



# SUNBEAM

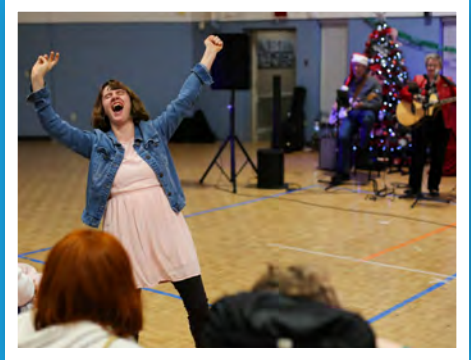
# NEWSLETTER

## Welcoming 2026!

Sunbeam wrapped up 2025 with an energetic and festive December, marked by grand openings, holiday celebrations, and a shared sense of accomplishment across the organization. Teams came together to celebrate the season while recognizing the growth and milestones achieved throughout the year, making for a strong and positive close to 2025.

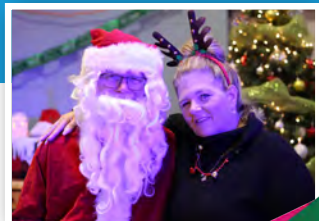
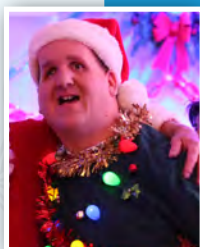
Adding to the excitement was some friendly decorating competition, which brought creativity, warmth, and holiday cheer into our spaces and highlighted the teamwork and pride that define Sunbeam.

As we carry this momentum into 2026, we look forward to building on these successes and continuing to connect, support one another, and celebrate together.



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## A Gift That Brings Comfort When It's Needed Most

Sunbeam Community & Developmental Services is grateful to receive a \$25,000 donation from The Abundance Fund in support of our Hospital Care Program, which ensures individuals are never alone during hospital stays.

Through this program, trained Sunbeam staff support communication, emotional wellbeing, and advocacy while working closely with healthcare teams. For Sammy and her family, this support has been life-changing. Knowing that staff who understand Sammy's routines and needs are by her side has brought reassurance and peace of mind. As her dad shared, "Having the services of the Hospital Care Program helps to maintain your mental health."

In 2025 alone, Sunbeam staff provided compassionate, person-centred support across 314 hospital stay days. We extend our sincere thanks to The Abundance Fund and its donor for this meaningful investment in dignity, compassion, and care.



Sammy & her parents



If you would like to support the Hospital Care Program, donations can be made by visiting <https://sunbeamcommunity.ca/donate/>

## Expanding Support for Children and Families in Our Community

Sunbeam Community & Developmental Services is proud to partner with McMaster Children's Hospital to expand our Extensive Needs Service (ENS) program, strengthening supports for children, youth, and families in our community.

The program launched in September 2025, as a phased approach. During the first phase, Sunbeam supported five families. This initial rollout allows us to respond to complex needs while planning for future growth.

As the program evolves, learnings from this phase will help guide continued development, with the goal of supporting more families over time. We recently received good news that the success of the pilot ENS project has resulted in this program now receiving annualized funding. This will allow Sunbeam to continue offering this invaluable service to families across Waterloo Region.



## Sunbeam's Social Adventure Club:

### Celebrating Community Through Creativity

The kitchen was buzzing at Sunbeam in the fall of 2025! Sunbeam's Community Living Services spearheaded its first Social Venture Project, by having our clients participate in the creation, assembly, packaging and marketing of cookie mix jars.

Along the way, they shared laughs, built new skills, and supported one another, while showcasing the teamwork and confidence that shine when our community comes together with a shared purpose. The goals of this project for participants were multi-faceted: recreation and inclusion, socialization, independence, meaningful participation, skills development, and sharing in its financial success.

More than a sweet treat, each cookie jar told a story of pride and belonging. It represented the creativity, dedication, and joy our "Social Adventure Club" participants brought to every jar they made.

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and we sold out just before the holidays! The cookies were delicious, and we're already looking forward our team's next Social Venture idea.

Follow us on social media to stay up to date on Sunbeam's Social Adventure Club's next venture!



Sunbeam's Social Adventure Club



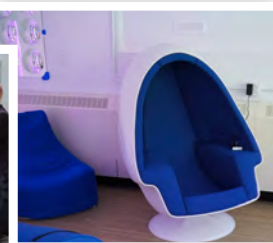
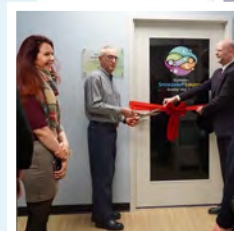
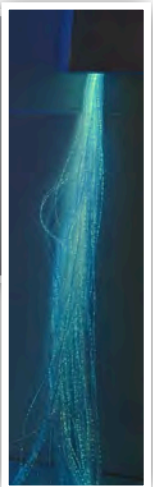
## Sunbeam's Inclusive Snoezelen Lounge ...it Soothes Your Soul

Last fall, Sunbeam celebrated the official opening of the Vos Family Multi Sensory Space, also known as the Sunbeam Snoezelen Lounge.

The ribbon cutting brought together members of the Vos family, local dignitaries, individuals supported by Sunbeam, and members of Sunbeam's Board of Directors to mark this special milestone.

"The new Snoezelen Lounge creates a sensory experience tailored to each individual's needs. Calming, soothing, engaging and whimsical."  
— Brian Swainson, CEO, Sunbeam

Made possible through donations from our community and from the Vos Family, the new space features state-of-the-art sensory technology, in an expanded space with improved accessibility. Sunbeam's Snoezelen Lounge may be booked for use at [www.mycommunityhub.com](http://www.mycommunityhub.com).



# A Celebration of Life

We are taking the time to celebrate the life of Lisa, a long-time resident of Sunbeam’s Sims House. Lisa passed away in March of 2026, but her positive outlook and compassion for others will be remembered.

Lisa was an extraordinary self-advocate and a tireless advocate for others. She had a big heart and high standards, and she was never afraid to speak up for what she believed was right.

Anyone who knew Lisa knew Sunbeam. She consistently and passionately advocated for her care giving staff at Sims and for so many others across the organization. She loved her family deeply, and she cherished her animal companions. Lisa’s compassion for others truly knew no bounds.

“From the very first moment I met Lisa, —and every day after—she made it clear that she had high expectations. Those expectations were always grounded in respect, dignity, and care, and they were something I greatly admired.” – Brian Swainson, Chief Executive Officer

Through her genuine, authentic presence and her positive outlook, Lisa touched the lives of countless people. Her voice, her advocacy, and her unwavering belief in others will be deeply missed and long remembered.



To see more about Lisa and her lasting impact at Sunbeam visit:  
[Remembering Lisa on her 40th Birthday](#)



[sunbeamcommunity.ca](http://sunbeamcommunity.ca)

Visit our websites to connect with our Community!



[sdrc.ca](http://sdrc.ca)



[brightsideabaservices.com](http://brightsideabaservices.com)



We also got the Social Medias!!



Central West Region

[dsocwr.ca](http://dsocwr.ca)

[sunbeamcommunity.ca/donate](http://sunbeamcommunity.ca/donate)  
or call (519) 893-6200

Donate

[hiring.sunbeamcommunity.ca](http://hiring.sunbeamcommunity.ca)

Careers

[sunbeamcommunity.ca/volunteer](http://sunbeamcommunity.ca/volunteer)

Volunteer