

## **CLAPW E-Newsletter Fall Edition 2020**

### **COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

After six long months, we are re-opening our day program. We are proceeding carefully with only 18 supported people a day on site and we have followed guidelines and advice from the Durham Health Department and MCCSS. We are also having our office staff begin working 3 days a week on site and 2 days a week from their home offices. These are unprecedented times and we thank our dedicated staff members who have demonstrated tremendous dedication and a willingness to flex their roles to keep residential programs operating safely.

Our last newsletter in the spring was filled with plans and activities that we were so excited about. Sadly, many events including learning opportunities, fundraising events, community participation events, groups such as the Aktion Club and HEROES, were all cancelled or put on hold. What was top of mind for everyone, was keeping people safe and well. It is funny that while so many events were stopped, we have never been busier. The quest for PPE, the scheduling and rescheduling of staff, staying on top of MCCSS directives which seemed to change daily and learning everything we could about COVID 19 filled our days. We quickly embraced technology and found ourselves meeting and delivering services virtually.

We had some successes that you will read about in the following pages. We know that this has been a difficult time for many of our supported individuals and their families. As they say, we are all in the same storm, but we not necessarily in the same boat. We appreciate the support and understanding demonstrated by so many.

We are pleased to report that at the time of writing this newsletter we have had no cases of COVID-19 amongst our supported people or our staff members. We pray the same holds true for all our CLAPW families and supporters. As we head into cooler weather, we will remain ever vigilant and will take every precaution possible to protect people supported by CLAPW and our dedicated staff members.

**We are in this together!**



## BIRTHDAY PARADES BECAME A THING

We have had a number of milestone birthdays to celebrate. Rocca turned 100, and long-time volunteer Inez celebrated 92 years! Maureen M turned 41 and enjoyed a distanced drive by and gathering at her home. And what's a birthday without a giant pink unicorn? Know someone celebrating a birthday? Drop Lisa a line at [lisa.mcneebaker@clapw.org](mailto:lisa.mcneebaker@clapw.org) if you would like visit from the unicorn. 😊



**"Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about learning how to dance in the rain." Vivian Greene**

## Annual General Meeting

COMMUNITY LIVING  
Age-Pickering and Whittby  
Inspiring Possibilities

CLAPW Annual General Meeting

# AGM

This Year's AGM will be hosted via Zoom conference,

**Monday, September 28, 2020  
from 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm**

To access the Zoom meeting please register by emailing [janice.reesor@clapw.org](mailto:janice.reesor@clapw.org) by September 24<sup>th</sup>.

Upon registration the zoom link and login information will be emailed to you.

### Our Annual General Meeting is going virtual!

If you are interested in receiving the Zoom Link to attend the AGM on September 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm, please send an email to

[Janice.reesor@clapw.org](mailto:Janice.reesor@clapw.org).

As a reminder, only members in good standing will be permitted to vote but everyone is welcome to attend our meeting.



## Message from the Executive Director-Lisa McNee Baker



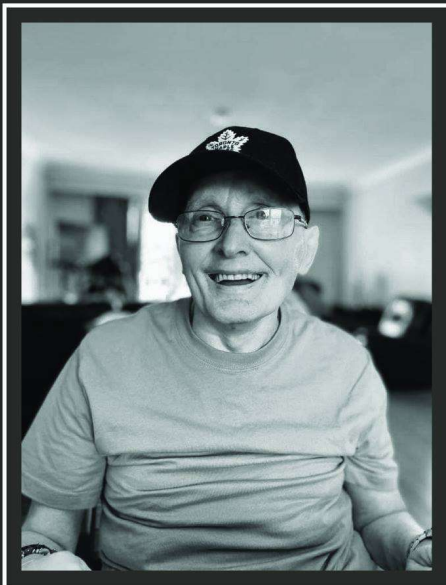
The last time I wrote a piece for this newsletter we had just entered the pandemic. What a challenging six months it has been. The uncertainty, the constantly changing directives, the lack of Personal Protective Equipment, the need for our staff to juggle multiple roles as schools shut down, all these factors contribute to what can only be described as an incredibly challenging time.

We have made it through the first wave with no outbreaks of COVID 19 in our staff or supported people. We adapted to new ways of doing business on the fly. We worked with our staff who demonstrated incredible flexibility and a willingness to sacrifice their own free time in order to keep supported people safe. Our leadership team stayed agile and dealt with the constant stream of changing information.

For our Direct Support Professionals many were required to work in new locations, on new shifts, performing day to day responsibilities that were not familiar to them. For our leadership team and administrative team, it meant working in isolation and often working very long hours to attend the various challenges and issues that arose daily. CLAPW staff have proven themselves to be strong and resilient.

We watched as staff ignored their own fears and spent time in hospitals with supported people who needed medical attention. One of those people, Donald F. who had been in failing health for several years and was hospitalized for weeks prior to his death in July. The Applewood team did everything in their power to ensure that in his last weeks and days, that Donald was supported the people that knew him well and had cared for him for years. Their loving care of Donald was inspiring to witness.

As we enter the fall season and anticipate a "second wave" we will continue to be vigilant and careful as we deal with COVID 19.



*The Friends of  
Donald William Fisher  
Request the honour of your presence  
at a Ceremony remembering Donald's life  
and scattering of ashes*

*Monday, September 14th, 2020 @ 11:30am*

*Thornton Cemetery  
& Scattering Garden  
1200 Thornton Rd. N,  
Oshawa, O.N.*

A private gathering and Bench Dedication  
will take place at Applewood following the service.

\*Due to Covid restrictions, this gathering will be limited to  
Donald's cherished housemates, staff currently working at  
Applewood, and select invitees.\*

We are all of us stars and we deserve to twinkle! -**Marilyn Monroe**

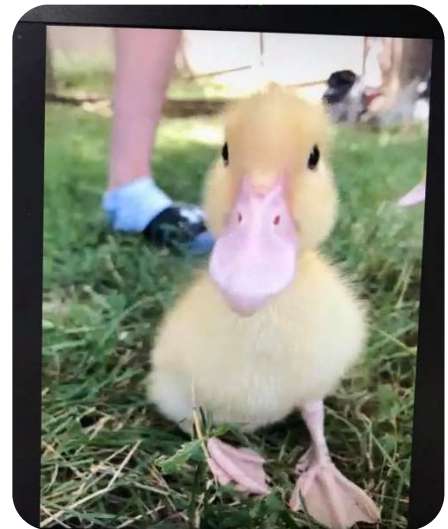


## SUMMER PROGRAM

Thanks to a Summer Jobs Grant we had a wonderful summer program! Each day there were several zoom gatherings that covered everything from Coffee Chats and Board Games to Dance Parties and the wildly (pardon the pun) popular Duck Diaries. What an awesome experience adopting two ducklings “Cheese and Quackers” and watching them grow and change over the course of six weeks. We welcomed Transitional Aged Youth, young adults and participants from our CPP programs to the “Summer Together Apart” program.

People obtained technology through their Passports funding, learned to use the technology and then figured out how to access zoom rooms! Staff were patient and creative as they helped people to learn to use the technology. Our summer staff were incredible! Creative, high energy, fun loving and talented are just some of the words used to describe them. The Summer Together Apart program was led by Sharon Burgess and Kelly Poulin along with the summer Coordinator Bryn McNeill. Thanks to the vision and leadership we were able to provide a high quality, interactive summer program that helped to address the isolation that so many people were feeling.

**Thanks to everyone who made the unusual summer of 2020 so successful!**



## STAYING SAFE AND HEALTHY GRANT

We had success with another grant application! The Durham Community Foundation (the "Community Foundation") made a \$15,000 grant from the Emergency Community Support Fund (the "ECSF") to Community Living Ajax Pickering and Whitby. The ECSF is a collaborative effort with support from the Government of Canada for qualified non-profit organizations working with vulnerable populations impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.

This project will involve our program facilitator, working with members of our self advocates group to develop plain language teaching materials and resources related to Covid 19. The materials will be delivered to people supported by CLAPW via virtual programming platforms. Programming should begin in October! Watch our website and your emails for updates.

**Samantha Almeida-Schroen** is a CLAPW part-time Direct Support Professional who has been hired as the part-time facilitator for this project. Samantha comes to us with a background in biostatistics, biochemistry, anatomy, histology and physiology. She also has taken other STEM courses focusing on the dynamics between psychology, nutrition, and physiology as they pertain to health and well-being.

As the community continues to "open up" Samantha, working with members of the HEROES Self Advocates group will assist our outstanding Direct Support Staff in helping to ensure that the people we support have the information they need to stay Safe and Healthy.



## OPEN FUTURE LEARNING

Have you heard about the on-line learning tool, Open Future Learning (OFL)? CLAPW has an account and would be happy to give families access to the learning tools on this platform. OFL uses the power of stories, dedicated specialists, engaging content, learning on demand, action learning, and blended learning making it an excellent resource!

OFL covers a broad range of subject areas while remaining 100% dedicated to the field of intellectual disabilities, with modules on subjects such as Active Support, Person-Centered Approaches, Thinking and Planning, Challenging Behaviour and Supported Employment just to name a few! Learning is made easy with a range of multimedia tools that engage the user. This includes interactive graphics that explain abstract concepts, short films with closed captions, animation, and audio that is synced to all written content. If you are interested in gaining access to this tool, send a quick email to Lisa at [lisa.mcneebaker@clapw.org](mailto:lisa.mcneebaker@clapw.org).





## KINDNESS PREVAILS

We were blessed with kindness and generosity as we navigated the trying times of COVID 19.

We had dozens of gaming systems and more than one hundred games donated from across the region to keep people quarantined at home busy. Regional Councillor Liz Roy of Whitby helped with this initiative.

We had masks, gloves and gowns donated. The Chief of the Whitby Fire Department dropped off desperately needed disposable gowns and Couture Alterations donated reusable gowns.

We had several seamstresses create cloth masks which were essential in the early days when surgical masks could not be sourced.

Hayley Wickenheiser even stopped by with surgical masks and N95 masks one day! 2 Sisters Craftworks donated a garden chair for our main office and began donating a portion of their sales to CLAPW. Check them out at [www.2sisterscraftworks.ca](http://www.2sisterscraftworks.ca)

Heartfelt thanks to Karen and Cassandra MacDonald who dropped off hand crafted cards and yummy treats for our supported people and residential staff! Amazing! It is these kinds of gestures that kept our spirits buoyed!





## ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION FUNDS THE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

We are simply thrilled to have been awarded a three-year Trillium Grow Grant to expand and enhance our Volunteer Program.

Delivering a project that builds on the success of a proven model or program with a \$314,700 grant over 36 months to assist with staffing and program costs to expand a program connecting people with intellectual disabilities to volunteer mentors. Building inclusive and engaged communities together, this initiative is helping people who are isolated have connections in their community and has an impact on the lives of 70 people in the community.

It is an interesting time, during a global pandemic that requires physical distancing, to launch a campaign that seeks to reduce social isolation of people with intellectual disabilities, but we are eager to begin our work. If you know of someone who is seeking to become involved in their community as a volunteer or who wants to get involved in intentional recreation please drop Sharon Burgess a line at [Sharon.burgess@clapw.org](mailto:Sharon.burgess@clapw.org).

## IMPACT AJAX GRANT



We were thankful to be awarded a \$10,000 IMPACT grant by the Town of Ajax, so that we can run a Families as Partners Support Group. This group will meet the last Tuesday of every month from 6:30-8:00 pm over Zoom and will provide a wide variety of guest speakers and topics of interest to families.

For more information visit [clapw.org](http://clapw.org) and view the events calendar. As well, make sure to follow our Facebook and Instagram feeds for updates on topics and meeting content. As well, make sure to follow the Town of Ajax on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for updates

Supported by

**IMPACT  
AJAX**



## CHEERS FOR PEERS-EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

Staff nominated by their peers for putting the CLAPW mission into action!

### May

Cindy St. James

### June

Katicha Bastien

### July

Diana Staneslow

### August

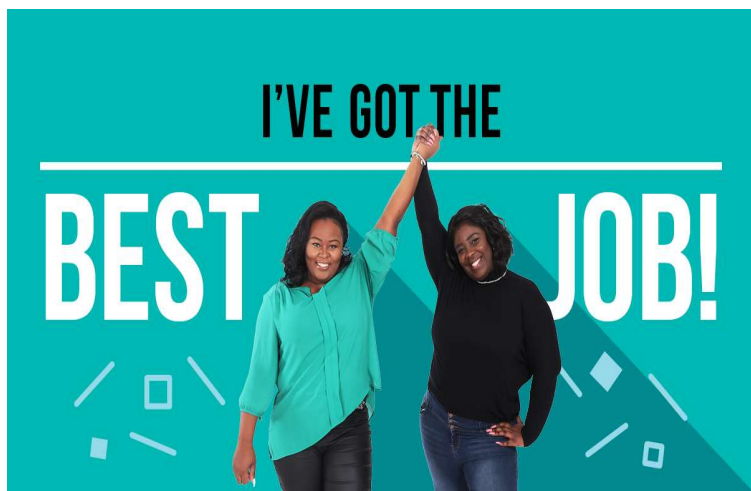
Julie Sidler

**Mission:** Community Living Ajax-Pickering and Whitby is dedicated to supporting people with developmental disabilities so they can live full lives and be effectively, safely and inclusively supported in their own communities. We serve that mission by offering a broad range of personalized supports and services, closely aligned with their individual goals and choice of where they want to live, learn, work and enjoy their leisure time.

"Daring leaders work to make sure people can be themselves and feel a sense of belonging." *Brené Brown*



CLAPW WORKPLACE CULTURE CLUB



We are hiring part-time and relief staff to work in our residential locations and day program sites. Please send resume to [hr@clapw.org](mailto:hr@clapw.org) to be considered for an interview. We offer good wages, flexible hours, regular training and the opportunity to make a difference!

**BEST JOB EVER!**







### **They like us, they really like us!**

We are so very honoured to have been nominated for a **Business Excellence Award** with the Ajax Pickering Board of Trade! The Business Excellence Awards were established in 1994 to recognize achievements and **excellence** in business performance. This is the first ever nomination for CLAPW and we couldn't be prouder! Results will be announced in late October. *Fingers crossed!*

### **USEFUL LINKS**

[www.nurturedevelopment.org](http://www.nurturedevelopment.org)

Asset Based Community Development

<https://family-alliance.com/>

Family Alliance of Ontario

<https://pooranlaw.com/services/>

Pooran Law

[www.openfutureslearning.org](http://www.openfutureslearning.org)

Open Futures Learning

### **Families as Partners Meeting for September**

We became aware of a good opportunity for our Families as Partners members to participate in for our regular meeting night of September 29. On that night, John Lord is hosting a webinar called "Support Circles: Together is Better". This learning opportunity runs for two consecutive weeks and in week two (October 06) John will be joined by his daughter Karen and her facilitator Tanya.

John Lord has been a leader and founder of several local, provincial and national initiatives designed to create positive change in human services and communities so that vulnerable citizens can achieve full citizenship, participation and equality. We thought this was too good an opportunity to pass up. To register, please see the details on the poster on the next page.



# Support Circles: Together is Better

A FREE Two-Part Online Series with JOHN LORD on the power of social networks/relationships and how we can develop and maintain a Support Circle with people with disabilities and their families

## SAVE THE DATES

**Tuesday, September 29, 2020**

*John will highlight research practices on the importance of social networks; demonstrate how a support circle can be a powerful way to enhance relationships, problem-solving and community connections; share strategies for developing a Support Circle from research & personal experience as a parent.*

**Tuesday, October 6, 2020**

*John will be joined by his daughter Karen Lord and her facilitator Tanya Williams. They will highlight the role Karen's Support Circle has played in her life for the last 30 years; show what an important role the facilitator plays in maintaining a Circle and in follow-up approaches with the focus person and Circle members.*

## TIME

**7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

## RSVP TO

[info@extendfamily.ca](mailto:info@extendfamily.ca)

## QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please contact

**Kristen Carhart at 647-292-5175**

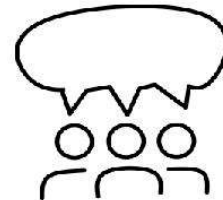


**extend a family**

Building an inclusive community

<http://extendfamily.ca/>

Sponsored by Extend-A-Family and Safe and Secure Futures Network



## About the Speakers

**John Lord** is a researcher, author, and parent of four adult children. He was the founder of the Centre for Community Based Research in Kitchener-Waterloo and was a leader with the Facilitation Leadership Group. He has published widely on social inclusion and innovative approaches to community support. He is the recipient of several awards, including the Order of Canada. His website is [www.johnlord.net](http://www.johnlord.net)

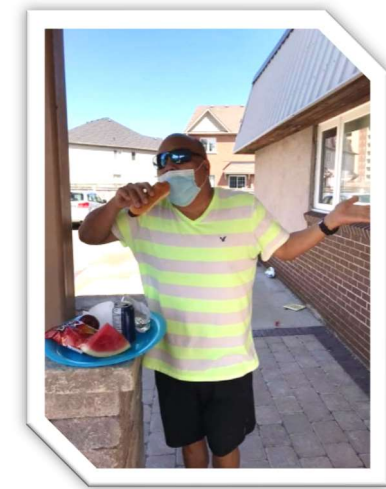
**Karen Lord** lives in Kitchener where she is a certified yoga teacher. She teaches Hatha and Laughter yoga and also works in the hospitality industry. She lives in a housing co-op and plays drums in a community band. Karen has a rich network of friends and a Support Circle of family and friends.

**Tanya Williams** has been Karen's facilitator for almost 15 years. As an independent facilitator, she helps with planning, problem-solving, relationship building, and community connecting. Tanya is a context artist with a broad background in dance and community collaborations in theatre and related arts. She lives in Waterloo.





## Keeping Busy During the Covid 19 Lock Down!





“I find, when you’re an optimist, life has a funny way of looking after you.” – *Simon Sinek*

### EVENTS AT A GLANCE

September 28	Annual General Meeting -Via Zoom
September 29	Family as Partners/John Lord Presentation -Via Zoom
October 06	Family as Partners/John Lord Presentation-Via Zoom
October 27	Family as Partners Meeting-Via Zoom
November 24	Family as Partners Meeting-Via Zoom
December 11	Christmas Party-Via Zoom



STAY SAFE AND BE WELL! SEE YOU SOON!

