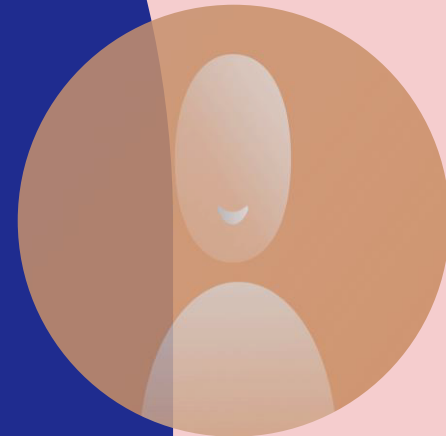


# **FAMILY AS PARTNERS YEAR 3**

**Dec. 17, 2025**



# WELCOME!

This Family as Partners Group was established in September 2023. I am still excited about my role as the Parent Lead of this group, especially since I get to work closely with Wendy Holliday! Wendy is now in her 41<sup>st</sup> year as an employee of CLAPW. She has worked tirelessly in many roles, including Emergency Response. Her knowledge and hands-on experience is of immense importance, but it's her unwavering Love for the work that she does that is most valuable.

Not everyone chooses to come to our meetings; some prefer to look at what our meeting postings are online, some participated virtually and some just look at emails that I send out. We also have a Family Group Tab on the CLAPW Webpage.

It is to everyone's advantage for this group to grow. A family does not need to be connected to CLAPW in order to participate, so if you know of anyone in the Durham Region that you want to reach out to, please feel free to do so.

# Family Group

## Our Vision

The Community Living Family Group will enable family members of youth, adults, and seniors, who have an intellectual disability explore options for creating a good life in the community.

Members of the group will hear from guest speakers including parents from across the province who have established unique and creative support options.

Members of the group will learn about available community resources, supports, and will be supported through exploring options for their loved ones.

The family members participating in this program will learn about available community resources and planning tools and techniques available to support their loved ones. This information will be shared by a variety of sources including other parents and caregivers who have planned successfully for their family member.

**We want to empower families to seek information and explore creative options for helping their loved ones to be fully engaged in the life of the community whether that is through work, recreation, or home life.**



## **JACKIE STEWART - PRESENTER**

Jackie shared with us, the story of her sister Tricia; who has Down Syndrome. After living with Jackie's family for many years, it became apparent about a year ago that Tricia was experiencing the onset of dementia. After many tests and Doctor's consultations, this diagnosis was confirmed.

As time progressed it was evident that to keep Tricia safe, she could no longer live with her sister.

When situations change and a loved one can no longer reside where they had been currently living, this requires notification to various agencies. DSO is one and ODSP is another.

The next step was to determine where Tricia could reside. Because of her diagnosis, a place where she would get the best help would be a Long Term Care facility. This is due to their experience in providing care to patients suffering from dementia.

After choosing 5 facilities within Durham Region, the family waited to see where a vacancy would emerge. After 3 weeks the call came and a facility close by had a space available.

Moving day is extremely difficult for a family. We all believe our loved one is best suited to living with family. After all, we know them best!

After getting Trisha settled it was time to leave. Guilt is such a strong emotion and I believe it can sometimes overpower us into thinking we did something wrong.

However, it didn't take long to see how Tricia thrived in her new environment. Even though she shares a room with another resident, she adapted very well and they get along. Tricia's program suits her to a tee! Plenty of activities keep her busy and very happy. Best of all, Family can visit at any time!

A year later now, and Tricia is still improving in her new location. She adapted better than expected to her new home, and everyone is relaxed.

# P4P Planning Network

## COMING UP

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Wednesday

Jan 14  
2026

7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

### **Intro to the ODSP**

This webcast features expert Graeme Treeby, who will provide an overview of the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP).

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Wednesday

Jan 21  
2026

7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

### **Wills and Estate Planning**

Find out how a will and estate plan can ensure that your loved one has a secure future.

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Wednesday

Jan 21  
2026

12:00-1:00 pm

### **Introduction to the RDSP - January 21**

Learn about the RDSP, a made-in-Canada, long-term savings vehicle designed specifically for individuals who have a disability.

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**Next Meeting:**

**Wednesday, January 21, 2026**

**6:00 - 8:00pm**

**36 Emperor Street, Ajax**





# **THANK YOU !**

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&

Wendy Holliday

Community Living Ajax,  
Pickering and Whitby (CLAPW)