

Update

Featured Articles Spring 2011

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Executive Director Update

Welcome to Kris Usher

At the end of October we were pleased to welcome Kris Usher to Community Living London. Kris has been hired for the position of Acting Manager of Development and Communications. Kris has a vast amount of experience in the not-for-profit sector in fundraising, development and communications. His past



experiences include working with Canadian National Institute for the Blind, the Canadian Diabetes Association and Sunshine Dreams for Kids. Welcome Kris! Please feel free to contact Kris if you have any questions.

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow

This winter has been hard on everyone with the seemingly unending snow storms ravaging London and area. We would like to thank everyone adapting to the weather; the people we support and their families for making alternate arrangements as we closed services and to our staff members who once again demonstrated their commitment to their work. Many staff members planned far in advance of their shifts

to ensure they could get there, many walked when unable to get their cars into subdivisions, and day staff willingly changed work locations and provided support to residential services. Some of those unable to find a way in to work, were picked up and driven by members of the management team. We are extremely grateful to the committed, professional, excellent employees of Community Living London. Thank you to all!

Regional Application Entities:

Earlier this year, the Ministry of Community and Social Services announced it would be moving forward with plans to introduce regional application entities under the new legislation, the Services and Supports to Promote the Social Inclusion of Persons with Developmental Disabilities Act, 2008.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE CONTINUED

The new application entities will become the single points of contact and application for ministry-funded adult developmental services in each region. The application entities will be responsible for applying the new eligibility criteria fairly and consistently across the province. Everyone who applies for developmental services will be assessed using the common Application Package to measure their support needs. The Ministry's plan is that the entities will help to make the system consistent, easier and more fair across the province.

The organization that has been approved by the Ministry to receive future designation as an application entity in the South West Region is Community Services Coordination Network (CSCN). The Ministry designation for each regional entity will be effective July 1, 2011.

For more information and to see the latest edition of Spotlight - the Ministry's transformation newsletter - you can visit the website <http://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/en/mcsc/publications/spotlight.aspx>.

AT A GLANCE

Health & Safety

In December 2010, the Health & Safety Committee completed their fifth year of membership in The Safety Group Program. Membership in this program promotes health and safety in the workplace through mentorship and a pooling of resources with member firms across the province, and results in improved safety practices and rebates through the Workplace Safety and Insurance

Board. This year's Safety Group training for all Community Living London staff included Propane Handling, Needle Safety, Supervisory Health & Safety Competency, Return to Work and Networking with other agencies in our sector. We thank all of our employees for their efforts in making our workplace healthy and safe!

United Way Campaign

The employees of Community Living London once again conducted a very successful United Way Campaign and were able to contribute over \$20,000.00 to the United Way of London and Middlesex during this year's campaign.

It is obvious that Community Living London employees understand the impact of their United Way donations as it enables real change in our community. The more than

30 agencies that receive United Way funding create a community that cares. There is an understanding that at some point in all of our lives we will be touched by one or more of these agencies personally. This message is extremely powerful.

Community Living London receives funding from the United Way to operate the Teach and Play Toy Lending Library, Inclusive Camping Services and our Volunteer Services. Without this United Way funding

these services would not be offered to people with intellectual disabilities and their families. If you would like information about any of these services, please contact 519-686-3000.

Congratulations to employees of Community Living London for making this year's United Way Campaign a huge success. Whether it was through payroll deductions, participation in this year's Amazing Race, purchase of the Friday lunch

United Way Campaign Update

or involvement in the annual Stair Climb, CLL employees have contributed to a better community for all. This year's United Way Campaign video included a number of CLL staff and people supported through the Teach and Play Toy Lending Library and Horton Street

Senior's Centre.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's United Way Campaign and for your generosity in support of so many local charities. A special thank you also goes out to the CLL United Way Committee who

were instrumental in coordinating this year's campaign activities:

Jody Zimmer-Downing, Roger Sabourin, Gillian Seguin, Melanie Alexander, Patti Budden, Catherine Koolen, Mike Cunningham, Sophia Moorman, and Tammy Goetz.

Memorials

Laurie Scott



Laurie was supported by Community Living London for many years and made her mark on many lives and hearts during that time. She moved into the house on Dissing Crescent shortly after it was built in 1999 and lived there right up until her passing. Laurie will be fondly remembered for many reasons, including: her character, her sense of humour, her willingness and ability to speak her mind clearly and directly and most importantly, her great capacity to love those around her. She was proud of her Scottish heritage and would introduce herself as "Scotty Girl". She had a great love of music - from Kenny Rogers to Bagpipes - and loved TimBits (especially chocolate) and pasta (ask someone about the Lasagna story - it's a classic!). She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Susan Gourley



Susan will be remembered as a fun-loving person with a great sense of humour and adventure, a great story-

teller, a person who loved music and loved to sing, and a person with an amazing positive outlook and never-ending hope for the better things in life. Before her death, Susan battled several serious illnesses and has spent a great deal of time in hospital. She will be greatly missed by her friends (Janet, Helen and Tammy especially) and all of the staff (present and past) who have cared for her so deeply and compassionately.

Joel Kelley



Joel will be fondly remembered by his housemates living on Norton Ave and Dissing Cr., and by all the staff who supported him

over the years. He certainly had a way of endearing himself to people - the twinkle in his eyes, his smirk and smile, and his wicked laugh that would let you know he was up to something. He was one of those people you couldn't help but like, even when he was yelling at you for something or other. He has held a soft spot in many hearts and he will be greatly missed!

Delores Robinson



Delores Robinson passed away at Sprucedale Care Centre after a long battle with cancer. Delores has been a part of the Community

Living London family since 1974. Delores will always be remembered for her caring, loving nature and for the friendships she held so dear to her heart. Her ashes were scattered in the Spring Garden at Woodland Cemetery. Lovingly remembered with a smile.

AT A GLANCE CONTINUED

Linda Lang



With a smile that could light up a room and a twinkle in her eye made up of equal parts humour and mischief, Linda made an impression on everyone she met. Her zest for life and eagerness to experience new adventures kept Linda on the go and always willing to join in a variety of activities, whether familiar or trying something new.

Linda's family was a definite priority for her. She always enjoyed spending time with them and calling them to keep in touch when they were not able to be together. She also had many friends and made sure that they knew how important and special they were to her.

Linda taught many lessons in life to those of us fortunate enough to spend time with her. We learned that it is important to make the effort to learn and remember people's names, and to take the time to make people feel special by asking about the things that are important to them. She also taught us that while it is wonderful to do things with friends, it can also be fun to do things on your own, like going to the movies or out for coffee. A stranger is just a friend you have not yet met and a smile is the best introduction there is.

Linda also taught us a great deal about strength, courage and being able to stand up for one's self with dignity and grace. Throughout her illness and decisions about her treatment, Linda helped her health professionals, her family and friends to recognize this strength, and helped us to understand how best to support her on her journey. When she learned that what she thought was a cure was in fact merely an intermission, she helped those around her to accept that it was her time to go. Her parents John and Jean went ahead to wait for her, and she left behind her sister Carol, brothers Bill and John and their families. While Linda will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved her, there is consolation in the knowledge that Linda lived her life on her own terms to the very end.

Robert Welsh



Robert Welsh passed away suddenly last December a few weeks after his 62nd birthday. Through the years, Robert worked at several of Community Living London's employment programs (including Opportunity Enterprises, Plant 1, and Plastic Packaging) and, in more recent times, volunteered at Thames Valley Children's Centre and Chelsey Park. In his later years with Community Living London, Robert enjoyed many of the options offered through Community Access. Robert was a life-long avid bowler.

Robert was known by his many friends for his fine manners, his gentlemanly bearing and dignified, gentle ways, his careful and considered vocabulary, a love of reading, and a great and detailed knowledge of all things geographical. Robert was one of the best, most regular customers of the London Public Library. He was a kind friend and giving co-worker to his colleagues and showed himself through the years a pleasant and dependable employee. Robert always managed to attract and secure the affection and esteem of those who knew him. He will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of working with him.

London Aktion Club becomes a chartered member of Kiwanis

The London Aktion Club was chartered on Saturday November 20, 2010. Club members celebrated acceptance into the Kiwanis International family at the Governor's Banquet Division 4 Eastern Canada and Caribbean Kiwanis at the East London Anglican Ministries.

After Aktion Club members received their Kiwanis pins, certificates, and official membership cards, Aktion Club President Paula Moore addressed the audience with "Tonight is a proud event for me and my fellow London Aktion Club members. We joined Aktion Club because we feel it is very important to give back to our community and being an Aktion Club member is a great way to meet new friends, learn new skills and make community connections". Paula expressed thanks to the Middlesex Kiwanis and to Community Living London for sponsorship and support of the Aktion Club.

What is Aktion Club?

The London Aktion Club is a community service group for adult citizens who live with a disability.

The Mission of Aktion Club is:

- To provide adults living with disabilities opportunities to develop initiative and leadership skills.
- To serve their community.
- To demonstrate the dignity and value of citizens living with disabilities.

Benefits of becoming an Aktion Club member:

- Participate in the active life of the community.
- Opportunities to contribute to the community.
- Develop mechanical, creative, and intellectual abilities.
- Develop leadership skills.
- Improve self esteem.
- Achieve personal and service goals.

The Aktion Club of London meets once a month at Community Living London. For more information and meeting dates, please call Vicky Pearson 519 686 3000.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Staff Accolades

The past year has been difficult, dealing with the death of several people supported by Community Living London. As is often the case, however, there is a silver lining to this dark cloud. The staff involved in supporting each of these people is to be commended for everything done in each situation. They have consistently displayed the true meaning of "support" with everything they have been asked to do. They have spent many hours at hospitals, advocating for the needs of people, being the liaison between people and the medical staff, communicating with families through very difficult times and, at the very least, being there to hold a person's hand and provide comfort and reassurance through frightening

and stressful situations. They have put aside their own fears and discomfort to advocate for what was best for the person they were supporting and for what the person would want for themselves. To provide palliative care and support through end-of-life issues is not easy to do, especially in light of the close relationships that are built between people and staff has continued to demonstrate a great level of compassion, respect and dignity. Community Living London is proud to celebrate the passion, sensitivity and professionalism with which our staff consistently operates.

2010 Champions League Awards

From 27-29 October 2010, a vision more wide spread than Community Living London or even the city of London itself, was beginning to emerge. Out of the "Champions for Change: Harnessing the Power of Your Community" conference, a movement took flight.

In addition to furthering awareness about inclusion in the workplace, the first "Champions League" awards were presented. Awards are granted according to three simple but clear criteria: Leading by Example, promoting the cause to others, and a commitment to continue to assist in moving this agenda forward.

The first criterion, Leading by Example, means an employer has demonstrated a commitment to

include people with disabilities in their workplace. A true champion however, goes beyond this. The second criterion is that an employer has championed the cause through promotion to others. Finally, the third criterion is making a commitment to continue to help move the cause forward in the future.

This year's recipients of the award were Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley, Joe Hoffer of Cohen Highley LLP and Mark Wafer, a Tim Hortons Franchisee. These awards are not only significant on their own merit, and to demonstrate further their significance, the awards were presented by the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, The Honourable David C. Onley.

The real essence of the Champions

League is not in the awards but in the league, itself. It is only through the efforts of these champions and other business leaders who join the league, that we will see any significant improvement in employment opportunities for people who have a disability. This flight has not yet experienced a "layover", as each of the three champions has already launched into action in their respective communities. And to strengthen their efforts, the Lieutenant-Governor himself has committed to continued support of the Champion's League. Plans are under way to host the next meeting of the League and develop strategies to move the agenda forward.

Houston, we have lift off!

RDSP Update

On November 22, 2010 Community Living London welcomed Brendon Pooran, a Toronto-based lawyer specializing in disability and estate law, to tell members everything they need to know about the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP). Approximately 70 people were in attendance to discover how the RDSP can be a beneficial part of a person's financial planning, regardless of their income or ability to put their own money into savings.

As those who were there learned, only about 10% of people eligible to benefit from this incredible savings program actually have an account set up. People with disabilities may be eligible to receive federal contributions to their plan, including \$1000 just for opening one up! Assets and payments in the RDSP are ODSP exempt, meaning they do not, in any way, affect the benefits a person is currently receiving.

For more information about the RDSP, you can visit this website: <http://www.rdsp.com/>.

Membership Renewal

Notices were recently sent out to members who are due to renew their membership for 2011. If you haven't received yours, please contact Melanie Alexander at (519) 686-3000 ext 339.

The benefits of membership include:

- subscription to our quarterly newsletter Update
- invitations to special events and educational seminars/workshops

- the opportunity to network with other members
- the opportunity to provide input into the strategic direction of the agency
- opportunities to volunteer.

As always, we look forward to hearing from our members. We are currently planning for an exciting year of special events and presentations. If you have any ideas for topics or speakers you'd like to hear from, contact us right away.

ACCESS SERVICES

Sharing Smiles

For the second year in a row Community Living London will participate in Sharing Smiles Day!

Dental care is an unmet health need for people with disabilities. Stress and anxiety can make it very difficult for people to see the dentist, or receive proper oral health care. Furthermore some dentists find it challenging to provide a calm and comfortable setting due to their lack of interactions with people requiring support.

Sharing Smiles is a great opportunity for dentistry students to familiarize themselves with people with special needs as it relates to their oral health care. This initiative provides a forum meant to be informative and fun where barriers between people supported and dental students are eliminated. It is also a great opportunity for the people we support to create and foster new relationships with upcoming dentists who may eventually provide their oral health care.

This FREE event is hosted by the dentistry students of

UWO and Oral Health Total Health (OHTH), with over 200 people participating in the event. This is made possible through the fundraising efforts of UWO dental students and OHTH. This year's fundraiser was held on Friday January 7, 2011 raising a total of \$6000. Our goal for this year is to have over 300 participants from a variety of agencies and programs.

The 2011 Sharing Smiles Day will take place at "The Wave" UWO main campus on Sunday March 27, 2011 from 10am – 2pm. The event promises to be an exciting one and parking will be free!

There is a great video that was created from last year's event. To view the video, please visit <http://www.ohth.ca>.

Volunteer Profile

As Valerie Wains can attest, sometimes things happen because you are in the right place at the right time. After completing her American Sign Language courses at Fanshawe College, Valerie was intent on putting her new found skills to good use—and maybe even developing her new language. Enter Sophia Moorman, a support

worker at Community Living London responsible for a literacy program offered by CLL's Access Department.

As a member of the Horton Street Seniors Centre, Valerie could often be found accessing programs in the same community centre as CLL's Horton Street Access Program. It was during

one of these visits that she had a chance encounter with Sophia. After their conversation, Valerie had learned all about the literacy program Sophia was facilitating—and the two deaf gentlemen she was supporting. This was an opportunity with which Valerie knew she wanted to get involved.

In February 2008 Valerie became a part of the team, using her sign language skills and assisting Sophia to ensure participants are fully engaged and benefitting from what the literacy program has to offer. "I have been surprised to

find out just how important volunteering is to me. I am now a small part of ensuring people with disabilities can learn and experience a whole world of things they may never have had the chance to do before."

Participants in the literacy program can expect to expand their knowledge in areas such as: reading, writing, music,



science, currency, socialization. Sophia points out: "There are lots of different routes to take to help someone understand a concept. The group decides what areas to focus on and we help them expand their knowledge by using different visual and auditory props."

Not only have the participants that

Valerie has worked with over the years expanded their knowledge, so has she. "I have met some wonderful people and witnessed their delight in everything... I take pleasure in telling people I volunteer at CLL." The pleasure has been all ours.

For more information on how you can become a volunteer, please contact Melanie Alexander at melanie.alexander@ccl.on.ca.

Sarah Smith Performs



On January 24, a group of young people participating in the Facilitating Youth Independence (f.y.i.) program was treated to a very special afternoon with local singer/songwriter Sarah Smith, lead singer of the band "The Joys." f.y.i. is a program helping young adults with intellectual disabilities transition into community life after school, linking them up to community opportunities for leisure, practical learning and volunteering. When Sarah suggested she'd be interested in performing for a group at Community Living London, this seemed like the perfect fit.

"Volunteering makes me feel like I am giving back. Being an artist, I have been given a gift for music, and I like to share that" says Sarah. "I hope to learn about the community, and in turn, will probably learn something about myself as well. I hope we can all share our talents together...that will create so much good energy in everyone involved."

VOLUNTEER SERVICES CONTINUED

After listening to some great music, the f.y.i. group invited Sarah to stay for dinner. "The group had a great time with Sarah. Sarah appeared at ease around the group and she is so personable that we wouldn't have noticed if she wasn't! She was very open to answer any questions that were thrown her way' said Cheryl Dupuis, f.y.i. Facilitator. 'Everyone in the group even got a new Sarah Smith C.D. to take home."

For more information about Sarah Smith, check out: www.sarahsmithmusic.com

NEW VISION ADVOCATES

The "New" New Vision Advocates Executive Board

New Vision Advocates (NVA) would like to welcome our newly elected executive board! Congratulations to James Taylor who was elected as our new chairperson, Bob Rogers is our new co-chair, Anne Angell was re-elected as the secretary, and Mark Anderson and Justin Hess are our new directors. We would also like to welcome our new DSW student Melinda who will be with us until April. Please say hello and welcome her if you see her.

NVA members are still hard at work with Community Living London's Advocacy Committee to advocate for subsidized bus passes within our city. On Saturday January 29th, members of NVA had the opportunity to speak about subsidized bus passes to members of city council at Whiteoaks Mall, Masonville Mall, Westmount Mall and Argyle Mall during public input meetings. They also had the opportunity to support Paula Moore and Jim Hewitt, who spoke to the City of London's Community and Neighbourhood Committee



on February 1, and Keith Trussler and Paula Moore who spoke to the City of London's Committee of the Whole meeting on February 2nd.

This group continues to be busy preparing for presentations, conferences and workshops throughout the year. NVA members will be facilitating another public speaking workshop. They have been asked to give a workshop on Rights and Responsibilities at Forward House and recently gave a presentation about Advocacy and starting a self advocates group to people supported and staff at Ingersoll support Services.

In April, J.P and Mark have been chosen to present at the Ontario Association for people with Developmental Disabilities (OADD) conference about the power of words and labels.

Interested in joining this very active group? New members are always welcome! For more information, please contact Vicky at 519 686 3000 ext 379.

News From the Family Support Program



Family Support Consultations

Available to families on our waitlist or new families interested in services.

Upcoming dates:

March 4, April 15 and May 27, 2011.

Call 519-686-3000, ext. 358 or ext. 362.

Sibling Workshops

March 14, 2011 (All age groups)

Thames Valley Children's Centre

April 8, 2011 (12+)

The Salvation Army London Village

Helpful Numbers to Know:

Telehealth: 1-866-797-0000

Need a Notice of Assessment: 1-800-959-8281

ODSP Adjudication Unit: 1-888-256-6758

Things to Think about

Salvation Army Activity Nights :

January 5 to Feb. 16. Call 519-455-4810, ext. 324.

March Break Daycamp:

CLL ASD Program, City of London, Boys and Girls club.

Summer Camp planning (some camps begin online registration as early as Jan/Feb and supported 1:1 camp spaces are first come first served)

Canada Learning Bond:

This Bond gives low-income children born since 2004 at least \$500 and as much as \$2,000 in savings towards their post-secondary education, without families having to contribute any money to receive it. Families must open a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) to receive the funds. An RESP can be set up at no cost at any major bank. Opening an RESP will have no impact on social benefits like Ontario Works or the Ontario Disability Support Program.

More information can be found at

http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/learning/education_savings/public/clb.shtml.

Multilingual information is available at

<http://www.smartsaver.org/resp-information.shtml>.

Websites of Interest

www.mentalhealth4kids.ca

Information on over 250 organizations and 800 programs and services in London and surrounding counties

www.therealissue.ca

Child and Youth Network – London reducing poverty initiative

www.viastrengths.org

personality and character strengths

Resources

More than a Mom: Living a Full & Balanced Life When Your Child has Special Needs
by Amy Baskin and Heather Fawcett

Steering by Starlight: Finding Your Right Life No Matter What
by Martha Beck

Christmas Families

We would like to extend a special thank you for the generous support we received for the Christmas Families Program. In particular, we would like to acknowledge Goldman & Associates Inc. for their sponsorship of two families. The program was able to ensure that 8 families (a total of 15 children) had a great Christmas.

30th Annual Dave Scatcherd Charity Golf Classic

The 30th annual Dave Scatcherd Charity Golf Classic will be held on June 07-08, 2011 at the Oakwood Resort in Grand Bend.

Over the past 29 years, the Scatcherd Classic has helped raise more than \$1 million in support of Community Living London and South Huron. The committee's goal for 2011 is to reach an all time high of \$105,000.00. The "Drive for \$105K" represents Dave Scatcherd's age of 75 in 2011 and 30 years of supporting charities.

For more information or to register, please contact Dave Bartlam at 519-238-7357.

CLL is now on Facebook!

The easiest way to stay current on what's happening at CLL! Just search 'Community Living London' from your Facebook page and click on the "Like" tab.

Celebrating Our Local
HEROES
March 2, 2011

Proceeds to support
COMMUNITY LIVING
London

Best Western Lamplighter Inn,
Crystal Ballroom
Doors open and Silent Auction
begins at 6:00pm
Show starts at 7:00pm

Hosted by
Scott Tucker and Kelly Maher from the Tucker and Taz FM96 Morning Show

Special Guests include
Police Chief Brad Duncan Melissa Schenk / A1 News London Taz of FM96
People supported by Community Living London

Sponsored by:

A **ch** **TD Bank** **surfaces** **Giffen & Partners LLP**
Cohen Highley Miller Thomson MGI LIBRO AVW-TELAV
Latta & Nagel ROGERS DMARehability

To Purchase Your Tickets Call 519-686-3000x334 or email: nightofheroes@cll.on.ca
\$40 each, includes hors d'oeuvres (tables of 10 can be reserved)
www.cll.on.ca

19th Annual Cohen Highley Charity Golf Tournament

The tournament is taking place Wednesday, June 8, 2011 at The Oaks Golf and Country Club. Registration cut-off is June 3, 2011 and is limited to 148 golfers. Team entries are welcome.

If you would like to be an event sponsor, contribute to the silent auction or register to golf, please contact Cohen Highley at 519-672-9330 or visit the event website: <http://www.cohenhighley.com/golf2011.htm>

Entry Fee: \$225 (Per person)

Texas Scramble Format
Includes Golf with cart, lunch and dinner
Check-in begins at 9:30am
Shotgun start at 11:00am
Trophy awarded to the first place team
5 hole-in-one prizes
Longest drive & closest to the pin contests

Board of Directors

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Melanie Alexander, Gary Downing, Jocelyne Gall (Editor), Mike Lawler, Vicky Pearson, Ravi Rawana, Maureen Tomchick, Kris Usher and Jason Westbrook

Michelle Palmer, Executive Director

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A member agency of the
United Way of
London & Middlesex

Volunteering with Us!

Looking for a volunteer opportunity? We need YOU!

We have many different opportunities for you to get involved with Community Living London. Here are just some of the ways you can help out:

- > Bowling Coach
- > One to One Friendships
- > Special Events
- > Leisure Activities

For more information, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Melanie Alexander

Email: malexander@cll.on.ca

Phone: 519-686-3000, ext. 339

Did You Receive Multiple Copies of Update?

We have done our best to ensure that you only receive one copy of this newsletter to your home or business. If you have received more than one copy or there was a problem with the address in any way, please let us know by calling 686-3000.

Privacy & Confidentiality

Respecting your privacy and confidentiality is important to us. This is why we do not share our donor lists. If you do not wish to receive further information about CLL, please call us at 519-686-3000.

Planning a fundraiser at your place of work? Learn how you can make Community Living London your charity of choice!

Please consider using your special event to help raise funds and awareness for Community Living London. Enhance your corporate teamwork and pride in your community by working with your fellow employees towards the common goal of raising money for Community Living London. Foster purpose through corporate giving and corporate social responsibility by connecting everyone in your company to a goal beyond the office walls.

If your company hosts a special event already, please consider donating the proceeds to Community Living London or consider working with us to augment your event. Community Living London appreciates the financial support of its community partners. Financial support can immediately empower Community Living London by allowing it to provide programs and services that continue to support people with intellectual disabilities.

Please call 519-686-3000, ext. 334 to find out how Community Living London can help make your event a success.