



# IN THE NEWS

Empowering people with disabilities since 1973.

October 2020

## Thanks Giving: Much to be thankful for

Bonny Lea Farm has always been an extremely busy, dynamic, “happenin” spot.

In the run of a day 36 lives are being lived, 50 plus staff are trying to make a difference, 140 meals are prepared, medications are delivered, homes are cleaned, safety checks are completed, connections with families are facilitated, skills are being taught, six social enterprises are being run, and emotional support is on going.

But above all tender loving care is enjoyed.

Then Covid-19 happened!

With absolutely no notice, 35 participants lost their jobs. Their days as they knew them changed, possibly forever?

Day Program staff moved to residence during the day. New work teams were created. We were VERY fortunate to be able to provide this continuity for participants and staff. We're not sure what we would have done without them!!

Participants and employees in the homes were not able to go into the community for almost 4 months.

Participants and staff couldn't meet and be hugged by their families or friends.

We needed to figure out how to make all the purchasing and errands in community take place that staff could no longer do but had always done so seamlessly. Managers were in stores when others were told it wasn't safe. We were all scrambling to find PPEs. Participants needed pajamas, underwear, cell phone cards, ear phones, amazon gift cards, medications, and TREATS. Grocery shopping went from a pleasant outing for homes, to a time intensive dilemma that we worked our way through.

Staff needed to protect the participants, their co-workers and their families. No one wanted to be the person who brought Covid to Bonny Lea Farm. We had very little absenteeism during that extremely stressful time. We are thankful to have such dedicated and loyal employees.

On top of all of that, we all had to wear masks! (and, are grateful for the ones which were donated). With our faces covered we lost the special power that a smile brings to someone's life.

Fast forward six months and we are still dealing with Covid challenges. We can't share like we used to and participants in different homes are still not able to visit each other without wearing a mask and only for short periods. Thanksgiving meals were not a group event and the our big Halloween Dance is cancelled. Getting into a van means having to safety check it, ensure everyone is wearing their masks, no one sits in the front passenger seat and then sanitizing everything touched afterwards.

We are all tired of sanitizing but we continue to do it. Grocery stores don't have everything we need due to supply shortages, clothing stores have limited options, and appliances are very difficult to have serviced and parts are taking months to come in.

Today our biggest challenge is ensuring the mental health of us all including, participants, employees, volunteers and families. We are all worried about a second wave and what that means.

We are all feeling the pressure of trying to return to normal even though we should be trying to create our new normal, I think we are starting to recognize that. Some participants have returned to work.

In the back of our minds is the question, what is Christmas going to look like? Are participants going to get to go home? How are we going to complete all the necessary shopping? Are employees going to be able to spend time with their own families or will they be required to work because all of our homes will be opened? How will Santa come?

With all of this, we count our blessings every day that no one at Bonny Lea Farm has contracted Covid and remain thankful.

*Adapted from a report written by Karen Lake, Residential Services Director, for the Board of Directors of Bonny Lea Farm*



## Participants Begin to Return to Work

Participants have started returning to work in small numbers, one crew at a time. Laurie-Anne, Lynne and Sue are happy to be back!

We are now accepting confidential shredding by appointment only. (No donations please.)

Call to book your drop off time at least one week in advance. Please contact Alex at 902-275-5622 ext 231.

Confidential shredding rate = \$0.50 per pound



## Thankful

In case you missed why Duncan is thankful, our 2019-2020 issue of DREAMS is now available.

Get yours today!

Online: [www.bonnyleafarm.ca/about-us/annual-reports/](http://www.bonnyleafarm.ca/about-us/annual-reports/)

Call: 902-275-5622 to be sent a copy

 **THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

## Achieving Goals Six Feet Apart



## Achieving Goals - 6 feet apart

Although Covid has changed the way we are doing a lot of things, it hasn't slowed us down on our accomplishments.

Here are some of our most recent achieved IPP goals:

Laura: Go for a bike ride on the trail

Adam: Hang out with friends (outdoors)

Catherine: Enjoy some 80s music (outdoors)

Anton: Have a date night (outdoors and six feet apart)

Bonnie: Continue bowling with our HEART program (outdoors!)

*Learn. Grow. Succeed.*  
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