

CLAPW E-Newsletter Winter Edition 2018/19

Message from the Board President, Joe Visconti



What a great **end to the year** we have had at **CLAPW!** The name "Arc Industries" is no more. In a contest in which over 50 names were submitted, the new name "**Community Access and Participation Center**" (CAPC) was chosen. For several weeks at CAPC there was a flurry of activity as the staff and our supported

persons prepared for our first, and what I hope will be annual, **Holiday Bazaar**. It was a lot of fun and, by all accounts, a **big success**. Just ask **Maureen** who was at the used book table. On Nov. 30th, the culminating event of the year for many was the **Christmas Dance** which was held at the **Ajax Convention Center**. A huge thank you goes to the chairperson of our committee, our parent volunteer **Sylvia Thornton** for her organizational skills. Already we are planning for a bigger dance for next year. The **CLAPW Christmas play**, held in December, was a big success as well.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank **Candace Bridgman** whose contract was finished in December. Her hard work was instrumental in the **transformation** of our **Dowty Street** facility. It remains a work in progress, but Candace and the team worked very hard to get it to where we are today.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank, on behalf of the whole organization, **David Pugh, Don Laughton** and **Christine Park**. The hard work of these **three Administrators** over the past 2 years has been most instrumental in getting **CLAPW** to where it is today, a thriving organization with a very **strong future**. We would not be where we are today without your leadership!

Finally, it is my great pleasure to welcome our **new Executive Director**, Ms. **Lisa McNee Baker** to our organization. Lisa started in her new position on January 7th. The Board is looking forward to working with her. As we begin 2019, we move forward with **great anticipation and excitement for what is to come!**

Message from CLAPW's new Executive Director, Lisa McNee Baker

Welcome to 2019! It is **great to be back at CLAPW** and I look forward to **connecting with as many of you as possible** over the coming weeks/months. It has been 24 years since I last worked at CLAPW and I must say it **feels wonderful to be returning to the agency**. It has been great seeing so many **familiar faces** and hearing about the **good work** that has been happening. We have a lot to **focus** on as we roll out our **new Strategic Plan**, so stay tuned for updates on this matter in the coming months.

As I settle in to my **new role at CLAPW** please know that my **door is always open**, and I am **just a phone call away**. I am looking forward to **working with the CLAPW team** as we "**inspire possibilities**" and **create opportunities** for the people who use our service.



Annual CLAPW Christmas Dinner and Dance

CLAPW held their annual **Christmas Dinner and Dance** at the **Ajax Convention Centre**. The event was a huge success. Thanks to **Joe Visconti, Chris Bennett, Cindy St. James, Sylvia Thornton, Ruth Alambo, Lucille Curl** and **Wendy Holiday** for volunteering their time to organize the event as members of the CLAPW Christmas Party Committee. A special thanks to **Sylvia Thornton** and **Janice Stroth** for the beautiful raffle and door prizes for the event. Please see the last page for a list of all sponsors from 2018 and the **pictures below from the party!**



A Letter Submitted by Yvonne Jordan, Adrian's Mother

**My name is Yvonne Jordan, Adrian Jordan's mother
and I will be briefly recapping my son's journey.**

For thirty-two years of Adrian's life, he has lived at home with his family. Adrian was always a happy child and loved the company of his two brothers. Of course, he had his moments like any boy, sibling rivalry and such but he was a well-adjusted child and enjoyed his family life. Adrian was very involved in the community. He enjoyed swimming, music and loved being outdoors. Suddenly in April of 2017, Adrian's world began to spiral out of control as he was admitted to the hospital and where he stayed for five long months. What a devastating time this was for Adrian and our family. While Adrian was admitted in the hospital, his father was going through his own health concerns which caused him to be hospitalized for a short period as well. Here I was trying to look after my son and husband, just trying to hold my head above water, those five months were exhausting, stressful and at times very scary.

This all changed as in September of 2017, CLAPW invited him to be a part of their family. The first time I went to look at CLAPW, I knew Adrian would be a good fit. It felt like when you are searching for that perfect home and when you come cross it you just get that feeling knowing that this is it! That was how the Pittman home felt for me and at that feeling has not changed. Moving day with Adrian was a bit challenging as Adrian needed to get adjusted to his new surroundings. He was very attached to me and I to him, a bond that can never be broken and it was hard for both of us to transition to this new life. I want to say thank you to the day staff for holding my hand but a special thank you to the afternoon staff who came in and just seemed to know exactly what to do. They took Adrian out for a drive and in a couple hours I received a call reassuring me that Adrian was smiling and doing fine. Words that I have been waiting to hear for 5 long months. Thank you to Ruth for inviting Adrian to become a part of their CLAPW family. Thank you for listening to my concerns and allowing me to express my true feelings; you were my sounding board.

On behalf of Adrian and his entire family, we would like to say thank you to the wonderful staff at Pittman. Thank you for being there for Adrian and our family in his time of need, treating him with love, kindness and offering support like he was one your own. We know this journey for my son and his family is far from over but with your continued help we are hopeful to the future and believe together we will be able to support Adrian in any challenges he may encounter.

Thank you for your time,

Yvonne Jordan

Day of Caring: A Volunteer Gift from the Town of Whitby



The Town of Whitby **Human Resources Department** staff members came out to **volunteer** their support to Community Living Ajax-Pickering and Whitby on December 12, 2018.

These **caring volunteers** came to our Pringle home to help spruce up the house.

Volunteers **painted** the recreation room and **decorated** the front porch.

These **Day of Caring** volunteers also **left gifts** under the **Christmas tree** for the lucky people living there.

Thanks to the crew for all their hard work and thoughtfulness.

Gary, Maureen and Suzanne were on hand to express their thanks.

Thanks for caring!

Successful Volunteer Match!

Creating **volunteer placements** for those supported by CLAPW and **adding volunteers** to support CLAPW services and supports remains an exciting initiative funding under the **Employment and Modernization Funding** from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services to our organization. **Sanna** started **volunteering** for CLAPW back in November and has been an **awesome addition** to the day program! Sanna and **Kelly** have been spending the last few weeks taking walks, applying make-up, laughing and getting to know each other. Sharon Burgess, **Volunteer Services Coordinator**, reported: "Kelly really looks forward to Tuesdays, she's often waiting by the door for Sanna!" **Thanks, Sanna!**



Supported Independent Living Program Celebrates the Holiday Season



Community Living Ajax - Pickering and Whitby provides supports and services for **twenty-three people** in our **Supported Independent Living (SIL)** program.

Many of these individuals came together at **Swiss Chalet** to celebrate the **Christmas** season and one another's company over lunch.

Everyone had a wonderful time and enjoyed the holiday celebration.

Putting Leaves on the Staff Recognition Tree

Nancy Anthony is seen in the attached picture putting her named leaf on the staff 'years of service' recognition tree on display at 36 Emperor Street.

Thanks to all staff for your dedication and ongoing support!

Special thanks to **Cindy St. James** for volunteering her time and energy to make her vision of the Staff Recognition Tree a reality.

We could not have done it without you Cindy!



Trip to the Royal Winter Agricultural Fair

The people living at **Harman** house love to plan trips and recently enjoyed a fun filled day at the **Royal Winter Agricultural Fair** in Toronto. Everyone relished feasting on mini cinnamon butter pancakes.

Rocca was all smiles while watching the **sheep dog show**. **Art** noticed how hungry **the cows were** as he watched them grazing. **Jim was amazed at the monster pumpkin** that was part of the gigantic vegetable display.

We hope to go back again next year because **everyone had so much fun!**





From CLAPW H.E.R.O.E.S.

We are the H.E.R.O.E.S. **self-advocate team**. We **advocate** for our **rights** and the rights of others who trust us to be their voice when needed. In 2018, we hosted the **"Bigger Than That"** bullying prevention and empowerment presentation by country-music recording artist **Ryan Laird**. We pride ourselves on giving to the community, so we have **hosted movies** throughout the year and have given to **food drives** and **local**

charities. We volunteered for the **Adopt-A-Senior** program where we filled a Christmas stocking with gifts for a senior. We became partners with the **Kids' Safety Village** in Whitby where we decorated a house for Christmas in the simulated village that is used to teach children **traffic safety skills**. This year, we will **decorate a house in the village** for Easter, Halloween, and Christmas. We have also made a connection with the self-advocate team at **Community Living Durham North** which is called the **"A-Team"**. We had a nice visit with them to share ideas and information on self-advocacy and community connections. They kindly provided us with a pizza lunch, and we invited them to our **H.E.R.O.S. Christmas party**. A good time was had by all at the Christmas party.

Act One Drama Group

The CPP, **Act One Drama Group** welcomed a full house for its **annual Christmas play**. The production was a combination of **Christmas carols**, **Christmas readings** and a short skit titled **"Red Headed Robbie's Christmas Story"**. The CPP individuals chose to have this set-up for this year and also brought in the readings and song choices themselves. The skit was about a young boy who has a problem with public speaking getting chosen to write and present a

Christmas story at the school assembly. He decides to seek the help of his fellow classmates on what he should write about. In doing so, he accidentally ends up giving his own advice to his friends and proves that he is the one that understands the **true meaning of Christmas**. The drama program is sponsored by **Ontario Power Generation**, and the group received an official certificate from the **Town of Ajax** which was **presented by Ajax Ward 1 Local Councillor, Rob Tyler Morin**.



Annual CLAPW Christmas Tree Decorating Party

The Community Living Ajax-Pickering and Whitby **Annual Christmas Tree Decorating Party** was lots of **fun** and **well attended**. Party **participants** enjoyed placing **Christmas ornaments** on the tree. **Festivities** were held at the Emperor Street office and included **tasty Christmas treats**. Lots of people came out to celebrate the event, including jolly old St. Nicholas.

Check out the great pictures below of Santa and all his CLAPW friends!



Sp Adobe Spark

Thank you to our 2018 Sponsors for their generous donations!

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