



Transforming Spaces, Touching Lives: Sunbeam's Snoezelen Room Project

We are deeply grateful for the overwhelming generosity shown during our holiday appeal. Your support has brought us one step closer to transforming our Snoezelen Room into a modern, state-of-the-art therapeutic space.

A Snoezelen Room is a calming, multi-sensory environment that helps reduce anxiety and promotes comfort through sight, sound, and touch.

The renewed space will prioritize enhanced accessibility, safety, and comfort, creating a welcoming environment for individuals, families, caregivers, and support teams to experience healing and connection.

We are profoundly thankful to everyone who contributed to this meaningful transformation.

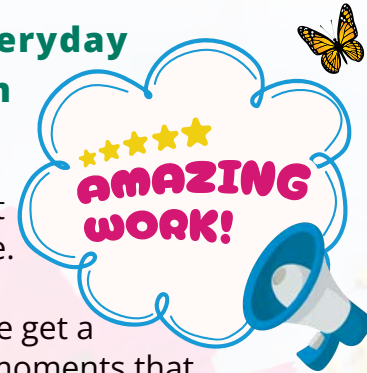
Watch how a Snoezelen Room can transform the lives of people in our community.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vvjgh7Z-Yrs



Shining a Light on Everyday Moments at Sunbeam

At Sunbeam, it's the little things—often unseen—that make the biggest difference.



Through our Shout Outs, we get a glimpse into the everyday moments that define our culture: teammates who go above and beyond, bring calm to chaos, or simply show up with kindness and a smile.

The shout-outs remind us that the heart of Sunbeam isn't just in the work we do, but in how we do it: with care, creativity, and genuine connection.

Thank you to everyone who continues to recognize and lift one another up. Your words matter, and so do the everyday acts of compassion behind them.

See how Sunbeam shines in the everyday words we use to lift each other up!

How Sunbeam Shines *The Words We Use to Lift Each Other Up*

- Kind, caring, compassionate
- Positive attitude, uplifting energy, brings joy
- Hardworking, dedicated, goes above and beyond
- Respectful, professional, reliable
- Thoughtful, patient, empathetic
- Makes people feel seen and valued
- Steps up without being asked
- Finds the little ways to make things better
- Brings warmth into every room
- Listens deeply and responds with care



Celebrating 1 Year at The Family Centre

Brightside ABA Services

Brightside ABA Services is celebrating one year of delivering personalized Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) therapy from our new home at The Family Centre on Hanson Ave. in Kitchener

Brightside's team of dedicated professionals support individuals of all ages through skill-building programs, parent coaching, and goal-driven behavioural support.

In June 2024, Brightside expanded to The Family Centre in Kitchener, enhancing access and reducing wait times for families. Since the expansion, Brightside has supported nearly 190 individuals and families—a 60% increase from the previous year.



Learn more at brightsideabaservices.com or visit Brightside at



2nd Floor-65 Hanson Ave.
The Family Centre
Kitchener, ON N2C 2H6
(519) 741-1121

Celebrating the Community

Sunbeam supports the Elmira Maple Syrup Festival

The Elmira Maple Syrup Festival returned with its signature charm, this time, under a gentle spring rain. But the drizzle didn't dampen the spirit! Sunbeam was proud to be right in the middle of it, marking our third year volunteering at the festival's beloved pancake breakfast.

Over 20 amazing volunteers from across the Sunbeam Community served more than 6,000 fluffy pancakes to cheerful festival-goers. Rain boots and raincoats replaced sunglasses and sandals, but the smiles were just as bright.

The Elmira Maple Syrup Festival isn't just a seasonal tradition, it's a celebration of community. Every dollar raised supports local charitable and not-for-profit organizations, helping strengthen the very fabric of our region.

We're honoured to be part of this incredible event, and we are already looking forward to next year, rain or shine!



Elmira Maple & Syrup Festival



Flapjack

VOLUNTEERS MAKE WAVES

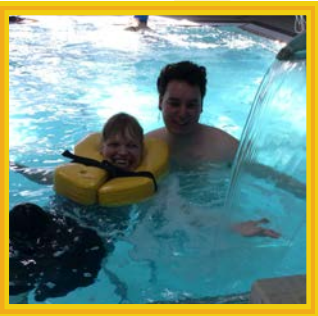
During National Volunteer Week, Sunbeam took a moment to express our deep gratitude for the volunteers, including our volunteer-based Board of Directors, who make a difference every day.

Whether through friendly visits or supporting specialized services, their warmth, compassion, and dedication strengthen our community and enrich the lives of those we serve.

We were honoured to recognize two exceptional volunteers:



★ **Ethan**, a Kinesiology student at our Seating Clinic, who is gaining hands-on experience while helping others in pursuit of his goal to become an Occupational Therapist.



★ **Connor**, a Psychology student and Pool Aide, who has developed a strong commitment to supporting individuals with developmental disabilities and advocating for their needs.

A heartfelt thank you to all our volunteers. Your time, kindness, and impact are truly invaluable to Sunbeam and the community!



Together for Access and Inclusion

Sunbeam proudly supports the #WaitingToBelong campaign, developed with Ontario Agencies Supporting Individuals with Special Needs (OASIS) and Community Living Ontario to highlight the urgent challenges faced by individuals with developmental disabilities, especially the long and growing waitlists for critical services.

With over 52,000 individuals waiting for developmental services across Ontario, Sunbeam remains committed to advocating for lasting change.

A Heartfelt Thank You: A Family's Experience with DSO's Alyssa Iammatteo



At Sunbeam, we know that the right person can turn a routine meeting into a life-changing experience. Parents Carol and Julian experienced this firsthand when they met Alyssa Iammatteo, an Assessor with Developmental Services Ontario.

Alyssa's warm, empathetic approach made their meetings comfortable and uplifting.

Alyssa balanced professionalism with compassion, creating a safe and judgement-free space that felt more like a conversation than an assessment. By their second meeting, hope had replaced apprehension.

Reflecting on her role, Alyssa shared,

"Being an Assessor is a very rewarding experience. You get the privilege of meeting and getting to know so many incredible individuals and giving them the chance to tell their story. Through this process I get to help families gain access to the right type of support for them and make them feel heard."

Thank you, Alyssa, for the lasting impact you've had on Carol and Julian's family and so many others.



Central West Region





Support Sunbeam's Hospital Care Program

When individuals supported by Sunbeam require hospital care, they often need more than just medical attention – they need familiar and trusted support.

Sunbeam's Hospital Care Program ensures our staff can accompany individuals during hospital stays, providing comfort, communication support, and continuity of care.

Entirely donor-funded, this unique program is especially critical for individuals who do not communicate with words. Our trained staff work closely with families and hospital teams to help interpret needs, reduce stress, and ensure quality care. In 2024-2025, the program provided over 1800 hours of in-hospital support.

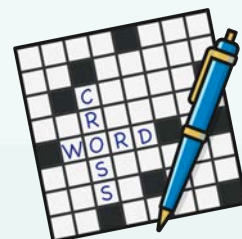
Your donation helps us make sure no one faces hospitalization alone.

Contribute today: sunbeamcommunity.ca/donate

Or scan the QR code to donate directly to the program:



Visit sunbeamcommunity.ca to play our 'Clue Me In – It's Spring' crossword puzzle in our digital Newsletter!



Join Us in Making a Difference
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or call 519-893-6200

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fundraising@sunbeamcommunity.ca