



# A DAY FULL OF FUN AND LEARNING AT CHILDREN'S HEALTH DAY!

This past June, our Early Intervention Supports for Children team had the joy of taking part in the first annual Children's Health Day, hosted by the Grey Bruce Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Committee at the Saugeen Valley Children's Safety Village—and what a fantastic day it was!

Families from across the region came out to explore, learn, and connect. The event was filled with fun, hands-on activities and helpful information from local service providers, all in one vibrant and welcoming space.

Highlights included:

- Road, fire, and farm safety education
- Touch-a-truck fun
- A bubbly foam party
- And so much more!

We were thrilled to be part of such a meaningful event, surrounded by community, laughter, and learning. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with families and share the supports available for children across Grey and Bruce Counties.

We're already looking forward to next year—and we hope to see you there!



We had a great time at the Teddy Bear Picnic! Thanks CMHA for having us!!



# BREAKING GROUND ON NEW POSSIBILITIES

COMING SOON



It was a proud and exciting day as Community Living Owen Sound and District celebrated the official groundbreaking for our new building project!

Surrounded by supporters, community partners, staff, and the people we support, we marked the start of a space designed with inclusion, accessibility, and connection at its heart. Speeches, smiles, and a few muddy shovels made it a moment to remember. This new space will help us grow, dream bigger, and continue offering meaningful supports in a modern, welcoming environment built for everyone.

We're just getting started—and we're so glad you're coming along with us on this journey. Stay tuned for updates as construction moves forward. The future is bright!



Pictured are: MPP Paul Vickers, CLOSD CEO Michele Bell, CLOSD Board Chair Paul Middlebrook, Jessica Bragg, Mayor Boddy, Richard Graham CEO Graham Design & Construction, CLOSD COO Jeffrey Adisam



# COLOURING THE WAY TO A BRIGHT FUTURE

Our recent colouring contest lit up the season with talent from elementary, middle, and high school students. Kids put real heart into their work, and it showed. Pages came back filled with bold choices, careful details, and colours that jumped off the paper. We had oodles of entries, each one different from the next.

Choosing winners was not easy, but we are proud of every student who took part. Their creativity set the bar high and reminded us how much imagination young people bring to the table. Here they are in all their colourful glory, a bright display of what happens when kids are given space to create.





# THE IMPACT OF FAMILY: A STORY OF GENEROSITY, BELONGING, AND COMMUNITY

*By: Sue Skinner*

In our roles, we dedicate ourselves to improving the well-being of individuals, helping them to thrive and reach their full potential. Everything we do is guided by Community Living Owen Sound and District's Core Values, ensuring that the people we support remain the focus of all our actions.

While our commitment is to the individuals we support, we also recognize and deeply value the role of families in their lives. Family is the cornerstone of society—providing essential support, instilling values, and fostering a sense of belonging. It is within the family unit, whether traditional or chosen, that individuals first learn love, care, and emotional well-being.

In our work, we see the impact of family involvement every day—not just on the individuals receiving support, but on their housemates, and even on staff. For some, family visits are infrequent or no longer possible, making the presence of other families all the more meaningful. The warmth and connection brought by involved families often extend well beyond their loved one, positively affecting the entire household.

One shining example of this is the home where Derek lives. His parents, Shane and Joanne, regularly visit, and their presence creates a ripple of joy and connection throughout the home. Their visits are not just for Derek—they come with open hearts, embracing everyone with kindness and care. Their emotional support, laughter, and shared moments help foster a sense of family among all who live and work there.

We acknowledge that when families enter a group living environment, they do so with vulnerability. They are trusting not just a service, but the people who care for their loved ones. In this particular home, the relationship between staff and Derek's family has grown into one of mutual trust, openness, and respect. The comfort and ease with which they interact is something to be proud of.

Shane and Joanne exemplify what it means to be community-minded and generous. Over time, they recognized the wear and tear in the well-used kitchen of their son's home and understood that government funding, while essential, does not always cover every need. Motivated not by recognition, but by a genuine desire to help, they offered to contribute financially to renovate the kitchen. What began with new cupboards expanded to include a much-needed bathroom vanity as well.

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## THE IMPACT OF FAMILY: A STORY OF GENEROSITY, BELONGING, AND COMMUNITY ... CONTINUED

Initially, we were hesitant to accept such a generous offer. We do not expect families to contribute in this way. But after thoughtful reflection, we realized that their actions were an extension of what families naturally do—supporting one another to create a better life. We saw it as no different than any parent helping a child in need. Their offer wasn't just about upgrades; it was about care, pride, and creating a warm, functional space everyone could enjoy.

Shane and Joanne didn't stop at financial support—they gathered friends to help with installation, pouring time, energy, and skill into transforming the home. During the renovation, the men in the home were given the opportunity to enjoy a vacation at Sauble Beach. When they returned, they were welcomed by a beautiful, revitalized space. Their joy and surprise, especially at the new kitchen, was truly heartwarming.

This story highlights the profound importance of family—whether by birth or by choice—and how acts of love and kindness can elevate the lives of many. The intrinsic value of family remains a constant guide, not only for personal growth but for building a more compassionate and connected community.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Shane, Joanne, and their crew of friends. Their generosity has made a lasting impact—not just on the men in the home, but on all of us at Community Living Owen Sound and District. By sharing this story, we hope to inspire others and spark a ripple effect of kindness and community spirit.

## MARTIN TURNS UP THE TALENT AT WOODTURNING WORKSHOP!

Martin took on the challenge of a hands-on woodturning workshop—and wow, did he impress! From start to finish, he showed determination, patience, and a great sense of humor as he tackled each project head-on.

The final day brought the biggest challenge: turning a bowl. With a bit of extra guidance (and Martin's full thumbs-up), he powered through—and the results were amazing.

Martin was all smiles as he proudly showed off his work. We're so proud of everything he accomplished!





# A SUMMER OF POSSIBILITIES WITH PASSPORT

This summer, the Passport Program has been bursting with adventure, energy, and connection. Through Passport funding, people have been actively engaging in their communities, trying new things, and building meaningful relationships – one adventure at a time!

From cheering on the Toronto Blue Jays at Rogers Centre, to exploring natural wonders like Flowerpot Island and the Bruce Peninsula, to hands-on workshops in crafts, baking, and even gemstone mining – there's truly been something for everyone. We've danced at concerts, challenged ourselves in go-karts and escape rooms, relaxed at the beach, and wandered farmers markets, art shows, and local fairs. The creativity and variety of activities continue to grow each month.

These Passport-funded experiences not only build confidence and independence, but also encourage friendships and meaningful community participation. Whether it's a group trip or a one-to-one support outing, each activity reflects the spirit of inclusion, creativity, and empowerment – and we are proud to be part of making that happen.

A huge thank you to the dedicated staff, families, and participants who make these moments possible. Enjoy these snapshots from an unforgettable summer – and stay tuned for more to come!

