

November 2021
65th Anniversary Edition



sunbeam News

COMMUNITY & DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Stories, Events, and Fun!



65 Years Strong

Brian Swainson, CEO



For 65 years, Sunbeam has made a real difference in the lives of thousands of individuals and families, through direct support care in Sunbeam's group homes, specialized care in our more clinically complex programs, overnight respite stays for children and adults, and through an extensive variety of supports and professional services offered through the Sunbeam Developmental Resource Centre and the Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) divisions.

At its heart, Sunbeam is a Community – a Community that Cares. Our community includes the people and families we serve, our dedicated and skilled staff and volunteers, our supporters and partners across the community, all strengthened by Sunbeam's long-standing collaborative relationship with government.

Featured in this Newsletter:

Here's to Growth!
"My Sunbeam" Stories
Sunbeam's Origin Story

(Continued on next page)

65 Years Strong Continued

We are guided by the service principle “No decision about you without you.” We are proud to always affirm that choice, inclusion and belonging are the foundation of empowering the people we support. We serve the needs of our clients one person and one family at a time. Each person’s life circumstances, needs and preferences are unique and valued, and we empower people to live their best lives possible.

Sunbeam has weathered its share of changes and challenges throughout its long history, and our recent experience navigating safely through COVID-19 pandemic has shown us once again that we are stronger together. A staff member recently shared that her commitment to supporting individuals at Sunbeam is “... a different experience. I love it here; it makes my heart happy. It's an amazing place to work.” This heartfelt statement really captures the reason for our success, and pays tribute not only to the Vos family who founded Sunbeam 65 years ago, but also to everyone in the Sunbeam community who together have supported and celebrated so many exceptional individuals at Sunbeam.

On behalf of everyone in the Sunbeam Community, I invite you to reflect on and celebrate the amazing power of community in enriching the lives of the people we support. And here’s looking forward to a positive and uplifting future with much hope, supporting our community for many more years to come!



Pictured: Sunbeam staff working our early second dose vaccine clinic in June 2021.

Here's to Growth!

Laura Thies, COO & Chair of 65th Anniversary Committee

65 years ago Sunbeam began - and it wasn't a sophisticated organization. It was simply the home of Pieter and Johanna Vos - their home, which they opened up to children who needed them most.

The 65th Anniversary Committee sought to plant a tree at our Kingsway location - something that could continue to grow with us.

This Fantasy Autumn Maple tree was generously donated by Cindy Gregory to commemorate this momentous occasion in our history as an organization. Here's to 65, and more years, of serving our community.



Did You Know?

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, we added a "Well Wishes" button to our homepage where loved ones can send a special message to residents of Sunbeam!

Picture #1: The tree planted on Orange Shirt Day
Picture #2: Rocks painted by Community Living residents and Day Program participants
Picture #3: (Left to Right) Jason, Annette, Jonas, Brian, Paul, Jen, Jen, Monika, and Amy in front of our new tree!



My Sunbeam Story: Reuniting Family

Kim Kippenchuck, Compliance and Quality Assurance Coordinator

Working in the Records department, I often had inquiries from families seeking information about a loved one that may have been connected to Sunbeam in the past.

One day, an older gentleman, along with his son-in-law, came to the Kingsway Reception desk, seeking information about their long lost relative. The information he was seeking was where his sibling had been buried. He had not had contact with his brother since the childhood, when he had been placed in a home for children with disabilities.

We brought the visitors into the office and asked them to sit down for a chat. They shared old family pictures and the most recent information that they had about their loved ones last known group home and we provided some background about when their loved one came to Sunbeam.

That day, we did not release the usual records of interment, but instead took a walk to one of our front homes and reintroduced brothers. My favorite Sunbeam memory was witnessing a man who had been living at Sunbeam as a “citizen of the world” for many, many years, reunite with his family!



Pictured: Ed Mann (centre) celebrating his 79th birthday, with his brothers, Robert (left) and Jim (right) at Sunbeam in March 2018.
Source: KitchenerPost.ca

Sunbeam's Origin Story

The founders of Sunbeam, Pieter and Johanna Vos, were born in the Netherlands, where they grew up under Nazi occupation.

Johanna was a nurse. Pieter was a missionary.

They came to Canada, where they were heavily involved in the Salvation Army and made connections with the Mennonite community in the Waterloo Region area.

Pieter and Johanna purchased their first home at 552 Frederick Street, where Sunbeam began in 1956.

Pieter and Johanna converted the garage into a nursery where they would eventually care for 20 more children.



Fun Fact!

One of the group homes at Kingsway Drive is named after the Vos Family.

Sunbeam's Origin Story Continued

The family moved to 4 Willow Street, where the Vos' children began to take a much more active role in the organization, as the number of children in care continued to grow.

They continued to expand and purchase new properties, to allow them to care for close to 300 children.

In the 1970s, under the tutelage of Dr. Koegler, new programs, such as physio and recreation were added, along with dental clinics, and a family research center.

Pieter passed away in 1997, and Johanna passed away in 2001. However, their legacy lives on at Sunbeam.



Picture #1: One of the organization's first logos

Picture #2: The Adventure Room in the 1970s

Picture #3: Aerial view of Sunbeam's Kingsway location originally

Picture #4: 3D Rendering of Sunbeam's Kingsway location

Picture #5: Pieter and Johanna Vos



Want to learn more about the Vos family?

There's a video for that!

Visit www.sunbeamcommunity.ca/65Years



Events On the Horizon

NOVEMBER

65th Anniversary Celebration November 9, 2021

Time: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Virtual Gathering via Zoom

Musical acts, videos, stories,
and more!

RSVP by emailing

b.drummond@sunbeamcommunity.ca

DECEMBER

Lighting of the Green December 8, 2021

Time: TBD

This annual tradition returns
this year, although it might
look a little different for
everyone's safety! Stay tuned
for more details!

My Sunbeam Story: Growing Together

Ashley Vincent, PSW at Nine Pines House

I started working here in my 20s, and I feel I have grown up with Sunbeam. It is interesting to see the growth and changes that Sunbeam has gone through. Sunbeam is always striving to serve people better. I have learned a lot about caring for those who are vulnerable. I have learned that it is important to advocate, and I have learned Sunbeam is a community within a community.

Before working here, I literally lived down the street from the main building and really had never heard of Sunbeam. As the saying goes, "after 5 years, you are a lifer"!



65 Years of Sunbeam Word Search



E	K	V	K	T	M	K	Z	M	W	X	I	F	F	D
G	I	A	K	C	O	K	A	M	U	F	A	D	W	C
D	T	K	N	E	I	E	W	K	W	O	L	L	I	W
O	C	R	G	U	B	R	R	A	Y	H	B	A	A	M
L	H	L	Q	N	R	A	E	T	T	H	N	P	E	M
R	E	C	U	V	O	S	I	D	D	E	P	B	T	L
R	N	S	D	C	V	N	E	H	E	H	R	I	I	A
J	E	L	U	J	U	I	U	T	Y	R	G	L	N	U
O	R	Q	P	M	O	C	T	S	H	M	F	R	O	S
Z	X	E	M	U	E	H	I	K	M	Y	P	F	N	O
F	J	O	F	U	D	O	A	E	A	T	I	K	N	K
C	C	G	W	C	F	T	M	N	Y	Z	E	A	E	W
R	G	K	X	M	M	B	S	P	N	K	T	O	M	L
N	O	I	T	A	E	R	C	E	R	A	E	J	Q	K
C	M	I	S	S	I	O	N	A	R	Y	R	R	S	C

Community
Frederick
Johanna
Kitchener
Koegler
Lodge

Mennonite
Missionary
Nurse
Pieter
Physio

Recreation
Sunbeam
Vos
Waterloo
Willow

Did You Know?

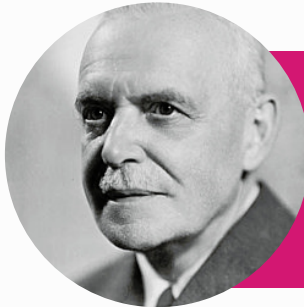
In our 65th year, Sunbeam hosted 5 COVID-19 first dose clinic dates.

Back In 1956: 65 Years Ago



Elvis Presley had the most hits on the Billboard!

- #1 Heartbreak Hotel
- #2 Don't Be Cruel
- #8 Hound Dog
- #14 I Want You, I Need You, I Love You
- #15 Love Me Tender



Louis St. Laurent was the Prime Minister of Canada.

Marty, a movie about a butcher and a school teacher falling in love, won Best Picture at the Oscars.



We put families first. Check out this video featuring three families' stories!

Visit www.sunbeamcommunity.ca/65Years

My Sunbeam Story: Full Heart

Paula Spengen, Volunteer

I find that when volunteering at Sunbeam, on my own or as a family, a little can go a long way to making our loved ones smile.

When I think of special times, it's always when we are very present with our loved ones, working as a team in the gardens, going for a short walk, singing a song, celebrating a holiday, or sitting on a patio together.

Whenever I walk away from volunteering, my heart is full.



Fun Fact!

You can see a showcase of our volunteers' skills and send a volunteer shout-out at www.sunbeamcommunity.ca/volunteer-presents/



Did You Know?

Our Snoezelen Spa opened in 1997. This sensory room provides sensory stimulation, as well as interactive audio and visual components.

My Sunbeam Story: A Career That Rocks

Julia Russell, Children's Service Coordinator

When I was in university studying to become a social worker, I struggled a bit to find the right fit.

I found myself liking most areas of practice but still left feeling that something was missing. Eventually, after gaining experience working in group living settings within the developmental services sector, I felt I had found my niche.

I remember telling my parents that my dream job in social work would be getting to support children with special needs and their families, but that I didn't necessarily know where that type of job would be.

Fast forward to 2 months after graduation and I saw a job posting for Sunbeam Development Resource Centre (SDRC). I thought it was too good to be true and did not expect to even be given an interview! Fast forward - and I am now celebrating 4 years as a Children's Service Coordinator with the SDRC branch of Sunbeam!

I could not be more grateful for the opportunity to meet with and provide resources and support to so many resilient families and I hope I am able to continue to do so for many years to come!



Pictured: Linda and Merilou, residents of Rothsay, painted these face-masked rocks for staff members to take home as a thank you.



We're building an inclusive community
where people of all abilities are valued.


Respite = "Me Time"

Our respite program is hugely impactful for caregivers and families. That's why we're pleased to announce the Kids Hub is re-opening for children's respite effective December 1st.

Contact for more information:
respite@sunbeamcommunity.ca
519-741-1121, ext. 2220

Want to give the gift of "me time" this holiday season? Visit
sunbeamcommunity.ca/donate/

 [@sunbeamcommunities](https://www.facebook.com/sunbeamcommunities)

 [@sunbeamcommunity](https://www.linkedin.com/company/sunbeamcommunity)
sunbeamcommunity.ca

Have questions or ideas to
improve this newsletter?

Denis Zikovic

d.zikovic@sunbeamcommunity.ca
Manager of Communications & Community Engagement

