

April 2022
Spring Edition



sunbeam News

COMMUNITY & DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Stories, Events, and Fun!

Still Growing!

Tim Wilson, CAO

In 1989, we had three locations – the large building at 2749 Kingsway Drive (home to 78 people served), St. Jacobs group home, and a small office location in Kitchener housing our Community Resource Services team of about 8 people (total staff was approximately 110).

Today, we have 2749 Kingsway and 23 group homes at 19 locations. Community Resource Services has become Sunbeam Developmental Resource Centre comprising 52 staff, Developmental Services Ontario Central West Region comprising 30 staff combined these add 5 office locations. Sunbeam now has 430 staff, plus contract employees through staffing agencies.

Our services have grown in our departments reaching a greater variety of persons served during this time. To meet these needs we have expanded the knowledge and expertise of all staff within their chosen professions in order to meet the needs of those we serve.

Featured in this Newsletter:

Kids Hub's First Resident Moves In!
We're Smiling At Sunbeam
An Independant Man



Still Growing Continued

Administratively we have seen many changes. In 1989, Plant Operations included laundry services and had our Food Services department serving our Kingsway residents. As these departments wound down with the transition to the community, staff were offered the opportunity to retrain and work in the new homes.

Prior to the rapid development of technology we had four word processing typewriters in 1989 and four people who knew how to use them, today we have an IT department supporting a vast array of software, and all staff are technology users with access to over 600 pieces of hardware.

Utilizing many technological improvements and process changes Administrative departments have managed to service Sunbeam's growth with minimal staffing growth. We have work request ticket systems for IT and Plant Operations, electronic fund transfers replacing the majority of cheques, on-line training, electronic invoicing, on-line purchasing, e-mailed reference checks, social media advertising recruitment, and IT remote support programs to problem solve with users.

Through 33 years of service transformation and process changes serving our community Sunbeam has continued to provide excellent services and support and will continue it's path with a new home in the Stanley Park area and the development of our Norman Lane property in Cambridge.



Pictured: Norman Lane Property

Kids Hub's First Resident Moves In!

Denis Zikovic, Manager of Communications and Community Engagement

After assuming operations of the Kids Country Club earlier in 2021, Sunbeam's Kids Hub welcomed our first resident on November 18th, 2021! It was a very exciting day for Josh, his family, and Kids Hub staff as Josh entered his new home for the very first time as the first resident!



Kids Hub offers overnight respite services for children who are medically fragile and/or have technologically dependent support needs. Through this exciting acquisition, Sunbeam expanded its existing children's respite programming with sites in Cambridge and Kitchener, serving families across Waterloo Region, Wellington County, Dufferin County, Halton Region, Peel Region, York Region and Simcoe County.

A planned shutdown of the home allowed us to complete over \$100,000 in upgrades, renovations, and enhancements to Kids Hub.



Several Sunbeam staff, board members, as well as community partners were able to attend a tour of the newly renovated facility. It was very impressive to see the amount of care and thought that went into creating such an inviting atmosphere for Josh and everyone that will benefit from Kids Hub in the future.



If you have questions about our respite services or wish to book an appointment, please email respite@sunbeamcommunity.ca.

We're Smiling at Sunbeam: 2 New Accessible-Focused Clinics



Since the start of the pandemic, many businesses and organizations have been affected by closures and capacity limits. Many services, including Sunbeam's Specialized Dental Clinic, were unable to support the many needs of the vulnerable in our community who rely on them.

The good news however, is that Sunbeam has taken this opportunity to substantially invest in redesigning a brand new dental clinic program, **My Dental Clinic-Specialized Dental Services**, that will share space with the new **Sunbeam Seating and Mobility Clinic**.

These newly renovated spaces will allow Sunbeam to offer enhanced oral care and mobility services to those in Waterloo region and surrounding areas!



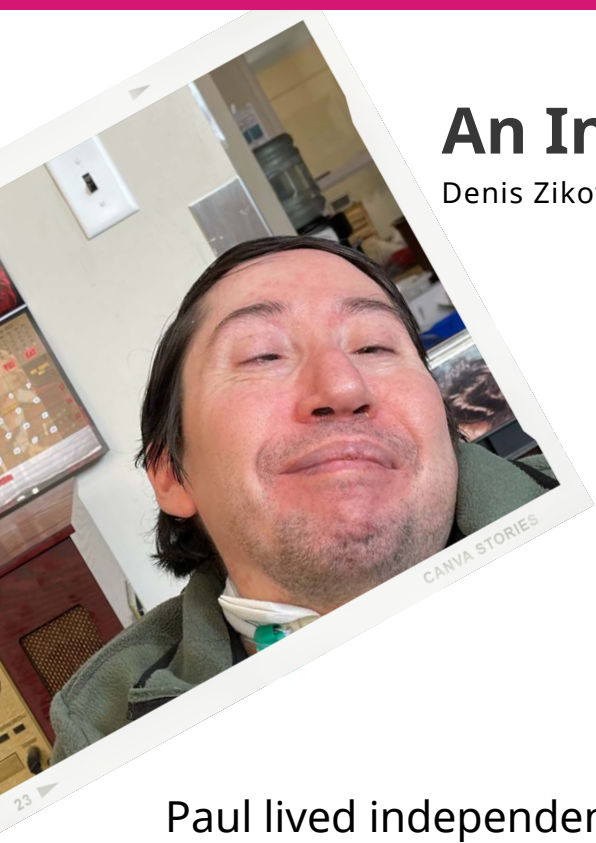
**RAYMOND
DIETRICH
MEMORIAL BBQ**

Special thanks to the Raymond Dietrich Memorial BBQ, Toyota Motor Manufacturing Company, and Green Shield Canada for their generous donations. Their generosity helped make this project possible. Making our communities healthier and more accessible!



An Independent Man: Paul's Story

Denis Zikovic, Manager of Communications and Community Engagement



44 year old Paul McLay is an active member in his church community, is a huge Kenny Rogers fan, he enjoys movies, and loves to socialize.

Since birth, Paul has lived with a physical disability that makes mobility and daily tasks, many take for granted, difficult for him.

Paul lived independently and worked as a greeter at Zellers for approximately 15 years. Paul's increased need for medical care meant he needed to be admitted to local hospitals to have his health monitored. His stay in hospitals lasted about 5 years.

This was especially challenging for Paul because he suddenly lost his independence and autonomy over his life.

Eventually, a social worker at a hospital connected Paul with Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) and arrangements were made, with the support of his parents, to have Paul move to Sunbeam.

Despite having limited space, Sunbeam staff ensured that Paul was able to leave the hospital and once again regain some control in his life while receiving the care that he needs!

We're happy to say that Paul is no longer a "patient", but a valued member of our Sunbeam community and said he really enjoys being a part of it! We love having him too!!!

Kitchener man stuck in St. Mary's hospital for two years

Hospital doing its best while he waits for specialized bed in Freeport
By **Johanna Weidner** Record Reporter
Waterloo Region Record
Tue., April 16, 2019 @ 6 min. read
Article was updated Apr. 13, 2020



COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic, Takes a Village

A big thank you to everyone that helped us with making our vaccination clinics possible and for making them run as smoothly as they did!

It was the result of a lot of hard work and careful planning to make it all come together.

Whether you were a parking attendant, screener, check-in nurse, nursing student, administrator, or another volunteer - you were crucial to the smooth operation of the clinics and we are so appreciative of the efforts of everyone involved!

We were also able to successfully advocate for prioritized access to vaccines for the people we serve as well as their caregivers (families and staff) who support them. We were so proud to be one of the very first clinics in the region to be able to offer doses to both caregivers and the incredible people we serve in March/April of 2021!

Thank you to the Region of Waterloo Public Health for partnering with us and entrusting us with offering this amazing opportunity to the people we support and their families.



Picture #1: Katharine O'Brien
Picture #2: Heather Leisegang
Picture #3: Beverley Clarke,
Greg Crunican, Simran Sahota
and Anne Kell

Events On the Horizon



MAY

Nurses' Week May 9 - 15, 2022

Give some love to your favourite nurse this week!

JUNE

Staff Appreciation Day June 22, 2022

Time: 3:00 pm

We're looking forward to in-person events and to celebrate the dedication of our staff during the pandemic and beyond!

DID YOU KNOW

Did you know that Sunbeam's Hospital Stay program is financially supported through the generosity of our donors?

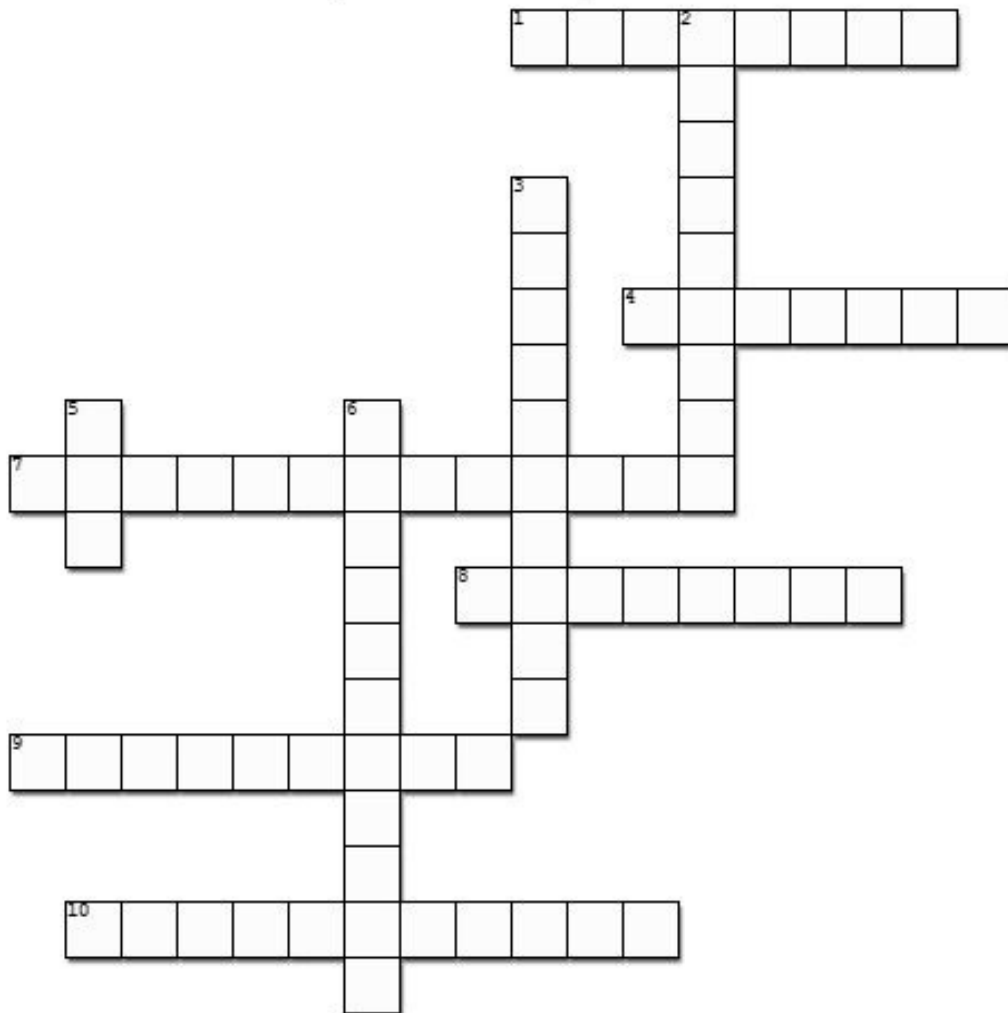


Pictured from Left to Right
Pat Hahn, Trevor Hahn and
Kelly Karges



Sunbeam Crossword Puzzle

Complete the crossword puzzle below



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

1. Day program fee for service activities.
4. _____ provides caregivers an opportunity to take a break.
7. Openness, Responsiveness, Communication, Planful/Analytical and _____
8. What street does Sunbeam Community & Developmental Services call home?
9. The Vos family lived on _____ St. when they welcomed their first child with a disability into their home?
10. Sunbeam recently celebrated it's 65th _____

Down

2. What is another name for our multi sensory rooms?
3. Autism services at Sunbeam offered by _____ ?
5. What family founded Sunbeam?
6. Inclusive _____ where people of all abilities are valued.

Answers:

Volunteer Spotlight: Volunteer Bloggers

Finding ways for our generous volunteers to continue sharing their time and talent with us during the pandemic has been challenging.

We have been forced to rethink our traditional volunteer roles and create positions where volunteers can connect with us from a distance. Our volunteer spotlight focuses on our “Volunteer Presents” Blog found on our website at sunbeamcommunity.ca/volunteer-presents.



Volunteers showcase their knowledge, talent, skills and abilities through blog submissions for everyone to enjoy on our website.

Sunbeam volunteers are incredibly talented in a variety of ways. They share recipes, art, creative writing, crafts, stories about their pets, ideas for places to visit and so much more.

Our volunteer bloggers range in age from five years old to senior citizens. We have people sharing things just for fun and students creating blog articles to meet their high school volunteer hour requirement. We are also lucky to have many students from Wilfred Laurier University submitting articles as part of their community service learning placement. Students shared articles about everything from successfully growing house plants to painting tutorials, places to visit, craft instructions, and much more.

New material is added on a regular basis. Let our volunteers help you beat boredom by visiting our “Volunteer Presents” blog on the Sunbeam website today!

My Sunbeam Story: Serendipity

Shawna Armitage, Direct Support Professional

As it happens with so many of us, I kind of "fell" into the job that turned into my lifelong career.

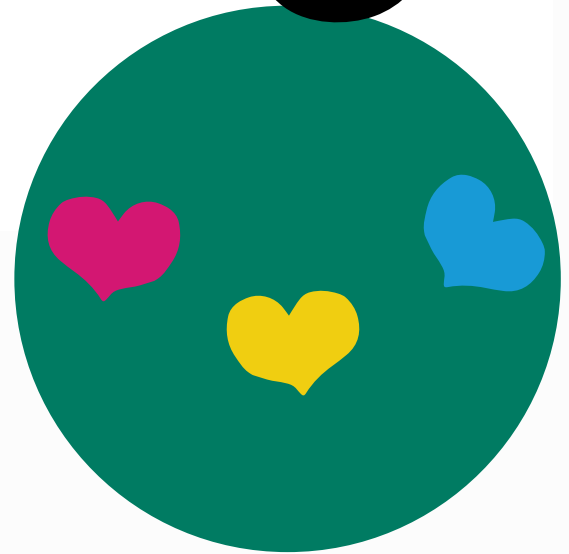
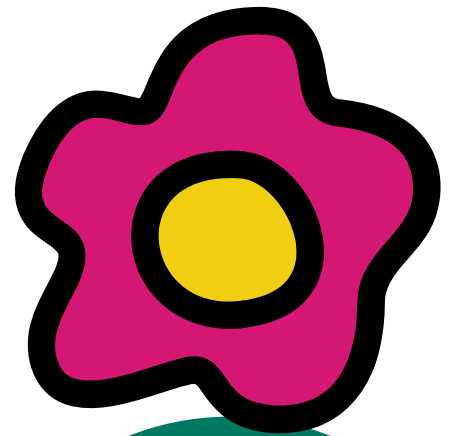
My first job in Community Living was in Peterborough in 1994. I then worked for several years in the Lower Mainland of BC.

I have worked in congregate care homes, family homes, kids' programs, day programs, and also had someone living with us for over a year.

Then, over 16 years ago, we moved to Cambridge, where I happened upon a new website for a place called Sunbeam.

Sunbeam has been a place where I can continually learn new things, and step up to new challenges.

It isn't just a job, but a place where the people we support come first. It is a place where staff smiles are still felt from under our masks and we can bring out those smiles in the people we support.



Did You Know?

There's approximately 135,000 people with Autism in Ontario.

Autism, or autism spectrum disorder (ASD), refers to a broad range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication.



Pictured: Shawna Armitage (Left);
Christopher Lethbridge (Right)

My Sunbeam Story: Inspired by Family

Stalin Brown, Supervisor-Community Living Services

My experience working at Sunbeam has been very fulfilling and very rewarding, for someone who was a welder/fitter, before I came here. It might have seemed a bit odd to some people when I first started, but I believe the skills I gained while in my previous jobs have allowed me to deal with different challenges that come up in the job.



The most fulfilling part is the service that we provide to the people we serve. I love to do whatever I can to make the current day the best day of their lives. I like to see when they are enjoying any activity that we plan and although most people we serve are non-verbal, their smiles and laughter really aids in my striving to make the best of everyday.

I also like that you see the impact of the work that you do, the joy you bring, for the people we support. Their families are appreciative of the impact that we have on the lives of those we serve. I've seen my daughter gravitate towards this field because of the work I do at Sunbeam.

The people we support here does bring out the best in me and having been given the opportunity to work in this field with this agency was one of the best decisions I've made in my life and for my family.

One thing I can say is that we are a family and although all families have challenges, we love each other and always do what's best. I encourage others to become a part of our Sunbeam family too!






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

Hospital Stay Program

The Hospital Stay Program ensures that in the event of a hospital visit, a staff member is available to accompany the person served during their stay. Being an advocate and a source of comfort, during this stressful time, promotes higher quality of care to those that may not be able to advocate for themselves.

Donate to our programs:
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

