



Fall/Winter 2024

With the support of our community,
we are Stronger Together!

Happy Holidays!

From Sunbeam Community & Developmental Services

2024 has been an eventful and successful year at the Sunbeam Community, guided by our strategic priorities: putting **People First**, fostering **Inclusion**, welcoming **Innovation**, and building **Community**.

Sunbeam expanded its Brightside ABA Services at our new location at The Family Centre in Kitchener. This expansion meets the needs of so many more children, youth, adults and their families, while helping to reduce local wait times.

We continue to modernize our inclusive living group homes with kitchen and bathroom renovations, roof replacements, ceiling lift installations, heating/cooling systems upgrades, adding accessibility features and improvements to outdoor spaces. Our homes are well-maintained, safe, and accessible, providing comfortable, welcoming homes for the individuals we support.

Through our involvement with OASIS, OADD, the Specialized Clinical DS Network, the Provincial Network on Developmental Disabilities, Community Living Ontario and others, we are a system leader, working together to improve quality, services and awareness.

Everyone at Sunbeam shares the common value: dedication to supporting others. Our core belief that **people's needs are best met by people whose needs are met** is nurtured by fostering the wellbeing our staff and volunteers, as well as the people we serve.

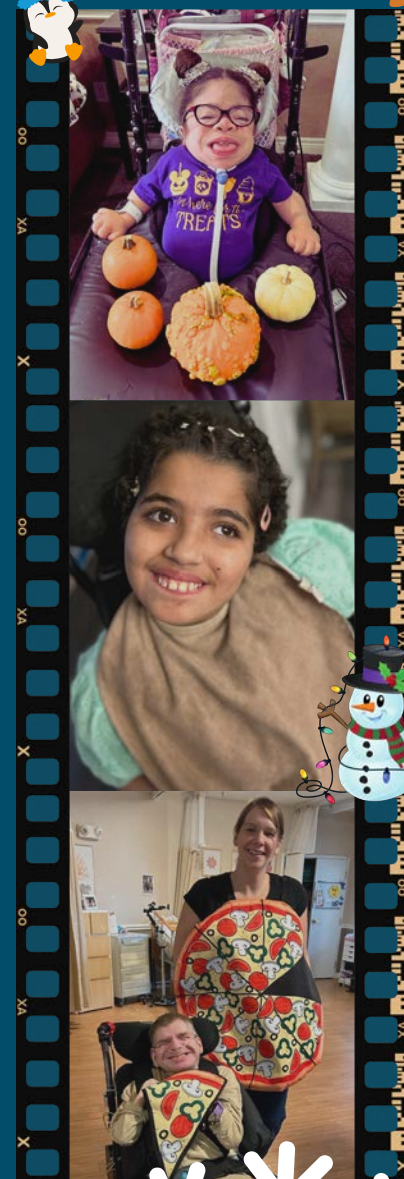
Looking ahead to a joyous Holiday Season, we send best wishes to you and your family for a very happy and healthy New Year from everyone at the Sunbeam Community.

Connie Smith

Connie Smith,
President, Board of Directors

Brian Swainson

Brian Swainson,
Chief Executive Officer



How many penguins can you count throughout Sunbeam's newsletter?



Kids Day

Whimsical Wonders: An Enchanted Gathering

Sunbeam’s annual Kid’s Day in August celebrates the children we serve and those of our dedicated staff, creating lasting memories with exciting activities, games, and prizes.

This year’s theme was Story Book Characters. We had appearances from Tinker Bell, Peter Pan, and Ariel! The day was packed with games, prizes, and sweet treats like cotton candy!

A huge thank you to our fantastic volunteers, community sponsors, and everyone who makes Kid’s Day unforgettable.

We can’t wait for next year!



DSO Housing Mixers Brings People Together

Building Connections for Future Housemates

This year, Developmental Services Ontario - Central West Region hosted two Housing Mixers to connect individuals interested in shared housing.

The Housing Mixer for Waterloo Region was co-hosted by Sunbeam’s Developmental Resource Centre and Waterloo Region Family Network, and the fall Housing Mixer brought people together in Halton Region with a common goal of exploring innovative housing options.

Attendees and their families came together to engage in valuable discussions on the benefits of housemates, from shared expenses to enhanced safety and companionship. The events also provided practical advice on finding and maintaining successful housemate relationships.

Dedicated to socialization time and conversation starters fostered meaningful connections, with many attendees exchanging contact information. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with participants expressing appreciation for the supportive environment and suggesting more regular events.

Valuable resources were shared, and follow-up emails helped attendees stay connected and informed about housing options. This successful event highlighted the importance of community in finding compatible housemates, sparking plans for future gatherings.





★ Welcoming Sunbeam's Newest Board Members

Sunbeam's Board of Directors includes twelve dedicated community leaders who generously volunteer their time and expertise to serve as Board Members. Supported by the CEO, Directors, and Senior Managers, the Board provides oversight of governance and strategy.



Chantal is driven by her commitment to community and alignment with Sunbeam's mission. Chantal enjoys European travel and dreams of retiring in Spain. She looks forward to contributing a positive perspective to Sunbeam's Board.



Darcy brings a strong commitment to inclusivity, shaped by his experience as a parent of a child with Rett Syndrome. Darcy has a rich history of community involvement. In his free time, he grows tomatoes and peppers to make homemade salsa and sauce.

Welcome Chantal and Darcy!
We are so grateful to have you on our team.



Community of Collaboration



Sunbeam Community & Developmental Services has just been accepted into membership of **Community Living Ontario (CLO)**.

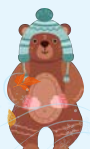
As a sector leader in the Developmental Services field, Sunbeam actively participates with CLO and its member organizations at many provincial networks and working groups.

Formalizing our collaboration through membership allows all of us to strengthen our collective focus on inclusion, advocacy and choice for persons living with developmental disabilities and their families.

To learn more about Community Living Ontario visit their website at <https://communitylivingontario.ca/about/>



COMMUNITY LIVING Ontario



🏠 Home and Belonging - Meet Mary

The Sunbeam Developmental Resource Centre hosts the Transitional-Aged Youth (TAY) Coordination program, supporting youth aged 16-22 years in the Central West Region who have transitioned out of provincial child protection services. Host Family Homes is one program option, with individuals living in the community in a supportive family environment.

Mary has been supported by Sunbeam's Host Family Home program since age 18. Mary was welcomed to her new home earlier this year in a close-knit farming community near Belleville. She works part-time as an assistant educator at a preschool, volunteers weekly at a health hub, and enjoys local activities like collecting eggs, skating, and playing ball hockey. Mary tells us she is thriving in her new home and community, recently celebrating her 28th birthday. Mary feels a great sense of belonging as a valued and active member of her community - and is proud of the person she's grown to be. We are so happy for you, Mary!



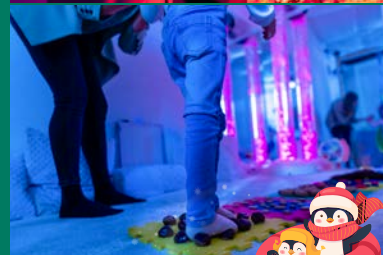
Snoezelen Room Transformation

Sunbeam's Holiday Appeal for 2024 is in support of transforming and modernizing our Snoezelen Room at Sunbeam's Kingsway Campus in Kitchener.

A Snoezelen Room is a multi-sensory environment that promotes comfort and relaxation, helping to reduce agitation and anxiety while also engaging and delighting users by stimulating visual, audio and tactile (sight, sound and feel) responses and encouraging verbal and non-verbal communication.

A Snoezelen multi-sensory space is beneficial and meaningful to children, youth, adults and older adults, and can be experienced alone, or more often as a shared experience with a family member, other caregivers, support staff or therapist. Through thoughtful, evidence-based design, the new space will nurture therapeutic and emotional needs while also ensuring accessibility, safety and comfort.

To show your support to this innovative, person-centred project please scan the QR Code below, visit us at: <https://sunbeamcommunity.ca/donate/> or, call 519-893-6200



Snoezelen: The word Snoezelen originates from the Dutch words for Snufflen (to seek out) and Doezen (to relax).



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Be a Part of Our Community!**

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