



Independent Living Centre Kingston Disability Resources and Support

Annual Report - 2014 / 2015

A Message From The President

In 2014/2015, Independent Living Centre Kingston continued to address our sustainable funding challenge. It is critical to recognize that we are all part of the solution. First and foremost, we have to market ourselves to the community at large. We are a vital Centre offering essential services to the disability community and must be recognized as such. Our most important marketing tools are our consumers, volunteers, board members and staff.

Secondly, we must document and assess our performance. This allows us to present to funding agencies a clear picture of our programs and their effectiveness. This is especially critical for our information services program. This year we have established the initial steps by documenting the number of consumers serviced. The next step will require the design and implementation of an assessment tool.

Thirdly, we have reviewed our fundraising and are hopeful that a reorganization and refocus will yield greater success. A good motto is: "If you are part of ILCK consider yourself an ILCK fundraiser and/or donor." We will be launching new fundraising initiatives over the next few months.

The hiring of one year contract position centre manager/executive was of mixed success. In hindsight, it was naïve on the Board's part that the position would perform some fiscal magic. We have learned that obtaining funding is labor intensive and there are no shortcuts. We have been fortunate to obtain funding from United Way for the coming year and will continue to pursue member agency status.

Since August, Laura Allen has agreed to take over the role of Executive Director, a 2 day/week position. Laura has been with the centre for 16 years in several capacities including administrative and program management.

For 27 years the Centre has succeeded year after year due the wonderful dedication of our volunteers and dedicated staff. To all of you I wish to extend a special Thank You.

- Daniel Brouillard, Present, Board of Directors

PROGRAM AND SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

Information and Networking

The Centre responds to various requests, that include providing people with information, assisting them in using that information, and working with other service providers. In order for each individual and/or family to meet their needs and reach their goals, each response focuses on all of the issues that person and/or family may be facing.

Information and Networking Services

responded to 2,351 requests last year. Some of the most common requests focused on finding information on community services, wheelchair accessible housing, accessible travel, attendant services, and information on government programs for people with disabilities.

Information sessions and one-to-one support is provided to assist individuals with applications for the **Disability Tax Credit** as well as the **Registered Disability Savings Plan**, which is a federally registered tax free savings plan designed to ensure long-term financial security for people with disabilities. We supported 238 individual requests in completing the application process.

Peer Support

Access Kingston Online is an accessibility reference guide for people living in and visiting Kingston. This resource provides information to assist individuals in making an appropriate decision regarding a local facility or service for their individual accessibility requirements.

The Centre understands the impact barriers related to a disability can have for an individual and the value of being treated with dignity. We offer assistance on topics, such as disability management strategies, travel planning, and home modifications. The Centre responded to 93 requests for peer support and facilitated 56 peer support activities.

The Diner's Club is a peer support group that offers individuals the opportunity to meet new people, share stories, ideas, experiences, and enjoy a meal. Once a month, the club visits a local restaurant, that provides a great opportunity for individuals to enjoy an evening at a favourite restaurant or try somewhere new. There were 12 Diner's Club meetings and 64 participants this year.

The Weekly Drop-In is a peer group offering supported social activities. Participants enjoy conversation, information exchange, celebrations, playing cards, and board games. 46 peer drop-in groups were supported this year.

Independent Living Skills

The Centre supports individuals in developing skills to cope effectively with personal and environmental barriers. Examples are assisting people in finding a doctor, acting as a liaison between individuals and their physicians, case managers and/or probation officers and connecting individuals with needed housing or legal services. There were 642 contacts with the Centre for this service.

Disability Management Skills provides assistance for individuals with disabilities and/or family members gain a better understanding of social assistance. This includes Ontario Works, Ontario Disability Support Program, Canada Pension Plan - Disability and Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities. We assist with understanding the application process and completing it as well as communicating disability-related barriers to doctors and help individuals understand their responsibilities throughout the process. We supported 261 people access income supports applications and there were 452 contacts.

Community Development

This program builds Independent Living in the community by researching and identifying individuals' needs and barriers as well as supporting projects that empower individuals and organizations.

Access to Technology provides individuals with access to computers loaded with current accessibility software located at the Centre. Individuals can access word processing, spreadsheets, web browsing, scanners, and much more. The accessible computer service was accessed 294 times by people with disabilities, which is more than double the use from last year.

Self-Managed Attendant Services enables adults with physical disabilities to become the employers of their own attendants. Attendants assist with routine activities of living, such as dressing, grooming, and bathing. As employers, individuals are fully responsible for managing their own employees within a budget that is developed on an individual basis. The Centre is responsible for

supporting and monitoring financial reports for the individuals using this program. Currently, there are 734 individuals accessing the program in Ontario and the Kingston office supports 190 of those individuals. Last year, the Centre responded to 3,123 contacts.

Access 2 Volunteering is a supported volunteering pilot project assisting persons with disabilities as they volunteer at community services in the Kingston region. We supported 23 volunteers to develop and build skills to be successful in volunteer opportunities and to sustain these positions.

Community Education and Networking Services

Over the past year, staff participated on various boards and committees, as well as, attended events promoting full inclusion for people with disabilities. The following is a list of the initiatives that the Centre participated in:

- ◆ Ontario Network of Independent Living Centres
- ◆ Frontenac Accessibility Advisory Committee
- ◆ Spinal Cord Reunion Barbeque Committee - St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital
- ◆ Kingston Frontenac Anti-Violence Coordinating Committee
- ◆ Kingston's Community Services Fair
- ◆ Practical Assistance Group
- ◆ St. Lawrence College - CICE



2014 - 2015 Board of Directors

- ◆ President - Daniel Brouillard
- ◆ Vice President - Lucinda Bray
- ◆ Secretary - Rachel Dicks
- ◆ Treasurer - Virginia Belmore
- ◆ Past President - Evelyn Maizen

Directors

- ◆ Vincent Durant
- ◆ Francine Arsenault
- ◆ Glenn Outhwaite
- ◆ Stephen Mitchell
- ◆ Brenda Miller
- ◆ Geoff Schlemmer

Thank You To Our Funding Partners

- ◆ Independent Living Canada
- ◆ Centre for Independent Living in Toronto
- ◆ City of Kingston, Ontario Works
- ◆ Treasure Chest Bingo Association
- ◆ United Way, Kingston Frontenac Lennox and Addington
- ◆ Local Health Integration Network/ Southern Frontenac Community Services Corp.
- ◆ Employment and Social Development Canada / New Horizons for Seniors
- ◆ Employment and Social Development Canada / Canada Summer Jobs
- ◆ Ontario Trillium Foundation

2014 - 2015 Volunteers

Our volunteers are valued partners, who play an important role in the success of Independent Living Centre Kingston. Last year, they contributed over 2000 hours to the organization.

Thank you so much to all our volunteers for their dedication, hard work and ingenuity!

- ◆ Ross Halliday
- ◆ Eartha
- ◆ Mandy McEwen
- ◆ Edward Kellar
- ◆ Rachel Dicks
- ◆ Kurt Halliday
- ◆ Samantha Allen
- ◆ Judith Gould
- ◆ Nicholas Leduc
- ◆ Chloe Smith
- ◆ Deborah Patterson
- ◆ Mandy Schan
- ◆ Janet Anderson
- ◆ Andrew Ashby
- ◆ Michael Inglis
- ◆ K'Lee Orr
- ◆ Liam McCauley

2014 - 2015 Staff

- ◆ Robert Thedorf, Executive Director
- ◆ Laura Allen, Independent Living Coordinator
- ◆ Judy Regis, Coordinator
- ◆ Neil Allen, DF Program Coordinator
- ◆ Mandy Schan, Admin. Assistant
- ◆ Janet Anderson, Volunteering Coordinator
- ◆ Joe McCauley, Program Assistant
- ◆ Dario Paola, Program Assistant



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