Hope.Help.Home.

Annual Report
2023 | 2024

Community Living VICTORIA

CELEBRATING 69 YEARS

Community Living
VICTORIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2022 | 23

CONTENTS

69 Years of Service 1

Message from Our President 2

Message from Our Executive Director 3

Financial Information 5

Our Services 5

- Community Homes 6
  - Home Share 7
  - SAL (Supported Apartment Living) 7
  - SIL (Supported Independent Living) 8
- Community Support 10
  - Family Support 10
  - Parent Support 11
  - Host Agency 12
- Community Inclusion 13
  - Community Access Program 13
  - Satellite 14
  - Reflections 14
  - Peninsula 15
- Employment Services 15
- Youth Services 16
  - Teen Community Connections 16

Message from Our Foundation President 18

Thank You to Our Supporters Back cover

DIRECTORS

Mike Chadwick – PRESIDENT
Karen Mearns – VICE PRESIDENT
Tony Earle
Randi Falls
Joanne Finnegan
Cyndi Fournier
Irene Ives
Andrea Jarman
Spyro Kindylides
Susan Ko
Leslie Laird
April Proud-Love
Sal Ruffolo
Phillip Twyford

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Mike Jensen – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jeff Cook – FINANCE DIRECTOR
Donna Washington – HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR
Shauna Perkins – QUALITY ASSURANCE DIRECTOR
Erin Cowderoy – PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Crystelle Jensen – PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Corey Krahn – PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Mona Safaei – PROGRAM DIRECTOR

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Wendy-Sue Andrew
Roy Easterbrook
Jane Holland
Joan Kjargaard
John Stevenson
Linette Baker
Cathy Macdonald
Ellen Tarshis

69 Years of Service

Community Living Victoria supports people with intellectual disabilities together with their families, support networks and the community by promoting full citizenship.

On December 16, 1955, a group of dedicated parents founded what is now called Community Living Victoria. Today, as the largest, not-for-profit, community living service provider on Vancouver Island, Community Living Victoria provides a range of support services to children, youth and adults with intellectual disabilities, and to their families.

QUALITY OF LIFE MATTERS

All of Community Living Victoria's services focus on supporting people to have access to a full range of life choices. We are committed to the principles of community living. These include:

- **Respect** for the uniqueness, dignity and worth of each individual;
- **Recognition** of each person's need for self-determination, personal happiness and satisfaction; and for
- **A meaningful life** where their gifts and contributions are valued.

Working Together, Making a Difference

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Mike Chadwick
CLV BOARD PRESIDENT

Well, 2023–24 has been a very busy year for Community Living Victoria (CLV).

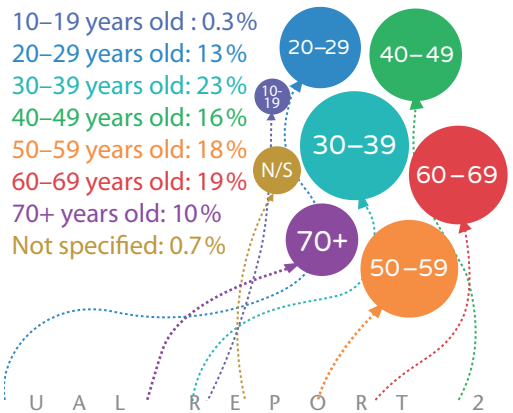
Our Executive Director Mike Jensen has completed 18 months at the helm and has performed at an exceptional level. He has navigated an amalgamation with Twin Oaks, hired almost a completely new management team and led CLV through a comprehensive Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) Review. The CARF process evaluates CLV's performance in over 1,200 standards and upon completion of the process over three days, there was not one recommendation made for improvement in any area. Such an accomplishment occurs in only 3% of the hundreds of reviews that CARF conducts. Annually. The evaluators spoke highly of the organization's strengths that value commitment and dedication of staff and made special note of the leadership of Mike as a "strategic leader and consummate communicator." Beyond his demonstrated skills as noted, Mike is passionately dedicated to the people we support and has been for almost 30 years.

To put it simply, he is an outstanding leader and role model for the organization and has the complete confidence of the entire board of directors to take this organization into the future with great success.

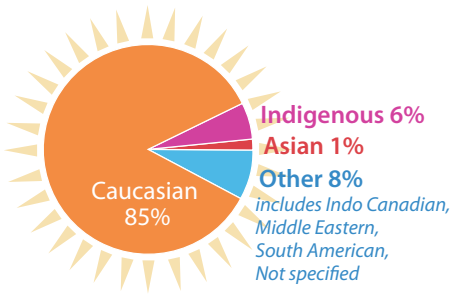
The board looks forward to working with Mike over the next few years as CLV navigates the potential for development of the property at 3861 Cedar Hill Cross Road. Working with Ma'kola Housing Development, Mike will be exploring the opportunity to create affordable housing options for the folks we support as well as others in our community, in addition to space for programming and office operations. The Board congratulates Mike on taking on such a worthwhile project, one that will provide significant benefits.

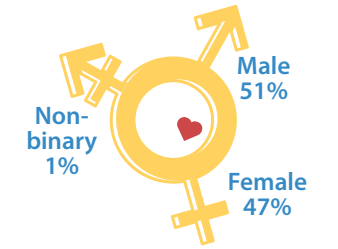
WE CURRENTLY SUPPORT 336 PEOPLE

CLV COMMUNITY BY AGE GROUP



HOW OUR COMMUNITY IDENTIFIES





Not specified/prefer not to say 1%

I want to thank the board of directors for all that they do throughout the year. You are a very dedicated group and I value and depend on your input, insight and counsel. I particularly want to thank Joanne Finnegan and Karen Mearns in their role as past president and vice president. Your wisdom, support and guidance has been invaluable to me personally and to the board as a whole. I also want to acknowledge Irene Ives, Leslie Laird and Randi Falls for their work on the Executive Director Evaluation Committee; to Cyndi Fournier and Leslie for their work on the reviews of our Policy Governance Manual; and to Andrea Jarman for her review of our Bylaws. You are all so engaged and committed to making our group just that much better through your contributions.

I was happy to welcome April Proudlove, Philip Twyford, Spyro Kindylides and Susan Ko to the Board this year and look forward to working with them over the next few years, leveraging their knowledge, skills and abilities to CLV's benefit.

It is with regret that we must say good-bye to Tony Earle who has completed another term on the Board, having started in 2004. I particularly appreciated your participation on the ED selection committee and all that you have brought to the board over the years.

Last but certainly not least, thanks to the membership for your support of the past year. You are the reason Community Living Victoria exists and the reason the board so willingly carries on supporting the people we all care about so profoundly.

Respectfully,

Mike Chadwick
Board President

UPDATE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mike Jensen,
CLV EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This past year, we have seen many exciting changes at Community Living Victoria (CLV.)

CLV has a vibrant new management team that brings with it a wealth of experience and passion to our work. This includes supporting people with intellectual disabilities, coaching teams and embracing technology to improve efficiencies which in turn enables us to spend more time with the people we support. I am honoured to work with this dedicated and committed team every day. Together we plan to bring CLV into the future while honouring our past.

On August 1, 2023, we celebrated the one-year anniversary of Twin Oaks joining the CLV family. Previously operated by the Victoria Community Resources Society, Twin Oaks is home to nine individuals living in two side-by-side homes. It has been a privilege getting to know the individuals, their families and the employees over the past year as they integrate into the CLV community.

In September, Mona Safaei joined the senior management team as a program director overseeing some of our community homes. Mona has worked with CLV for the past 17 years and was the supervisor of our Tyndall home. Mona has strong relationships with many of the people we support along with their families and has made a wonderful addition to the team.

At right, CLV's leadership team

In November, CLV hired a dedicated fundraiser. Supported by our Foundation board, Colleen Youngblut officially became CLV's manager of philanthropy. Colleen brings over 17 years of fundraising expertise and is working to raise CLV's profile and boost our fundraising efforts. (More on that can be found in our Foundation president's report.)

CLV completed its seventh accreditation survey June 5–7. While the intention of accreditation is to ensure that CLV meets all the required standards necessary to continue to receive CLBC funding, it is also an opportunity to showcase all the great work that we do in our community.

I am happy to report that out of over 1,200 standards, CLV did not receive one recommendation! This is a huge accomplishment, and I am so proud of everyone for their dedication not only in preparing for the survey but for the work we do every single day.

The surveyors heard repeatedly from individuals and families how satisfied and confident they are with our services. Words like "trust," "acceptance," "a place of belonging" and "safe" were mentioned over and over. This speaks to the ongoing commitment we have at CLV to the people we support to live as independently as possible and to receive services in a way that works best for them.

In June 2023, we hired a new director of quality assurance. Shauna Perkins has worked with CLV over the past year on a temporary basis and was instrumental in guiding us through the accreditation process. Shauna is now a permanent director with CLV. Shauna brings a wealth of experience, passion and knowledge of the community living movement to her role and we were excited to have her join our team on a permanent basis.

Our 2021–2024 strategic plan has provided guidance and influenced our work over the last three years.

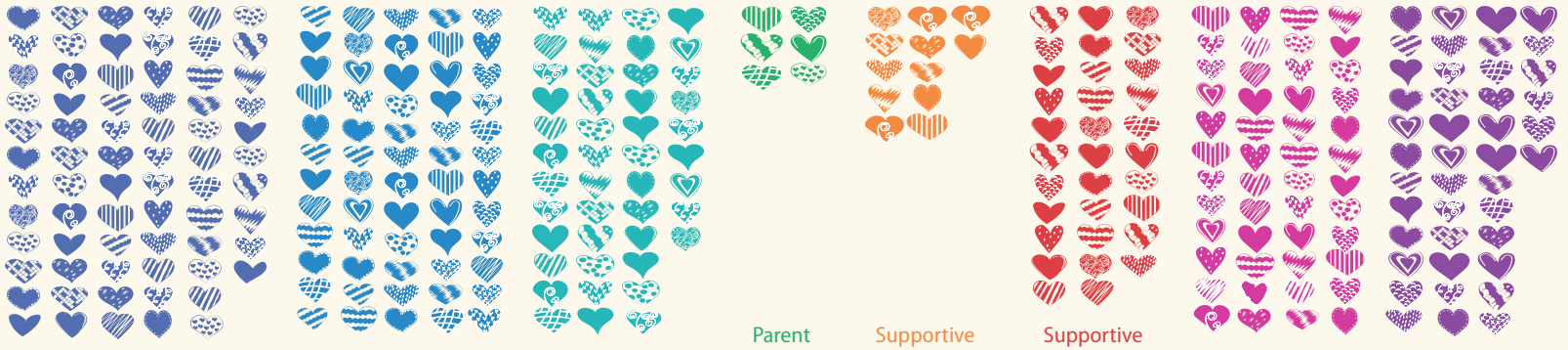
The four strategic directions set in 2021 included the principles that:

- People get the support they need and in the way they want it;
- People live in safe and affordable housing of their choice;
- CLV has a stable and diverse workforce; and,
- CLV is a leader in the provision of sustainable and innovative services.

CLV PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Community Living Victoria helps many people in the community, providing services and supports that match their unique abilities and interests. Here are the details of our services and community demographics as of December 31, 2023

** Totals do not include family support and youth services*



Community Homes (CH) 70 people / 22%

Community Inclusion (CI) 60 people / 19%

Employment Services (ES) 45 people / 14%

Parent Support Program (PSP) 6 people / 2%

Supportive Apartment Living (SAL) 12 people / 4%

Supportive Independent Living (SIL) 32 people / 10%

Home Share 48 people / 15%

Host Agency 42 people / 13%

We have continued to focus on the accessibility needs in our homes and programs and have provided equipment and adaptations to meet people's needs as they age. We are now looking to replace some of our homes with ranchers to improve accessibility in the near future.

We have re-established a connection with Makola Housing Development to submit a proposal to develop a residential building on CLV's main site. You may recall we submitted a proposal in 2020 to build a 41-unit apartment building on the property. Unfortunately, we were not successful in obtaining the funding through BC Housing. With the current mandate for municipalities to increase affordable housing options, we are hopeful and expect our next proposal will be successful. We met with the mayor of Saanich in April who supported the project in principle and now we are exploring options to densify the project to potentially 60 units on the property along with CLV's office and programming space. Work has begun with Makola to identify funding options with the goal of submitting a new proposal to BC Housing during their funding call in January 2025.

We have hired a number of new employees over the past year throughout all levels of the organization.

While we continue to hire on a regular basis, we are fortunate to have a committed, stable and diverse workforce that supports individuals with dedication and passion. Thank you to each and every one of you for the commitment and relationships you have with the people we support. Without you, CLV would not be able to do the great work we do every day.

Our next strategic planning session is scheduled for October 2024 which will help guide our work for the next three years.

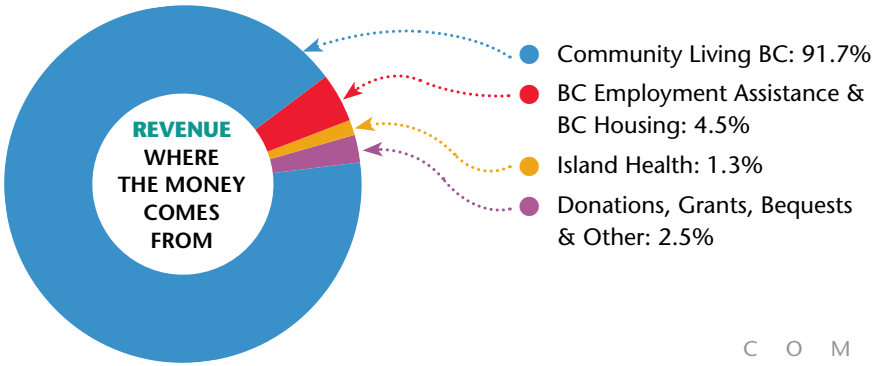
In 2023, we received a grant from the Canadian Red Cross Rapid Relief Program. The funding has been used to create a training program to enhance our orientations in our homes and programs. This has enabled staff who showed interest in professional development to participate in a training program that enables them to provide thorough and consistent orientations to new employees in our homes and programs. A big thank you to Danielle Dowling who really created and facilitated this project.

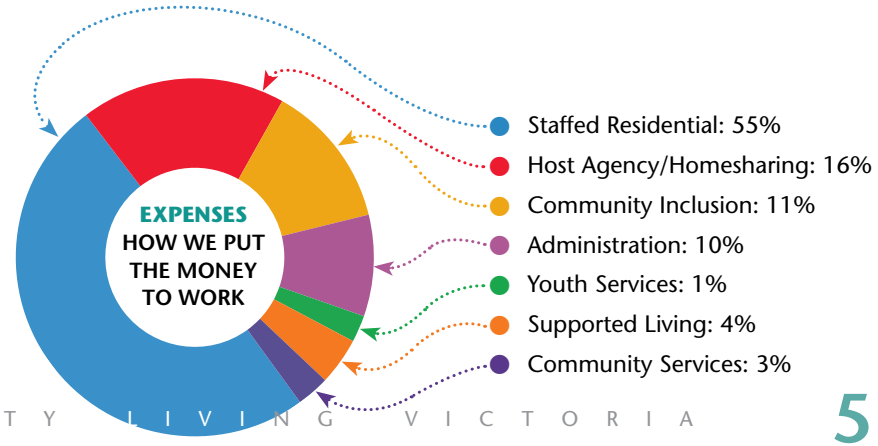
In February of this year, in collaboration with Inclusion BC, we hosted an employment network breakfast which included various service providers from the South Island along with inclusive employers. The intention of the forum was to promote inclusive hiring among employers to gain an understanding of the benefits to employers when they hire someone with an intellectual disability. In collaboration with Inclusion BC, we also launched CLV's employer of the year video which highlights MOD Pizza in the West Shore who won our employer of the year award in 2023. Thank you to Caileigh Swann, CLV's employment coordinator for spear heading these initiatives.

As we look forward to the next year, we are excited to continue our mission of supporting people with intellectual disabilities to live their best lives. We are grateful for the dedication and resilience of our staff, volunteers, donors, and community partners who make our work possible. We are also proud of the achievements and contributions of the people we support, who inspire us every day. Thank you for being part of our CLV family and for sharing our vision of a diverse and inclusive society.

Mike Jensen
Executive Director, Community Living Victoria

Financial Information 2023/2024





Our Services

Community Homes

CLV provides support for 70 individuals in 17 Community Homes spread throughout the Greater Victoria Area. We provide caring and supportive environments to help people live as independently as possible. Our staff go above and beyond to ensure a meaningful quality of life for everyone.

This year we continued doing what CLV loves most—celebrating our people! Our homes hosted birthday and Christmas parties, BBQs and other events throughout the year. We have done some renovations, painting and sprucing up yards. Here is a sampling of some of the activities.

Lindsay Home made significant updates to the front of the house. Several old, prickly bushes were removed to make way for peach trees, raspberries and blueberries to be planted. This yard reno also allowed for a wider, much-needed parking area in the front of the house. Wanderlust residents Connie, who enjoyed a Disney Cruise to Hawai`i this year, and Yvonne renewed their passports in hopes of planning new adventures.

The Jeffree gang enjoys daytime adventures on a regular basis. Visits to Butchart Gardens, picnics, mini golf, thrifting in Sidney, bowling, and swimming are just some of the activities they enjoy. A visit to a local farm is a favourite outing where the guys enjoy spending time with horses, goats, pigs and chickens.

They take great joy in social events on their deck with the new patio furniture and they are also busy socializing in community. Monthly music sessions with Cam are always a highlight where the gang sings and dances along.

Some folks from Marin Park, Jeffree and Brock Homes went on an incredible vacation taking the HeliJet to Seattle, then the train to Portland. It was an amazing adventure where they spent time at Great Wolfe Lodge, rode dune buggies over the sand dunes in Oregon, went horseback riding and, of course, enjoyed some delectable meals on various patios. A great time was had by all!

Sadly, we said goodbye to one individual who passed away at our Tyndall Home. We were privileged to support this individual to the end of his life. A big thank you to the Tyndall team who provided great support and comfort to the individual, his family, the other folks in the home—and to each other.

This created a rare vacancy in one of CLV's homes. We were pleased to welcome Ellen Tarshis's brother Lee to the Tyndall family, while honouring all the work and advocacy that Ellen has done for CLV. Ellen has transitioned from being CLV's executive director to being a family member.

CLV's community homes are places where people with diverse abilities can live fulfilling and meaningful lives. The homes offer personalized support, friendship, and opportunities for growth and learning. The individuals enjoy a variety of activities and experiences, both in their homes and in the wider community. They have the chance to express their preferences, goals and dreams, to be heard and respected. CLV's community homes are more than just houses, they are families.

HOME SHARE

Home Share supports individuals in home-sharing arrangements, enabling them to choose a living arrangement that is specifically designed to meet their needs and lifestyle preferences. It also provides opportunities to establish meaningful relationships and social connections within their communities.

David and Shelley have been roommates in Home Share for over 17 years. They've celebrated many special moments together. David is a spirited guy who works hard during the day at his Community Inclusion Program. However, when evening comes, he and Shelly unwind together over weekly dinner dates with their friends, exploring various restaurants and enjoying diverse tasty meals.

David is all about meat, while Shelly leans toward vegetarian options. Together, they make a great dinner duo, especially when the weather is nice and they can enjoy a pizza on the Sidney Pier.

They are good partners in other ways. David loves the wind and Shelley loves to explore new places in her Jeep. Driving with the windows down is both stimulating and fun for both of them.

The biggest highlight of the year was a two-week trip to Cancun last winter. It was David's first time traveling internationally as well as his first time on a plane. He was cautious, eyeing the pool for ten days. But then, out of the blue, he took the plunge and jumped in! Shelly's heart raced a little as he broke free from his usual rigidity. The trip was such a success that they're already planning another winter getaway.

SUPPORTED APARTMENT LIVING

Supported Apartment Living (SAL) assists individuals seeking independent living who still require regular supports. CLV provides budgeting assistance, meal planning, cooking ideas and helps people achieve their goals. SAL participants rent their own apartment in a building that is located directly across from a mall. Some participants own condos but everyone lives in close proximity, emphasizing the community aspect of SAL. The ideal location offers easy access to grocery shopping, banking, medical clinics, pharmacies and five main bus routes. SAL provides day-time assistance but no overnight support.

James' Story

"I had a dream to live on my own for a very long time. My parents were nervous about my idea. They said they didn't think I could make it on my own and that I was not ready.

"Finally, they were convinced and were able to support my dream. We met with my CLBC (Community Living B.C.) facilitator, and I was placed on the SAL waitlist. I was able to come for a visit with my parents when an opening came up. I was finally able to live my dream to live on my own and I moved into my own apartment.

"At first, I didn't have anything. My family helped me get some furniture like a TV, sofa, table, chairs, bed and dishes.

"My first night felt good, but I also missed my family. It was still hard to leave my parents.

"I had to adjust my lifestyle schedule to fit in learning independent living skills with my SAL support time. I found learning to cook, cleaning and doing laundry challenging since my parents used to do all that for me. Now I am learning to do all of that myself. I don't like to do dishes, but I like having a clean kitchen!

"It can be hard to get used to living alone, I can get lonely. The best part of living independently for me is the friendships I've formed at SAL. We head out together, they drop by my place for visits, and there's no curfew for how late I can stay out. Plus, whenever

I need assistance or have inquiries, there's always someone available to help me at the SAL program, including the staff and my friends.

"But I also enjoy the freedom and independence that living on my own gives me. I can make my own decisions, explore new things, and pursue my goals and dreams. I have grown a lot since I moved out of my parents' house, and I am proud of myself for overcoming the challenges that I faced. I am happy with my life at SAL, and I look forward to what the future holds for me."

SUPPORTED INDEPENDENT LIVING

CLV's Supported Independent Living Program (SIL) assists 30 individuals weekly, providing support in their homes and community. Our work in SIL is founded on the principle that everyone deserves to live with dignity, make personal choices, and direct their own lives. We aim to meet the changing needs of our participants as they proceed through the stages of their adult lives by focusing on skill development, problem solving, peer support, self-advocacy, self-determination, equal access, and individual and systems advocacy. The flexible support hours can be used for attending medical appointments, managing personal finances, visiting the food bank, or improving conflict resolution skills to confidently handle difficult conversations with landlords or supervisors. Additionally, we manage subsidies through BC Housing to provide affordable housing options.

Dustin is a 45-year-old man in the SIL program who self-identifies as someone with Asperger's and credits his location on the autism spectrum for his musical talent.

His love for music was evident from a very young age. At just three years old, Dustin was singing children's hit songs like "Baby Beluga" and "Frère Jacques." By the age of five, Dustin accompanied his mother—a piano and voice teacher—on stage. They sang in bars, pubs, and lounges, where his mom was playing. "They used to bring me down in my pajamas, and I would sing on my mom's speaker, songs like 'On the Road Again' and songs from Boy George's Culture Club. I'd sing three songs, get money thrown at me, and leave with around $75 in my pocket," Dustin muses.

Dustin's mother played a pivotal role in fostering his musical talent. She taught him four fundamental chords on the guitar, which served as a springboard for his self-taught musical journey. "My mom taught me four chords on guitar, and then I taught myself everything else after that. I wrote thousands of songs over the years. I used to

write at least three to four songs a week, constantly." Dustin's musical compositions extend beyond writing lyrics, as he also writes the accompanying music. "Autism is like my talent. I can hear music, understand harmonies, and know how I want a song done. I can play almost any song by ear, and it's just natural for me."

Throughout high school, music was Dustin's main hobby. He was in the school choir and was the highest soprano of all the girls and earned a music scholarship at Selkirk Secondary. After high school, at the age of 19, Dustin joined Stage Work Productions. This was a stage work production class that paid its participants for acting and creating skits. He saved money from that and eventually moved to Penticton and met a guy, Cass McRae, on the beach while playing guitar. They started writing songs together, and two months later, they were on the road travelling across Canada.

After nine and a half months, through snow and winter, they ended up in Halifax. Dustin stayed and lived there for three years. During that time, he was on Much Music and made several TV appearances in Quebec and Halifax. Dustin also appeared on Breakfast Television—a morning show—multiple times. His career kept growing, and he was starting to get recognized, especially when in Vancouver in his late 20s. Dustin played in various venues like the Roxy, Immediate Club, Railway Club, and Backstage Lounge, focusing mostly on his original music rather than cover tunes. Dustin has even opened for Tegan and Sarah, Wide Mouth Mason, and several other big names.

Dustin's autism has significantly contributed to his remarkable musical abilities, but it can occasionally present challenges in his social interactions. For instance, he may unintentionally speak impulsively without considering the potential consequences, leading to misunderstandings and a loss of friends.

To help him better understand and navigate social situations, Dustin relies on the support of his SIL worker. Together, they closely analyze past interactions, identify any communication breakdowns, and develop strategies to improve his social skills. This collaborative approach enables Dustin to build stronger, more meaningful relationships with others and continue to thrive in both his personal and professional life. Dustin can also depend on SIL to help him understand his feelings and for advice on how to approach a situation he's having trouble navigating. In short, while Dustin's autism can pose social challenges, the support he receives from SIL empowers him to enhance his interpersonal communication skills and foster deeper connections with those around him.

In addition to his love for music, Dustin has another passion: playing hockey. He is exceptionally skilled at the sport and recently accepted a new role as the equipment manager for a junior A hockey team based in the Westshore. This position allows him to learn about the logistics and procedures involved in managing a sports team.

Balancing his musical pursuits and his new job in the hockey world, Dustin's journey serves as an inspiring example of determination and adaptability. His story is a testament to the idea that talent and passion can lead to incredible achievements, regardless of the challenges or obstacles that may arise. By embracing his autism and pursuing his dreams, Dustin continues to make a lasting impact on both the music and hockey communities.

Community Support

FAMILY SUPPORT

Family Support (FS) continues to be in high demand and remains a vital service in our community. A steady growth in the complexity of challenges families are facing and a need for advocacy across multiple systems to bridge gaps in service persist. Families remain the primary source of referrals, and youth in transition have represented over 80 percent of the complex support needs requiring advocacy this year.

In 2023, the program directly supported 109 families, fielded over 240 phone calls and reached over 1000 people with our monthly newsletter and social media. FS currently consists of one worker.

In addition to supporting families and individuals directly, FS builds partnerships and works with the community. This year, we were awarded $80,000 from Inclusion BC to lead community engagement sessions in conjunction with community partners. This provided the opportunity for service providers, families, and individuals to engage in meaningful and inclusive conversations about how to create a better network of services and supports for children and youth with support needs and their families.

The feedback was helpful. Families clearly identified what they feel would be useful moving forward:

- More education and information on resources readily available to families;
- More community options and varied options for supports and activities in the community;
- Increased flexibility and collaboration across systems, intake processes and service delivery to improve access to services and ensure they be more person-centred; especially for those people who "fall between the cracks".
- "There needs to be a medium-term care plan for kids in crisis, and for which kids can qualify for or don't have to wait months for."
- "Options for housing and more life skills training."

The results from all the conversations will be part of a report to the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) with the expectation that all community reports will inform the future of services for children and youth with support needs (CYSN) in BC. These engagements covered the Saanich Peninsula, Southern Gulf Islands, Victoria/ Great Victoria, West Shore/ Sooke and surrounding areas.

In response to the growing family and individual need for supports navigating and advocacy for supports through complex situations, increased requests for supporting youth in transition and housing, CLV Family Support has been involved in the following initiatives:

- Together with Inclusion BC and the Advocate for Service Quality, we developed a workshop on advocacy within complex systems which was presented at the 2024 U of T Annual Canadian Health and Wellbeing in Developmental Disabilities Conference as well as the Inclusion BC Conference.
- We joined the BC Housing Victoria Community Partner Meetings related to supporting those unhoused to find accommodations.
- We worked with School District 61 to update youth transition resources to adulthood which will be shared with all school districts as a tool for families and youth planning transition supports.

In response to the growing need of support among people with complex needs who are struggling to access services, CLV FS continues to co-ordinate conversations across multiple systems to ensure family and individual voices are at the center of all planning.

We are grateful to our Foundation for their ongoing commitment to raise funds for this program as well as to the BC Community Gaming Grant, Santa's Anonymous and McAdams Foundation funds that enabled us to continue to provide information, resources, advocacy and support in a variety of areas important to our individuals and families.

"I am so grateful for Family Support who has been on this journey with me and my daughter, advocating for supports as my daughter transitioned from hospital and out of high school. I don't know where I would be without the amazing social workers, medical and community supports who came together. Hard to believe just one year ago, she was on life support! Thank you to her entire community team!"

PARENT SUPPORT PROGRAM

Our Parent Support Program (PSP) offers long-term, in-home support to parents with intellectual disabilities residing in Greater Victoria. We provide hands-on assistance and skills training to help parents meet the diverse needs of their families. This includes guidance in child development, age-appropriate play, as well as home and community safety. Additionally, we connect families with community resources and assist them in navigating government, education, and health systems.

Since April 2023, our new PSP coordinator, Alyssa Strohschein, has been building trusting and supportive relationships with the six families enrolled in the program. Many of these families have been supported by the program and worked with the previous coordinator, Kelly Fells, for several years. Despite the challenges that transitions can bring, these families have adjusted well to the support provided by the new coordinator.

The PSP recognizes the significant challenges posed by the rising cost of living in Victoria. A key focus of our program has been to access resources and financial support to assist parents in meeting their family's needs and maintaining access to activities and opportunities. This year, we connected parents with various community agencies that offer free or low-cost supports tailored to their needs. These include Beacon Community Services and the Umbrella Society for counseling, 1 UP Single Parent Resource for multiple resources, and the Mustard Seed for food support and Christmas hampers. When community and government resources were insufficient to meet urgent needs, CLV's Foundation stepped in to cover costs, such as funding a costly emergency dental procedure for a parent, a procedure that would otherwise have been financially prohibitive.

In addition to supporting parents through various challenges, the PSP program places a strong emphasis on providing opportunities for parents and their children to enjoy fun and joyful experiences together.

CLV's "Reach for the Sun" and "Reach for the Stars" campaigns have played a crucial role in providing families with opportunities to engage in activities that may be challenging on a tight budget. For example, one parent used campaign funding to take their children on a trip to the famous West Edmonton Mall, while another family enjoyed a fun day taking in the

Saanich Fair. Another parent was thrilled to use funds to treat her entire family, including significant others, to a special meal.

Furthermore, PSP has supported parents in accessing sporting grants such as JumpStart funding, enabling three children in the program to play volleyball, gymnastics and soccer at little to no cost to their parents.

Additionally, PSP facilitated a parent's purchase of painting supplies to reconnect with a hobby that brought her immense joy and inspiration in the past.

Through these efforts, PSP remains dedicated to supporting parents and their families through challenges, while also fostering opportunities for them to experience joy and togetherness.

HOST AGENCY

Our Host Agency service works in partnership with individuals and families who have chosen to receive Individualized Funding (IF) from CLBC. IF enables people to choose the supports and services they need at a time that works best for them with the people they choose to provide the supports. This means they can create options and choices that suit their lifestyle and preferences.

Matthew joined the Host Agency program in 2009. Over the years, this has provided him with the opportunity to be a part of the community in various ways, including volunteering. Currently, he serves at Soap for Hope, an organization that repurposes items, primarily from hotels, and distributes them to community facilities serving people in need. Matthew often brings his fellow volunteers treats on holidays, appreciated by everyone.

He also continues to volunteer at CanAssist, as he has for over a decade. Once a paper shredder, his position evolved as digitalization changed the work environment. Now, he takes care of plants and continues to add more greenery to the office, increasing calm and adding ambience— and, of course, to give himself more plants to water!

CanAssist is a program at UVIC that develops innovative technologies and programs where there are gaps in existing services. It works with students and people in the wider community who have disabilities.

Thanks to the involvement of his support workers and family over the years, Matthew can participate in many of these opportunities. He remains in contact with past support workers who live nearby and as far away as Ireland, as well as those he continually meets and greets while he is out, underlining the importance of this program in developing relationships.

Matthew and his current support worker, Claire, have now been together for two years. Matthew and Claire spend their time together walking, playing games, crafting, going to special events or doing things they enjoy. Claire also accompanies Matthew on various errands and encourages him to do things as independently as possible, such as communicating with others, sometimes through text, pictures, or using different words or, when needed, by pointing. She encourages Matthew to explore and learn new skills, and with help from the transit app, he navigates their path and journey himself, building confidence and self-esteem.

Matthew's goals over the years have frequently involved activities that he loves and being a part of the community. Each year, he has been able to meet these objectives with the support of his Host Agency workers. This year, he wants to volunteer at the Beacon Hill Petting Zoo, and the other is to ride his new recumbent bike to music in the park. Both of these goals are driven by what Matthew wants to do and are new ways for him to connect to the community he loves. There is no doubt he will succeed with his determination and support of the Host Agency program.

COMMUNITY INCLUSION

Community Living Victoria operates four Community Inclusion programs: the Community Access Program (CAP), Satellite, Reflections and the Peninsula Community Inclusion program. Each program is tailored to the specific support needs of the participants with opportunities for community inclusion, learning new skills and spending time with friends.

CLV's community Inclusion programs offer participants the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities both at our locations and in the community. Many of the people attending these programs have done so for over 20 years. The special bonds people have are another form of family we have at CLV. Many people enjoy spending time with their peers encouraging each other to learn new things and try new activities.

We have had many new people join these programs over the past year. This new cohort has brought some fresh ideas and goals to the program which enables all the participants to expand their experiences and try new activities while still enjoying some of their old favourites.

Community Access Program (CAP)

As CAP has moved along through the past year, the team has put a focus on "one-off" activities that offer opportunities for our folks outside of our traditional programming.

Although we are a Community Inclusion program (CI), the team has worked to support our participants beyond what would customarily be expected of a CI program. We have taken individuals on vacation (to Parksville) and supported another participant to reconnect with his family who lives out of town (in Cowichan).

We visited the Centre of the Universe Observatory and had a wonderful tour led by Alex, one of CLV's casual staff team members. We've gone, as a program, to play Mini Golf, for a tour of the Saanich Police station, and have followed David's passion for trains up to the BC Forestry Museum. Shelly received a promotion from her position as CAP secretary (a position she has retained) to that of an ambassador of CLV, a new source of pride as she was able to shine, through CLV's recent CARF accreditation touring the accreditors through the program.

Patrick and Chloe, with occasional participation from other CAP members, embarked on a new volunteer opportunity as they worked with Kiaora Stables for a three-month period. Chloe loved her job brushing the horses and Patrick, always the chore-loving man, reveled in his jobs cleaning the barns.

Our holiday parties continued to grow with PJ Day and Halloween party, and its very messy candy apple station, being huge highlights.

As we move forward, our folks are looking forward to continuing the reconnections with other programs, especially with our Satellite CI program.

Satellite

Based out of Esquimalt, the Satellite gang enjoys a variety of exciting adventures on a regular basis. The individuals participate in monthly planning meetings to discuss what activities they would like to engage in over the coming month. As a result, the gang has enjoyed some great adventures. One of the highlights was touring the police and fire hall stations. The group enjoyed learning about the different aspects of their jobs and more importantly got to sit inside a fire truck and spray the fire hoses! At the police station, they got to sit on a police motorcycle and meet a police puppy in training. The group also planned an Alice in Wonderland high tea-themed party. This included enjoying a variety of high tea goodies and sandwiches while watching

the Alice in Wonderland movie. Everyone wore fancy handmade hats and ties that they made in the program. A trip to the "Crazy Cookie House" in Metchosin is always a favourite activity where they walk along a fairy-tale path towards the crazy cookie house where they pick out a cookie from the various flavours to enjoy.

Whether it is exploring the community, celebrating special occasions, or learning new skills, CLV's community inclusion programs offer a variety of opportunities for people to have fun, make friends, and live their best lives. We are proud of the achievements and experiences of our participants and staff, and we look forward to creating more memories together in the future.

Reflections

Located in the West Shore, Reflections is a Community Inclusion program where the participants all require mobility support. Armed with two accessible vehicles, there is no stopping this group who enjoy all the incredible activities available throughout the Victoria community. They regularly love going bowling and attending Namaste music on Fridays. This year they have spent time working on goals trying out different pubs, going to the Flying Squirrel, touring the fire station and for walks along the Kinsol Trestle and Malahat Skywalk. The gang also enjoyed an exciting day trip over to Tsawwassen Mills and whale watching in the Salish Sea.

The Reflections program is a great example of how mobility support does not limit the possibilities

of community inclusion. The participants have shown their adventurous spirit and enthusiasm for exploring new places and activities. They have also made lasting friendships and memories along the way.

Peninsula Community Inclusion

The Peninsula program is a home-based CI program for some of the individuals who live at Marin Park and Jeffree homes on the Saanich Peninsula. The men enjoy an action-packed schedule of activities such as regular workouts at the gym, swimming, drumming, horseback riding at Kiowa Farm, and monthly music sessions.

Additionally, there are beach walks, scenic drives, hikes, frequent trips to Panorama Recreation Centre, and visits to Butchart Gardens and Victoria Butterfly Gardens. This group have an amazing time together and are eager to participate in new adventures.

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

For more than 30 years, Employment Services has supported people in securing and maintaining jobs. Our employment counsellors work hard to develop strong relationships with employers and employees, resulting in a diverse and inclusive workforce. Through a focus on abilities, not disabilities, people are supported to overcome barriers to obtaining meaningful, gainful employment, ensuring their right to full citizenship in their communities.

Stacey's journey with Community Living Victoria's Employment Services is one of growth and the transformative power of opportunity. A new job can change someone's life in ways they never imagined.

When Stacey first connected with Employment Services, he was working in the warehouse at the Root Cellar. Although the job provided valuable experience, Stacey dreamed of a career that offered a livable wage and job security—something that could provide a stable foundation for his future.

At the same time, CLV was working with the Greater Victoria School District to create unionized custodian positions for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Led by David Loveridge, director of facilities for SD61 at the time, this initiative promised not just jobs, but careers with benefits, union membership, steady pay increases, and a municipal pension—an opportunity for real, lasting stability.

Out of a pool of skilled candidates, Stacey was chosen for the pilot position. His new journey began working 15 hours a week. Stacey channeled his dedication into creating a clean and healthy environment that supported the students' learning. He gained new skills, tackling the challenge of stripping and recoating floors and performing deep cleaning routines. Stacey's unwavering commitment and reliability quickly

earned him the trust and respect of his team. He became a go-to guy, someone who could be counted on to switch gears and move about the different school sites where they needed help most.

Like most workers supported by Employment Services, Stacey faced the complexities of balancing disability income assistance with his earnings. When winter came, he needed to find a second part-time job to supplement his income—a stressful endeavour that needed careful coordination with his custodian hours.

Determined to find a more stable solution, Stacey and Employment Services approached SD61 management to discuss increasing his hours. Mark Baggott, the current director of facilities for SD61, recognized Stacey's dedication and independence. It was suggested that Stacey apply for an eight-hour run when custodial positions renewed on July 1st. In the meantime, they were able to increase his hours, helping him reach his goal of 40 hours per week.

The increased hours brought more than just financial stability; they bolstered Stacey's seniority and pension contributions, securing a brighter future. Stacey embraced the opportunity, showcasing his adaptability and extensive experience across the district's schools. Stacey started thinking about his career growth. A pivotal moment came in May when Stacey spoke with Mark Baggott about what steps he would need to take to apply for a C2 head custodian position.

With support from his management team, Stacey was offered the chance to step out of his current role to try various C2 positions that required backfilling. This hands-on experience provided invaluable insights into the hours and responsibilities of the role. Shortly into the trial, C2 positions became available. Stacey applied and not surprising, was successful. He began his new C2 role on July 2nd at Cedar Hill Middle School, marking a significant milestone in his career journey.

Stacey's story is not just about employment; it's about how a new job can fundamentally change someone's life. His journey with Community Living Victoria's Employment Services shows the power of opportunity and the right support at the right time. Stacey's dedication and growth is paving the way for future job seekers and stands as a beacon of hope and possibility for the entire disability community.

Youth Services

TEEN COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Teen Community Connections (TCC) is an inclusive after-school and day camp program for youth between the ages of 13-18 with intellectual disabilities and autism. Our support helps them make friends, develop social and life skills, and access the community.

It has been another rewarding and memorable year in the TCC program. Through social connections, community engagement, and recreational opportunities; we have seen our teens challenge themselves with new goals, develop meaningful relationships, and enhance their self-confidence.

Through ongoing feedback from participants and staff, our programming this year has included long time hits such as swimming, exploring our favourite parks, mini-golf, and bowling. We have also ventured out to explore new locations including the Malahat Sky Walk, new lakes for summer beach days, and a pinball hall. Our very talented staff have also hosted arts and craft sessions, karaoke parties, and science experiments with our teens.

As more teens have recently moved on to adult programming, our group has become more diversified in age and experience. It is great to watch the new teens encounter our longstanding activities for the

first time and to embrace a new perspective on community involvement.

This year we have retained an amazing staff team that have strong connections with our teens, families, and each other. The support our teens receive has created an important atmosphere of safety and acceptance for all our participants.

Since the summer of 2020, we have used the Garden Centre at Queen Alexandra Centre for Children's Health (QA) as a home base for our school break day camp programs. This location has offered a stable and consistent environment for our youth. They begin and end each day in a comfortable and familiar space and can escape the elements when days get too hot, or too wet. The grounds at QA have provided us with some beautiful backdrops for our activities.

"I do not have so many words to express my gratitude to what you and your team have done, all your care, empathy, support, mentorship, hard work and understanding are very much appreciated."

– TCC parent

The outdoor space has provided us with beach time, basketball, waterplay, and walking trails.

This is our last summer using the space as a new program is growing and developing at QA and will be able to support youth in a dynamic new way within the centre.

Thank you to the administration and staff for opening your doors to us for the past five years. We are so grateful for the opportunity to have been included in the services offered at QA and to be supported by everyone we encountered.

"Your organization is a treat to deal with. I feel really supported as a parent and I see how caring the staff are with the teens and it makes my heart happy."

– TCC parent

A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

Hope. Help. Home.

THE FOUNDATION BOARD

Rob Tagggart,
CLV FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the remarkable progress we have made as an organization. Your unwavering support has been instrumental in our success, and I am delighted to share some of the highlights with you.

WELCOMING OUR NEW MANAGER OF PHILANTHROPY

One of the most significant developments this year was the allocation of funds to hire a full-time fundraiser for Community Living Victoria. In November 2023, we welcomed Colleen Youngblut as CLV's manager of philanthropy. With her wealth of experience, Colleen has been diligently working to raise CLV's profile and enhance our fundraising efforts. Her passion and dedication are already making a positive impact, and we are excited about the future with her on our team.

CLV FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rob Taggart PRESIDENT
Tony Fedun TREASURER
Mike Jensen SECRETARY
Frank Bourree
Jennifer Hartley
Amie Kilgour
Peggy Kulmala
Ken Marriette
Don Taylor
Ron Vincent
Nicole Woods

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND RECOGNITION

We had an exciting lineup of events in 2024, reflecting our commitment to community engagement and support.

January 6–7: Tree Chipping for Charity

At our annual tree chipping, we had an outdoor fire pit along with lots of coffee and donuts, two days of no rain and raised $2,138.10. Thank you volunteers from both boards and to Capital Tree Service Inc.

June 14: CLV BBQ

Our annual BBQ on the grounds at Cedar Hill X-Rd was a resounding success. Approximately 150 people supported by CLV, along with staff, board members, and guests, enjoyed a day of fun and camaraderie. The weather cooperated beautifully, adding to the joy of the event.

July 5: Comedy for a Cause

CLV received excellent community recognition with "Comedy for a Cause" at the Vic Theatre, featuring Curan Dobbs and Friends. Curan, a beneficiary of CLV's Supported Independent Living Program, showcased his talent on Canada's Got Talent last year. He hosted this event with all proceeds supporting our cause, drawing over 125 attendees for a night of laughter and support.

July 13: Walter P Chrysler Car Club Car Show

CLV hosted the inaugural Walter P Chrysler Car Club Car Show on our grounds, and highlighting our profile in the community. This fantastic event allowed attendees to admire more than 20 classic cars while enjoying music, food, and more. Entry was by donation, supporting Community Living Victoria.

November 15: Concert for Hope, Help, Home

I am thrilled to announce the return of singer-songwriter Ria Mae for our 15th Concert for Hope, Help, Home at the McPherson Playhouse on November 15th. Her voice is incredible, her music inspiring, and the show promises to be fun and entertaining. Supporting Canadian artists while raising funds for CLV is always a pleasure. Tickets are now on sale, and this promises to be an unforgettable evening. For more details and ticket purchases, please visit our events page on our website: https://www.communitylivingvictoria.ca/events/a-concert-for-hope-help-home-featuring-ria-mae/.

DIRECT MAIL CAMPAIGNS

Our "Reach for the Sun" and "Reach for the Stars" Campaigns aim to raise $10,000. Our Reach for the Sun campaign raised almost $8,000.00 this summer; while it was just shy of our goals, we thank all donors for their generosity. Over the past three decades, these campaigns have collectively raised more than $177,000, which has been instrumental in empowering the people we support. Our Annual Reach for the Stars campaign will be kicking off in November, so please consider contributing. Every dollar counts towards making meaningful difference in people's lives.

MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM

I am proud to acknowledge the ongoing support of Think Communications for our Matching Grant Program, having completed its fourth year and providing approximately $25,000 in grants. This initiative continues to make a tangible impact on the lives of CLV participants and their families by providing financial assistance in crucial areas such as health, life-limiting conditions, education, and community inclusion.

think
great people. great ideas.

Are you passionate about making a real impact in the community? Community Living Victoria Foundation (CLVF) is seeking dynamic individuals to join our board of directors. As a board member, you'll play a key role in supporting individuals and families with intellectual disabilities by helping us raise the funds that make a difference in their lives.

Joining our board is not just a volunteer opportunity—it's a chance to be part of something bigger, to create meaningful change, and to use your skills and connections to benefit those who need it most. It's also a chance to expand your network with other local business folks. If you're ready to make an impact, we'd love to hear from you! Please reach out to Mike Jensen at mjensen@clvic.ca or myself at rtaggart777@gmail.com.

IN CONCLUSION

I am immensely grateful for the unwavering support of my fellow board members and the Society Board members. Together, we are creating a brighter future for the individuals and families served by Community Living Victoria.

With heartfelt thanks,

Rob Tagggart,
CLV FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

Community Living VICTORIA

CELEBRATING 69 YEARS

We couldn't do it without you.

We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia.

COMMUNITY LIVING BRITISH COLUMBIA

BRITISH COLUMBIA Ministry of Children and Family Development

BC HOUSING

island health

District of Central Saanich

Township of ESQUIMALT

City of Langford

Saanich

CITY OF VICTORIA

think
great people great ideas

ComVida Software ONE SOURCE

KEYCORP DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES

mann

Megson FitzPatrick INSURANCE SERVICES

CO-OP PENINSULA CO-OP

RBC Foundation

MICROSERVE

CIBC

GRANTS

McADAMS Foundation

VICTORIA FOUNDATION

3861 Cedar Hill Cross Road, Victoria, BC V8P 2M7
250-477-7231 250-477-6944
info@clvic.ca www.communitylivingvictoria.ca