

DREAMS

2020-2021 IMPACT REPORT
South Shore Community Service Association
Bonny Lea Farm & South Shore Work Activity Program



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.

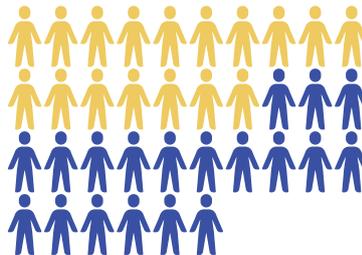
Vision

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

Group homes, Small Options & 1 Apartment



Participants Living & Working with us



Social Enterprises



Participants Living in Community & Working with us



CRA #11915 8459 RR0001
IRS EIN #23 7283520



GRATITUDE

Since beginning my term on the Board, and more recently as Chair, each year has brought new challenges and opportunities to the organization. This past year was no exception!

I am grateful and proud of the way that the Board, staff and participants worked together to address the significant challenges presented by the pandemic, which required us all to do things in new ways.

I am grateful for our government and community partners who were there to support us in finding the supplies that we needed and stepped forward with additional funding to help cover the mounting costs.

This year we also saw a transition in leadership, with our long-serving Executive Director David Outhouse stepping in as Managing Director of the South Shore Work Activity Program and long-time employee and manager Karen Lake becoming Executive

JOHN BIEBESHEIMER

President & Chair

Director. I am grateful for the excellent leadership David has provided over the years and know that the organization and participants are in good hands with Karen.

In the midst of it all, two participants moved to long-term care. They had both been with us since Bonny Lea Farm's very beginnings. We look forward to having our long promised Aging in Place home so that others will not have to make this move.

Our Board too is seeing change. I would like to thank outgoing members Dave Hilchey and Rick Fraughton for their many years of service. You will be missed.

As we go forward, I hope the past year will long be remembered not only for its challenges, but also for what we have accomplished in the midst of uncertainty. As well, that the compassion we have all given and received will eclipse the sacrifices we have endured.



DEAR STAFF, THANK YOU

This past year has been challenging. Lock downs. Program closures. Constantly changing protocols.

We simply would not have been able to do this without you, our amazingly dedicated and determined staff.

You showed up, day after day, limiting your own movements and actions, often with implications and sacrifices for your own families, with the hope of keeping Covid-19 out of Bonny Lea Farm and keeping each other and participants safe.

Through it all you made sure that participants needs were met, their bodies and minds nourished and their spirits kept up.

Your efforts have been heroic. Your sacrifices many.

With our sincere and heartfelt gratitude,

The Board of Directors

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SOUTH SHORE COMMUNITY SERVICE ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT & CHAIR

John Biebesheimer

VICE-CHAIR

Barbie Nunn-Porter

TREASURER

David Hilchey

SECRETARY

Bruce Flinn

BONNY LEA FARM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Association Executive Members Plus

Barbara Carthew

Liam Clancey

Colleen Fitzgerald

Rick Fraughton

Kim Geldart

Fred Honsberger

Betty Hughes

Colin MacDonald

Robert Manuel

Cy Mayo

Catherine Robar

Sara Whynot

LIFE & HONOURARY MEMBERS

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BONNY LEA CHARITABLE FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

CHAIR

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Kim Geldart

David Hilchey

Toby Norwood

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SOUTH SHORE WORK ACTIVITY PROGRAM BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

CHAIR

Paulette Countway

TREASURER

Michael Dockrill

Barbara Carthew

Judy Connolly

Mary Ellen Clancey

Norman Countway

Kevin McNamara

David Outhouse

*Thank you to our volunteer
boards for your leadership*



PARTICIPANTS FIRST **DAVID OUTHOUSE** *Executive Director*

Our founder, Mrs. Baker, and others who were in leadership in this organization taught me that if you keep the participants at the forefront of decisions and plans, you really cannot go wrong because you were making all those decisions for the right reasons.

After almost 15 years as Executive Director at South Shore Community Service Association and more than 30 years of working within the organization, I can attest that it is an approach that has never failed. While it has sometimes been a struggle to balance that with all of the other decisions and plans that we needed to make over the years, keeping the focus on the participants has really allowed for there not to have to be a lot of second guessing around those decisions.

I have been fortunate to have had an incredibly supportive board of directors leading this organization and I look forward to seeing that continue in the future.

The other advantage I have enjoyed in this role has been the ability to work with some talented people who embrace that same approach in their day to day work with participants. I think when everybody shares a common view and objective, it is easy to work together and to have success.

South Shore Community Service Association and all of its operations have been very fortunate to have a committed group of people who come to work each day in support of our mission. During the past 13 months that has been a particularly significant challenge. Without their loyalty, professionalism, and commitment we would not have been able to do all that we have done during the pandemic. I want to especially thank them for their efforts to keep everyone safe and well.

Because we give priority to the participants it really does help create that feeling that you are in service to the people we support. Remembering that we do not have ultimate control and power over the men and women we support, but that we want to work with them and be part of their success in life. I think that is what makes Bonny Lea Farm different.

If we go back to the beginning of Bonny Lea Farm, that is what the founding group of people talked about in creating the environment and mission that led us to this day. And my hope is that vision will continue to guide the organization into the future. I am pleased to know that I had a small part to play in that.

I wish the organization all the best. I have enjoyed working with all of you. You will not be far from my thoughts each day!

"If you keep the participants at the forefront of decisions and plans, you really cannot go wrong."



YEAR IN REVIEW **LEARN. GROW. SUCCEED.**

During the year our focus was on participants' and staff health and wellbeing. Most days involved an outdoor exercise and a craft or activity. Some highlights were courtyard bingo and karaoke, tie dying, bottle rockets, bike rides, and the gardening & craft kits you helped provide. It was a happy day when we could host outdoor family visits!

We said good-bye as two participants moved to long-term care. We welcomed two new participants and several new staff. We welcomed participants back to work, and then had to close our vocational program again. Many participants used the extra time at home to achieve personal goals - cooking, walking, scrapbooking, biking, sewing and more.

Lots of maintenance was also completed over the past year, including - doors painted, new fire alarm system installed, residence windows replaced, expanded parking area at residence, as well as some furniture upgrades in participant living spaces.



FUTURE PLANS

AGING IN PLACE

Home to Stay

We look forward to soon moving ahead with building our new home and making necessary renovations to support participants as they age. We have received a letter of support from the Department of Community Services and are now finalizing architectural plans.

"Bonny Lea Farm has been my home for nearly 40 years. I don't want to have to leave if I need more support as I age."

- Rose



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Inclusion & Opportunities

Ensuring that participants have opportunities to reach their goals includes being there to support them in getting where they need to go. This may be a community based work placement, doing their own shopping and banking, trying something new or returning to a favourite activity such as swimming or horseback riding.

To make these things happen, we will need to replace our aging parabus and invest in participant activities and growth opportunities that match their goals both onsite and in the community.



LIFE CHANGER

Lisa's first visit to Bonny Lea Farm was serving at our Lobster Lover's Feast a few years ago as part of her workplace RBC Team Action Grant, where a group of employees give of their time matched by a donation from RBC. She was struck by the overwhelming sense of community.

"I knew after my first visit, it would not be my last visit."

It became a question of what can I do. I don't live in the community, so I couldn't be there to volunteer all the time, although I have been back to volunteer at the Plant Sale & Breakfast. I knew I wanted to do something to make a difference. I began to make donations.

I knew my support would make a difference in the lives of people with a disability, fostering their independence,

LISA HURLBURT

Belonging, Connections & Community

their wants, their being their true authentic self.

When you visit you know that good things happen there.

Bonny Lea Farm is an inclusive, safe and welcoming place. Participants are respected and placed in the centre of everything. The focus is on their fulfilment. They have purpose. The people who work there genuinely care.

Sharing my story is one more thing I can do. If even one person decides they can commit to making a difference after reading my story, I will have accomplished something."

Although Lisa supports a number of charities in different ways, Bonny Lea Farm is her choice for a regular monthly donation. Thank you Lisa!



NEW OPPORTUNITIES

DJ

Embracing independence and change

Moving to a new community at any time brings with it a sense of anticipation. Moving during a pandemic is a whole other matter. That was the case this past year for DJ.

DJ arrived at Bonny Lea Farm full of hope to learn new things and make new friends.

He set goals for himself to master several new recipes. So far he has made mac & cheese, corn chowder, sloppy joes, pizza and hamburgers with onions and mushrooms! Still on his list is stirfry. Yum.

His hopes for meeting new people and experiencing new activities in the community were slowed due to Covid-19 restrictions, but he has built friendships with his housemates and is trying out new jobs in our workcrews.

Now that the good weather is here he is enjoying the freedom of riding his bike around Bonny Lea Farm, which has given him the opportunity to meet more participants - from a distance.

"I am happy at Bonny Lea Farm."



LEGACY OF LOVE

MYRT & JIM PINEO

Generosity, Family & Caring

As she would tell it, on their first date Jim invited Myrt to a hockey game. She wore a little lace dress under her coat and nearly froze to death. She had never been to a hockey game before.

Shortly after, when Jim graduated from Saint Mary's College (SMU) in 1946, as a star hockey goalie, he was drafted by the Bruins to attend training camp in Boston.

He only stayed for a year. He and Myrt had just met before he left. "She said he always told her he came back because of her," shares daughter Susan.

They were married in 1949 and went on to have four children and ten grandchildren, and be active members of their community.

With a background in business, Jim first became involved with Bonny Lea Farm "many years ago" when someone approached him about serving on the Board.

Jim and Myrt were instantly hooked when they saw the work Bonny Lea Farm was doing and the impact it had on participants' lives. Bonny Lea Farm quickly became one of their favourite causes.

Over the years they believed strongly in doing what they could to offer others the opportunity to reach their potential and giving a chance to those who weren't blessed with the advantages they had.

In Myrt's words, they enjoyed giving back.

In time, each of their ten grandchildren suffered the sudden and devastating loss of a parent. In every case, Myrt was there as a quiet and strong support to give them a place of comfort and a person that was a constant in their lives.

As the grandchildren moved away for studies and to pursue careers, they continued to keep in touch with Myrt through phone calls and visits and more recently, video chats. She was their anchor, a sounding board, the baker of delicious treats and always full of good humour. She relished in their stories and achievements.

When Jim developed Parkinsons, Myrt cared for him at home. More recently, when Myrt discovered that her lymphoma was terminal, she wished to remain at home. A wish her family fulfilled.

"It was a privilege to have this time with her," - Susan

A HEART FOR OTHERS

Myrt surrounded by her grandchildren in 2006.

Myrt was determined to look after her 10 grandchildren. In addition to making a recording of her reading "Oh the Places You'll Go", she arranged for a large portion of her estate to be divided equally among them. An amazing gift for young people just starting to get established, paying off student loans, marrying, having babies and juggling all that goes with being "grown up"! Myrt's daughter Susan recently had a phone call from her daughter who said: "Mum, I just paid off my student loans and my car and topped up my TFSA - I am overwhelmed to have had Nanny do this for me."

Myrt was also very passionate about making a gift to Bonny Lea Farm. She and Susan were pleased to learn how easy it is to make a gift of shares.

After meeting with Bonny Lea Farm, Myrt chose for a portion of her gift to help us meet our goal, enabling the installation of automatic generators for seven of our homes, with the remainder to be used to help build our Aging in Place home.

Myrt was happy to know the impact her gift will have and Susan saw the pleasure it gave her. Thank you Myrt!



A woman with dark hair, wearing a purple hoodie, is holding a black and white cat. She is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The background shows a house with white siding and a window.

FINDING HER VOICE

LYNNE

Always growing & learning

To say that Lynne was quiet would be an understatement. Over the years she has found her voice and will express her feelings, her wants and needs, and her humour!

She also used to find it hard to try new things. In recent years she has stretched herself and now enjoys golfing, yoga, walking and working in new areas. Currently she is building a doll crib in the wood workshop!

Anyone who knows Lynne, also knows she has a big heart. She loves her cat Monty and making beaded jewelry and crafts that she shares with friends. She draws colourful pictures. And, donates items she no longer uses to local charities.

"I like it here. After all these years, I still like it here."

EMPOWERING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES SINCE 1973



IT TAKES A VILLAGE

COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

Together we make a difference

The pandemic caused the whole world to shut down and come to a stop for a time. Some people lost their jobs. Some were put on hold. Some people struggled with anxiety. Others saw it as a time to reach out and help others, bringing communities together.

Here at Bonny Lea Farm, we benefited from being part of your community. Although no visitors were allowed on site and our events were changed, many of you found other ways of reaching out - through your messages on social media, cards and donations. You made masks, you helped secure PPE and other supplies.

You sponsored and supported our fundraisers, you gave grants and made donations to cover lost revenue that paid for participant activities, space and equipment upgrades and our ongoing operating costs.

Some of you, Chester Subway, Bruce Guthro and Dave Spinks, hosted fundraisers on our behalf naming us as the beneficiary of your "tip jar".

We couldn't do it without you!

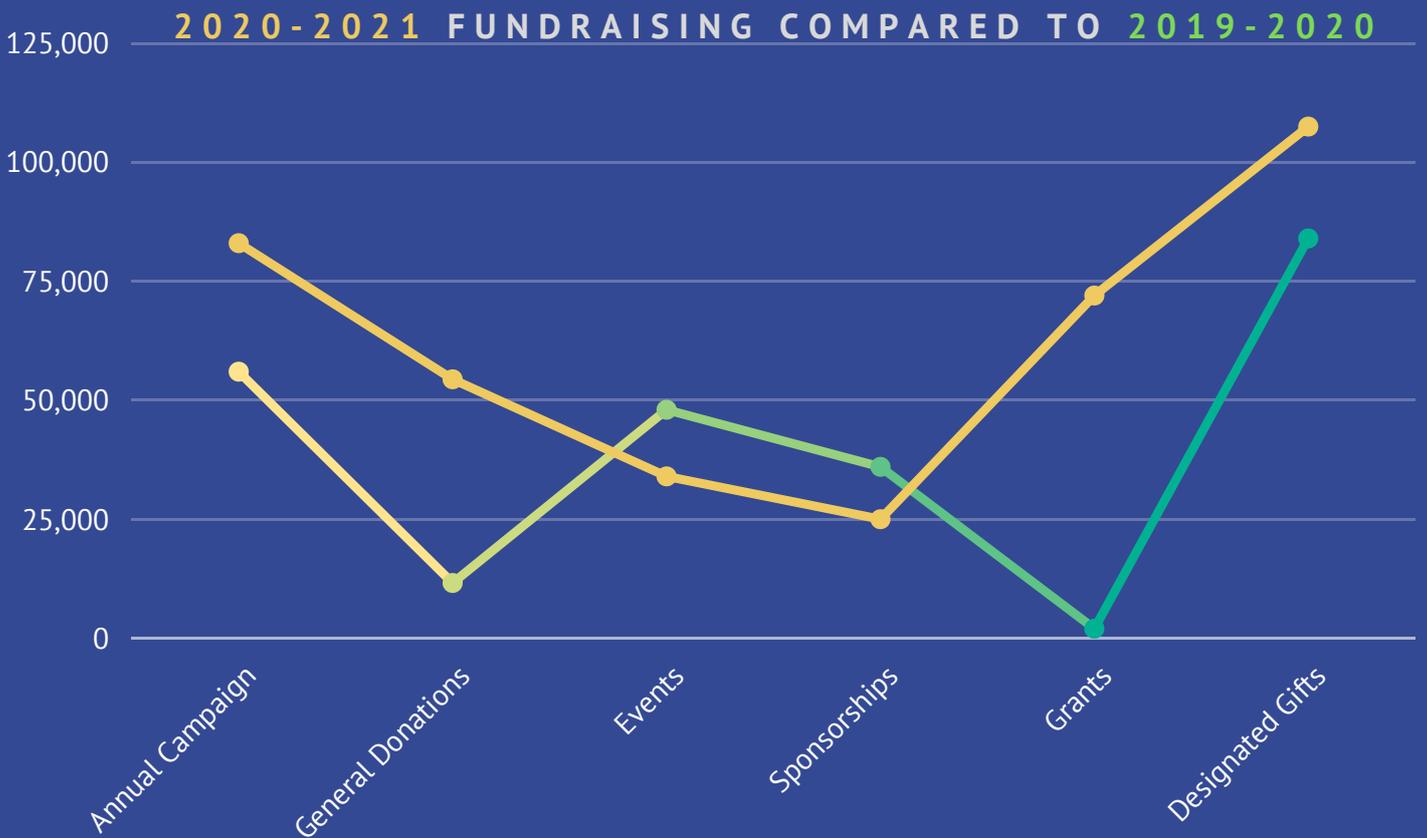
We value all of you who have been there for us. We are so very grateful to you, our community, for recognizing the work that is unseen, behind the scenes, at Bonny Lea Farm.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Despite the challenges of the past year, we came through in good financial shape due to the steady support of our government partners and the incredible generosity of our community near and far.



Although many of you experienced hardships this past year, you stepped up and gave in incredible ways through donations, supporting our events, grants and sponsorships. You gave online, over the phone, in the mail and by transferring stocks & shares. Our fund development revenues nearly doubled to provide for participants' needs this year, as well as in the future through designated gifts towards Aging in Place and automatic generators. We also welcomed 85 new donors!



MEMORIALS

Changing a life by remembering a life

Many of you chose to change a life by remembering a life. You gave in memory of friends, family and community members. We are honoured that you thought of us during your time of grief.

IN MEMORY

Aunt Imelda

Alberta "Bertie" Baker

Nora Barkhouse

Deann Bartee

Jackie Benoit

Christine Boardman

Mary Ellen Brady

Helena Burke

Joy Calkin

Joseph "Father Joe" Cameron

Paul Collins

Joan Craig

Audrey R Clarke

Allan G. Conrod

Venron Doucette

Catherine Drage

Lou Duggan

Stephen Eagles

Eugene Elliott

Kenneth Gates

Ted Gates

Cyril Grant

Doris Healy

Kevin Healy

Suzanne Flemming

Bob Garland

Janet Jeffery

Clive MacDonald

Sandra MacDonald

Mary & James Mahoney

Clare Matthews

Norma McCulloch

Mary Murphy Hynes

Merlin Nunn

Joan Publicover

Amanda Robar

Melvin Robar

Heather Robertson

Donald "Jerry" Slauenwhite

Edith Stoddard

Holly Van Barneveld

Rena Walker

Phyllis Welburn

John Whitehouse

Marina Young



SOUTH SHORE WORK ACTIVITY PROGRAM

The South Shore Work Activity Program proudly works with people to break down their barriers to finding and maintaining employment, by helping them develop skills and abilities that will move them toward successfully meeting their goals.

People may apply to the program directly or be referred by the Department of Community Services or other organizations.

Our program marked a lot of firsts this year. All of the restrictions and requirements of the pandemic coupled with adapting to our new 9-week format with continuous intake were deftly handled by our team.

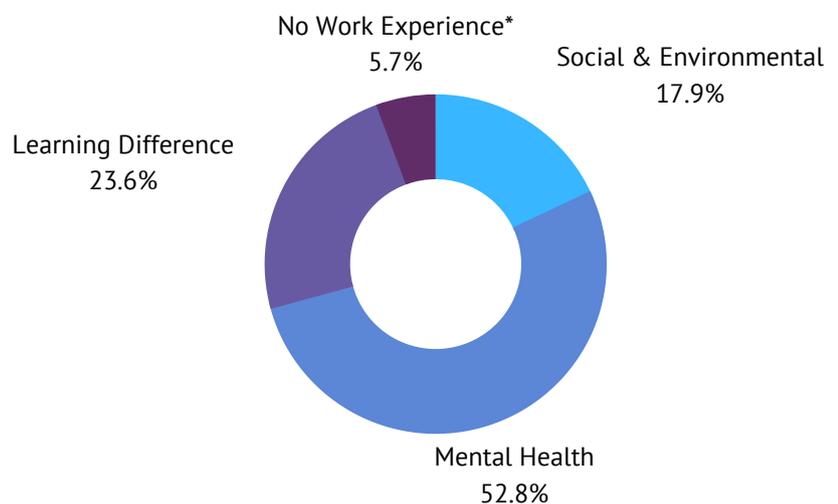
We supported 36 program participants both in person and virtually, including our first ever virtual Food Services cooking classes via Zoom. We celebrated 11 participants moving into the labour market with employer partners all along the South Shore.

Other participant accomplishments included successful certifications and attendance improvements.

To celebrate it all we made history by having the first SSWAP Recognition on Wheels by meeting participants at outdoor venues in their home communities, as shown above with Ethan.

Towards the end of our year we said good-bye to Sharon LeBlanc our Work Centre Manager. Thank you Sharon for your leadership.

PRIMARY EMPLOYMENT BARRIERS



*No Work Experience was listed as the secondary barrier to employment by 50% of participants



ETHAN

Discovering Abilities

Ethan began the program unsure of what he wanted to do for employment. He said stress management and low confidence were holding him back, and he was struggling to find motivation.

Once here, Ethan eagerly participated in all the different work areas offered at SSWAP and stepped out of his comfort zone to try new things. As he learned new skills you could really see his confidence growing.

His stress also seemed to decrease as his confidence increased. As part of the program, Ethan did a placement at Sobeys in Liverpool. It was a good experience and he accepted employment from them afterwards.

At follow up Ethan was happy to report that he was still at Sobeys, getting lots of shifts and saving to buy a car.

Way to go, Ethan!

CATHY

Determination & Hard work

Cathy was motivated, focused, and driven to reach her goal of creating a better life for herself and her family, Cathy epitomizes hard work. Never afraid to challenge herself and try something new, Cathy was a sponge who absorbed as much learning as she could during her participation at SSWAP.

Cathy didn't let a global pandemic stop her. She had an extremely successful placement at Mahone Bay Nursing Home where they hired her before her placement even ended. Cathy continues to work hard at the nursing home, and I am sure the staff and residents there appreciate her friendly smile as much as we did. Well done, Cathy!

OUR WORKPLACEMENT PARTNERS

Thank you for the opportunities!

Atlantic Superstore - Bridgewater | Castle Building Supplies - Blockhouse | Dollarama - Bridgewater | Foodland - Chester & Lunenburg | Kiwi Cafe | Mahone Bay Nursing Home | Sam's No Frills | Sobeys - Bridgewater & Liverpool



J & W Murphy
Foundation



Marguerite Hubbard
Foundation

 **THANK YOU**
FOR YOUR SUPPORT



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