

# 2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

## Embracing The Journey Ahead



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# A Message From Our Executive Director & Board President

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Jennifer Pestrin  
Executive Director



Bernie Mastromattei  
Board President

This year we proudly celebrate our organization's remarkable milestone of 70 years. As we look back on our journey over the last seven decades, we're reminded of where we began, and the immeasurable impact we have collectively made on our community along the way. The organization has grown from the humble beginnings of two devoted parents to an organization that now supports 650 people with an intellectual disability and over 500 employees.

The seeds of what would become Community Living Windsor were sown in 1952, when John and Laura Zoller, embarked on a mission to develop a program for their son that provided quality education and support for people with an intellectual disability. After approaching the Windsor Board of Education, this resulted in a small class at the YMCA taught by a former teacher. This soon blossomed into a movement that would forever change the lives of countless individuals and families in Windsor.

On April 1, 1953, Community Living Windsor (then known as the Greater Windsor Parents Association) was officially incorporated, marking it as the second such association in Ontario. As word spread and the demand kept growing, a need for more space and resources became apparent. A \$50,000 donation from the City of Windsor enabled the Association to build a new school (Churchwood School) on Virginia Park, which was the first Ontario school for children with disabilities built entirely with public funds.

**continued on page 3...**

Throughout the years, Community Living Windsor has witnessed remarkable advancements in how society perceives and embraces people with intellectual disabilities. The organization, has evolved over time in its supports, understanding and language surrounding disabilities, but what has remained the same is our mission to challenge these norms.

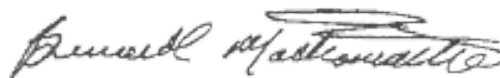
One significant milestone in this journey is the transformation to individualized, flexible supports aimed to foster integration within the existing community rather than segregated, static supports. This can be seen in the evolution of Ventures, a day program established in the organization's earlier years, to ADDventures. By emphasizing inclusion, ADDventures seeks to engage people we support to actively participate in activities and events within their community.

We are filled with gratitude for the resilience, dedication, and commitment of those involved with Community Living Windsor, as we proudly celebrate the milestones we have reached. As we reflect on the path we've walked, we feel ready to embrace the journey ahead.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Pestrin  
Executive Director



Bernie Mastromattei  
Board President

## Board of Directors 2022/2023

### **President:**

Bernie Mastromattei

### **Vice President:**

Lee Ann Poisson

### **Treasurer:**

Tony Tullio

### **Directors:**

Marleen Crawford

Shawn Stewart

Cherie Gagnon

Cathy Martin

Sara Moubarak

Andrew Milloy

Carla Campbell

## Senior Leadership Team

### **Executive Director:**

Jennifer Pestrin

### **Operations Director:**

Brandon Pottie

### **Director, Human Resources:**

Nicole Morassut

### **Director, Finance:**

Kirill Samokhin

### **Director, Support:**

Jeremy Garrod

Sarah Canzi

Lindsay McLeod

### **Director, Innovation & Quality Assurance:**

Dan Logan



# MISSION

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Community Living Windsor is dedicated to supporting people who have an intellectual disability and their families as they pursue possibilities, make choices, and achieve the life they want.

# VISION

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**Our Agency Vision:** Community Living Windsor is committed to being an organization that actively works to create a community of full inclusion and promotes full independence for people by: providing supports and services to people not programs, ensuring that people independently plan and direct their lives, advocating for and supporting people to have individualized funding, support networks and microboards and, building relationships & partnerships with our community.

**Our Community Vision:** Where everyone belongs and has support within their community to achieve a better life.

# VALUES

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- Possibilities
- Community
- Lifelong learning
- Commitment to people and their families



# Number of People & Families We Support



*Community Living Windsor proudly supports over 650 people and families within our Community and we employ 500 people.*

**197**

*individual, passport, and in-home funding*

**120**

*employment services*

**103**

*supported independent living*

**38**

*24-hour support homes*

**27**

*ADDventures*

**4**

*host families*



# Richard Ruston After High School Education Award



Alexei Silvaggi was the recipient of the Richard Ruston After High School Education Award in October of last year. The award was created in memory of the late Richard Ruston, disability advocate and long-time Community Living Windsor Board Member. The award provides financial support to people who have an intellectual disability to follow their dreams and goals as they continue their education past high school. Alexei received the award when he was enrolled for his first year at St. Clair College.

Pictured above left to right: Jennifer Pestrin (Executive Director of Community Living Windsor), Alexei Silvaggi, Bernie Mastromattei (Community Living Windsor Board President), Michael Silvaggi (parent).

***"Congratulations Alexei and thank you Community Living Windsor for keeping Richards memory alive with all of us who were on the board with him!"***

John Fairley  
Vice President St. Clair College,  
College Communications &  
Community Relations,  
Former Board President for  
Community Living Windsor

# ADDventures

## Video Testimonials

Communications and Community Relations Manager, Jenn McMullan, created video testimonials to showcase people's success in fostering meaningful connections and valuable contributions to the broader community fabric.



### Sandwich Town Clean Up

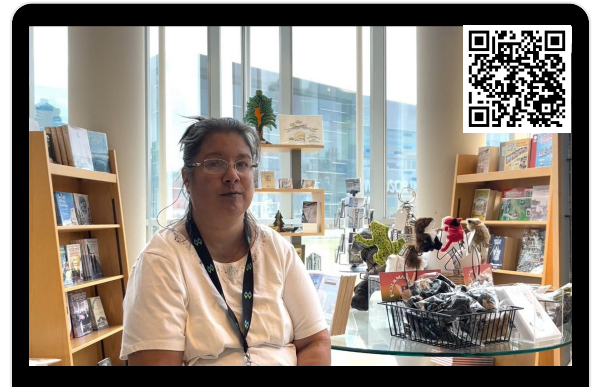
*"Sandwich Town because of there efforts is overall a cleaner more beautiful place. The impact of what they have done has improved the community ten-fold."*

Thomas Coke,  
Coordinator for Sandwich Towne BIA

### Krista Anastaovski

*"As long as I feel I'm part of the community and helping the community in some way, it's like putting a piece of me out there in the world. That's what inspires people to have a footprint in their community."*

Krista Anastaovski,  
Volunteer Museum Gift Shop



### Bob Cookson

*"He loved it when I took him to Nashville and he went on stage at the Grand Old Opry and sang. He was just thrilled, he loves it, his music is everything to him."*

Emma Cookson,  
Sister to Bob Cookson



Scan the QR code to watch the video.



# Highlighted In The News

April 2022 - Biz X Magazine Article

Community Living Windsor was featured in a Biz X Magazine article, that highlighted the use of SMART technology to create more independent lives and experiences for adults with an intellectual disability. The article discusses how Community Living Windsor is implementing numerous SMART technology devices in the house's of the people supported; providing new opportunity, safety, and security.

TECH  
BYTES

## Technology Possibilities For People With A Disability

By Jennifer McMullan

**Community Living Windsor (CLW)** is a not-for-profit organization supporting adults with an intellectual disability and their families. They are using technology to help people build more independent lives and experiences.

SMART technology is creating a new world for people with a disability and, in some cases, is helping to improve their quality of life. CLW has implemented numerous SMART technology devices in the homes of the people they support, providing opportunity, safety and security.

These include devices such as voice automated light switches, lighting, window blinds, SMART locks and doorbells for enhanced security, as well as, SMART thermostats that can be both cost effective and energy efficient.

They have also utilized SMART electronics like a stove auto-shut-off, which improves safety as the device will automatically turn off if left unattended for a specific period.

Assisting people in achieving the greatest level of independence and autonomy is one of the agency's most important purposes.

The use of technology integrated

into everyday living not only allows for independence with in-home activities and chores, but can also be used to greatly improve quality of life.

One of the ways CLW has facilitated this is with the **Awake Labs** smartwatch and app.

The device (*see contents photo*), launched in March 2019, uses an algorithm to detect when a person supported (who has opted-in and asked for the technology) is experiencing anxiety, allowing timely and effective attention from their supporters.

The algorithm — developed by scientists at **Holland Bloorview** — measures a personalized baseline for each user and detects when their emotions are rising.

CLW has been able to use this to gather objective data, fine-tune support strategies, and intervene early in cases where people require such support.

By helping support staff become familiar with the expressions of the person they are supporting, there is an enhanced ability to better serve people who might otherwise have difficulty communicating in traditional ways or who might have challenges processing strong emotions without support.

In considering the tremendous benefits that home-based technology can have for all people, including those with intellectual disabilities, CLW identified the need for a sole source to find and curate these tools.

In partnership with **Windsor-Essex Family Network** (WindsorEssexFamNet.ca) and **Windsor Essex Brokerage for Personal Supports** (WEBPS.ca), they designed a new website with ease-of-use in mind: [EnablingTech.ca](http://EnablingTech.ca).

The site is a central hub, showcasing products for people, families, friends, and supporters to help find useful and empowering home technology devices.

Enabling Technology does not sell any products, but instead curates existing content in a way that can assist a person to come to understand “what’s out there.”

The future of adaptive technology continues to play an increasingly valuable role and could be life-changing for any of us, especially those of us living with a disability.

To learn more about Community Living Windsor visit: [CLWindsor.org](http://CLWindsor.org).

For further details on Awake Labs refer to: [AwakeLabs.com](http://AwakeLabs.com). **X**

*Tech Bytes is powered by WEtech Alliance (WEtech-Alliance.com). The columnist for this installment, Jennifer McMullan is the Manager of Communications and Community Relations at Community Living Windsor.*

May 2022 - Krista Anasaosvski on CBC Radio



radio one

In May of last year, Krista Anastaovski who is supported by Community Living Windsor, spoke with Peter Duck on CBC Radio in recognition of Community Living Month in May. Krista talked about her experience and the opportunities she has developed over her 20 years involvement with Community Living organization's.



## May 2022 - City of Windsor Press Conference



Our former Executive Director Melodie Cook, joined other local organization's on May 7, 2022 at the City of Windsor's Press Conference with Irek Kusmierczyk, MP, Brian Masse, MP, and Mayor Drew Dilkens. The press conference showcased the Canada Summer Jobs program and the positive impact it has on the community by creating quality work experiences for youth.

***"A beautiful day announcing 1,200 Canada Summer Jobs across Windsor and Tecumseh thanks to over \$4.5 million in federal funding! Over 100+ amazing organizations and businesses stepped up to partner and provide youth (ages 15-30) this opportunity."***

Irek Kusmierczyk, MP,  
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister  
of Employment, Workforce Development  
and Disability Inclusion

## July 2022 - University of Windsor Photo Shoot



Jason was asked to participate as a model in the University of Windsor's photo shoot revealing the new Toldo Lancer Centre pool. Not only is the pool itself a stunning feature, but the experience is further enhanced by the fact that the facility includes accessible pool entry, showers, change rooms, washrooms, and locker areas, ensuring that everyone can fully enjoy and utilize the new amenities.



# Highlighted In The News

**October 2022** - Windsor Life Magazine

At last years Community Living Windsor Annual General Meeting, the Chand family received the Community Living Windsor Community Service Award for 25 years as a host family. The award, which was presented to them by Community Living Windsor Manager John Jackson, was highlighted in Windsor Life Magazine.



Community Living Windsor is a not-for-profit organization that is dedicated to supporting people who have an intellectual disability and their families as they pursue possibilities, make choices, and achieve the life they want. Shish Paul Chand and his wife Ruby were recently recognized for their 25th year being a Host Family. Pictured from left are Ruby Chand, John Jackson (Manager, Family Supports at Community Living Windsor) and Shish Paul Chand.

*Excerpt from Windsor Life Magazine*

**January 2023** - AM800 Radio



In January, Terry Cloutier, Manager of Employment Services, and Jenn McMullan, Manager of Communications and Community Relations, joined Empowering Kindness on AM800 radio. Our employees talked about Community Living Windsor; who we are, what we do, and how we are celebrating 70 years in our community. Empowering Kindness is a radio show that speaks with local community champions, and dive's into the needs of our community members and organizations.

# Financials

Statement of Revenue & Expenditure of year ended March 31, 2023 with comparative figures from 2022.

Operating Fund	2023	2022
<b>Revenue</b>		
Provincial Grants	37,104,204	35,909,127
Federal Grants	166,139	37,419
Fees by Users	984,287	1,162,177
Billed for individualized Supports	532,059	677,574
Industrial & Craft Sales	33,793	6,700
Other	387,385	162,307
	<u>39,207,867</u>	<u>37,955,304</u>
<b>Costs of Supports</b>		
Staffing Costs	25,981,196,6	24,985,169
Purchased Community Supports	807,451	6,556,332
Other Costs	2,948,682	2,760,534
	<u>35,737,253</u>	<u>34,302,035</u>
<b>Administration</b>		
Staffing Costs	1,742,920	1,547,894
Other Costs	188,690	188,452
	<u>1,931,609</u>	<u>1,736,346</u>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	37,668,862	36,038,381
<b>Authorized Capital Expenditures</b>	384,768	512,386
<b>Revenues Over Expenditures</b>	1,154,237	1,404,537

Capital Fund	2023	2022
<b>Revenue</b>		
Provincial Grants	0	0
Donations	30,572	19,020
Other	51,922	4,488
	<u>82,494</u>	<u>23,508</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Fund Expenditures	1,717	31,394
<b>Revenues over Expenditures</b>	80,777	-7,886
<b>Purchase of Property Plant &amp; Equipment</b>	0	0
<b>Change</b>	80,777	-7,886

These figures have been extracted from the results of operations. A copy of the complete financial statements, together with the report of the auditors dated July 26, 2023, is available to members of the association on request.



# Staff Recognition





Marking a significant occasion, Community Living Windsor hosted its annual Staff Recognition brunch and award ceremony at the Serbian Centre on November 19th, 2022. Organized by the Staff Recognition Planning Committee (Jessica Edwards, Lee Ann DesRosiers, Rossini Armstrong, Aysha Stein) the event is held to honour our dedicated employees. Each year we gather to acknowledge and celebrate the milestones and hard work of our employees.

### **Celebrating 15 Years**

Linda Jas  
Jean Dunn  
Barbara Kelly  
Ann-Marie Hall  
Bob Evans  
Stacey Flatt  
Laurie Belleau  
Terry McLachlan  
Katarzyna Sawiak  
Rick Hayes  
Gabriel Mondaca  
Ana Aurora  
Maggie Leung  
Dominico Gabales  
Marcy Hoffman  
Gloria Otagho  
Mandy Hayes  
Joyce Agbonwaneten  
Dorota Stasiak

### **Celebrating 20 Years**

Mariola Skrobacz  
Krystal Johnson  
Sarah Canzi  
Oscar Karangwa  
Corran Scott

### **Celebrating 25 Years**

Sandi Lucier

### **Celebrating 30 Years**

Elzbieta Jaworska  
Scott Wilcox  
Yentonette Webb

### **Celebrating 35 Years**

Lyse Gagnon  
Kitty Peguese  
Terry Cloutier

### **Celebrating Retirement**

Pat Wilcox  
(43 years)  
Catherine Thompson  
(37 years)  
Debbie Neville  
(36 years)  
Diane Scott  
(36 years)  
Tammy Sove  
(36 years)  
Brian Cutler  
(30 years)  
Cynthia Bertrand  
(22 years)  
Ewelina Murawski  
(18 years)  
Melodie Cook  
(15 years)  
Susan Wilton  
(11 years)





# CLW Events

## May 2022 - Community Living Month



Windsor City Hall was lit up blue and green for the 'Shine A Light' on Community Living event held on May 6th in honour of Community Living Awareness Month.

***"It's Community Living Awareness Month. The City of Windsor joins with other Ontario communities by lighting up landmarks tonight and 'Shining a Light' on the unique abilities people who have intellectual disabilities bring to workplaces and communities, and eliminating barriers to their full participation. I am proud to proclaim May as "Community Living Awareness Month." Thank you Community Living Windsor for your advocacy and partnership."***

Mayor Drew Dilkens

## July 2022 - Movie Night in the Park



We hosted our 8th Annual Movie Night at Willistead Park. This special evening, generously sponsored by the Community Living Windsor Board of Directors, marked a return to in-person gatherings following the pandemic. The night is a free community event to say thank you to all our supporters: from the people we support, their families, our employees, our membership, and our community neighbours. The night is a celebration of unity, inclusion, and shared connection.

## August 2022 - Family Fun Day

We commemorated our 18th Annual Family Fun Day, made possible by the sponsorship of the Community Living Windsor Board of Directors and organized by the dedicated Family Fun Day Committee. The picnic provides a perfect opportunity for the people we support, their families, our employees, and members to come together to enjoy good food, entertainment, and wonderful camaraderie.





## September 2022 - Annual General Meeting

Our 69th Annual General Meeting was back in person to celebrate at the Serbian Centre. It was wonderful to see some familiar, and some new faces, from our membership, employees, families, neighbours, and friends. Our special guest speaker Joe Roberts, Skidrow CEO, ended our night on an inspiring note sharing his incredible journey overcoming drug addiction and homelessness.



## March 2023 - Hockey Night

Community Living Windsor proudly hosted Hockey Night sponsored by the Community Living Windsor Board of Directors. During fan appreciation night, our 6th Annual Hockey Night was held at the WFCU, for the Windsor Spitfires versus the London Knights game. Prior to the match, we gathered for a pre-game celebration filled with pizza, games, and prizes adding to the excitement of the night.





# Initiatives & Community Partners



Showing our true colours and celebrating Pride Month in June 2022.



CLW receiving a \$1,485 cheque donation from Hook and Ladder's Annual Golf Tournament.

September 30th



Recognizing National Day for Truth and Reconciliation & Orange Shirt Day.

February 22nd



Be a buddy, not a bully! We wore our brightest pink shirt (or any pink shirt) to help support Anti-Bullying Day.



## Light It Up! for National Disability Employment Awareness Month



On October 20th, monuments all over Ontario were lit up purple and blue in support of the Light It Up! for NDEAM (National Disability Employment Awareness Month) campaign. The campaign builds awareness for inclusive hiring and the benefits it brings to communities. We were so thankful for the support our community showed, with both the Windsor City Hall and Caesars Windsor participating.

*"Tonight, we're proudly illuminated in purple and blue in support of Community Living Windsor and in recognition of Light It Up! for NDEAM (National Disability Employment Awareness Month)."*

*Light It Up! for NDEAM, started by the Ontario Disability Employment Network (ODEN), spotlights the many ways people who have a disability contribute to businesses and their communities, helping companies be successful and competitive.*

*We're proud to support Community Living Windsor for this special lighting event to raise awareness about disability and employment, and to ignite conversations about the importance of disability-inclusive hiring."*

Caesars Windsor



We participated at The Safety Village's Trick or Treat in the Village. The night was filled with games, treats, and awesome costumes.



In partnership with Canadian Blood Services, Community Living Windsor proudly donated blood throughout the year.



# Our Stories

Below is a collection of stories that illuminate the journeys and accomplishments of the people we proudly support. Covering the period from April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023, these narratives capture the volunteer work, personal achievements, and significant milestones achieved. These stories not only reflect their individual triumphs but also underscore the collective impact of our organization's mission and overall goals.

*Community Living Windsor is dedicated to supporting people who have an intellectual disability and their families as they pursue possibilities, make choices, and achieve the life they want.*

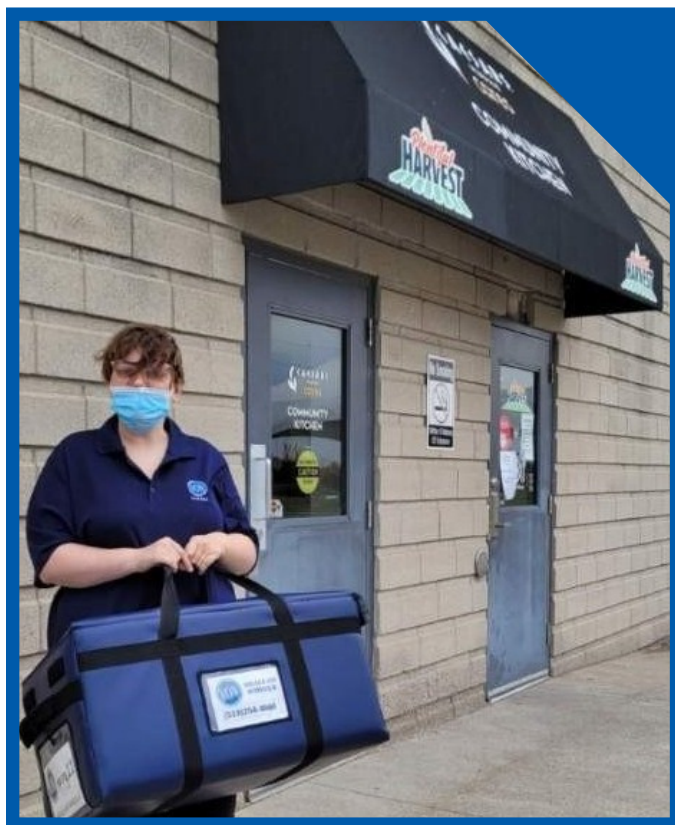
**Community Living Windsor Mission**



In June Kayla celebrated graduating from Vincent Massey Secondary School.



Donna volunteered for The Salvation Army at Devonshire Mall during the holiday season.



Katelyn started her 2023 year with the goal to increase her volunteer hours with Meals on Wheels (VON Canada).





## Celebrating 30 Years at Fred's Farm Fresh International Market!

This past year marked 30 years for Michelle Hornsby working at Fred's market. Michelle, who has become a part of the family, brings a positive energy and motivation each day. Since starting at Fred's in 1992, she was originally hired by Fred Senior, and has continued working with the family. She keeps everyone aware of health and safety guidelines, while being an inspiring, considerate, and compassionate team member. Congratulations Michelle on this milestone!



Katelin started volunteering at WETRA (Windsor-Essex Therapeutic Riding Association). Katelin had fun feeding and caring for the animals.

Thomas gave blood for the first time. This was a new goal in honour of his grandmother and he plans on becoming a regular donor.





# Connect With Us

