



# SPRING/SUMMER- 2024

**Thank you** to the Sunbeam Community for your ongoing support. With our dedicated staff, volunteers, community, government partners, and generous donors, Sunbeam enhances many lives in our communities. We couldn't do it without you!



## EXCITING NEWS

Sunbeam Expands ABA Services!

Sunbeam Community and Developmental Services made waves on February 28, 2024, announcing the expansion of its Brightside Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA) Services to The Family Centre, starting March 1.

This expansion encompasses ABA therapy alongside crucial clinical services like children's psychiatry, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology. It's a strategic move aimed at creating a centralized hub for developing skills that promote positive behaviours, offering comprehensive support all under one roof.

Brian Swainson, Sunbeam's CEO, expressed excitement about this pioneering integrated ABA program at The Family Centre. The initiative marks a significant step in meeting the community's soaring demand for ABA services while ensuring top-notch quality and reducing local wait times.

Sonia Dennis, Executive Director of Family and Children's Services of the Waterloo Region, also hailed this collaboration, emphasizing its positive impact on children, youth, and families in the region.

Erin Davis, Board Certified Behavior Analyst at Sunbeam shared enthusiasm for this innovative program's potential to empower clients and their families through tailored, evidence-based therapies. Sunbeam's expanded ABA Services officially kicked off at The Family Centre on March 1st.





## SUNBEAM GIVES BACK

Celebrating 60 years of Maple Syrup Sweetness!

The Sunbeam Community came together on April 6, 2024, and served up fluffy pancakes, savoury sausages and of course the sweet stuff: maple syrup at the Elmira Maple Syrup Festival!

This is Sunbeam’s second year participating in the Festival, but it was the Festival’s 60th Anniversary and a record-breaker! With an estimated 80,000 attendees, Pancake Breakfast organizers are estimating over 7,000 pancakes were sold.

Brian Swainson, Chief Executive Officer of Sunbeam was out bright and early serving up the famous pancakes and had this to say about his first-time experience:

“Observing the Elmira Maple Syrup Festival and the way communities rally together is truly special. Volunteering for such a significant event was a rewarding experience that I thoroughly enjoyed and would participate in again.”

Krista Trow, a member of Sunbeam’s Board of Directors and her son also came out to help on the cook line and shared, “Volunteering as a Sunbeam representative and Board Member at the Elmira Maple Syrup Festival was an excellent opportunity to meet some of the dynamic and committed staff of Sunbeam. It was also a personal opportunity to share the community volunteering spirit with my high school-aged son, who joined me on the Sunbeam cook line.”

Harrison Mair, TAY Coordinator with the SDRC department commented that, “Being able to support Elmira Maple Syrup Festival’s 60th Anniversary alongside my colleagues from Sunbeam was a dream come true! When I saw pancake flipper as one of the volunteer positions, I felt called to participate. I consider my flipping skills second to none. The community comes together to make this a very special event and I look forward to helping again next year!”

The Elmira Maple Syrup Festival is a volunteer-organized and executed not-for-profit organization that returns all proceeds to community groups. Over the past 60 years, the Festival has donated over \$1,000,000 to local not-for-profit and charity organizations across the Waterloo Region.



Sunbeam's St. Patrick's Day was a soup-erb success! Our clients' favourite flavour was cheeseburger soup, and Steve and Bonita's fiddle music added the perfect touch of Irish cheer.



## ★ SHINING STARS Volunteer Spotlights

During National Volunteer Week, we celebrated our amazing volunteers who make our community stronger.

Lauren from the University of Waterloo and Ethan from Wilfrid Laurier University stood out for their dedication and impact.

Lauren brought fun and meaningful connections to our Recreation and Wellness team, reflecting, "My time as a volunteer has been nothing short of fun, while building meaningful relationships with the people we serve and the wonderful staff of Sunbeam."

Ethan's work in our seating clinic has been invaluable, and he shared, "The skills I've gained here will serve me well in my future endeavors in the field of physiotherapy."

Thanks to all our volunteers for their kindness and contributions!

For more information, or to volunteer, visit us at:  
<https://sunbeamcommunity.ca/volunteer/>



Lauren



Ethan



## EMPOWERING NEWCOMER YOUTH MENTAL WELLNESS

On November 27th 2023, Developmental Services Ontario Central West Region (DSOCWR) attended The Collaborative Learning Forum for Newcomer Youth Mental Wellness in Peel.

This event had a variety of representatives from local support agencies as well as the Peel District School Board and local healthcare providers.

Service Navigators Stephanie Sabia and Sarah Downie attended as representatives of DSOCWR and had the opportunity to participate in multi-disciplinary table discussions on how to co-build a community-based, culturally sensitive, and person-centered program to enhance the positive mental well-being of newcomer families in Peel Region.





# SUNBEAM SCRAMBLE!

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VOLUNTEERS  
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 RESPITE  
 SNOEZELN

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 BRIGHTSIDE

COMMUNITY  
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