

Spark the unlimited potential of all people

**June 2018
Issue #09**

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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Simcoe Community Services celebrates Community Living Month



Simcoe Community Services celebrated Community Living Month with flag raising ceremonies in both Barrie and Orillia. According to Mayor Steve Clarke, "This is a record turnout for any flag raising here at Orillia City Hall. What a privilege it is to celebrate the gifts and talents that people with intellectual disabilities bring to our community." Also part of Community Living Month, Simcoe Community Services was profiled on radio stations ROCK 95 and 107.5 KOOL FM, and on the Rogers TV Show Real Life Talks. The message of inclusion is everywhere here in central Ontario.

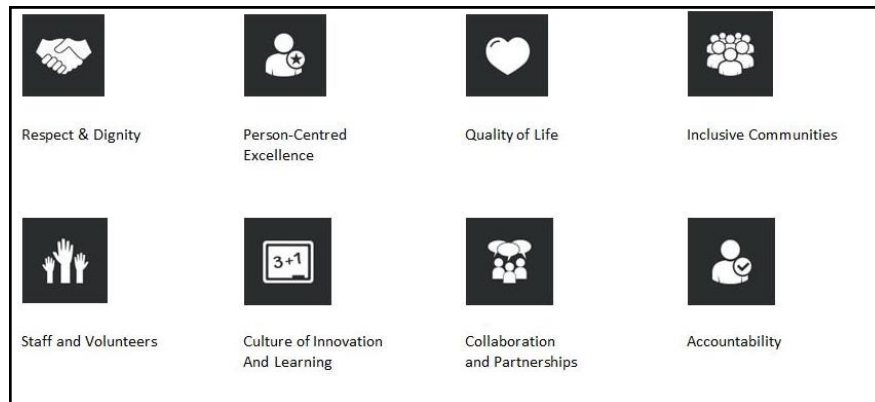
**Outcome - People participate in
the life of the community**

CEO'S MESSAGE

A Conversation Continued with CEO Claudine Cousins

Hi again. Can we continue our conversation from where we paused. I have continued my journey around the agency and although I am four months in, I'm nowhere close to being finished. As I continue to listen to your thoughts and ideas, I keep in the back of my mind the principles and values that should be shaping the type of culture we want to have here at Simcoe Community Services. Also at the back of my mind are two questions: How do we grow a great organizational culture? And how do we create a work environment all staff will be proud of?

As you know, we have 8 principles and values.



Look them over. Do you think they are clear enough to drive the behaviours we need to create a better culture? Or better yet, are our stated principles and values reflected in the actions of the workplace?

I believe my primary function here is to nurture culture through our shared principles and values.

So let me ask you, what do you care about? Who do we as staff of Simcoe Community Services want to be? And, how do we want to act? Simcoe Community Services, the organization, provides the language, protocols, policies and systems that allow consistency of practice. This consistency of practice leads to a common workplace culture, or what I like to call “the way we do things around here”.



So back to you. We can't plan culture. There is no formula that I can mix up in the boardroom with management that will allow us to get there. The change can only happen in numerous local interactions because culture is not created, it happens. And it happens as a result of consistent behaviour based on our shared principles and values.

So what kind of culture do we want to build? I hope to continue learning what you care about as we build that culture together.

THE SPARK

**Want to make a real difference?
The Simcoe Community Services
Board of Directors is actively looking
for passionate, diverse individuals to
help guide our agency as it grows.**

*From the Greek word meaning “to steer”...
governance is a skill.*

Thinking of putting those governance skills to work? Let Simcoe Community Services help.

Our Simcoe Community Services Board is currently recruiting for four new board members to join this progressive and respected organization. Build your leadership skills and professional network while working to advocate and promote community inclusion for children, youth, adults and their families with and without an intellectual disability. Collaborate with community partners to deliver on our mission of “supporting people of all ages and abilities to realize their full potential and to enhance their quality of life.”

Simcoe Community Services is an accredited Charitable Organization serving the community for over 65 years. Our Board is seeking individuals from diverse communities and Self-Advocates with specific expertise in one or more of the following areas: Marketing/Promotion, Human Resources, Government, Philanthropy/Fundraising, and Human Services.

Simcoe Community Services Board of Directors offer leadership skills and strategic direction to the organization using their past board experience, understanding of issues impacting the Developmental Services Sector, Affordable Housing, and EarlyON.

Board members will serve a four-year term and participate in professional development opportunities including board development training and board meetings once a month.

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, [click here](#). You can submit your resume through the Careers page at www.simcoecommunityservices.ca.



FASHION SHOW 2018

Celebrating the 2018 Simcoe Community Services Fashion Show Champions!



Clockwise top left: Siobhan and Nicola Kewin strike a pose, emcees Matt and Tara from 93.1 Fresh Radio, Annie Colter and Simcoe Community Services President Jim McNamara greet the crowd at Mavricks Music Hall, a tip of the hat from Jason Snook, Shawn Ladouceur showcases his art donation for the cause, and Erin and Amelia Kazda have fashion wings to fly.

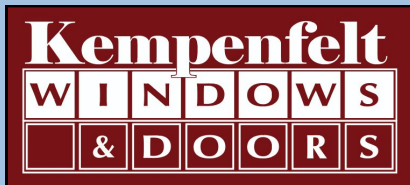
Outcome - People realize personal goals

FASHION SHOW 2018

Thank you to our 2018 Community Champion sponsors and clothiers.
Over \$25,000 raised! We couldn't have done it without your incredible support.



**Wealth
Management**



We'll see you in 2019 for the 24th Celebrating Community Champions
Fashion Show!

THE SPARK

Georgian College says thanks to Simcoe Community Services



Georgian College students Jude Uyaebo and Silena Reichert recently presented Community Support Services Supervisor John Johnson (centre) with a certificate of appreciation for Simcoe Community Services' ongoing support of the College's Development Services Worker program. As part of Jude's and Silena's community placement, both students excelled in offering high quality supports to people at CSS Orillia. Thank you Georgian College for being such a great community partner.

Outcome - People participate in the life of the community



Bev Campbell represented Simcoe Community Services on May 2nd at the Bayfield Street McDonalds for McHappy Day 2018. Helping to raise money for Ronald McDonald House, Bev got to work hand in hand with McDonald's owner Glenn McKee as well as wait on the gang from Simcoe County Paramedic Services. Thanks for giving back Bev!



Outcome - People perform social roles



YOUTH RETREAT 2018

Simcoe Community Services Youth Synergy



The Simcoe Community Services Youth Synergy March Break Retreat was an exciting time to have fun, create new friendships and experience inspirational guest speakers. Four-way amputee Unstoppable Tracy Schmitt shared her message: "You Can Do It"! Thank you to all our youth participants, guest speakers, and all those who helped make Youth Synergy 2018 a success. We look forward to seeing you next year.



Outcome - People participate in the life of the community

THE SPARK

RVH Nurses Alumni and O'Brien House



For their monthly meeting in May, the RVH Nurses Alumni welcomed Simcoe Community Services and guest speaker Susan Moore to share the story of O'Brien House. According to Susan, "I love living at O'Brien House because it is very homey, comfortable and clean, and the food is delicious." With spacious private bedrooms and a beautiful yard to sit and enjoy the backdrop of Shanty Bay, it's easy to see why O'Brien House is such a wonderful place to a call home. "We especially enjoy when members of the community come to our home to play bingo, join us for barbecues and crafts, or just a friendly visit" added Susan. "I and my O'Brien House family feel very fortunate to have so many caring people in our lives."

Thank you RVH Nurses Alumni. Come visit us anytime.

Susan Moore and Kerrie Christie from Simcoe Community Services share the story of O'Brien House. Right: Susan with the members of the RVH Nurses Alumni.



Outcome - People participate in the life of the community

THE SPARK

Speaking of Wildlife by Barbara MacDougall

Brooklyn Beers, Stephanie Keats, Ashley Doucet and Lynda Larkin have always loved animals. For several years now, they've enjoyed volunteering their time to groom horses and help with the socializing of dogs. With a new volunteer placement at Speaking of Wildlife, these ladies are in their element. Located in Orillia, Speaking of Wildlife is Canada's largest live animal outreach



Above left to right: Ashley Doucet, Speaking of Wildlife owner Krystal Hewitt, Lynda Larkin, Stephanie Keats, Brooklyn Beers and Elaine Evans.
Below: Ashley and Lynda help prepare a meal for some of the Wildlife Ambassadors

company and has been delivering hands-on wildlife education since 1989. Owner Krystal Hewitt has been very supportive in educating her Simcoe Community Services volunteers about animal care and rehabilitation. Everyone helps to cut up vegetables, as well as wash and fill up water bowls and help tidy up the animals' enclosures. Many new friendships have been made; Maverick the Wolf has developed a bond with Brooklyn and the baby bobcat loves Lynda. Stephanie enjoys taking food to the owls, while Ashley has managed to teach a few words to the raven at Speaking of Wildlife. You can see all the animals [here](#) on the Speaking of Wildlife website or on their [Facebook page](#).



Outcome - People participate in the life of the community

THE SPARK

Tapping into the sweetness of the Sugar Bush!



Nothing beats a spring visit to Shaw's Sugar Bush in Hawkestone. For Michael Fernandes, Rayelle Cascanette, Chantelle Griffith, Christina Gaines and Matthew Mugford, the sap was flowing and the maple syrup and pancakes never tasted better. These smiles tell us it was one sweet trip.



Outcome - People participate in the life of the community

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Those Who Give To Us From the Heart

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



Clockwise top left: Community Support Services volunteer Stephen Rolling, Keynote speaker and handwriting expert Elaine Charal entertains the crowd, Kim Ing gets ready to enjoy a delicious bite to eat, and sharing a moment with the ladies of the May Court Club of Barrie.

**Outcome -
People
perform social
roles**

Extraordinary Hearts

Simcoe Community Services CEO Claudine Cousins was the keynote speaker at the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards. According to Claudine, "Volunteers are ordinary men and women with extraordinary hearts". From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to all our Simcoe Community Services volunteers.



THE SPARK

This is a Good Night's Sleep

Everyone needs a place to lay their head at night. Somewhere warm and secure. A place to call home. A good night's sleep and support for the Simcoe Community Services Housing Program comes easily for Mike the Mattress Guy. Mike Rudkins and his wife Krista give back through their business by providing discounted mattresses and box springs, free delivery and grocery gift cards for Simcoe Community Services Housing First Participants.

Thank you Mike the Mattress Guy for making a difference in our community and helping spark the unlimited potential of all people.



Krista and Mike Rudkins (centre) with Simcoe Community Services Housing First Case Managers Tara Powell, Kelly Bell, Brittany Rule-McArthur and Sarah Allen

Outcome - People choose where and with whom they live

FOUNDATION UPDATE



Your Simcoe Community Services Foundation at work



Simcoe Community Services CEO Claudine Cousins and Foundation Treasurer Victoria Ptasiuk accept this generous donation from Jeff's Junk owner Jeff White. Through his Pay It Forward campaign, Jeff donated \$10.00 from every Jeff's Junk bin rental during the month of March. Thank you Jeff's Junk for helping spark the unlimited potential of all people.

The 23rd Annual Simcoe Community Services Golf Tournament is coming soon to Hawk Ridge Golf and Country Club in Orillia. Join us for another fantastic day of golf on June 15th. Your support will mean the world to local youth with an intellectual disability that need your help.



To book your foursome, inquire about sponsorship, or to donate a prize, contact Jamie Hall at jhall@simcoecommunityservices.ca or (705) 726-9082 ext. 5280

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

Jim McNamara - *President*
Valerie Scott - *Vice President*
Bob Kennedy - *Treasurer*
Stewart McNeely - *Officer*

Paul Hunter - *Member*
Miriam Villamil-Pallister - *Member*
Deborah Wall-Armstrong - *Member*
Mitch Whyne - *Member*

Claudine Cousins - *Chief Executive Officer*



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

Simcoe Community Services Foundation Board of Trustees

Ron Ptasiuk - *President*
Victoria Skinner-Ptasiuk - *Treasurer*
Karl Cadera - *Trustee*
Valerie Scott - *Trustee*
Miriam Villamil-Pallister - *Trustee*

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 and Robyn Pugsley.

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