



connected

SUMMER 2023



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

While we are looking forward and moving onward toward the glorious days of summer, I would be remiss to not thank each and every one of the CLHF community for your remarkable support over the winter and early spring days. Because of you, we had a record-setting **A Red Carpet Evening** broadcast with watch parties galore and a sell-out day at Windlee Farms – with remarkable generosity all the way through.

Supporting our events means that you are directly supporting important initiatives like **Commitment to Care**, **Foundation for Success**, and **Teen Camp**. Your generosity keeps essential programming and basic needs items accessible for those supported by CLH, and we couldn't do it without you. We were so glad to see you at our booth at Ontario's Best Butter Tart Festival, and look forward to seeing you again soon at **Walk This Way** (August 27) and in November, at the **CLH Bonspiel Bonanza**.

Your contributions, as always, underwrite costs that are not covered by traditional funding sources and span an array of supports: essential personal care items, unfunded medical needs, enriched programming opportunities, safe social engagement, offsetting the rising cost of living and food insecurity for those in SIL, urgent assistance for children supported in the RC program – to name but a few.

Because of you, CLH Foundation has accomplished many great things since the last issue of **Connected**, and with your help, we will accomplish much more.

We hope you enjoy this lively and uplifting edition of the newsletter, and will look forward to seeing you this summer! Thank you to the CLHF community for your ongoing support, as always.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Kitchen'.

Sarah Kitchen
President
CLH Foundation Board of Directors



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

If there is ever such a thing, the first few weeks following April 1 (our fiscal year-beginning) are a tiny bit quieter than all the other months of the year. It's a time we can look forward with anticipation to new opportunities, and make our plans for new ways of supporting and meeting the needs of individuals who are served by CLH Developmental Support Services.

This issue of **Connected** will hopefully inspire you to feel encouraged, and also proud of the way you and your fellow supporters have positively impacted CLH. Whether you are a member of a community organization whose volunteers help make great things happen, or a sponsor whose support contributed to the success of **A Red Carpet Evening**, or a donor who ensures that **Teen Camp** is always free for teens to take part, you contribute greatly to our sense of optimism for the coming year.

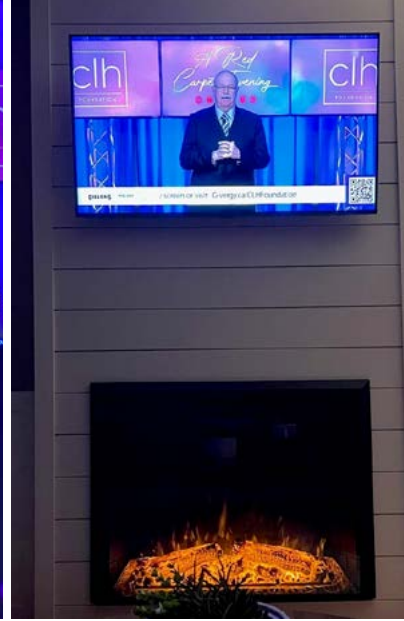
We're excited to report on the progress of construction at the King St Hub, to share with you all the ways that **#Community Matters**, to place a spotlight on a terrific Community Partner, and to highlight the impact of a remarkable gift on its 20th anniversary.

Thank you for all that you bring to the CLH community, and for your continued generosity.

Here's to you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue-Ellen Boyes".

Sue-Ellen Boyes
Director, Revenue Development
CLH Foundation



#ONWARD

A Red Carpet Evening is CLH Foundation's largest annual fundraiser. It not only raises critical funds, but also allows us to share important stories about how we use those funds to enrich and enhance programs and create opportunities: the *King St Hub*, *CLH Teen Camp* and the "Little Things" are all possible because of you.

In 2021, we transformed *A Red Carpet Evening* into an online broadcast that the CLH Foundation community readily supported. This year's broadcast, our third, was our most successful yet, raising more than \$120,000! Thank you – we are grateful to you for your loyalty and generosity.

Thank you to our sponsors, donors, and participants for your contributions, your commitment and your enthusiasm. Stay tuned to find out how *A Red Carpet Evening* is moving #Onward this fall!



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ONWARD SPONSORS

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Thank You To Our Generous Auction Donors

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Maple Leafs Sports & Entertainment | Flynn's Public House & The Queen's Quay British Pub and Restaurant | Midland Curling Club

Thank You To Team #ONWARD

Alastair Connolly | Matthew Good | Scott Warnock | Heather Halo Brouwer | "Welcome" - Doug Thorhauge | Dorothy Blanks | Margaret Tynan | Dean Johnson
Melanie Turner | Sarah Wilcox | Chris Lamont | Norma Johnson | Jackie Stott | Wendy Argue | Mary Darville | Jane Hallyburton | Kristine Durnford | Carolyn Pringle
"King St Hub" - Janet Schmidt | Stephanie Cameron | Bonnie Weiler | Sarah Kitchen | Jody Woods | "Teen Camp" - Sébastien Lesperance
Angela Wilfling-Lesperance | Amanda Miller | Kathryn McIntaggart | "Little Things" - Kristine Durnford | Leo Belcourt | Cora Eisenfeller | Bonnie Porter
Wendy Argue | Keith Sandy | Jane Hallyburton | Deanna Harrod | Candace McHugh | Marion Maule | Quest Art School + Gallery | Feast Catering & Events
Pier 21 Restaurant & Bar | Bourgeois Nissan VIP Shuttle Team | Kevin York | Dave Sibley | Deb Duval | Amanda Miller | Lacey McKay | Mary Irvine | Shawn Blake
Sarah Wilcox | Fred Hacker | Givergy • Emily Clare + Team | Midnight Agency • Grant Paley + Team | ARCE Production Team: Kevin Cascagnette + Wendy Mullin •
Collaborative Haus Marketing | Karen Zinn • MTAV Audio Visual | Sarah Kitchen + Sue-Ellen Boyes • CLH Foundation

THANK YOU



AMBASSADOR KEVIN YORK

Kevin York is an integral part of the *A Red Carpet Evening* planning team. In addition to his role as the official CLH Foundation Ambassador, Kevin also works tirelessly as an auction committee volunteer, collecting prizes from local businesses and donors. Of note: this year, Kevin set an amazing ARCE record when he procured the event's highest grossing single item in its history (WOW!).

Kevin is an enthusiastic "ideas man" behind the scenes, a creative fundraiser, and an ardent supporter of CLH Developmental Support Services and the people it serves.

Kevin was awarded the CLH Foundation Tom Kayser Award for fundraising in 2011 and 2015, and was awarded the CLH Foundation Award of Excellence in 2018 jointly with his mother, Cathy York.

We can't thank you enough, Kevin for all you do for us during this event and for our community!



20 Years On...Agnes Gray's Transformational Gift

June 2023 marks the 20th anniversary of Agnes Gray House, a CLH Supported Living Home on Yonge St in Midland which was made possible by a most unexpected and remarkable bequest.

In 2002, Mary Irvine was a supervisor for a CLH home on Glen Mhor. The residents there were entering their senior years, and recognizing that the house would not easily accommodate age-friendly changes and access, Mary wrote a report outlining the increasing needs, recommending that a home suitable for seniors was needed, and soon.

While then-CEO Tony Vipond, and everyone else on the team, could certainly see the need and fully agreed with the recommendation, there wasn't any money for a new home to be built or purchased, or meet the requirements of an aging household.

Then, as if an answer to a prayer, a call came out of the blue. A lady named Agnes Malcolm Gray had left a bequest for CLH in her will, a gift of \$285,000. This was astonishing, a miracle! Later the team learned that Agnes Gray had attended St. Margaret's Church, where several supported members of the CLH community were also part of the congregation. Perhaps this inspired her decision.

Agnes Gray's magnificent gift to CLH was intended to be for the benefit of the individuals served by the agency. Her estate lawyer said at the time that from her modest lifestyle, no one would ever have guessed that Agnes Gray had the means to make such a generous bequest.

There was no question as to what should be done to honour that gift – a house would be purchased and made accessible and comfortable for senior-aged individuals, and it would forever be known as "Agnes Gray House".

In June of 2003, a special tea and ribbon-cutting officially opened the house, which had been purchased and renovated to make a beautiful home for 5 senior members of the CLH community. Backing on Little Lake Park, it is a lovely property and a happy home for the residents who live there. Mary Irvine will always remember how thrilled and surprised she was when she learned of the bequest, and how much it meant to her to name the house after the lady who made it possible.

This summer we will have another celebratory tea and cake at Agnes Gray to mark the 20-year anniversary, and to take a few moments to reflect on Agnes Gray's generosity and remarkable gift.



Passport Funding: How It Works

Recently, a long-time donor asked, with sincere interest, why our social media pages show CLH-supported individuals enjoying sporting and social and recreation events (which she loved to see), but wondered how they could do that given the information we regularly share about the poverty experienced by some supported individuals and the difficulty to make ends meet. With navigating ODSP or OAS monthly stipends that leave them with just \$149, after government-mandated food and housing costs are paid, how could they afford such outings?

And to our donor we said, "Great question! We're glad you asked!"

As background, the Passport program is funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS), and is intended to help adults with a developmental disability to be involved in their communities and live as independently as possible. Passport funding provides for community participation services and supports, activities of daily living, home skills, and person-directed planning. It also can provide funding for caregiver respite services and supports for primary caregivers of an adult with a developmental disability.

Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) is the access point for adult developmental services funded by MCCSS in Ontario. There are nine DSO locations across the province.

If someone is eligible for adult developmental services, they may also be eligible for Passport funding in the amount of \$5,500 a year. For individuals with complex needs, the assessed amount might be higher.

Throughout their childhood, people with developmental disabilities can rely on various developmental services: Special Services at Home, Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities, and services through the Ontario Autism Program during childhood. But when they turn 18, those services end, and applications must be made through DSO to see if they are eligible to receive adult MCCSS-funded supports in their community.

Once connected with the area DSO they receive help to complete the application process, determine what supports are needed, if a spot is available, and connect to services in the community. This includes connection with a local Passport agency, which in the case of our region, is Catulpa. Most individuals receive \$5,500 annually through Passport to support increased connection and community participation and to assist with daily living.

For CLH-supported individuals, CLH Developmental Support Services acts as a broker or a transfer payment agent, which has a distinct advantage for those individuals. Whereas families who manage Passport dollars on behalf of their family member have to pay for

the participation and activities up front and then apply to be reimbursed, CLH DSS pays these costs up front on behalf of the supported individual, and then bills back to Passport for reimbursement; the individual and their family does not have to first find the money to access the opportunity. Currently, CLH provides this service for 127 individuals.

The standards and rules around what is an approved Passport expense, and what is not approved, are meant to be very clear and fair to all. And they are kept that way by being very strictly followed.

One area that has opened up to Passport funding in response to the pandemic and has been wonderful is the inclusion of technology and books for eligibility for funding, and that made a particular and important difference to people's ability to maintain a sense of connection and interest when other activities had been shut down.

For individuals with additional or complex health needs, Passport funding can serve to provide extra staffing for morning support. For families supporting an adult at home, Passport can be accessed to provide care and respite for the caregivers.



Activities in the area of leisure, social and cultural interest are approved expenses, as are attending live events. If it's a ticketed event, there is a cap of \$150 and a maximum of two tickets – one for the Passport holder, and one for a support person to attend with them. If an individual needs two support staff, there has to be special prior approval.

But it's also tricky: if an individual wishes to attend a Blue Jays game, for example, the Passport dollars for this event cover the cost of two tickets, one for the individual and one for support staff: mileage, parking, the worker's paid hours, and, after a certain number of hours worked, the worker's meal. But Passport does NOT cover the individual's meal, game souvenirs, the raincoat they might need nor the sunscreen and sun visor. Passport cannot be used for food or clothing; an individual would be expected to pay for their own meal out of their so-called 'pin money', creating an odd imbalance where the staff meal is covered and theirs is not.

Passport funding is to encourage sport participation, and includes the purchase of sport equipment. We've shared the story in the past of the bathing suit that was not covered by Passport as it was considered clothing not essential equipment for swimming, and CLHF's Foundation for Success initiative paying that cost. Recently two individuals applied for funding, one for bowling shoes, the other for baseball cleats. The bowling shoes were approved, the baseball cleats were not. What's interesting here is that there is no way of getting an explanation or a 're-consideration'. Decisions by PassportONE are final.

You will often see on our Facebook and Instagram stories, groups of three, four or five CLH-supported individuals together at the museum or the concert or the game. In a Supported Living Home where the residents share many of the same interests and are able to experience activities and events with equal enjoyment, it means that their Passport dollars can go further through shared mileage, shared staff, and shared costs, and it gives them many more opportunities to do what Passport intends, increase community participation, and social connection.



Teen Camp Makes Summer Wonderful!

CLH Teen Camp began in 1995, with a goal of providing skill-building and social development to youth with developmental support needs in a safe and supported environment.

Fast forward 25+ years: *Teen Camp* is still going strong and all set to begin its Summer 2023 season shortly. *Teen Camp* provides an opportunity for youth to be outdoors, to explore the best of Simcoe County, to make new friends, learn new skills, grow in confidence, and have a truly brilliant and inclusive experience, all at no cost to them or their families.

Thanks to the ongoing support of our "Camp Card" donors, *Teen Camp* is fully funded for campers aged 14-21. These donations ensure that this wonderful *Teen Camp* tradition continues to provide summertime camp experiences and developmental support to North Simcoe youth.

The CLH *Teen Camp* staff have an amazing summer planned, and we would like to thank the CLH Foundation community for its continued support!



To become a Camp Card donor and contribute to an amazing summer for CLH Teen Campers, visit:
CLHFoundation.ca/teen-camp-donate

We are so grateful for all of the ways that you support CLH Foundation and the individuals who are served by CLH Developmental Support Services.

Thor Wealth Management Group | TD Wealth supports CLH Foundation initiatives all through the year with great generosity. This past winter, Sarah and Mike Thor presented CLH Foundation with a donation to the **Commitment to Care** initiative.



Midland Curling Club and its members are wonderful new partners, helping us to host a successful CLHF **Bonspiel Bonanza** last fall and then choosing to support CLHF as part of their Curling Day in Canada celebrations on February 25. Joined by stalwart CLHF volunteers from the **Special Olympics Huronia Curling Team** and the **Midland Civitan Club**, the "Tailgate Party" raised funds and collected grocery goods to support **Bridging the Gap**.

Since 2021, CLH Foundation has had the privilege of being the official butter tart seller for **Windlee Maple Syrup Farms'** Maple Weekend events, providing us an opportunity to create awareness of the work of CLH and raise funds in support of **Commitment to Care**. It's a sweet partnership and one we treasure! Thank you also to our April Maple Weekend volunteers Lois and Steven Irvine, Kevin Cascagnette, Sarah Kitchen, and the team from **Bayles Deschamps Holloway Wealth Management**, who not only volunteered but also made a donation of \$1500 to support our efforts.





Every year, The Tiny Township **Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament** delivers a terrific golf event which also raises funds to support the work of charitable organizations across North Simcoe. CLH Foundation was honoured to be one of 14 charities that benefitted from the June 16 tournament held at Brooklea Golf & Country Club. Special thanks to our CLH Developmental Support Services golf team of CEO Dean Johnson, Board members Joe Evans and Dwayne Frans, and IT Manager Tony Gougeon for representing CLH so well that day, too!

Jim Koch is a generous donor as well as sponsor, and is always quick to support whatever we are planning. **Ricky Dillon** is the first one to offer up pizza parties for members of the CLH community "just because", and has been an auction donor for many CLHF events. This September, Ricky will lead the organization of a golf event in support of CLHF. Most recently, Jim and Ricky joined forces to co-sponsor the Pre-Show of our "**A Red Carpet Evening**" online broadcast. Thank you Ricky and Jim!



We were thrilled to be nominated for a 2023 **Southern Georgian Bay Chamber of Commerce Business Award**, in the "Community Builder/Community Spirit" category. The awards were presented at the Chamber's Annual General Meeting in late May, and we were in such good company, we mean it when we say, "it was an honour just to be nominated"!



CLH Community Partner Spotlight Quest Art Gallery

With great appreciation we are highlighting Quest Art Gallery and the creative opportunities they provide weekly at no charge to members of CLH's *Community Participation and Support Program* (CPS). Throughout the past year, Quest Art Instructor Jean Miller has led hands-on art classes for CPS members, leading and guiding them to create meaningful and delightful artworks. Located in downtown Midland in the Midland Cultural Centre, the Quest Art studio is a warm and inviting place to cultivate everyone's inner artist, and Jean is a skilled teacher who leads every person to create their best work. Quest is a generous partner not only to CLH Developmental Support Services but also provides art instruction to clients of Chigamik Community Health Centre and the Waypoint HERO Centre.



SAVE THE DATE!

Save the Date: The 2nd annual Walk This Way for CLH, presented by Meridian, will be on **Sunday, August 27**. Plan to walk, stroll or roll with us!

When you *Walk This Way* you support CLHF's Commitment to Care initiative. By covering the costs of unfunded medical and personal health essentials on behalf of adults who live in CLH Supported Living Homes – you help ensure they enjoy good health and continue to thrive!

Come join us for a sunny Sunday morning walk in the park!





King St. Hub An Update

The creation of a central program hub at our 283 King St location in downtown Midland is nearing completion! The **King St Project** has had two major phases: a \$154,000 renovation funded by CLH Foundation to support programming with a purpose-built kitchen, laundry facilities, learning lab and one-to-one meeting spaces; the second, funded by a \$149,800 Resilient Communities Grant from Ontario Trillium Foundation, is the construction and installation of an assistive lift. This will effectively double the space available for enriched programming for individuals served by CLH's Supported Independent Living (SIL), Supported Employment Program (SEP) and Transitional Aged Youth (TAY)

Construction in a 100-year-old building always brings unexpected challenges and surprises, but CLH Operations Manager Mary Irvine and her team, along with the project contractors, engineers and the Town of Midland, have kept everything moving forward and on track.

We will host an open house this fall and we hope you will join us to tour and celebrate. Invitations to come!





Return of The CLH Hockey Classic!

More than anything, the return of the CLH Hockey Classic to the Olive St parking lot on May 17 signalled a return to something more like "old times", with the CPS Snipers lined up against the CLH Mighty Pucks. Presided over by MC Dave Sibley, refs Dean Johnson and Damian Gordon, led by Bruce Wilcox in a rousing version of Oh Canada, and overseen by cheering crowds of GBDSS students and the entire CLH community, it was a great day, a great game and great cause for celebration. Afterwards, once the Champions' Trophy (and bragging rights) had been presented to the winning team, everyone enjoyed lunch, pleased as can be to be back together again.





Runners Up, the CLH Mighty Pucks



Winning Team, the CPS Snipers



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