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ANNUAL REPORT

2023 - 2024



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Mission



Community Living Brant is committed to providing supports and services to meet the diverse developmental needs of people within the community.



Vision



Community Living Brant envisions a welcoming, inclusive community where all are encouraged to reach their full potential.



Guiding Principles



- Dignity and Full Citizenship
- Inclusion and Community Engagement
- Partnerships and Collaboration
- Leadership and Excellence
- Integrity and Accountability





In 2023/2024, Community Living Brant celebrated 70 years of providing services in Brantford and Brant County. After so many years of being unable to gather in person, we seized this opportunity as a time to reflect on who we are, what we are most proud of, and where we envision ourselves to be in the future.

As anyone who is connected to Developmental Services can attest to, the phrase “Journey to Belonging” has been ever present in recent years. This tagline is the 10-year framework introduced by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services that envisions people with developmental disabilities belonging fully in their communities and being supported to live the lives they choose through a person-centred approach.



The “Journey” is indeed accurate, but we are all unique, and our experiences are unique. Speaking for Daniel and myself, there are spaces and places all around us filled with those we care about and where we feel like we belong. However, we often find ourselves in situations where that feeling is absent, and we suspect this is a common experience for most of us.

What makes the difference? For us, and I'm sure for everyone else, it all comes down to choice. When we choose who we spend our days with, where we work, where we shop, and how we spend our time, we feel a sense of belonging. Knowing that we've had the opportunity to fully experience the world around us reassures us that our choices are the right ones for us.

The complete tagline for the Ministry's framework is actually “Journey to Belonging: **Choice** and Inclusion”. This is quite a mouthful, often causing the second part to be dropped in conversation.

When we look ahead to the future of Community Living Brant, true and informed **choice** needs to be at the forefront of everything we do. Have people been given the opportunity to choose where they live and who they live with? Have they had the opportunity to explore what the community has to offer and to find friends with similar interests? Have they been able to try something new, take chances, make mistakes, learn from those mistakes and grow? These are just a few of the choices available that make having a good life possible.

People can only truly arrive at a place of Belonging if they have been in the driver's seat for their own Journey. As an organization, it is our responsibility to ensure the people we support are the ones leading the way, while we support them along the ride. To those who have trusted Community Living Brant over the years to experience the ups and downs of life alongside them, we are forever grateful to be part of your Journey.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023/2024

Officers

President

Daniel Custodio

Vice-President

Lonnie Johnson
Zile Ozols (Resigned)

Treasurer

Tricia Klunder

Secretary

Cristin Ladner
Executive Director

Directors

Marylou Chatland

Greg Hall

Stefennie Jagt

Jim MacAlpine

Matthew Marriott

Tim Papez

Duncan Ross



Community Living Brant provides a wide variety of services and supports to people 18+ years of age and their families in Brantford and Brant County. Intake into our services is through Developmental Services Ontario.

- 365** Total Number Of People Supported
- 222** People With Passport/Individualized Funding
- 130** People Who Are Supported In Supported Living
- 126** People Who Receive Support Through Supported Employment
- 112** People Who Receive Support Through Community Participation



- 62** People Who Receive Respite
- 29** People Who Are Supported In Group Living
- 22** Student Placements/University - College
- 18** People Who Are Supported In LifeShare
- 17** People Who Receive Respite Through Ministry of Health Aging At Home

Our Staff

Community Living Brant embraces a culture of diversity, equity and inclusion. We welcome applications from all qualified persons.

- 260 Full-Time And Part-Time Staff
- 44 New Employees Welcomed
- 44 Staff Employed Over 20 years
- Collective Agreement Signed With CUPE Local 181

Our Committee Volunteers

Community Living Brant acknowledges our dedicated and loyal Committee volunteers - many who are longstanding in these roles.

RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Patrice Burke, Chair; Sandy St. Louis, Jason Richardson, Juliana Weberman, Brad Murray, Bethany Mansour, Kate Rossiter, and Jen Rinaldi

PERSON-CENTRED EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE

Paul Wilson, Marylou Chatland, Bruce Jones, Liz Brown, Joe Erpenbeck, Katie MacDonald, and Candice Lawrence

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Morris Gloyne and Glenda Minard



Annual Report for 2023/2024

Person-Centred Excellence Plan and Accomplishments



As Community Living Brant nears the end of our 4-year Accreditation with The Council on Quality and Leadership, here are just a few of our accomplishments over the past year.



FACTOR 2 PERSON-CENTRED PLANNING

- Five staff members and Supervisors are trained to work with people supported, their natural support networks and their support teams in order to create Person-Centred Plans.
- Over the past year, nine people supported have worked with our team to complete their own Person-Centred Plan.
- An Individualized Funding Open House and training sessions for staff were held this past spring. These sessions focused on “Journey to Belonging” and the importance of planning ahead to ensure funding is sustainable and centred around individual goals.



FACTOR 4 COMMUNITY CONNECTION

- Sixty people attended the “Housing Summit” in September learning about community bonds and social finance for housing and organizations. This is now linked to family and caregivers.
- Belonging Brant presented at the “Inclusion Symposium” in March, 2024, about the twenty-five Community Groups that have been developed over the past three years.
- Community Living Brant held its “7th Annual Jane’s Walk” from May 3rd-6th. These walks spanned Brantford and Brant County and provided community members with the opportunity to learn more about the exciting things happening in their neighbourhoods.
- Joe Erpenbeck has completed his year-long engagement with each team. As an Asset-Based Community Developer, Joe’s work with the agency centred around strategies to combat isolation and reduce loneliness.
- On April 3rd, Community Living Brant hosted the “Family and Caregiver Retreat” at Five Oaks in Paris. This retreat provided families with the opportunity to connect with one another, to discuss successes and challenges, and to share ideas about future planning.



FACTOR 5 WORKFORCE

- Our Staff Engagement event in December was a great success with over 80 staff in attendance.
- DEI - Three focus groups were held in the fall, along with third-party recruitment for our DEI committee commencing this summer.
- DEI - Evaluation and updating of Safer Spaces training.
- Organization Trauma Training provided through our sector’s Cultivating Community Wellness.
- Mental Health First Aid Training has now fully trained 72 staff.





BELONGING BRANT TRANSITION

The Belonging Brant Trillium Grant came to an end in October 2023. With the help of a few small grants, the Team was able to get three more months of funding to support groups transitioning to a more independent structure. Some of the groups partnered with other organizations, some decided to break out on their own and a few felt it was time to come to an end. Twelve of the groups continue today.



JANE'S WALK

From May 3rd to 6th, we hosted the 7th Annual Jane's Walk in Brantford and the County of Brant. There were twelve walks in total and over ninety participants during this three-day event.

ABCD SYMPOSIUM

The 6th ABCD Symposium was held on May 25th. The theme this year was "Discovering". It was a full day of community building events and connecting. This was possible because of the partnerships we have built and maintained within our community and with a Grant from the City of Brantford.



CONFERENCES

We were asked to share our experience with Belonging Brant and ABCD at the "From Presence to Citizenship" Conference" and at the "Summit for Creative Community Solutions" that was hosted by Laurier University this year.

A PLACE TO BE

A Place To Be runs weekly on Thursday afternoons from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. This is in partnership with the Brantford Public Library. It is a great place for folks to gather, connect and build community. There are games, activities and snacks. It has become a sought-after event on the Library calendar.



Annual Report for 2023/2024 Community Relations



This year there were many opportunities for people to come together to participate in various events.

Many of these special occasions were documented by Filmmetry, who captured memorable photos and videos that were unveiled during Community Living Month in May of 2024.

At the end of our 70th Anniversary celebrations, the people we support, their families, staff and community members all gathered together for a large group photo at Mohawk Park taken by a remote-controlled flying drone.



August

The Circle of Friends Golf Tournament celebrated a milestone year. This was the 35th anniversary of the annual tournament. We had an extremely enjoyable and successful day, surpassing our fundraising goal. Thank you to all of the participating golfers and volunteers for your contributions towards the goal of this Tournament.

December

At our Annual Open House, staff, committee members, Board members and community partners were treated to live entertainment, Beaver Tails, Face Painting, Caricatures, Games and Coffee/Hot Chocolate from our friends at Altitude Coffee. Thank you to everyone who attended and all volunteers who helped make the day a tremendous success.

March

With a little courage and a warm heart willing to get cold for a worthy cause, Community Living Brant made a huge splash at the "OPP Polar Plunge" fundraiser for Special Olympics. All funds raised supported programming and events for their athletes across the province.

May

We were a proud participating member in the "Shine A Light on Community Living" campaign as part of "Community Living Month" celebrations. Local municipal partners arranged for Brantford's City Hall and the Penman's Dam in Paris to be lit up in blue and green in support of Community Living Brant.





Community Living Brant is furthering our work in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion with support from *Mending the Chasm*. We have been busy over the past year working on the development of our EDI Committee, which is slated to launch this summer. The Committee will focus on the following guidelines:



Value And Encouragement Of Contributions

Emphasize creating a space that values and encourages contributions from all members, as well as creating space and process for staff to contribute to committee decisions.



Resource The EDI Committee And Members

Ensure that the Committee is resourced to deliver on its mandate and that members are set up for success and supported to participate in the Committee.



Ensure All Voices Are Valued And Included

Implement effective practices for ensuring that all voices are received, valued, and honoured.



Develop And Share EDI Education And Resources

Curate learning opportunities on a range of issues and practices related to building equity and belonging capacity.



Create A Welcoming And Safe Environment

Creating a welcoming, accountable, and safe space for all to contribute, particularly highlighting the need for frontline staff to feel included and valued.



Maintain Sustainability And Momentum

Ensure the Committee maintains momentum and is a lasting entity, indicating a commitment to long-term EDI efforts.



Foster A Collaborative Environment

Create a more collaborative environment within the Committee with less top-down structure, encouraging inclusivity and shared decision-making.





Family and Caregiver Network



Facilitated Meetings

Since September 2023, the following network meetings were hosted:

- September 14, 2023
Emergency Contingency Planning
- October 12, 2023
Finding Your Voice To Advocate For Your Needs
- December 13, 2023
Self-Care During The Holidays
- March 26, 2024
Working Caregivers
Presentation by Allison M. Williams, Ph.D.
- March 27, 2024
Housing Conversations
- April 20, 2024
Presented by Master Community Developer and Passionate Advocate Carrie Sinkowski
- May 29, 2024
Journey To Belonging: Choice and Inclusion Presented by Chris Beesley, CEO of Community Living Ontario

Community Living Brant was a recipient of the “Family Engagement Grant” through Community Living Ontario.

Using an Asset Based Community Development Approach (ABCD), Community Living Brant (CL Brant) set out to provide the space for parents and families to engage with each other and collaborate to establish a supportive network.

Our vision was to amplify the voice of parents and caregivers, foster supportive relationships, and provide recognition and appreciation to the vital role they have in the lives of people who experience intellectual disabilities in our community.

A workplan was developed in collaboration with the Network to provide activities, facilitated discussion, and presentations that would be of most interest and support to the group. Beginning in September of 2023, the Family Network met monthly and participated in a full day retreat in the spring of 2024.

Topics covered within the facilitated meetings were of top interest and priority to the family network, as reflected in the responses to a preliminary survey that was circulated.

Over the past year, we have addressed many of the requested topics that caregivers prioritized as important to them.

Looking beyond the year of progress we have made in developing a Caregiver Network, we will continue to sustain regular meetings that provide educational/informational opportunities, while also providing the space for parents and caregivers to come together in exchange and advocacy.



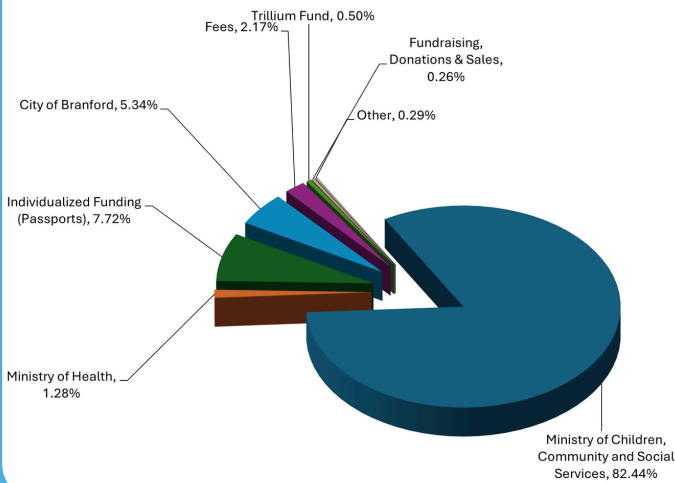
Annual Report for 2023/2024 Financial



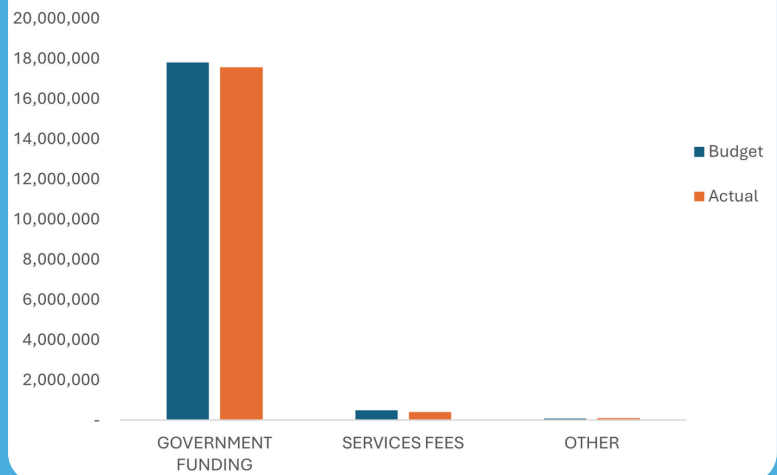
Through our Annual Reports, we appreciate the opportunity to recognize our funders, donors, partners, supporters and volunteer community. Thank you for making valuable investments to improve the quality of supports experienced by people at Community Living Brant. The part you play does not go unnoticed in allowing this growth to be possible.

REVENUE

Revenue 2023/2024 %

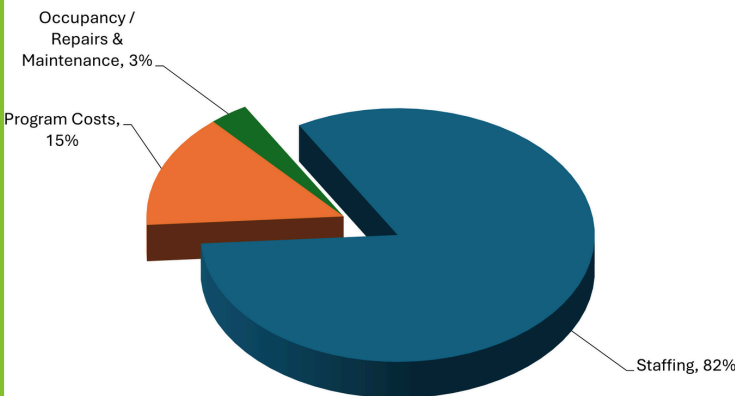


2023/2024 Budget vs Actual Revenue

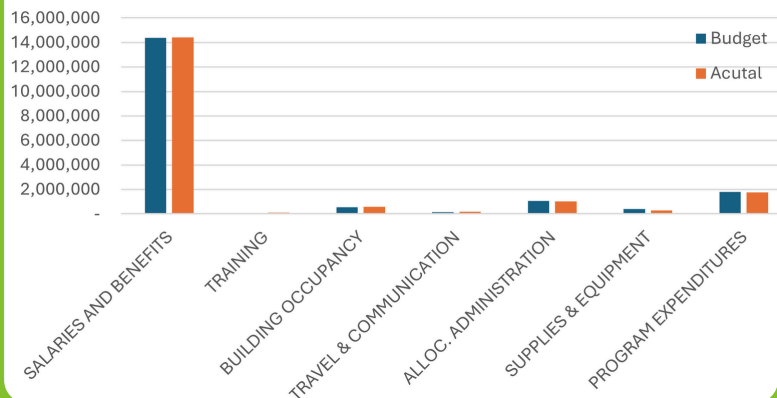


EXPENDITURES

Use of Funds Year Ending March 31, 2024



2023/2024 Budget vs Actual Expenditures



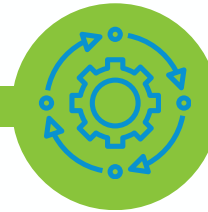
Health and Safety



Community Living Brant continues to work towards improving health and safety for all employees and people who receive services by promoting a progressive health and safety culture and work environment. In 2024, Community Living Brant will continue to work with all Agency Health and Safety Representatives, the Multi-Workplace Joint Health and Safety Committee, and Management to focus on continuing to build on our existing health and safety program. We will apply to be part of the WSIB Excellence Program to continue to reduce the risk of injuries and illnesses, and boost health and safety confidence within our organizational culture. Highlights of Community Living Brant's Health and Safety Program for 2023/2024 included:



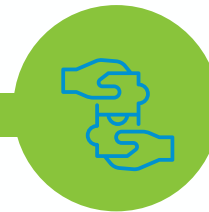
The Multi-Workplace Joint Health and Safety Committee provided Back to Basics ("Back to the Future" themed) Training to all Health and Safety Representatives. There was also a presentation from the Brant County Health Unit on food safety.



We continue to be appreciative of our ongoing partnership with the Brant County Health Unit who continues to assist us in staying up-to-date on the most current information, guidelines, and direction regarding COVID-19.



Training was provided to all staff on various health and safety topics, including Occupational Health and Safety, Safety Engineered Sharps, Safe Lifting, Floods, Power Outages, Extreme Heat, and Violence in the Workplace.



A long-standing member of the Multi-Workplace Joint Health and Safety Committee has retired. Community Living Brant extends our sincere thanks to Kim Clarke-Dawdy for her dedication and commitment to health and safety throughout her many years of service with Community Living Brant.

"Better Safe Than Sorry" — Samuel Love



Passport Funding



For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, Community Living Brant continued to grow as a Transfer Payment Agency offering assistance to individuals with their Passport Funding. As well, we offered purchase of service supports for individuals and families to have the flexibility to self-administer their funding. We currently support approximately 222 people with their passport funding.

- We held our Annual Individualized Funding meeting. Staff were quizzed on their knowledge of Passport, and we reviewed our processes.
- We held our first Individualized Funding Open House where people could come and ask questions, gather resources and create a budget to plan supports that align with strengths, interests and goals.
- We published and circulated our first "Passport To Possibilities" Newsletter capturing stories of how people are using their funding.

What Passport Funding Covers

- Community and Recreational Activities
- Activities of Daily Living
- Support Worker Hours and Expenses
- Transportation
- Technology
- Community Participation Support Supplies and Equipment



PHOTOGRAPHY

Bret would like to start his own photography business and is planning to join the Brant Camera Club to connect with other local photographers.

Greg decided to use his Passport money to focus on strengthening his body and getting back on track. He purchased a facility membership at Wayne Gretzky Sports Centre where he has built up his endurance and muscle mass through cardio and strength training.

FITNESS AND WELL BEING



PASSION FOR SPORTS

Michael is a loyal fan of OHL Junior Hockey. He has travelled to various cities to watch his favorite team play.



CLASSES OF INTEREST

When Ashley took a pottery class at "Hands On The Wheel", it was evident from the moment she started she was a natural. Her instructor said she has the gift! Ashley has discovered a new creative outlet to explore.

Contact us to discuss your Passport Funding!
Email: if@clbrant.com



In Memory

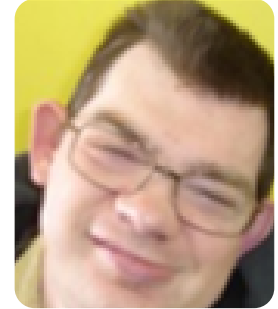
It's hard to forget someone who has given us so much to remember.

Rob Hartley



Rob had a way of lighting up a room just with his presence. Some of Rob's favorite pastimes were watching Family Feud and listening to Kenny Rogers or Barry Manilow.

Rob Loree



Rob had a wicked sense of humour, loved to laugh and appreciated those same qualities in others. Bob loved the Toronto Maple Leafs, the Toronto Blue Jays and enjoyed a trip to Florida to visit Disneyland with a friend.

Viola Bacon



Viola celebrated her 90th Birthday with wishes to celebrate her years of courage, strength, kindness, laughter, and love. She was a beloved Aunt, a loyal volunteer, a Special Olympic Champion, loved baseball, and was a travel partner on many trips with her housemates.

Kristie Beckham



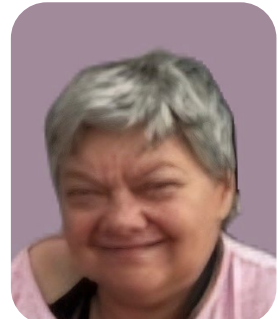
Kristie preferred to be involved and keep active. She was a Receptionist at the Dunn Building and Head Office, a member of REACH Out, the CLB Self-Advocate Committee, worked with the Kiwanis on the A.K.T.I.O.N. Club, was a member of the CLB Quality Enhancement Committee and served as the self-advocate representative on our Board of Directors. She was loved and cherished by her many family and friends.

David Harker



David loved to dance and enjoyed outings which included the enjoyment of indulging in his most favorite food requests. Anyone who had the privilege of knowing David will lovingly remember him and his kind spirit.

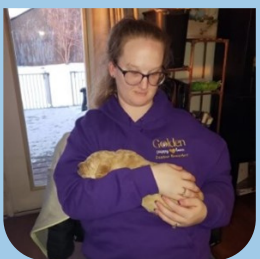
Cathy Jellis



Through life's challenges and adversities, Cathy always had a smile on her face. She was passionate about her love of music, and especially loved karaoke. She always had a leisure time activity to keep her busy.



Some things we did this year



 Website

www.clbrant.com

 Phone

519-756-2662

 E-mail

communitylivingbrant@clbrant.com

 Social Media

Facebook - www.facebook.com/CommunityLivingBrant
 Instagram - www.instagram.com/communitylivingbrant
 YouTube - [YouTube.com/@communitylivingbrant](https://www.youtube.com/@communitylivingbrant)

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