of a valued social role!

PHSS Tech Teach

On September 14, the PHSS Tech Team put on a drop-in workshop at the BMO Centre in London to show off different uses for iPads! The people we support showed off their skills with their iPads to demonstrate how they use their iPad and give others some great ideas! We also offered a few LIVE Facetime demonstrations, with people locally and internationally! Check out some of the fun below!



With the introduction of Bill 148: the *Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act*, there have been many changes in legislation. As a result, we brought in employment law experts from Pooran Law to lead training sessions and break down what those changes are and what they mean for all levels of staff.

We also need help to think outside-the-box and find creative solutions in the following areas:

- Scheduling/Filling Last Minute Shifts
- Tracking Personal Emergency Days/Public Holiday Pay & Coverage
- Addressing New Areas (Anticipated barriers, other questions)
- External Connections (How are others handling all the changes?)



Are you a creative thinker who can help us find solutions? Contact Leslie at 519-660-6635 x234 or leslieg@participationhouse.com to get involved!

FAIR WORKPLACES, BETTER JOBS ACT, 2017

April 14th

9:00am—2:30pm

The Salvation Army
Hillcrest Community Church

310 Vesta Road
London, ON N5Y 5J1

Free parking available on-site

May 5th

9:00am—2:30pm

The Salvation Army
Daycare Centre

3199 Lauzon Road
Windsor, ON N8T 2Z7

Free parking available on-site

June 9th

9:00am—2:30pm

The Salvation Army
Bethany Hope Centre

820 Woodroffe Avenue
Ottawa, ON K2A 3V7

Free parking available on-site

SPONSORED BY



Join the Ontario Community Services Coalition (OCSC) in 2018 for forums taking place in London, Windsor, and Ottawa.

Speakers from Hicks Morley will provide attendees with better insight about the Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, 2017, and how this new legislation which came into effect on January 1, 2018 impacts their families.

With over 120 lawyers in five cities across Ontario, Hicks Morley is a leading law firm in Canada representing public and private sector employers on human resources law and advocacy issues.

CHARLES V. HOFLEY

Charles Hofley is a senior labour and employment lawyer in Hicks Morley's Ottawa office who maintains a fully bilingual practice. He has over 25 years of experience advising private and public sector employers on a broad range of employment and labour matters, including restructuring, closures, terminations, collective agreement negotiation/administration, strike and injunction preparation, human rights and social services matters.

MARGARET SZILASSY

Margaret Szilassy is a labour and employment lawyer in Hicks Morley's London office. While Margaret's practice includes all aspects of labour and employment law, she has a particular focus on occupational health and safety and human rights matters.

Registration in advance is required as seating is limited.

Please register at www.ocsc-ontario.ca or email Leslie Giesbrecht at leslieg@participationhouse.com

Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

For more information about the *Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act*, please see:
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/plan-fair-workplaces-and-better-jobs-bill-148>



Healing Through the Arts



Participation House Support Services London and Area (PHSS), L'Arche London (L'Arche), Hutton House (HH) and the London Arts Council (LAC) have received funding for a project called "Healing Through the Arts."

This project is to provide support to the most vulnerable people, many of whom are isolated, separated and disengaged from family. The majority of these people do not use words to communicate, and have been overlooked and misunderstood as they cannot talk about their experiences. This project offers a creative solution to help them heal. These individuals have lived most of their lives in segregation and isolation, and we believe healing must include building natural relationships with others.

Music, dance, visual arts and drama techniques such as tableau and mime are non-verbal means of giving voice, expressing emotions and telling stories. Therefore, they provide powerful opportunities for non-verbal participants to communicate and connect with others. Rather than providing formal art and music therapy where a medical model is used towards a clinical outcome, this program model involves participants in community-based art making and creative process, facilitated by professional artist-educators. This is a more organic, social approach where content and results are driven directly by the participants. We will work with the assistance of a social worker to ensure individuals are not re-traumatized through this process.

For more information about this project or find out how you can get involved, please contact Stacey Sutton at staceys@participationhouse.com or 519-639-8772.

Peter Turns 60!

On September 26th, Peter celebrated his 60th birthday by going out to dinner with his good friend Jimmy. What Peter didn't know was that while he was out for dinner, approximately 35 of his closest friends were gathering at Peter's house to surprise him on his return. Sure enough, Peter was surprised to see so many of his friends who had come to his house to celebrate his birthday with him!



A little overwhelmed at first, Peter quickly got in the mood to party. There was lots of food, music, lights, karaoke, and a photo booth with props! There was a slideshow of pictures of "Uncle Pete" with his adopted nieces and nephews as well as his trip to Nashville.

However, the celebrating did not stop there. Peter had a surprise visit from the King, himself! It's true, Elvis is alive and on that Tuesday night in September, Elvis was at Peter's house singing happy birthday to Pete and taking pictures with his adoring fans. It was a great night enjoyed by all, and it finally came to an end when Elvis left the building. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make this day a huge success and thank you to all who came and celebrated with Peter!



Oh so inspired — by Courtney Patrick

I would like to share one of the most fulfilling days in my career with all of you. As support workers, we often get to know the person we work for well, including their likes, dislikes, and all the things they enjoy. Since we see each other so frequently, we get to share lives with each other.

On October 11th, my birthday, I received the greatest gift I could ever get. I witnessed Pete, the man I have worked with for ten years, be reunited with his family after more than 55 years!

I could feel tears run down my face as the four of them connected and spent time together like no time had ever passed. As dinner and stories were shared, the similarities were unbelievable. It's remarkable with as many years that have passed the similarities and likenesses of the four people who sat in front of me. As time passed that evening, many pictures were taken and many memories were made by all who shared in that moment.

If you have the opportunity to visit Pete in his home, Pete will invite you in his room and share his family picture with you. It is clear that these family members have truly connected and embraced each other in a special way.



Community Engaged Learning between PHSS and Western

Community Engaged Learning (CEL) at Western partners with local and international organizations to mobilize knowledge and exchange resources in order to address critical societal issues. By engaging students, staff, and faculty in meaningful experiential learning opportunities, CEL helps meet community defined needs while promoting students' sense of civic engagement and social responsibility. We have been partners with the CEL program with reciprocal shared learning experiences for over three years.

Here's some of the projects they have been involved in:

- **Support for Staff Assisting those Living with Autism**—Occupational Therapy students from Western are developing a resource for staff to use when supporting persons who lives with autism. The activities will cover cognition sensory, social as well as strategies for staff to reduce stress.
- **Diversity Service Mapping**—To provide the tools to PHSS to assist with building connections throughout the Indigenous and Muslim communities with respect to communities and agencies to connect with for information sharing, coordinated service models, employment, crisis support, staff training, and cultural sensitivity.
- **Mentorship Program for Adult Learners**—Students designed a peer mentorship program geared towards adult learners for staff members who are transitioning into leadership roles. Information will assist PHSS with making decisions of how to allocate resources - either into further training of existing mentors, or training of new mentors.
- **Community Mapping**—The purpose is to bridge a gap that exists between those living with a disability and their communities. Through research and literature review, students determined the best way to “build a village” for someone who doesn't know how to build it themselves.
- **Technology and Apps**—Five students worked 1:1 with people we support weekly at Project Hope to explore new apps and develop iPad skills. The students also created a video to encourage others to volunteer at Participation House—three out of the five students now volunteer at PHSS!
- **Creating a Model for an Intentional Community**—Students in the Masters of Public Health will research and develop a new model that will support the wellbeing, structure, and needs of an intentional community to ensure integration and inclusion of all who will live there. The model will be shared beyond the organization, and set the precedence provincially. Students will also write a Trillium proposal for a seed grant that will be submitted for consideration in 2019.



Mark Your Calendar!



Laudable Londoners

19th Annual Salute to Laudable Londoners

When: April 11, 2018

Where: London Hunt and Country Club
1431 Oxford St. W, London, ON N6H 1W1

Join us for an evening of elegance and sophistication as we honour Howard and Lynda Rundle as our 2018 Laudable Londoners. More information and tickets can be found at <https://participationhouse.akaraisin.com/LL2018>



18th Annual Bowl-A-Thon

When: June 3, 2018

Where: Fleetway
720 Proudfoot Ln., London, ON N6H 5G5

We put the FUN in fundraising! Save the Date for our Annual Bowl-A-Thon!

Everyone is invited to participate! Collect pledges, donate prizes, and come out for an incredibly fun day of bowling with Participation House!

We're also looking for more Bowl-A-Thon committee members!! If you're interested, please contact Amanda at amandab@participationhouse.com!

GET INVOLVED!



17th Annual Leo Kirwin Golf Tournament

When: August 17, 2018

Where: East Park
1275 Hamilton Rd., London, ON N5W 1B1

Those clubs may be in storage for the winter, but don't forget to dust them off for our tournament next year!

For more information about Participation House events, please visit our website: www.participationhouse.com or contact Amanda Bartlett at amandab@participationhouse.com.

Also check us out on FACEBOOK! We post all kinds of updates and events!



Participation House Support Services



@PHSSLondon



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

In case you haven't heard, we are celebrating our 30th anniversary this year!

Join us throughout this year as we revisit our history and how far we have come! Thanks to the dedication and commitment of our new and founding families, Participation House has been an innovator in the community services sector for the last 30 years. With your support, we continue to grow and provide new opportunities for the people we serve.

Let's Get Social!

Get the latest updates and information on our social media!!

 Participation House Support Services
  @PHSSLondon
  @phsupportservices

Enriching Lives

On the cover, we introduced the *Enriching Lives Fund*— a fund dedicated to providing financial assistance to individuals we support to allow them to attend a function, take a class, purchase equipment, or possibly visit family and friends – *whatever it is that aligns with their person centred plan and creates a more enriching life.*

So far we've received donations and held some small fundraisers to benefit this fund. The Wine Survivor this past summer was a HUGE success and raised over \$1,000 for the fund!

The Participation House Foundation has also agreed to match all fundraising efforts up to \$5,000 each year!

So far, this fund has helped Denise attend an art show to showcase her artwork, and three people have been approved to attend art classes with financial assistance from the Enriching Lives fund.

If you think the Enriching Lives Fund could benefit someone we support, send a written submission to Carmell at carmell@participationhouse.com with the following information:

- Name of supported individual
- Item requesting funds for and dollar amount (course registration, staffing dollars, night class, combination of all)
- Goal the individual would like to achieve (aligned with their PCP)
- Impact of achieving this goal

Carmell and the Enriching Lives Committee will consider your submission.

Want to do something to help us replenish the funds? Consider setting up a fundraiser, benefitting the Enriching Lives Fund! Contact Leslie at leslieg@participationhouse.com to find out more!



Holiday Highlights



Congratulations on your staff anniversaries!

25 YEARS

Wendy McBride
Rose Elsie

20 YEARS

Glenna Allen
Tracey Carvell
Karen Norman

15 YEARS

Robert Henderson
Denise Cottel
Caroline Heiter

10 YEARS

Karen Tracey
Jason Plamondon
Susan Barnes
Allan Findlay

10 YEARS (cont'd)

Hector Rojas
Margaret McCarty
Anna Maria Jubenville
Alen Kresovic
Stella Lado
Kendra Clarke
Daniel Mortimer
Cherelle Murray
Lisa Nagy
Lynda Lister
Elizabeth Hunter
Emily Harding
Tita Sombilla
Chantelle Plaine
Shawna Lockhart
Crystal Hayward
Lindsey Pearse
Asunta Yang

Alison Lair

Mary Poni
Sarah Lauchlan

5 YEARS

Jessica Pinnell
Sherlin Joseph
Caeline Fairful
Dyanna Taylor
Cassandra Mackison
Heather Denomy
Jacqueline Graat
Rinku Abraham
Doug Atkinson
Jennifer Powell
Debra Thompson
Samantha Klingenberg
Ian Garratt
Heather Brandon

Donors of Distinction

Participation House would like to extend a special **Thank You** to the following for their generous support in 2017:

Carolyn Cauchi

Ann Cross

London Medical Pharmacy—Downtown

William and Jean Mahoney

Brian Orr—ANDORR Inc.

Pam Sussman

The Mitchell and Kathryn Baran Family Foundation

Richard and Beryl Ivey Fund—a fund within London Community Foundation

Alexander Family Fund—a fund within London Community Foundation

Willoughby Family Fund—a fund within London Community Foundation

Thank you to all our 2017 financial donors!
Your support makes all the difference!

A RALLY CAP FOR ROB

A.N.A.F VETERANS IN CANADA, UNIT 229

LADIES AUXILIARY

Aaron, Sheldon and Betsy

Abbott, Anthony and Joy

Achiek, Martha

Adams, Donald and Dorothy

ADELAIDE MOTORS

Aerts, Hugh

Agranove, Susan

Ahlers, Jerry

Albion, Ursula and Doug

Alderson, Allison

Alexander, Cecily

Alexander, Lorrie

Alferink, Dora

Allcorn, Edna

Allen, Cecil

Amann, Jane

Amorim, Hanna

Amsby, Teresa

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Anderson, Libbey

Anderson, Shelley

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Benoit, John

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Bikker, Magda

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Blais, Jessica

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Bronson, Neil R.

Bronson, Ron

Brooks, Bill and Dana

Brooks, Dean

Brooks, Jane

Brooks, Scott and Judy

Buck, Edna

Buckholder, Astrid

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thank
you!

thank
you!

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**We want to
hear from
YOU!**

Participation House Support Services 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 unresolved, contact the President/CEO. 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. 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

President/Chief Executive Officer
(519) 660-6635 ext. 227
briand@participationhouse.com

Carmell Tait

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

Thank You for Making a Difference!



On behalf of all the staff at Participation House, a donation was made locally to Anova (formerly Women's Community House and Sexual Assault Centre London.) Barb volunteers at Anova and was happy to deliver the donation on our behalf.



Anova, formerly Women's Community House and Sexual Assault Centre London, operates many resources: 2 emergency shelters, a 25-unit second stage rent-geared-to-income apartment building for abused women and their children, a 24-hour helpline, family court support, transitional outreach, counseling and support services for people affected by abuse and sexual violence. Their indispensable services have been serving the London, Ontario community since 1987.

Let's Get Social!

Get the latest updates and information on our social media!!

 Participation House Support Services  @PHSSLondon  @phsupportservices



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