



For people with intellectual disabilities

THE SPARK

June 2017 - Issue #05

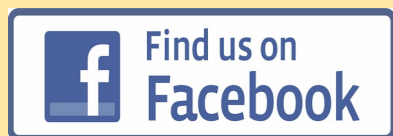
Igniting the unlimited potential of all people

The Spark features inspirational stories of accomplishments people have achieved and the Personal Outcome Measures related to these achievements. Personal Outcome Measures are the foundation of everything Simcoe Community Services does to support people.



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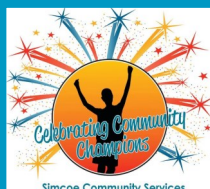
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Celebrating the 2017 SCS Community Champions!



Lauren Byam and the 2017 SCS Community Champion models take their final bow for the crowd at Mavrick's Music Hall.

Mavrick's Music Hall in Barrie was filled to the rafters with a sold-out crowd for the 22nd Annual Celebrating Community Champions Fashion Show. From all-stars of the Barrie Integrated Baseball League, to superstars in employment and volunteerism, this year's show highlighted the best in Community Champions and raised \$30,000 to enhance the lives of people with intellectual disabilities. Thank you to the models, sponsors and those in attendance for making this our best show yet. More images from the 2017 Celebrating Community Champions Fashion Show can be found on pages 3 and 4 of this edition of The Spark.



**Outcome - People
realize personal goals**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Message from President David Barber



As spring slowly creeps into summer we see the end of the tulips, daffodils, lilacs and the beginning of the roses and canna lilies. What an amazing burst of energy and colour we experience at this time of the season. It is the greening of a nation after a relatively gentle winter in comparison to the past few years.

The SCS Board of Directors is pleased to report that we have completed our Strategic Planning Session and have crafted a path forward for our organization into the immediate future. We envision a great many changes to take place over the next several years. In 2015, MCSS committed over \$800 Million Dollars to the Developmental Service Sector through to 2018 and in the recent 2017 budget, an additional approximately \$200 Million annual dollars have been allocated to reducing wait lists and providing direct service. These are important steps that we are hopeful will result in more people being served.

Insofar as the majority of funding will be via Passport and/or other direct funding to families, this means that traditional methods of service delivery will change dramatically giving far more choice to families as to how their children are provided for. Those individuals currently in residential environments will

continue to be supported as they have in the past but the availability of new residential placements will be very rare indeed and allocated only to "most in need." Similarly, program availability and creativity will have to adjust to meet the changing needs of this new population whose lifestyle does not conform to the standard nine to five work week. We at SCS must be flexible and respond to the demands of the families who need a more diverse and flexible approach to services and supports for their children.

Disability Services Ontario is the incoming point for all new families entering the Developmental Services Sector. SCS is fully accredited, committed to quality assurance measures and has the highest standards of health and safety, with well-educated, well trained and motivated staff. We need to position ourselves as the organization of choice for new families looking for programs, respite and innovative solutions to challenges they face in being able to go to work and be assured that their loved ones are left in the hands of competent, capable and committed staff who recognize the trust and confidence with which they are being entrusted.

We will need to market our services through outreach and traditional marketing methods. More and more people will be looking at the dollars that they have been provided with by MCSS via the DSO and asking, "What do I want, what do I need for my child? Do I need quality or quantity? What can my dollars buy for them?"

Our risk is that what we have accomplished in over 60 years of continuous service at SCS, our total commitment to opportunity, choice, individual planning and the enrichment, enhancement of the quality of life of the people we support may come down to, "Can I afford it?" I know we can do this because we have some of the most creative and innovative minds in the DS Sector leading SCS and staff who are willing to embrace new and exciting options that will ensure that what we offer will appeal to the widest number of families without sacrificing our principles or beliefs.

Change is our permanent companion on this never ending journey of discovery. Embrace it and we will all live long and prosper.

David Barber
President, Simcoe Community Services

FASHION SHOW 2017

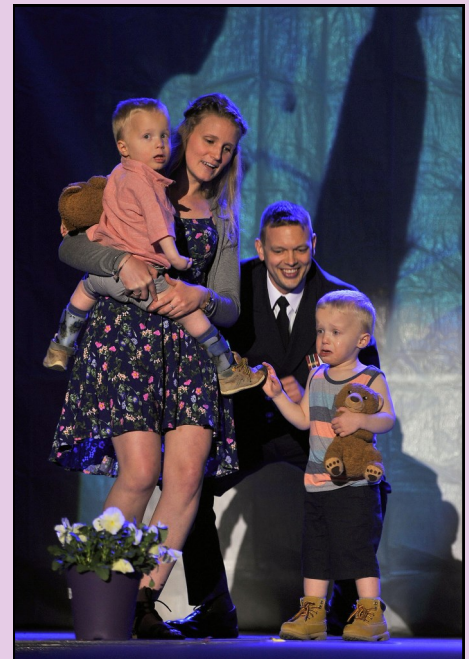
Who else was rockin' the runway at the 22nd Annual SCS Celebrating Community Champions Fashion Show?



(Clockwise top right) Graeme Thomas and Kevin DesRoches escort The Barrie Examiner's Cheryl Browne to the stage, Zachary Zak lets brother Izaiah and Mom Stephanie know it's past his bedtime, Brant Mawdsley and Barrie MPP Ann Hoggarth are ready for any kind of weather, Amy-Lynn Findlay basks in the runway spotlight, and the sold out crowd at Mavrick's Music Hall make another auction bid during intermission.



Outcome - People realize personal goals



FASHION SHOW 2017

Thank you to our 2017 Community Champion Sponsors! This year's show was a huge success and we couldn't have done it without their incredible support.

Diamond Sponsor
RBC Dominion Securities

Platinum Sponsor
Kiwanis Club of Barrie



Gold Sponsors
Essa Painting
Melchior Management



2017 Celebrating
Community Champions
Chair Victoria Ptasiuk
thanks (left) Dino
Melchior from Melchior
Management and (right)
Nate Robertson from
Essa Painting for their
Gold sponsorship of this
year's show.



Silver Sponsors
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Wall-Armstrong and Green Law Office
Kempenfelt Windows Ltd.
Superior Home Health Care
Delta Gaming and Bingo Centre
Piper Barber Insurance Agency
Surelock Homes

Monetary Sponsors
Roderick H. Young Architect
Reliable Cleaning Services
Barrie Kitchen Savers

COMMUNITY LIVING MONTH

Raising the Simcoe Community Services flag!



The rain and cold temperatures on May 1st didn't dampen the spirits of those who helped raise the Simcoe Community Services flag at City Hall in Barrie. To mark Community Living Month, Barrie Mayor Jeff Lehman proclaimed May as Community Living Month, a month in which we celebrate the gifts and talents that people with intellectual disabilities bring to our community.



Outcome - People participate in the life of the community

THE SPARK

Now that's dedication!



At the end of this school year, Perry Skilliter retires from his job as the Lunch Room Assistant at Kempfenfelt Bay School. For 17 dedicated years, Perry has been a part of the day to day fabric of this Independent School and a valued member of the KBS family. Never forgetting a student's name, or a milk order, KBS students and faculty know lunch time just won't be the same without Perry. According to Perry, "I really liked doing the milk at lunch. I will really miss all my friends and want to go back for some visits". Kempfenfelt Bay School would love that. Come back anytime Perry.



Outcome - People choose where they work



EMPLOYMENT

Feeling valued and part of a team

Travelodge

Maryann Lewtas knows how important it is to get a good night's sleep, especially when one is travelling for business or enjoying a well-deserved vacation in Simcoe County with family or friends. As a member of the Housekeeping staff at Travelodge Barrie, Maryann makes sure each room under her care is perfectly tidy and spotless, and that each bed is a heavenly cocoon to give the best sleep ever. That's not an easy task, especially after a busy and boisterous hockey tournament has just left town after a weekend stay.

Like most young people her age, it was in high school that Maryann first started to show an interest in finding work and making one's way in the world. She began with a transition meeting and pairing with a Transition Coordinator at SCS. Her first placement was cleaning at a local theatre, but Maryann was so shy she didn't want to work when the public came into the building. After

support from an SCS Job Coach, assistance learning the Barrie transit system, and graduation from the SCS Job Readiness Program, Maryann's confidence slowly started to grow.

Subsequent placements were at pet stores, kennels and veterinary clinics, but despite her love of animals, Maryann would leave work most days not feeling happy. What followed were many conversations about what environment made Maryann feel happy. She knew she was an excellent cleaner, but what Maryann learned about herself was she really enjoyed being part of a team, loved learning new things, and being valued as a team member. "I know I'm a good hard worker, and I'm going to do a good job," points out Maryann. Suddenly, the door was open to try different things and Travelodge Barrie's Housekeeping team seemed like a perfect fit.



EMPLOYMENT

Feeling valued and part of a team (continued)

Although a SCS Job coach helped support Maryann with her work routine, problem solving and the connection with her co-workers, Maryann initially found the housekeeping pace daunting. Travelodge Barrie's Housekeeping staff turnover as many as 130 rooms daily, with Sundays typically being their busiest travel day. Travelodge Executive Housekeeper Suzie Watson believed in Maryann from the very beginning. "When Maryann first started with us, she was very quiet and shy. Over the course of just a few months, she just blossomed," says Watson. With the initial help of Georgian College Career & Employment Community Services to assist Travelodge with funding for on the job training, and the ongoing guidance of Simcoe Community Services' Employment Support, Maryann continues to work, and continues to love her job. And why not? Her Travelodge coworkers mentor and cheer on Maryann every day and include her in fun on the job activities like a secret Valentine's gift



exchange, Pyjama day, and an Easter egg hunt. Watson adds, "Maryann has gone above and beyond everyone's expectations. Her personality has grown, she's made friendships. It's like working with a different girl at the end of this journey".

Although she loves getting tips, like an orchid and thank you note left recently by one satisfied traveller, for Maryann the best part of her job at Travelodge Barrie is the work she gets to do side by side with her colleagues. According to Maryanne, "I like helping out and being a part of a team. To have Suzie tell me I'm doing a good job, makes me feel really good inside."

Yes, the next good night's sleep at Travelodge Barrie may be owed to Maryann's hard work, but she's definitely the one who's dreaming big.

Outcome - People work and live in integrated environments

Executive Housekeeper Suzie Watson and Maryann on the job at Travelodge Barrie

THE SPARK

Turning milk bags into beds

Bob Miller wants your milk bags. About 720 to be exact. That's how many bags it takes to weave one adult bed mat for those in need in countries like Haiti and Somalia. The milk bag mats offer people without beds, an invaluable, durable and washable alternative to sleeping on the often cold and damp ground. Not only can these milk bag mats provide comfort as a bedding alternative, but have been used by health care professionals as a make-ready substitute for an operating bed/table where resources are scarce. It's a project that takes time and nimble hands as each mat takes about three to four months to make.

This is where Marie Seaborn comes into the picture. She began crocheting milk bags about 9 years ago as a form of therapy after a car accident and donates the finished mats through a church group in Toronto. Inspired by Marie, Bob knew immediately he wanted to help and contribute to the cause through his friends at Simcoe Community Services. According to Bob, "I like doing this. It makes me feel good".

So drink all of your milk and save your bags for Bob. Milk bag donations to Bob's bin will be accepted at the SCS offices at 39 Fraser Court in Barrie.

Bob and Marie will take care of the rest.



Bob Miller and Marie Seaborn want to do good things with your milk bags.

Outcome - People perform social roles



THE SPARK

Tax time made easy for Simcoe Community Services

The Simcoe Community Services Family Home program is extremely grateful to Jenny, Chris, Jana and the team at Powell Jones LLP for their professional and caring assistance during income tax season. Thank you for your expertise and support for people with intellectual disabilities!



Outcome - People experience continuity and security



(Clockwise top left) Jenny LeCollier, Jana Abrahams and Chris Hummel from Powell Jones provide income tax return assistance for Niki Chaltas, Brent Naismith, and Jamie Whyte with home provider Wilhelm Kreft.



On May 3rd, Bev Campbell represented Simcoe Community Services at the Bayfield Street McDonalds during the 20th annual McHappy Day. Helping behind the counter to raise money for Ronald McDonald House and RVH, Bev had the dream job of working the McFlurry machine. Yummy! Thanks for giving back Bev.

Outcome - People perform social roles

(Right) Bev with Bayfield Street McDonalds manager Trevor McKee.



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

We can't thank you enough!

Simcoe Community Services recently saluted and thanked its many volunteers with a night of appreciation at the Ontario Early Years Centre in Barrie. Whether it's on various SCS Committees, Foundation Bingo, volunteering with Grandparents Parenting Again, or the May Court Club of Barrie at the OEYC, our dedicated volunteers give of their time freely and from the heart. Thank you to all!



Clockwise top left: Grandparents Parenting Again volunteer Rick Johnson with Trish Longo, Mary Kay's Margaret Good and Public Awareness Committee member Sergio Morales, cake with the May Court Club ladies, Megan Ing serenades the volunteer crowd, and it's all smiles for Self Advocate Council member Allison Bobbette, and (above) SCS Independent Rights Committee member Jim Harris.



Outcome - People perform social roles



THE SPARK

SCS Green Thumbs at work!

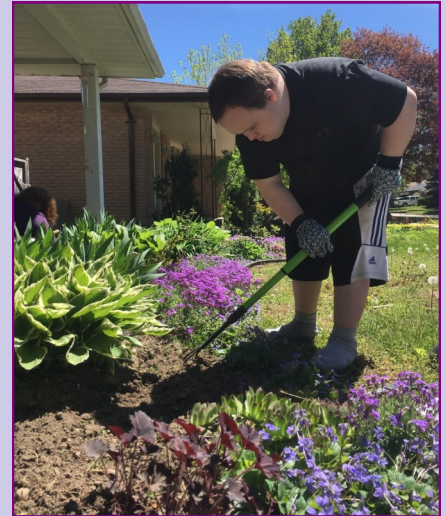
The sun is out and things are finally starting to warm up, and for Joe and Emily that means some time outdoors in the garden preparing the front flower beds of their home. Eagerly volunteering to help, they cranked up the tunes and jammed out to some music while hard at work pulling out weeds, cultivating flower beds and spreading fresh black mulch.

Both Joe and Emily know the importance of maintaining their home, and take pride in having it look good in the neighbourhood. For Emily, it just feels good knowing her home has great curb appeal. That feeling of satisfaction in one's home is exactly why she and Joe work so hard to participate in its upkeep, both inside and out.

With garden decor in place to complete the job, Emily and Joe smiled and stood back to admire the results of their hard work. A job well done! Now it's time to sit back, relax and enjoy a nice cold drink.



**Outcome - People choose
where and with whom they live**



Career Opportunities

Established in 1953, **Simcoe Community Services** now employs over 550 full-time and part-time staff in a wide range of programs and services, making it one of the largest employers in Simcoe County. Services are offered in Barrie, Orillia, Bradford, and surrounding Townships.

Simcoe Community Services is a respectful, caring and inclusive workspace. By embracing diversity, we gain strength through people and different perspectives.

Join Our Team. If you wish to be a part of this great organization, that believes in team work and individual growth, [you'll find it here](#). Applications can be delivered via mail, email or in person.



THE SPARK

Making Our World a Cleaner Place by Cheryl Rowan and Cory Pearson

Cory loves everything to do with his neighbourhood, and community. He always has a great big smile and a friendly word, accompanied with a handshake or a high five, to all who cross his path. Although he loves participating in community events, Cory has a special place in his heart for those that work hard to keep his community clean and safe.

Cory especially likes the City of Barrie Maintenance workers, who drive the recycling trucks. Every Wednesday Cory waits to hear the sounds of the trucks coming down the street as they collect all of the bottles, paper and cardboard from the blue bins. As each truck goes by, Cory is there with a smile and a wave to cheer them on. Offering a word of thanks, and a bottle of water on the warm days, many of the drivers now know Cory by name, and enjoy honking the horn for him as they drive past. Wednesday is a day that Cory now looks forward to. He has even struck up a relationship with one of the drivers. When their truck stops at Cory's house they put the emergency brake on so that he can hop into the cab to pull the horn himself, ending with their own special handshake.

Caring about the environment and recycling, Cory takes pride in sorting the blue and green bins at home during the week, and makes sure they are down at the curb in time for pick up. Once emptied, he enjoys making sure they are ready to be filled again for next week's pick up.

A great team, working together to make the world a cleaner place, one recycling bin at a time.



Cory shares a break and a shoulder curbside with Caroline from the City of Barrie's Maintenance Crew.

Outcome - People interact with other members of the community

ONTARIO EARLY YEARS CENTRE

Thank you to Barrie MPP Ann Hoggarth, who recently hosted a special Circle Time reading at the Simcoe Community Services Ontario Early Years Centre in Barrie. MPP Hoggarth, a former teacher, helped us celebrate families ahead of the Mother's Day weekend and had special giveaways for all the parents, caregivers and children in attendance.



With great imagination and artistic flair, Matthew creates another masterpiece with paint and brush. The world holds unlimited opportunities for self expression at the Ontario Early Years Centre.



Outcome - Families choose services and supports



SCS MILESTONES



After 26 years with SCS, the Community Support Services team said goodbye to Transition Support Co-ordinator Sue Downing. We wish Sue a happy and healthy retirement!

Outcome - People realize personal goals

March 2017– May 2017 SCS Service Award Recipients

Linda Gavine– Accommodations Barrie - 30 years
Sandy Calvert - Community Support Services Barrie - 30 years
Sherry Beuck - Community Support Services Barrie - 25 years
Christine Robinson - Accommodations Orillia - 25 years
Doug Hopkins - Accommodations Orillia - 20 years
Debbie Young - Preschool Services - 15 years
April Fawdry - Accommodations Barrie - 15 years
Katherine Weaver - Accommodations Orillia - 10 years
Jennifer MacKay - Accommodations Barrie - 10 years
Sandra Stevenson - Accommodations Barrie - 10 years
Amanda Romita - Finance - 10 years
Christine Kelly - Accommodations Orillia - 10 years
Kristine Patenaude - Accommodations Orillia - 10 years
Ashley Judd - Accommodations Barrie - 10 years
Amy Parker - Accommodations Barrie - 10 years
Heather Klanert - Accommodations Barrie - 10 years
Linda Riddle - Accommodations Barrie - 10 years
Anne Lambertsen - Accommodations Orillia - 10 years
Tracy Beaulieu - Accommodations Barrie - 5 years
Joe Adams - Operations-Information Technology - 5 years
Louisa Kerr - Accommodations Barrie - 5 years
Jessica Riehl - Accommodations Barrie - 5 years



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Let's Get Active Simcoe Community Services!

Show us how you're moving SCS with the **Let's Get Active Challenge** from June 12th to July 7th.

Each staffing team and/or department that chooses to participate will be considered a team (i.e. Finance, 43 Ferris, Barrie Housing, or the OEYC Bradford). Please identify who's participating on your team for the entire 4 week challenge and come up with a team name that best represents your group.

How does the fitness challenge work?

As individual team members complete a physical activity/exercise, the time spent on each activity will be recorded on the Let's Get Active tracking sheet. All entries will be on an honour-based system.

Each week, assign one team member to submit your team's tracking sheet to Brittney at bwindatt@simcoecommunityservices.ca. Weekly updates will be provided as to how active we are, as well as some of the completed creative activities and exercises. **Please feel free to send along any fun pictures of the activity/exercise you completed and we will share with everyone.**

Examples of physical activities/exercises are:

- Taking the stairs
- Household cleaning
- Walking meetings
- Walking or biking to work
- Going to the gym or exercise class
- Gardening

At the end of the Challenge, the team with the highest activity percentage will win a healthy lunch for your entire team. The winning team will be based on the number of participants per team divided by total activity time which will provide an average activity time per participant. This ensures the challenge is fair regardless of the number of participants on each team.

Additionally, the most active participant from all teams and one random participant will win an activity prize pack! Good luck everyone. myhealthyworkplace@simcoecommunityservices.ca



Congratulations to Katelyn Sorfleet, Leah Desormeaux, and Darquis Bushey, the winners of the recent Simcoe Community Services Healthy Workplace draw. Thank you all for your suggestions on how SCS can support you to improve your

health and wellness within and outside of work.



(Left) Katelyn Sorfleet and Leah Desormeaux (right) with their winning SCS swag



Outcome - People have the best possible health

SIMPLE WAYS TO BE MORE ACTIVE:

AT HOME

Walk your dog and play fetch
Work in your garden
Clean your house
Lift weights, march in place or walk around the room while watching TV



AT WORK

Walk at lunch
Exercise in your chair
Take the stairs
Stand while on the phone, reading or eating
Talk face-to-face with your coworkers



WHEN YOU'RE OUT

Go dancing
Do tai chi
Take a walk after dinner
Park far away from the door
Wear a pedometer



FOUNDATION UPDATE



Simcoe Community Services Foundation President Ron Ptasiuk presented Alexandra Kirby (left) from Coldwater with the 2017 SCS Foundation Award at the Georgian College Orillia Awards Ceremony. This award is presented annually to the student who has demonstrated academic excellence, leadership, a sense of professionalism, and a caring and sincere attitude towards others from the Georgian Developmental Services Worker program. Congratulations Alexandra!



We're also proud of SCS volunteer David Watt (far left) who received the Brian G. Tamblyn Award, presented to the student enrolled in any program at any campus of Georgian College who is in good academic standing and is involved within his or her school and community. The future looks bright indeed David.

As you enjoy your garden with **Bradford Greenhouses Garden Gallery** this spring and summer, remember you can help grow the Simcoe Community Services Foundation too.

Just tell the cashier before your purchases are totaled that you support the SCS Foundation. A percentage of your sales will go towards helping those with intellectual disabilities in Barrie and Orillia.

Bradford Greenhouses
GARDEN GALLERY

Simcoe Community Services Foundation raises funds to significantly improve the day to day quality of life for people with intellectual disabilities. For more information and to discuss additional ways to contribute, please contact Jamie Hall at (705) 726-9082 ext. 5280, or at communications@simcoecommunityservices.ca.



THE SPARK



Mission Statement

We support people of all ages and abilities to realize their full potential and to enhance their quality of life.

As a community, not-for-profit, multi-service organization we provide:

- Services for children and adults with intellectual disabilities and their families;
- Programs that promote the healthy development of children of all abilities;
- Services that respond to community needs.

Simcoe Community Services Board of Directors

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United Way
Centraide
Simcoe Muskoka



*Raising funds to improve the quality of life
for people with intellectual disabilities*

Simcoe Community Services Foundation Board of Trustees

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When you make a financial contribution to the Simcoe Community Services Foundation you will make a difference in the lives of those you care about today and in the years to come. Consider making your donation today. For more information and/or to make a donation, please contact the Simcoe Community Services Foundation at (705) 726-9082.

The Spark promotes acceptance of people with different abilities in our community. We celebrate successes and embrace new ideas, approaches and opportunities.

Editorial team: SCS Stakeholder Relations Manager Jamie Hall, Robyn Pugsley and Vanessa Ellerton.

Have a comment, question or story idea?
Contact: Jamie at (705) 726-9082 ext. 5280, or at
communications@simcoecommunityservices.ca