



# IN THE NEWS

January 2019

**We're 45!**  
Empowering people with disabilities since 1973.



### Worth 1000 words or more!

Floyd is smiling and showing off his new Nova Scotia Mass Choir t-shirt that he bought at a recent Martin Luther King Tribute Concert.

He and a staff member went with support from Amanda's SMILE Fund.

## Floyd First Beneficiary of Amanda's SMILE

Floyd loves music. He particularly loves gospel music. He will often sing along with music playing on his iPad. He listens to his music when he is happy and perhaps equally as important, he turns to his music when he is feeling sad.

Late last year a staff member saw an advertisement for a Martin Luther King Tribute Concert featuring the Nova Scotia Mass Choir. She asked Floyd if he had ever been to one of their concerts and if he would like to go. The idea delighted him.

Together they completed an application to Amanda's SMILE Fund to help cover the cost for Floyd and a staff member to go to the concert the evening of January 12. It was approved!

This fund was created in celebration of the zest for life that Amanda Robar displayed and to honour her contributions to Bonny Lea Farm.

Amanda's SMILE Fund provides a source of funding to which each participant can apply to receive support, once per year, to achieve an important life experience. Each year Amanda's father, Melvin, hosts a music jam fundraiser in New Germany in support of this fund.

To learn more call Liz at 902-275-5622 ext 241.



**Amanda's SMILE Fund**  
Support for More Individualized Life Experiences



## Participants Team up with local Entrepreneur on Meaningful Work

During the Fall and Winter months some of our work crews slow down. We try to fill this

time with other meaningful work.

This year we were fortunate to connect with New Germany entrepreneur Kacy DeLong and contracted with her to package her beautifully designed pewter ornaments and brooches. A dollar from the sale of each item is donated to the Atlantic Branch of the Kidney Foundation of Canada.

It is the kind of project we look for: one that can be segmented into different parts, so that it can involve participants with differing abilities; portable, which allows other crews to work on it as well; and aligns with our values for social good.

The participants who packaged the ornaments enjoyed having a new and refreshing project. They appreciated the guiding principles of Kacy's work and even had some conversations about kidney disease and organ donation.

The participants take pride in contributing to something they feel helps others in some way. Kacy's business does just that.

*"The eye to detail that the participants took on the project is fantastic."*

- Kacy DeLong, DeLong Designs

Thank you Kacy for believing in what we do. If you have or know of a business that requires packaging of a product, contact Stacey, our Day Program Coordinator at 902-275-5622 ext 234, to see if it is a good fit for our work crews.

## Good Times Gallery



Judy Melvin (left) recently retired after nearly 45 years of service to Bonny Lea Farm. Bonita Church, who has been with us for 45 years, celebrated her 80th birthday! (It's okay, we heard it on CKBW!)

### Seeing Faces in New Places!

The last few months have seen some changes in staff here at Bonny Lea Farm. We are grateful for having such a committed and talented group of people.

**Judy Melvin** retired after working at Bonny Lea Farm for most of our 45 years. She has been a big part of participants' lives and a mentor for many staff. We wish her all the best as she starts this new chapter. **Alex McIntosh**, is the new vocational instructor for the Contracts & Shredding crew.

**Brian Willman** has taken a position with the South Shore Regional Centre for Education and opened Willman's Bakery, which makes cupcakes and cakes. **Matt Hallett** has moved from the Wood Workshop to the HEART program.

**Darcy Houghton** moved to the Robar Room from the Kitchen following the retirement last fall of **Joanne Jellett**.

**Kim Munroe** is leading the Kitchen crew.

**Kevin Wilson** moved from participant support worker to become the vocational instructor for the Wood Workshop.

**Kerry Haley** has joined Day Program as custodian.

**Jane Boutlier**, a residential counsellor for many years, recently retired. Happy days to you Jane!

We welcome **Allan Robertson**, **Maddie Cole** and **Mason Redmond** as participant support workers in residence.

**Glen Carey** has retired as full-time driver from the South Shore Work Activity Program.

Congratulations to everyone on their new roles, responsibilities and, in some cases, retirements!

**"It's been good."**

- Judy

(Honestly, how better could she possibly sum up 44 years!)

**"She kept us busy and laughing."**

- Laurie Anne, Kathy and Sue  
(a few of the Contracts work crew)



Top to Bottom—Joanne worked hard on her IPP goal of baking - resulting in this delicious looking banana chocolate chip loaf! Way to go Jo! Staff member, Linda, met a new friend while she was on holiday. Lao works preparing the cutlery packages for a restaurant in his community and was interested to learn about Bonny Lea Farm. A few participants paused from shooting hoops for us to snap a photo. Our actors are getting ready for their stage debut with "Something in the Air", which they will perform at the Chester Playhouse mid-March. Rose and Tom added some rhythm to a jam session with Jamie Junger.

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