



# Community Connections NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023

ISSUE 4



The 2024 Lottery Calendar is **almost** SOLD OUT!  
Only thirty (30) calendars remain for sale!!

If you are interested in purchasing,  
email [info@clc-k.ca](mailto:info@clc-k.ca), or call 519-352-1174.

**HURRY! They won't last long!**



## Newsletter Highlights

*A Message from  
Executive Director*

*Supporting Important Causes*

*Health & Wellness*

*In Our Community*

*Events*

*In Memory*



## MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The first ever Employee Wellness Fair was on November 29th, at 1099 Park Avenue West. There were several vendors and more than one hundred (100) attendees. To Wellness Committee Members Rochelle Stothart, Brad Verfaillie, Heather Robertson, Nicole Jubenville, Lee McFadden, Dava Grocott, Norma Hunt, Aaron Watson, and Megan McDermott, you are awesome. Congratulations to Janna Stawarz for an incredibly successful event.

CLC-K hosted the Annual Community Christmas Concert on Friday, December 1st. Thank-you to St. Paul's Congregational Church, Mike Regnier, Mary St. John, Cathy Wilker, Amanda Cartwright, Calvin Cartwright, Austin Chaney, Annette Nealey, Virginia Hickmott, the Aktion Club (John Donais, Mike Mariash, Lisa MacNeil, Lenny Moore, Dennis Dittmer), Leaders Within Graduates, Sammantha McIlvenna, Greg Homewood, Harry Arneill, Bailey Baggio, Jennifer Ginty, Sarah Hutton, Michelle Tong, Christine Kent, the Optimist Club of Chatham, Cascades Casino Chatham, Wright's Electric, and Subway.

The Chatham Goodfellows Porchlight Campaign was on December 4th. Two teams from Community Living Chatham-Kent participated, collecting a total of \$1,335.95, several pounds of food, and toys. I extend appreciation to Josue Perez, Steve Kemp, Chris McLeod, Carter McLeod, Kate Dath, Jodi Skipper, Troy Calaiezzi, Brad Phillips, Shadd Smith, and Aaron Watson.

On behalf of the Community Living Chatham-Kent Board of Directors, Happy Holidays.



Ron Coristine  
Community Living Chatham-Kent

 **HAPPY**   
 **HOLIDAYS** 



## SUPPORTING IMPORTANT CAUSES



Throughout the month of October, Community Living Chatham-Kent hosted a Thanksgiving Food Drive in support of Rock Missions in Chatham and Wallaceburg.

Giving back to the community is very important, especially with the increase in homelessness in Chatham-Kent.

The agency-wide food drive collected items including food, personal supplies, sleeping bags, blankets, and pillows.



As you grow older,  
you will discover that you have  
two hands, one for helping yourself,  
the other for helping others.

AUDREY HEPBURN



## SUPPORTING IMPORTANT CAUSES



Community Living Chatham-Kent was proud to participate in Light It Up! For National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM).

NDEAM is an annual campaign led by the Ontario Disability Employment Network (ODEN) each October to promote disability inclusion in employment. It recognizes how people who have diverse abilities contribute to businesses and their communities, helping companies continue to be successful and competitive.

Light It Up! For NDEAM is a one-night-only, coordinated lighting event in support of NDEAM.

CLC-K, along with many others across Canada, ignited purple and blue lights on residential locations, as well as the administrative buildings.





## EMPLOYEE WELLNESS FAIR



CLC-K hosted its first Employee Wellness Fair on Wednesday, November 29.

The event featured great local vendors including Norwex, a relaxing massage therapy station, yoga, sound bowl therapy, the opportunity to get the flu vaccine, and delicious popcorn courtesy of OPSEU Local 148.

The Health Depot was on hand to answer questions, and gave out free swag.

Cute, cuddly animals were enjoyed by many. Did you know being around animals can help reduce anxiety, tension, and stress hormones, and even lower our blood pressure, and heart rate? Wow!

A special thank you to Janna Stawarz for organizing such a wonderful event. The event not only provided valuable insights into various facets of well-being, but also created a holistic, and enriching experience for everyone involved.



## IN OUR COMMUNITY



### Bucket List

Jim scratched a goal off his bucket list when he went for a Helicopter ride at the Brigden Fair! He was in awe of the awesome view!



### Children's Museum

Matt and Sarah enjoyed their visit to the London Children's Museum. Matt can't wait to go back with his mom to show her all the neat exhibits!



### Rondeau Provincial Park

Zethan decided to go for a drive in his favorite camper van to Rondeau Provincial Park. He loved all the beautiful fall colours, and had a great time exploring!





## IN OUR COMMUNITY



### Rock Climbing

Kevin went to Junction in London to complete his goal of Rock Climbing! It was inspiring watching a man over 60 years of age achieve this incredible goal. When a DSP asked him why he wanted to try it, he replied, "You only live once!" Congratulations, Kevin!

### Bill's Dream Came True

Bill visited the newly relocated Brick store in Chatham as he knew they carried furniture from, "Scott Living". Bill is an avid Scott Brothers fan.

He loves watching their renovation shows on HGTV, and also knows their background, past involvement in many design shows, and follows their projects. Bill was thrilled to see their signage and stand beside it for the photo!!



### Lest We Forget

Many people throughout CLC-K participated in commemorative ceremonies throughout the community to honour Remembrance Day on November 11.



## IN OUR COMMUNITY



### A Unique Experience

Saaj took flight in a WWII Harvard Airplane. His favourite part was flying along the Detroit River seeing the Detroit Skyline, and the Airplanes from the Detroit Airport. He loved flying over Amherstburg, and Boblo Island. What an exciting experience!



### Beauty and the Beast Show

Lindsay went to see Beauty and the Beast at the Kiwanis Theatre. She loved it so much. A highlight for her was getting her picture taken with the cast after the show!



### Giving Back

Rae-Lynne volunteered with the Salvation Army Church. She took pride in packing each bag with the right number of meals, riding in the van with DSPs, and handing out the meals to people in her community.

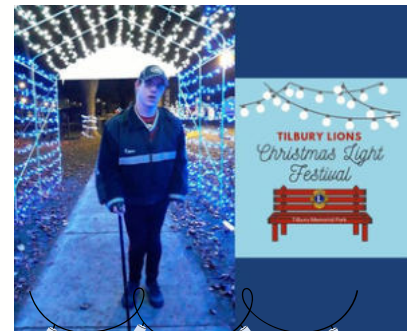
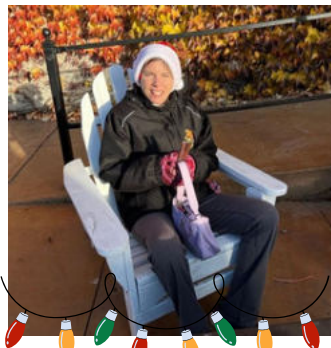


**THE SALVATION ARMY** Chatham-Kent Ministries  
Giving Hope Today



# IN OUR COMMUNITY

## Enjoying the Holiday Season





# EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS

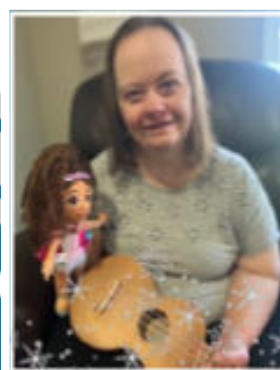
## 2023 SNOWFLAKE CAMPAIGN

All funds raised for the 2023 Snowflake Campaign will be used towards Creative Arts Therapy, which is a powerful and transformative approach that has a profound impact on people who have diverse abilities.

Creative Arts Therapy is a lifeline to a world of self-discovery, expression, and healing. This non-verbal form of therapy allows expression through artistic material, music, imaginative play, and movement.

CLC-K is excited to collaborate with The CO., a community-based creative art center that offers Creative Arts Therapy for kids, teens, and adults in Chatham-Kent. Donations to the 2023 Snowflake Campaign will assist in creating an inclusive, empowered, and emotionally healthy community.

A personalized snowflake decoration (shown here), displayed on the CLC-K tree, is our way to show our appreciation. A donation in honour or memory of a loved one is an option if you're interested.



Medea actively participates in music therapy. She utilizes music and movement as a way to express herself. During these sessions there is a permanent smile on her face.

Medea, as well as many others, would greatly benefit from Creative Arts Therapy!

INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING  
THE SNOWFLAKE CAMPAIGN?

CLICK HERE



Donations can be made by:

- the **Click Here** link
- [www.clc-k.ca](http://www.clc-k.ca)
- visit CLC-K's Administrative Office (650 Riverview Drive)
- By mail at:

**Community Living Chatham-Kent**  
PO Box 967  
650 Riverview Drive, Unit 2  
Chatham ON N7M 5L3



# EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS

## 5K RUN & WHEEL

Community Living Chatham-Kent's 5K Run & Wheel occurred on Saturday, October 21, 2023.

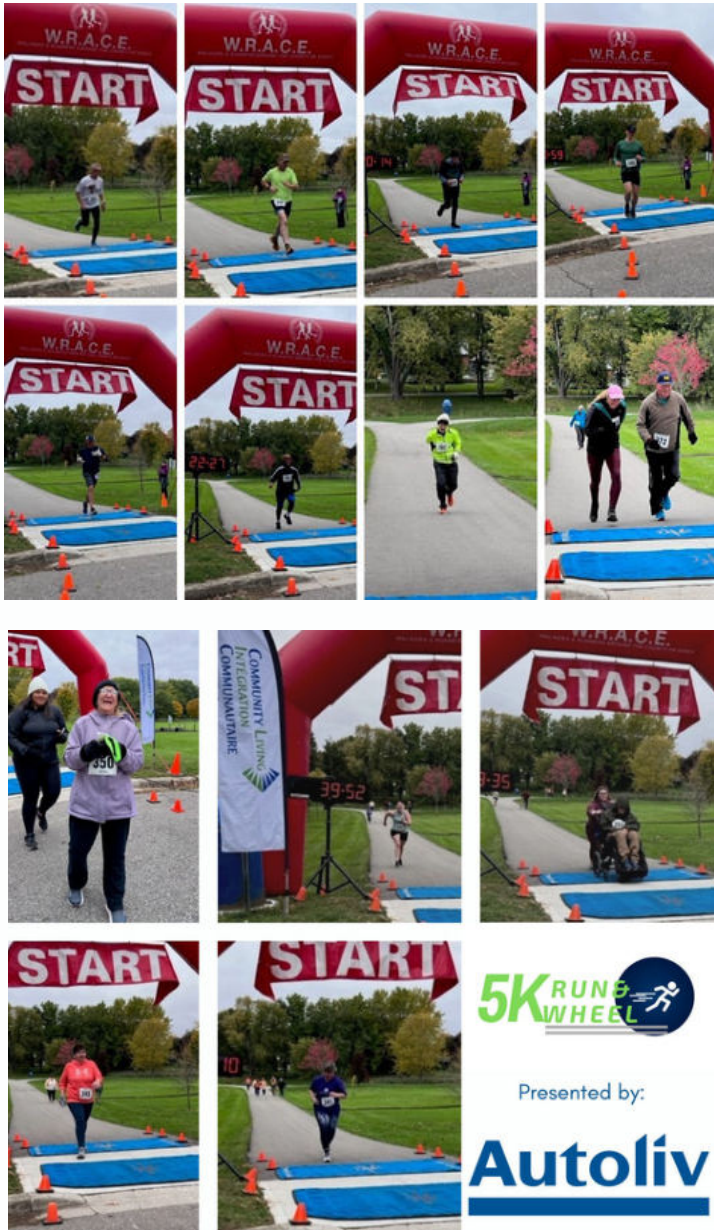
It was terrific seeing the smiles, hearing about people's personal best times, and watching the kids compete in the Kids Dash, and Youth Run.

CLC-K extends a special thank you to both the Presenting Sponsor: Autoliv, and the Silver Sponsor: DKI First Choice Disaster Restoration. It was great having employees of Autoliv participate in the event.

A big shout out to volunteers Terri, Tracey, Bridget, Stephanie, JP, Craig, Donald, Jim, Matthew, Patty, Saaj, Angela, Jerry, Mickey, and Karen.

Thank you to Direct Support Professionals Grace, Amanda, and Michelle for transporting the volunteers and assisting at the event, to Facilities Manager Shadd for setting-up, tearing down, and making sure that the generator worked, and to Jeff and May from WRace who ensured that the event went smoothly again this year.

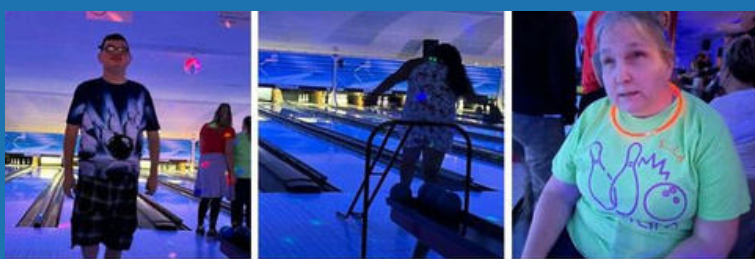
Ella, a graduate of the Leaders Within Program, did a fantastic job with opening remarks. Thank you to DSP Shelly for all the assistance as well!



*Thank you!*



## EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS



### BOWLING FOR BUCKS

Wow! Thank you to all the bowlers, pledgers, sponsors, and prize donors for making the 2023 Bowling for Bucks a very successful event!

CLC-K is thrilled to receive \$9,000 from this fundraiser.

A special thank you to The Bowling Stones Committee for organizing such an incredible, and inclusive evening.



### CLC-K NIGHT AT THE MAROONS GAME

Community Living Chatham-Kent Night at the Maroons Game is always an evening many people look forward to. This year was extra special as CLC-K celebrated their 68th Anniversary on Sunday, November 19.

Everyone had a blast cheering on the Chatham Maroons, and honouring this wonderful accomplishment!





## EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS



### SANTA CLAUS PARADE

CLC-K was thrilled to participate in the 2023 Santa Claus parade.

Kelsy was a crowd favourite dressed as Elf of the Shelf!

A very special thank you to Shannon and Amanda for coordinating and decorating the amazing float. Thank you to Tammy and John for providing the transportation.



### TREE LIGHTING SOCIAL

CLC-K gathered around the beautiful green and blue tree on December 6, for the Annual Tree Lighting Social. Carols were sung, warm beverages were enjoyed, and the spirit of the season was shining bright.

Many thanks to the Powerline Program at St. Clair College who assisted CLC-K with hanging the lights on the tree. We also extend a thank you to Tim Hortons for donating the coffee, and hot chocolate!





# EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS



## COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

On Friday, December 1, CLC-K hosted the Annual Community Christmas Concert at St. Paul's Congregational Church. It was a beautiful, entertaining, and inspirational evening.

Performers from all over Chatham-Kent shared their unique talents. Everyone did a fantastic job! The audience enjoyed clapping, and singing along.

The Leaders Within graduates did an incredible job introducing all the performers, as well as winning over the audience with their funny jokes, and heartwarming stories.

A special thank you to all our volunteers, as we truly appreciate all that you did to make this evening a success.

The night wouldn't have been possible without our generous community partners including Optimist Club of Chatham, Cascades Casino Chatham, Wright's Electric, and Subway.





## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### OPTIMIST CLUB OF CHATHAM

CLC-K extends a special thank you to the Optimist Club of Chatham for their generous donation of \$500 to the Community Christmas Concert, and for their continued support throughout the year.

*Pictured: Nicole Roeszler (CLC-K), and Steve Tuinstra (Optimist Club of Chatham)*



### TEEN TRANSITION FAIR

JOBWORX and CLC-K attended the Teen Transition Fair on Wednesday, October 18. This event was put on to assist parents who have a child with diverse abilities to make the necessary connections to support their child as they plan their lives after high school.

It was a fantastic opportunity to share information about CLC-K, as well as meet many wonderful families.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### EDUCATION SESSION

Making it Happen hosted an education session about the risks and harms associated with substance abuse with special guest Jeff Moco, Youth Engagement Coordinator with Chatham Kent Public Health Unit.

Thank you, Jeff, for the informative presentation.

*THANK YOU!*



### NEW RIDE

THANK YOU to Doug and Deb for donating this incredible bike. Ella's smile is proof that she is absolutely thrilled with her new ride.

This bike has many unique capabilities. It is perfectly suited for Ella, who has a visual impairment.

We are very grateful to receive this generous donation!



### CHALLENGER BASEBALL

CLC-K is proud to honour Dan Kobyłka for his more than thirty years of involvement with local baseball, specifically Challenger Baseball for adults.

Thank you, Dan, for creating a fun, and inclusive environment for everyone!







Welcome To Rotary



Club of  
Chatham  
Sunrise

## ROTARY CLUB OF CHATHAM SUNRISE

CLC-K would like to thank the Rotary Club of Chatham Sunrise for inviting Nicole Roeszler, and Lisa McAllister to attend their meeting on November 29.

It was a pleasure to present to the members about the various upcoming events, fundraisers, and initiatives. The breakfast was a nice treat, too!

**THANK  
YOU!**

## VOLUNTEERS - YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Many people say that volunteering has changed them in ways they would have never expected, from making new friends, learning new skills, or perhaps even landing a job opportunity, the benefits are endless!

CLC-K has many unique and meaningful volunteer opportunities.



Please contact Lisa at [lmcallister@clc-k.ca](mailto:lmcallister@clc-k.ca), or 519-352-1174 ext. 231 to become a volunteer today!

THANK YOU to our volunteers for contributing your time, energy, and talents to CLC-K.  
You are valued, and truly appreciated.

*thank  
you!*





## Celebrating employee work anniversaries



### OCTOBER

Cathy Davis – 30 years  
Doreen Bloom – 25 years  
Stacey Jones – 20 years  
Bridget Watorek – 20 years  
Lisa Blonde – 15 years  
Sarah Rossignol – 15 years

### NOVEMBER

Loralei Frederick – 15 years  
Trevor Postma – 5 years  
Joyce Robert – 5 years  
Ruth Faas – 5 years

### DECEMBER

Karen Bennett – 35 years  
Lisa Gee – 25 years  
Jennifer Ginty – 20 years  
Nicole Jubenville – 15 years  
Michael Payne – 15 years  
Melinda Jee – 10 years  
Heather Robertson – 5 years



**CONGRATULATIONS!**





*"Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day.  
Unseen, unheard, but always near. Loved, missed, and very dear."*

*in  
loving  
memory*

**Giovanni & Giordana Argenti**

**Linda Gore**

**Lisa Baker**

**Irene Graham**

**Teresa Doher-Bradley**

**Carole Mather**

**Robert Colby**

**George Mouissie**

**Mary Cherie Coristine**

**Joan Risdon**

**Mario Corso**

**Marc Roszell**

**Paul Cowell**

**Ralph Sawyers**

**Jane Goodwin**

**Jonathan Daniel Stone**

**Jerry Vanderydt**

*If you are interested in donating in memory of a loved one, please contact Nicole at [nroeszler@clc-k.ca](mailto:nroeszler@clc-k.ca).  
Donating in memory of someone special is a meaningful way to honour their life, create a lasting impact,  
and ensure that their influence continues beyond their lifetime.*



**CONTACT US**

[www.clc-k.ca](http://www.clc-k.ca)

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