



## We're Celebrating!!!

### In This Issue:

Shout Out PAGE!

#WINNING at the Western  
Fair Arts Competition

Healing Through the Arts  
ECO Park—Above and  
Beyond

Reconnecting with Dad

**What's Happening in  
Owen Sound?**

Upcoming Events

Cheers to 30 Years!

The Rec Room Review

Paddles for Paint

Meaningful Moments

Work with us!

It began with parents and families advocating: who would care for their child when they no longer could? The future looked bleak, but that did not stop those families from lobbying and getting their voices heard!

Friday, November 18, 1988 was the first milestone, marking the official opening of the very first Participation House Support Services location on Belgrave Ave. in London!

Fast forward to 30 years later, and we now provide supports to more than 200 people in over 50 locations!

We have come so far from those humble beginnings in 1988, expanding regionally and transforming to meet the growing needs of people with complex developmental, physical, and/or medical needs.

Our work, however, is far from complete—there are many more families who continue to lobby and advocate to get the supports needed.

Our supportive community on Clarke Road, truly embraces our vision of an inclusive community: a 14-unit apartment-style building with two accessible units, where tenants will come from diverse backgrounds with various skills and interests, and contribute to the building and neighbouring communities.

We welcome anyone in the community to rent the community room available for hosting events, welcoming new connections, and sharing their skills, talents, and interests.

We want to thank all of our dedicated supporters, volunteers, families, donors, community partners, and our wonderful 500+ staff for all their hard work, encouragement, and commitment. You have all made a difference to Participation House and the people we support.





# SHOUT OUT CORNER

“This shout out is for **Natasha Mitreski**, who has taken Doug Anderson to Disney three times now and does an outstanding job to ensure that Doug has a great time.”



“Please thank the **Interview Team** for their great work on hiring new people and attending job fairs!”



“A HUGE shout-out to **Jess Blais** and **Caitlin Miller-Hay** who filled hospital hours for Kailey while she was in the ICU.”



“Shout out to **Kathleen and the Possibilities in Paint program!** I am so impressed with the paint program and the work that Kathleen does! I feel truly grateful and honoured that we have this kind of program at PH.”



“Massive shout out to all those involved in creating the new updated employee package. I used it for the first time with a new employee since its creation and I absolutely love it!!!! It’s a one stop shop for everything. It is so well organized and thought out. Thank you to whomever was involved for all your time and effort in it’s creation. A+++”



“Shout out to **Irena at Plane Tree**—She helped cover a shift at her location to free up a staff to help the team at Vancouver, *on her last day before she was leaving for a vacation!*”



“Shout out to the **staff at Vancouver**, **staff at Southdale**, and the **team at Belgrave** who have gone above and beyond to be flexible to help cover shifts! It is incredibly appreciated!”



“Shout out to **Phaedra and Jackie** for helping Cathy to make cookies, and take them to new neighbors next door with a handmade card. The neighbors came over next day to introduce themselves and meet with Cathy, and loved the **cookies and the card Cathy made!**”



“Shout out to **Heather** for always doing the community calendar and updating everyone on the upcoming events in and around London!”



“**Angela Blais** deserves a profound should out for her humble and compassionate nature at Project Hope. Angela is so incredible and caring when supporting people. She has truly changed the way in which I support people, and am so blessed to work alongside somebody as hard-working, warm-hearted and dedicated as Angela. I appreciate you and **everything that you do!**”



“Thank you to **Sheri at Wistow** for helping with coverage at Vancouver to ensure Katy got to her first day of training at Anova to begin volunteering.”



“Wickerson would like to thank **Balsam Gate** with their amazing flexibility & kindness around the usage of the van at their location. Because of their help, Ryan was able to get to and from SARI throughout the summer. Thank you so much from Ryan and the Wickerson team!”



“Special thanks to **Liz H** for her home design and finishing touches at Phair. Thank you for helping with skirt designs too!”

## Saving Money



In Spring 2016, a presentation was given to the agency about energy consumption with ways to save money and energy.

We tracked a sample of our locations' energy consumption, and on average **decreased energy consumption by 17%** since the presentation!

Way to go everyone! That is an incredible difference!!

## Families Giving Back

Families are the strongest supporters we have, and we want to thank a family member for his dedication: Bill Jamieson. Bill is the father of a gentleman we support at home and volunteered his time to the Public Relations Committee while also working full-time.

Bill was an integral part of creating a promotional video for the PR Committee to tell the story and **demonstrate the challenges so many families waiting for supports face. He donated his and his business' time to make the video and used his connections to create, film, and edit the video at a discounted rate for non-profits.**

Thank you, Bill, for being so giving!

## Make a Green Choice!

Sign up at [www.participationhouse.com](http://www.participationhouse.com) to receive our newsletter straight to your inbox.

## #Winning at the Western Fair

Congratulations to Megan Bereznick, Jordan Koning, Gabriella Sills, and Nicki Nesbitt on their award winning collaborative piece of art!!

This beauty took home third place at the recent mixed media arts competition at the Western Fair and is now on display at the main office! We can't wait to see what you all create next!

Artists from the Possibilities in Paint art program at Participation House have also won 1st and 2nd place in the last two years at the Western Fair Arts Competition—this program is building a stellar reputation!





## Healing Through the Arts



Healing Through the Arts celebrates the resiliency of those returning home to their communities after years of living in institutions. “Open Studios” foster creativity and participation for all skill levels –and provide conversation, encouragement, and freedom of expression. Interested in joining the free open studios? Visual Arts, Dance, Song -Writing, and more!

Find more information online at:

[www.londonarts.ca/healing-through-the-arts](http://www.londonarts.ca/healing-through-the-arts)



## Running for Smiles!



Ryan LOVES to do various fun runs throughout the year! In September he participated in the Terry Fox Run with his bicycle, and had a great time! He loves the atmosphere, enthusiasm, and meeting new people!

Superhero Run for Easter Seals, Mud Dog Run, Colour Run, Terry Fox Run, Celebrate Cycling, he'll be there! Need a buddy to socialize with and get motivated to be healthy? Ryan's your guy!



Reap personal growth, feel good, and make a difference in the life of a person with a disability.

Many opportunities exist for individuals interested in volunteering with Participation House. Volunteers provide support at all levels of the organization. Opportunities are available for those interested in providing support in group settings, as well as assisting with special events and fundraising.

For more information, visit our website: [www.participationhouse.com](http://www.participationhouse.com)



## Laurie's Community



It has been an amazing experience connecting someone to a church and watching how they are embraced and accepted right from the beginning.

The Community Christian Church is a small congregation that comes together every Sunday between the Mount Brydges and Delaware area. A friend of mine asked Laurie and myself to attend a Christmas sing a long and then a turkey luncheon after. Laurie and I were so welcomed by everyone we decided to go again the following week and the next week after that. It has truly been a rewarding

experience to watch friendships develop and see how kind people really are. Connections make a difference in someone's life and the congregation at this Church is held in a very special place in Laurie's heart. Thanks to all of the congregation at The Community Christian Church.



## Above and Beyond at ECO Park

A couple years ago, the Gone Fishing group started fishing out at ECO Park in Arva, and Don, who looks after the park, mentioned putting in an accessible dock for people we support to fish from. It was installed in the water this summer and ready for us to use. It really came in handy for the fishing group every week and for hosting our annual fishing derby! We want to thank Don for going above and beyond to welcome the Gone Fishing group out at ECO Park and sharing our vision of an inclusive community!



## Reconnecting with Dad



Anyone who knows Bryan knows that he is one of the most lovable and affectionate people you might ever meet. Bryan is constantly giving out hugs to everyone that will let him! When a conversation was brought up at one of **Bryan's planning meetings about reconnecting with dad after a long 35 years** apart, Bryan and his team jumped on the opportunity to reach out, and see where it might go. Having more family for Bryan to love has provided him with **more happiness and acceptance than his big ole' heart can handle!**

What started off as a simple friend request on Facebook has now turned into an unbreakable father/son bond that is sure to last a lifetime! Once the friend request was sent, Dad opened up the line of communication by sending a "Merry Christmas" message, to which Bryan replied "Happy New Year, dad! Hope to see you sometime in 2017!"

What came next is nothing short of remarkable. Bryan got to spend his 37th birthday last April with mom, dad, step mom and a couple of his staff! Since that day, Bryan has had the pleasure of spending every holiday over the past year with his dad, and lots of extended family members, too! They've spent Christmas, Father's Day, Thanksgiving, and birthdays together! The similarities between Bryan and his Dad were noticeable right from the start. They share a similar soul; having a deep love for music, storytelling, and enjoying family all around them.

Since then, Bryan's family life has grown exponentially as he reconnected with his two sisters, his brother, and their families! Bryan met his nieces and nephews and fell in love with them right away. Whenever they come to visit, they find their way straight to Bryan's room where there is a great selection of toys and music for them all to play with. Bryan's love for children is no secret and his nieces and nephews are great with giving him all the hugs he can handle!

Not only has Bryan reconnected with dad, but his grandma has also recently moved to the city, and Bryan has gone to visit her in the bistro of her long term care home. Bryan's team has observed a noticeable increase in Bryan's positive energy. Family is a major part of life – Bryan's staff are so happy to have been a part of this era in his life and couldn't be happier to see his life grow with the love and happiness only a family can provide. While mom is, and always will be the #1 person in his life, the connection that he is building with his dad is an absolute pleasure to be able to witness!



## Livin' it up in Toronto!



Rhiannon and Janet had their annual trip to Toronto.

Every year they visit an attraction in Toronto for the day. Last year, they went to **Ripley's Aquarium**. This year, they went to the Ontario Science Centre, and Janet was very excited for this trip!



She and Rhiannon started off their visit with having a quick lunch in the museum cafe and then they spent the rest of the day exploring the amazing health sciences and space exhibitions, and getting to interact with many of the educational technologies they had. Janet tried the age progression photo booth, and Rhiannon enjoyed the mirror that demonstrates where your organs are positioned in the body. They also had some displays completely made up of LEGO. Overall it was a fun day for both of the ladies! Looking forward to the next trip!



## Make a Green Choice!

Sign up at [www.participationhouse.com](http://www.participationhouse.com) to receive our newsletter straight to your inbox.



## What's Happening in Owen Sound?

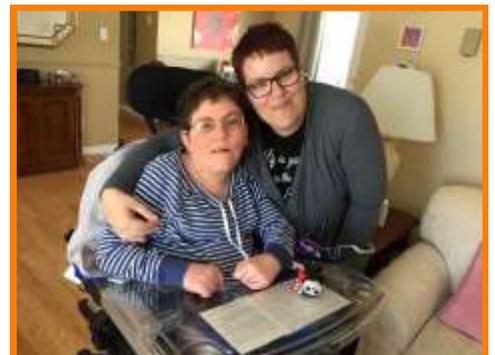
The ladies in Owen Sound celebrated the one year anniversary of their house opening!

It is always a lot of fun when family and friends come for visits. Missy's parents try to come every weekend and Sarah's often come too. Julie, Melissa's long time friend, travelled to Owen Sound for the first time and it was great to have the two friends reunited.



Melissa and Sarah (BFF, friendly roommates, roomies) also came to the agency events this summer, both the Bowl-A-Thon and the AGM. It was great to have them participate in the events and have a great time with everyone!

There are so many activities in Owen Sound, and Missy and Sarah love to **meet new people**. If you're in the area, feel free to stop in to visit and have some tea with them! Please see the Owen Sound Tourism calendar for details and events.





## Mark Your Calendar!



### PHSS Sloan's Day

**When:** December 9, 2018  
10:00am-5:00 pm

**Where:** Sloan's Christmas Village  
29876 Zone Rd. 7, Bothwell, ON NOP 1C0



We've reserved a pavilion—bring your family and enjoy a festive day out! Enjoy activities for the whole family: cook over the campfires, decorate a giant cookie in the Cookie Cabin, get lost in the Straw Maze, conquer Sand Mountain, and ride the zip line! This is an outdoor event—please dress appropriately. \*Admission is \$14\*



### Annual Christmas Celebration

**When:** December 13, 2018  
4:00-8:00 pm

**Where:** Hellenic Community Centre  
133 Southdale Rd. W., London, ON

You're invited to celebrate the holidays with us! For only \$25/ticket, enjoy a full holiday dinner, dancing, and the chance to make new friends! Tickets are available at the main office: 620 Colborne St., London, ON N6B 3R9



### Salute to Laudable Londoners

**When:** April 10, 2018  
5:30-7:30 pm

**Where:** London Hunt & Country Club  
1431 Oxford St. W., London, ON

Join us for an evening of elegance and sophistication as we honour a true Laudable Londoner. The big reveal coming soon!

### SIGN UP TO RECEIVE OUR NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL!

You will be the first to receive each SPEAK OUT newsletter when it is ready—no waiting for Canada Post to deliver!

*Get it instantly in your inbox!*

Sign up at the bottom of our website:  
[www.participationhouse.com](http://www.participationhouse.com)

Or email Amanda to be put on the e-mailing list:  
[amandab@participationhouse.com](mailto:amandab@participationhouse.com)

Save the postage, save the planet  
*Go paperless!*





Imagine yourself in the hospital.

Perhaps your family/friends are on their way, or they **have to be at work, or maybe they're too far away.**

**It's stressful enough as doctors and nurses come in and out of the room.** Now, imagine that you are unable to communicate your needs to the various people working around you.

**Complicates it, doesn't it?**

We are one of the very few agencies that continues to send support staff with the people we serve while they are in hospital.

Given the unique care and communication needs, our staff are also a significant advocate for the needs, preferences, and wants for those who may have alternative forms of communication. It provides comfort, reduces stress and anxiety, as well as eases the burden on family members, knowing there is a trusted, familiar face with their loved one.

**Maria Sinosic didn't realize what a valuable service this was until her daughter, Chrissy, went into the hospital.** Chrissy is supported by Participation House and is non-verbal.

**"It is an incredible service that Participation House provides. It was a real comfort knowing that Chrissy had a staff member to advocate for her, keep her company, and help her communicate her needs."**

Between the aging population of those we support and those who have complex care needs, hospitalizations are becoming more frequent.

Unfortunately, we do not receive additional funding to provide this service.

On average, we provide staff to accompany someone to the hospital for 8.5 days a month, costing over \$100,000 a year.

Due to continuing economic pressures and cost increases without subsequent budget increases, we need your help.




---

During this holiday season, as you prepare your year-end giving, please help us continue to provide this compassionate service by making a donation.

---

Donate online for the **Staff Hospital Support Fund** via our website at [www.participationhouse.com](http://www.participationhouse.com)  
*You can even set up automatic monthly donations!*

Donate via cash/cheque to: Participation House Support Services  
 620 Colborne St., Suite 101  
 London, ON N6B 3R9

Thank you - Your donation is greatly appreciated and makes a difference for those we support and their families. Your gift ensures that we can continue to provide this compassionate service for families like Maria and Chrissy.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**Participation House Foundation is a registered charity! You will receive a tax receipt for any donation of \$10 or more!**

Charitable Registration Number: 89172 2043 RR0001

**Participation House is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary!**  
**Would you consider a \$30 monthly donation to show your ongoing support?**

Payments can be made by credit card, Interac or Paypal on CanadaHelps.org's secure online system. Online donations can also be designated in honour or memory.

**Simply visit our website at [www.participationhouse.com](http://www.participationhouse.com) and click on "Donate Now"**  
You will be given the option to give a one-time donation or to arrange monthly contributions.

Your donations help individuals with severe physical, developmental and/or multiple disabilities to achieve their full potential in the community. On behalf of all the staff, families, friends, and more than 200 people we support – **THANK YOU!**



**We also welcome your cheques:**

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Please make your cheque payable to:

**Participation House Foundation  
620 Colborne Street, Suite 101  
London, Ontario N6B 3R9**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Please direct my donation to the  
**Highest Priority Needs of Participation House**

Please direct my donation to providing  
**Staff for Hospitalizations**

Please direct my donation to the  
**Brian Dunne Housing & Accessibility Fund\***

Please direct my donation to the  
**Lori Hicks Vacation Fund**

Please direct my donation to the  
**Elizabeth Leighton Training & Education Fund\***

Please direct my donation to the  
**Community Place Building Fund**

Please direct my donation to the  
**Fulford Family & Consumer Fund**

Please direct my donation to the  
**Enriching Lives Fund**

*\*Note: The Board of Directors has established endowment funds so they will provide a lasting legacy of support. Donations are prudently invested and the income earned by these investments of the capital is used to support the work of Participation House Support Services as outlined by the fund terms of reference.*

Participation House Foundation – London respects your privacy. We use your personal information to provide services and keep you informed and up-to-date on the activities of Participation House Foundation – London and Participation House Support Services, including programs, services, special events, funding needs, opportunities to volunteer or to give, open houses and more through periodic contacts from Participation House Foundation – London. If at any time you wish to be removed from our contact list, simply contact us by email at [info@participationhouse.com](mailto:info@participationhouse.com) and we will gladly accommodate your request.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**In 2012, 1 in 7 Canadians aged 15 or older reported having a disability**

We have developed a unique combination of residential living, home supports, day programs and recreation to meet the needs of people who have significant disabilities but also have much to offer our community – people who are good neighbours and great citizens. To meet the ongoing and future requirements of the people we support and those who could benefit from our services, Participation House Foundation has identified four areas of need:

### Equipment

**More than 8 out of 10 persons with disabilities use aids and assistive devices; having the appropriate aids can enable an individual to participate more fully in society.\*** For people meeting the challenge of multiple disabilities, up-to-date and well-maintained equipment is essential to maintain health and support independence and community involvement. The items range from something as simple as a shower commode to sophisticated communications devices or a \$25,000 air bed that helps prevent pressure ulcers.

### Housing and Accessibility

Participation House homes are very special places. From the outside they look like any other warm and comfortable family home. Inside, modifications are made to ensure they are ideal for the people we support. Each person has a private bedroom that is a reflection of his or her personality. These houses quickly become homes, much loved by those who live there. While government funding may be available, it does not cover all expenses. Participation House Support Services understands its responsibility as a good neighbour to properly maintain our homes, both inside and out. Private funding and/or gifts-in-kind are welcome to create new homes when operational funds are available from the government.

### Transportation and Travel

Many of the people we support face significant mobility challenges, and are unable to get around without a wheelchair. When they want to leave their homes to participate in community activities, a van equipped with a wheelchair lift is essential. The goal is to pair each location with their own van, but many are still relying on ParaTransit.

**We currently anticipate that four of our accessible vans will need replacement by the end of the year.**

Reliable access to transportation is necessary for unexpected medical appointments or other urgent situations. Also, the spontaneity of activity such as going to see a movie, window-shopping at the mall or grabbing a coffee with friends at Tim Horton's is not an option when Paratransit must be booked days in advance. **An accessible van costs approximately \$60,000, with annual maintenance, gas and insurance costs of about \$15,000.**

Like anyone else, the people we support sometimes need a chance to unwind, have new experiences, see the world and visit distant family and friends. But travel, whether for a holiday or to compete in a bocce ball tournament, is difficult because of the additional costs for a full-time attendant. Private funding would allow more people to take holidays – a pleasure most of us take for granted.

### Education, Training and Therapy

Education, support and advocacy are ongoing needs for the people we support and their families. Additional funding would allow more people to participate in conferences and other educational activities, as well as provide therapy such as Occupational Therapy, physiotherapy, and specialized technology.

Our staff members, too, have ongoing education needs to ensure they can provide the best possible care and support. Government funding covers basic required training in areas such as first aid and CPR. It is more difficult to find funds for leadership, values training or training in specialized computer skills.

***Please help us meet our goal of independence for our neighbours and friends by making a financial contribution to Participation House Foundation – London.***

# 18th Annual Bowl-A-Thon

On June 3, 2018, our friends at Fleetway welcomed 31 teams and countless staff, friends, and family members to the 18th Annual Bowl-A-Thon in support of Participation House Foundation!

It was a fantastic day as bowlers arrived with smiles on their faces and excitement radiating throughout the bowling alley as people socialized. Because of your support, we were able to raise **more than \$31,000!** Thank you very much to all those who contributed—we could not have done it without you!



Thank you to everyone for coming out to the 18th Annual Bowl-A-Thon!

A huge thank you to Fleetway and our corporate sponsors for their generous support!



# 17th Annual Leo Kirwin Golf Tournament

The 17th Annual Leo Kirwin Golf Tournament took place on **August 24, 2018**, once again hosted by our friends at East Park!

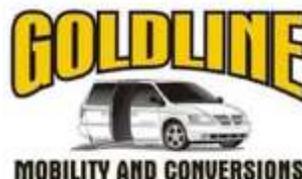
This year, more than 100 participants, including 84 golfers on 23 teams, came out to support Participation House Foundation. It was a bittersweet day, as Leo Kirwin had passed away prior to the event, and many came to honour his memory.

Thanks to all the participants, sponsors, volunteers, and prize/cash donors, the tournament raised **over \$26,000!!**



Thank you to everyone for coming out to the 17th Annual Golf Tournament!

A huge thank you to our corporate sponsors for their generous support!





## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

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

We've taken this year to 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.



## Cheers to 30 Years!

November 18, 1988 was the official opening of the very first Participation House Support Services location on Belgrave Ave. in London.

On November 16th we held an agency-wide party! That's right!! We decorated Kim's van as the **Celebration Station (Wagon)** and dropped off decorations at various locations so that we could all celebrate together! Check out our Facebook and Instagram to see all the fun we had!!



## Equality and Social Inclusion

The Equality and Social Inclusion Committee (previously the Diversity Committee) celebrated their 5th Annual Potluck! People brought dishes from all over the world: Iraq, Zimbabwe, India, Ghana, and many more, and people learned a traditional Polish dance!



## Gord Kittmer and Tom Mahoney Review the Rec Room



Here is a quick review of London's newest entertainment hot spot known as "The Rec Room" located at 1680 Richmond St. N., in Masonville Mall. We were impressed at the dual accessible doors when we got there, as both doors opened to allow for easy entry.

A spacious elevator took us up to the second floor where food and fun awaited us. We were greeted by 'Brennan', our staff/host who was super friendly and gave us the lowdown on where to purchase wrist bands for games and where the accessible ramp was located.

We made our way through the very large dining/lounge area which was loaded full of big screen TVs and modern decor, and lots of space to maneuver through tables and chairs. A long and spacious ramp led us to the games area where there was lots to look at - **a gamer's dream come true!**

A wristband was purchased to play the games, however, the wristband must be swiped. This was difficult for us, so the staff had to swipe the wristband for us. We enjoyed a variety of shooter games and some classic oversized Pac-Man!

Some of the attractions weren't accessible, such as the photo booth and certain games requiring you to sit on a bench, straddle a motorcycle, or sit in the driver's seat of Mario Kart. There was still lots of games we could play, and we really enjoyed shooting up all the zombies in Rabbids Invasion, and winning prizes at the massive crane game!

We really worked up an appetite and decided it was time to check out the food and drink menu. Our awesome server, Brennan, showed us to our table and brought over complimentary popcorn while we enjoyed watching baseball on the big screens.

The Rec Room has two eateries: Three10, which has a full menu for appetizers, lunch, dinner, desserts and beverages, and The Shed, which has a simple menu of poutines, donuts, and beverages. We decided to eat at The Shed because we couldn't resist the poutine (as usual) and it was reasonably priced!

We had an amazing time at The Rec Room and would recommend this venue for a fun day/night out with friends. We did go on a weekday afternoon and was pretty quiet, but we'd bet it gets quite busy on the weekend!

- Gord and Tom



## “Technology is best when it brings people together”



It was identified during a QI committee interview with Sophia that many of her goals and dreams could be accomplished with the use of an iPad. A proposal was submitted to the Enriching Lives Fund to purchase an iPad for Sophia, which was approved and Sophia now has her own iPad to use!

She enjoys borrowing books from the library via the MyLibrary! London Public Library app, and listening to a wide variety of music. The Pictello app is being downloaded so that Sophia can develop a story about herself. She also plans to use the Facebook app to connect with her family out west, in the United States, and overseas!



## Making Friends at Church



Jim Davis has been going to Village Green church for about four years now. Many people there go out of their way to come over and say hello every Sunday and Helen in those pictures is one of them. Jim looks forward to seeing Helen each week and one day, when he arrived at church and saying his morning hellos to her, she presented Jim with a large **bag of goodies**. Jim was so excited that he wouldn't even put the bag down for the service. The bag contained several pieces of original artwork by Helen's mother as well as three kinds of homemade jam and homemade banana muffins.

Jim couldn't have been more excited and it was a very special moment for a very special guy. A couple days later, Jim went to Walmart to design a thank you card with pictures of the two of them together as well as Jim opening the presents, and then he presented that thank you card to Helen. She couldn't have been more pleased and she expressed to us that she couldn't wait to get home and put it on her fridge so that she could see it every day.



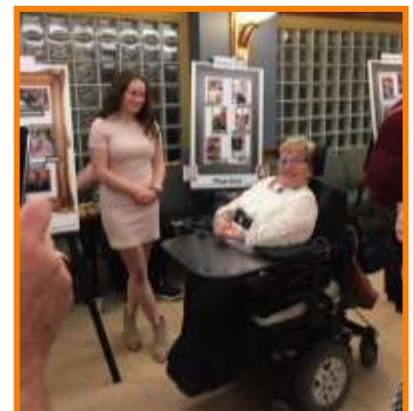
## What Makes Your Life Good?

Chelsey Walters and Brittany Hodkinson attended a gala at King's College for the course that they were community participants for within the Disability Studies program.



During this gala, university students were working side by side with Chelsey and Brittany to present their PhotoVoice collaborative project, "A Good Life." Chelsey and Brittany worked with the students to answer their research question: What makes your life good?

They defined and explored what makes their life good, and pursued fun and fulfilment in a variety of fascinating ways!



## Paddles for Paint



June was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Raising Paddles for Paint Quarter Auction.

It was wonderful to see this fun event increase in size.

The weeks leading up to the auction were exciting, as staff and volunteers got together to bundle and wrap all the prizes.



The gift baskets and auction items ranged from cleaning products to outdoor décor and games. On the day, Sandra Regalo won the Golden Paddle, which allowed her to bid on items with that paddle all afternoon.

We introduced the live auction for some extra fun and action, which went really well. Bev Schuster bid on and won the prizes outdoor Bluetooth Audio System. Corey came away with an armful of gifts and took all our gentle banter in stride.

Our hearts are warmed by the laughter, sharing, and community spirit fostered by this event. We raised money for our innovative and life-enriching Possibilities in Paint workshops and we re-visited why we all love doing what we do – serving our community and celebrating each other.



A huge thanks to Don and Dorothy Adams for all the food items they supplied and their help in creating such a beautiful venue. We are always amazed at the generosity of our community partners who donate our prizes – a big thank you!

To our committed volunteers, we could not do this without you and have the deepest gratitude and appreciation. See you next year, rain or shine!



## Inspirational Expressions

We have been working with Jordan to find a new way for him to participate in art, as his role as an emerging artist is very important to him. As his abilities have changed, we are challenged to discover new strengths and possibilities. This journey has been enhanced by a wonderful support staff who advocates for him constantly and a new volunteer/artist who works closely with him on Monday afternoons.



**We are adapting techniques to capture Jordan's natural movements and gestures, collaborating and engaging with him throughout the whole process.**

This is an amazing piece of art he completed in August. During the process he was smiling and watched as instructions were given, even moving his head to watch as we moved around him.

Moments like this are truly precious and inspire everyone to see things differently.

## Meaningful Moments



Sandra received her 750 hour award this year for volunteering at Thames Valley Children's Centre.



Trent went with Rachel to a clay class at the London Clay arts centre! They were covered in clay afterwards, but never happier!!



Working hard delivering flyers in my neighbourhood!



What a blessing I have in my volunteer and friend, Angela! She has helped me a lot with my correspondence and visits me frequently.

She even shared her strawberry jam with me, which was scrumptious!



Amy planned and treated her mom to a day at the Toronto Zoo. Neither of them had been and it turned out to be the most gorgeous day!



Mike Keech had a great time at the car show at the Western Fair. He checked out the antique cars and socialized with his friends at the race track.

Stephen went on a local brewery tour and had a great time sampling beer from two craft breweries: London Brewing Co-op and Anderson's. London Brewing Co-op also has board games and pinball machines, which were a lot of fun!



Kellie has been volunteering at Pet Smart on Wonderland Road. She goes in and plays with the cats and kittens and absolutely LOVES it!! Pet therapy is what it is for her, she is so happy when she is there!

The cats enjoy cuddling up to her and having her pet them. If Kellie had her way, she would take them all home! Please show some love to Pet Smart on Wonderland Road!

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 unsolved, 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

## Work with Us!

Are you a highly skilled and dedicated person committed to providing a safe, caring and enriching environment? Do you have a passion for encouraging and creating an inclusive community where people with disabilities participate in a meaningful way?

We are currently recruiting  
**PART-TIME SUPPORT WORKERS**

Developmental Services Worker (DSW) Apprenticeship programs are also available!

Please check out our website for opportunities and information about the DSW Apprenticeship program: [www.participationhouse.com/contact/employment](http://www.participationhouse.com/contact/employment)

## Let's Get Social!

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

Participation House Support Services @PHSSLondon @phsupportservices



Suite 101, 620 Colborne Street  
London, Ontario N6B 3R9

Phone: 519-660-6635

Fax: 519-660-1654

E-mail: [info@participationhouse.com](mailto:info@participationhouse.com)  
[www.participationhouse.com](http://www.participationhouse.com)

