

# DREAMS



## 2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

South Shore Community Service Association  
Bonny Lea Farm & South Shore Work Activity Program

Independence



John Biebesheimer, Board Chair | David Outhouse, Executive Director | Joe Stackhouse, Life Member & Founder

# Leadership Message

In 1973, a group of inspired men and women had a dream. They believed young people living with disabilities should have opportunities for meaningful and productive lives within the community. We still have this dream and are committed to supporting participants in achieving theirs.

As part of the One Word Campaign in late 2019, my word choice was "PROUD".

*Since joining the team at Bonny Lea Farm in 1985, I have always been proud of being able to talk about where I worked and the daily impact of this organization. The pandemic of 2020 has only reinforced that belief.*

Our participants have been superstars and I am so proud of how they have lived each day with all the limits they experienced. Our front line staff and management team all rose to the changing demands of the pandemic and have made me proud of how diligent they have been in adhering to the public health protocols, along with their collaborative work to make a safe and healthy environment for participants.

I am proud that our Board of Directors have recognized the challenges we have faced during the pandemic and trusted that we would make the right decisions. I am proud to be able to say to our families, it has been our pleasure to ensure that your loved ones have continued to be healthy and fully enjoy each day.

Our funding partners, donors, and supporters have continued to honor our work and for this we are profoundly grateful.

While the pandemic has not ended, we are confident that we have the tools to meet the challenges ahead. While we loosen restrictions and return to some degree of "regular" we remain vigilant and prepared to respond quickly should that need arise. Over the next few months as we try to re-open our social enterprises and resume regular work and home life, we will continue to be proud of everything we have achieved and are likely to make happen in the coming months. The words you see in this report indicate our success in what we do.

Sincerely,



David M Outhouse | Executive Director

## IMPACT

**36** participants ranging in age from 21 to 71 live & work here

**11** participants come from the community to work in our social enterprises

## MISSION

Bonny Lea Farm is committed to empowering special needs individuals, providing opportunities to experience faith, self-respect, love for one another, dignity, integrity, productivity, and responsible community living.

## VISION

Each person who comes to Bonny Lea Farm has the chance to learn, grow and succeed.



CRA #11915 8459 RR0001  
IRS EIN #23 7283520

Cover photo: Jason



## Jan, 58

When asked for “one word” that sums up what Bonny Lea Farm means to her, Jan did not hesitate in saying “Home”, and she wasn't the only one.

We are honoured that Jan feels this way, as she has lived here since 1986, and attended our programs as a student before then. Among her favourite things about living at Bonny Lea Farm are her friends and her housemates.

At 58, Jan is also one of our participants who is aging in place. She would like to continue to do so. That is why we are working towards building a new home, here at Bonny Lea Farm, specifically to support people with disabilities as they age.

We have met with government, and are awaiting word on their support. We have architectural drawings ready and have received \$466,852 in donations to date, including \$20,000 from the Anglican Church Women, Diocese of Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island. We are eager to move forward with this much needed endeavour.

## 9 HOMES

Our supportive residential program offers participants the opportunity to live with independence, in all aspects of their lives





## 7 SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

### David, 52

David loves to socialize but he is also very conscientious and works hard. So it came as little surprise to some when he said Bonny Lea Farm means “Good Work” to him. David works in the Kindling Crew and the Greenhouse. Both areas offer a structured work environment where he is an important part of the team - getting the kindling ready to bundle; keeping the greenhouse clean and tidy and preparing paper for shredding. He was looking forward to planting in the spring, before COVID-19 interrupted those plans.

This year David started delivering the mail bag to and from SSWAP. He knows his schedule and is always on time. If he will not be there, he tells his supervisor so that someone else can be assigned the task. David takes pride in this new responsibility.

At home, David is very independent and always willing to help out. As the first one up in the morning, he often unloads the dishwasher before breakfast. He also vacuums, sweeps, wipes the counters, sets the table and takes out the garbage. It is obvious that David is not afraid of hard work!

Our onsite businesses provide meaningful work for participants who live with us, as well as those from the community who come for the day from as far away as Halifax & New Germany.

Our newest social enterprise, The Shop on Central, opened last year, giving participants a public-facing work opportunity, an outlet for our products and a higher profile in the Village of Chester.\*

\*Unfortunately The Shop is not open due to COVID-19.



## Morgan, 25

Morgan moved to Bonny Lea Farm in 2018, seeking independence and a chance to spread her wings. She quickly engaged in all Bonny Lea Farm activities, starring in Something's in the Air, playing Special O Golf, excelling in her work, and setting and reaching personal goals. In 2019, Morgan showed enthusiasm and interest in working at The Shop on Central the moment she heard of the opportunity. She really wanted to work in a shop and café setting cleaning tables, making coffee, and stocking shelves.

On her first day at The Shop, Morgan arrived eager to learn and asked "Where do I start?" She already knew how to do many aspects of her job, such as sweeping the floors, disinfecting surfaces and handles, and washing dishes. On her second day of training, she wanted to learn how to make and serve coffee to customers. It only took a single demonstration before she was able to make coffee and serve it to a customer using her customer service skills.

It wasn't long before Morgan wanted to learn how to use the iPad to take orders and to learn to count money. Both skills were new to her and out of her comfort zone. As a fast learner with a sharp memory, she soon excelled in learning this new task. Before The Shop on Central closed for the season, Morgan was trained and skilled in all roles at The Shop and had demonstrated exceptional growth. Morgan takes pride in her work and always finishes everything she does with a smile on her face. Her motivation, enthusiasm, determination and kindness makes her a great employee and a "friend to all". We're not sure who is more awesome, Morgan or Bonny Lea Farm!



## Kathy, 65

Kathy is a hard worker and always up for new opportunities. So, it was no surprise that she was among the first participants to work at our new social enterprise, The Shop on Central. She originally only wanted to stock shelves and clean up. It didn't take long before she gained the confidence and skills to serve customers and handle their purchases.

After losing her biggest support person, with the death of her brother in 2019, Kathy demonstrated the utmost strength and resilience.

Like any grieving person, Kathy experienced sadness, anger, and acknowledgment that so many things were about to change. However, she undertook all of those changes with kindness and compassion. She was patient when she was unable to see her mother for her weekly visits, which she had made with her brother. She was kind even when she felt sad, and she remained a dedicated employee without missing a day's work. Kathy has accepted her niece as her new "person" and someone she values her time with.

Since being unable to see her mom or niece over the last few months, Kathy continues to call them regularly. When she worked on a string art kit a few weeks ago, she was very excited. Why? Because she was making it for her niece to put in her new apartment.

Kathy was proud to be able to offer something she personally made to someone she loves so much. Kathy has shown tremendous strength in the face of uncertainty, and we are proud she has allowed us to help her grieve and remember her brother in a positive way.



## Duncan, 30

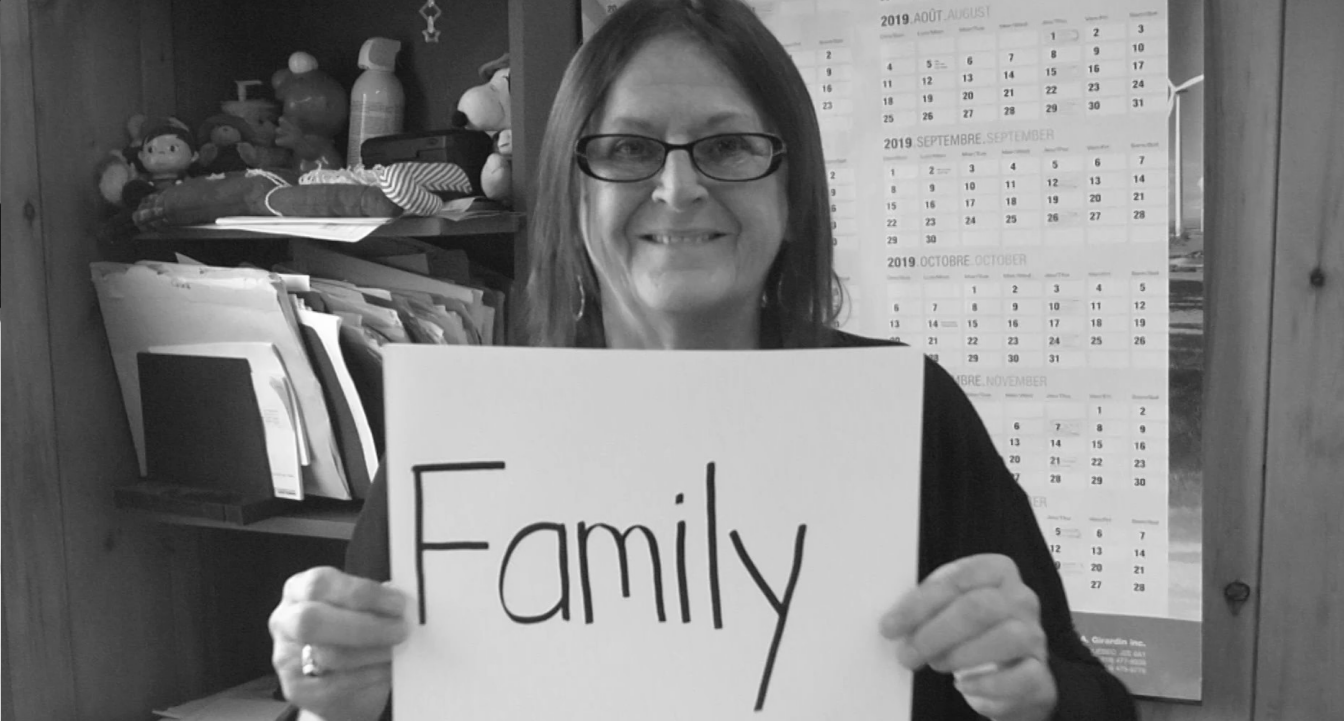
Yvette, Duncan and Joe

We are so glad that Duncan has chosen Bonny Lea Farm as his workplace and that he is thankful for us. We are thankful for him too! He cheerfully works in the Kitchen cleaning up after lunch and more recently has started working in our Confidential Shredding crew, where he loves to shred documents sent by local businesses.

Currently, there are 11 adults living with intellectual disabilities in communities from New Germany to Halifax Regional Municipality, who come to work in one of Bonny Lea Farm's social enterprises during the week. They are all thankful to have a place to work, where they learn new skills, are challenged to grow and a place to succeed. Your support helps us to offer this opportunity to Duncan and our other participants by supporting the operating costs of our social enterprises and keeping our lights on.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 has meant that our day program has been closed and we have not seen our day-only participants since March. We miss them!





68

**FULL & PART  
TIME STAFF**

**32** -10 years

**11** 10+years

**15** 20+years

**7** 30+years

**3** 40+years

**OF SERVICE**

## Kathy

When asked what Bonny Lea Farm means to them, a number of participants said "Good staff", "Friendly staff". We have front line staff who work directly with participants at home and at work, and then we have a number of staff whose work is unseen but essential to our smooth operations. We treasure the contributions of all of our staff.

For more than 20 years Kathy has worked quietly behind the scenes at Bonny Lea Farm - making sure that everyone gets paid, managing our accounts with suppliers, and handling all financial transactions on behalf of the organization. She obviously loves numbers.

But she will tell you that her favourite times, and the most rewarding part of her job, are the daily visits from participants dropping by during their morning coffee break and lunch time.

Karen likes to discuss what they each had for dinner. Lynne chats while taking attendance. And, Debbie reminds her every Thursday to do her data backup. One wall of her small office is covered with colourful posters made by participants for her birthday, special occasions and just because.

It is the people that make the place. And, for some, it is like family.



**\$847,356**

FUNDRAISING,  
EVENTS, GRANTS  
& OTHER

**777**

DONORS

**1161**

DONATIONS

**\$243,798**

TOTAL  
DONATIONS

**\$56,000**

ANNUAL  
CAMPAIGN

**\$84,000**

DESIGNATED GIFTS  
HOME TO STAY  
COMFORT CAMPAIGN  
SMILE FUND

**\$48,000**

SPECIAL EVENTS

**\$5,000**

ESTATE GIFTS

**90**

VOLUNTEERS  
HELP WITH EVENTS &  
PROGRAMS



## Myrtle – DIFFERENCE MAKER

For many years Myrtle has faithfully supported our Annual Campaign. At first, it was because she felt she has a good life and wanted to do what she could for others, now it is because she is confident that she is making a difference.

*"I love reading the newsletters and seeing what is happening. The participants always look so happy and are busy learning and doing things. I like knowing that in some small way, I am able to help make a difference."*

More recently she made the decision to leave a gift for Bonny Lea Farm in her will.

*"There are a few charities that I support regularly. I feel good knowing that I will leave them something to help them continue their work when I am gone."*

### OUR WORKPLACE & VOLUNTEER PARTNERS (2019-2020)

Julien's Bakery - Kiwi Café - Shoreham Village Home for Special Care - Spidle's Your Independent Grocer - St Stephen's Anglican Church



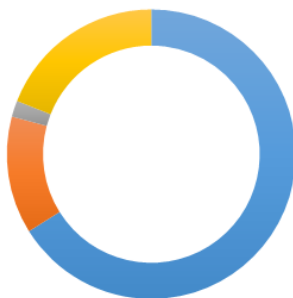
# Financial Overview

We are honoured that Bonny Lea Farm evokes the feelings from participants, staff, families and supporters shared in this report. The words they have chosen show the impact you have on their lives. For that we are very grateful.

Our residential program and a portion of our day program are funded by the Department of Community Services. The balance of our expenses, from utilities to insurance, equipment for our social enterprises to gas for our vans and some salaries, are paid through donations, events, sponsorships and grants, including our capital and operating grant from Pew Charitable Trusts.

In 2019-2020, we had a budget shortfall for the first time in a number of years, with revenues just over \$4.4 million and expenditures just over \$4.5 million.\*

## Revenues



■ Government - Residence

■ Government - Day Program

■ Social Enterprises

■ Fundraising, Events, Grants & Other

## Expenditures



■ Residence

■ Day Program

■ Fundraising

■ Transfer to Foundation

# \$4.5 MILLION

OUR BUDGET OF \$4.5 MILLION PROVIDED PARTICIPANTS WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN, GROW & SUCCEED THROUGH

- ◆ WORK IN ONE OF OUR SOCIAL ENTERPRISES
- ◆ COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & OUTINGS
- ◆ SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPY
- ◆ RECREATIONAL THERAPY (PHYSICAL, ART, DRAMA, MUSIC)
- ◆ ENRICHED RESIDENTIAL EXPERIENCE

\*Complete 2019-2020 audited statements are available on request.



South Shore Work Activity Program Staff

# Looking for Possibilities

At South Shore Work Activity Program or the South Shore's Wonderfully Awesome Program, as some like to call it, we know that most people who come through our doors have a desire to learn, contribute and / or improve their life situation.

Many are uncertain as to what to do or how to make changes. At SSWAP we get to assist in realizing these wants and desires by offering participants support through our program and helping them discover abilities and enhance practical skills that can be put to work with employers and in their communities.

Any challenges that may inhibit applying these abilities are also addressed through the program. SSWAP's dedicated and talented team assist in making it all happen – facilitating participants to recognize their abilities and transform these into opportunities to achieve their work and life goals.

- Sharon LeBlanc, Work Centre Manager

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## OUR WORKPLACEMENT HOST PARTNERS (2019-2020)

Bonny Lea Farm, Residential Services · Bonny Lea Farm, Fund Development\* · Chester Home Hardware · Dani's Laundromat · Dollarama, Bridgewater · Foodland, Chester · Mahone Bay Nursing Home · Petro Canada, Chester Basin · Ridgewood Assisted Living · Sam's No Frills · Shoreham Village · Sobey's, Bridgewater & Liverpool · Stewart Skinner's Electrical · Sure Courier · Sweet Spot Farm · The Shop on Central · Visitor Information Centre, Blockhouse

\* Many of the photos in this report were taken by SSWAP participant Steven St Amand



South Shore Work Activity Program Graduates

## Bethany

Bethany was determined to work in a long-term care facility. She knew she needed to build confidence, improve her essential skills and gain work experience. She worked hard while she was at SSWAP and developed skills that made her a valuable employee. With determination and a great work ethic Bethany reached her goal. She was offered a position with her long-term care work placement host upon completing the program, and is achieving her career goal of becoming a Continuing Care Assistant.

## Dwayne

When Dwayne attended our program in the past he was unsuccessful in securing employment. Dwayne wanted to work; he needed assistance in finding that work. He also wanted to live independently. He came back to upgrade his essential skills and hone other skills so that he would be better received by an employer. Throughout his time at the program, Dwayne showed his great work ethic and a keen ability to problem solve tasks. Dwayne completed the program in November 2019, and was hired by his work placement host in his home community. He is also happy to report that he found an apartment and is still happily working. Two goals met!



Jackie and Tom

## Memorial Gifts

Many of you chose to remember a life by changing a life during 2019-2020. Together you gave \$27,937 in memory of family, friends and community members. (\*former Bonny Lea Farm participant, staff, Board Member, family member or volunteer)

Aunt Imelda	Kathleen & Jim Graham	Joseph McMullon*
Nora Barkhouse	Gerald Grant	John Mordeen*
Jackie Benoit*	James Grant	Carole Nickerson
Christine Boardman	Willis Haley	Leone Oickle
Teresa Briand	Doris Healy*	Warren Schnare
Dillon Burke	Kevin Healy*	Lois Stackhouse*
Allan Conrod*	Pansy Maxine Hiltz	Bill Todd
Tony Demone*	Rosie Joudrey	Holly Van Barneveld*
Brendan Dempsey	Bill Langille*	George Walker
Eugene Elliott*	Janet McGinn*	Greta West
David Fraser	Dean McKay	Peter Wile

# Our Boards

We are grateful for our volunteer Boards and Committees who guide us in delivering our missions.

## South Shore Community Service Association Executive

John Biebesheimer, President	Barbie Nunn-Porter, Vice-President
Bruce Flinn, Secretary	David Hilchey, Treasurer

## Bonny Lea Farm Board of Directors

John Biebesheimer, Chair	Barbie Nunn-Porter, Vice-President	
Barbara Carthew	Kim Geldart	Colin MacDonald
Liam Clancey	David Hilchey, Treasurer	Robert Manuel
Colleen Fitzgerald	Fred Honsberger	Cy Mayo
Bruce Flinn, Secretary	Betty Hughes	Catherine Robar
Rick Fraughton		Sara Whynot

*Life Members:* Jack Flemming, Anne Flinn, Joe Stackhouse

*Honorary Members:* Michael MacMillan, David Waterbury

## Bonny Lea Farm Quality of Life Committee

Barbara Carthew, Chair	Liam Clancey	Philippe Degraeve
Mary Ellen Clancey	Karen Lake	Catherine Robar
Barbie Nunn-Porter	Vanessa Pareek	David Outhouse

## Bonny Lea Charitable Foundation Trustees

Rachel Martin, Chair	Kim Geldart	Joe Stackhouse
John Biebesheimer	David Hilchey	John Tatlow
	Tobias Norwood	

## South Shore Work Activity Program Board of Management

Paulette Countway, Chair	Mary Ellen Clancey	Kevin McNamara
Barbara Carthew	Norman Countway	David Outhouse
Judy Connolly	Michael Dockrill, Treasurer	



# Bonny Lea Farm is...



Bonny Lea Farm  
5 Collicutt Road  
PO Box 560  
Chester, NS, B0J 1J0

902-275-5622  
[www.bonnyleafarm.ca](http://www.bonnyleafarm.ca)



(Facebook)



South Shore Work Activity Program  
23 Collicutt Road  
PO Box 187  
Chester, NS, B0J 1J0

902-275-5585  
[www.sswap.ca](http://www.sswap.ca)



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