



2022-2023 IMPACT REPORT South Shore Community Service Association Bonny Lea Farm & South Shore Work Activity Program

Vision

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

Mission

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

Board of Directors

John Biebesheimer	Chair
Bruce Flinn	Vice-Chair
Barbie Nunn-Porter	Secretary
Cy Mayo	Treasurer
Kevin Bezanson	Monique MacEwan
Barb Carthew	Robert Manuel
Catherine Collins	Jane Rafuse
Colleen Fitzgerald	Catherine Robar
Kim Geldart	Bryden Robertson
Betty Hughes	

Memories & Milestones

We use our Mission Statement as a guide for all we do.

During the past year, while continuing to be challenged by living with Covid-19, participants and staff demonstrated time and again the traits noted in our mission - love for one another, dignity, integrity, and responsible community living.

The year included its challenges, with closures due to Covid and the strain of low staffing levels and lower revenues, which are affecting many sectors. It was also a year of creating memories and marked with milestones.

Many participant and community activities resumed, from dances to golf. The Shop on Central reopened and our new Community Crew offers new opportunities. We kicked off our 50th Anniversary year planning celebrations that will continue throughout 2023, including the launch of a legacy book. The Board approved the project budget for our new Home to Stay, with construction slated to begin in June. An assessment of all of our buildings has been completed. The roofs at residence and day program were both replaced and steps have been taken towards improving heating and cooling in the homes and greening our energy consumption. We reviewed and revised our hiring process. And, we continued to seek ways to ensure participants are learning, growing, and living as independently as possible as they strive for their life goals.

From our beginnings 50 years ago as a day school, to our current nine homes and social enterprises, we have come a long way. Looking to the future, we are excited to continue to change and adapt to the needs and uphold the rights of people with disabilities.

John

John Biebesheimer
Chair of the Board of Directors

Karen

Karen Lake
Executive Director



Impact Report

The impact of what we do is not always measurable in quantitative ways, but rather in stories of personal success or accomplishment. Together we are making a difference on a daily basis in the lives of the people who live and work at Bonny Lea Farm and the areas of our organization we are striving to improve.



"I like working in the kitchen." - Sonya

"I like working in the kitchen. My favourite thing to do is make the coffee. When I am not working I like to colour and paint." - Sonya

**Sonya's artwork is featured on many of our thank you cards.

"We are excited to continue to change & adapt to meet the needs and uphold the rights of people with disabilities."

- Karen & John



"I am proud of myself." - Angela

"There were a lot of changes for me this year. Some were hard. My Mom moved. There were staff changes. I moved to a new home. I started working in Community Crew and The Shop on Central. I like living at Bonny Lea Farm and my job in the laundry at Sensea. I am proud of what I am doing and feel more confident." - Angela



"Always courteous & cheerful." - Jeff

"The Community Crew provided thorough cleaning services at the Curling club.

Our members were particularly happy with the shiny floors and sparkling toilets! And, the crew members were always courteous and cheerful when club members were around."

- Jeff, Treasurer Chester Curling Club



"I look forward to coming back in the morning." - Charlene

"When I saw the job ad, I knew I had to apply. When I arrived on my first day, I was greeted by Floyd. He held out his arm and said "Welcome!" Everyday, when I leave I look forward to coming back in the morning. I have found a place I can settle in." - Charlene

"I feel at home and am trying new things." - DJ

From settling in at home, to beginning to work with the Community Crew and the Bonny Lea Farm Maintenance team once a week, DJ has grown a lot in the past year.

"I like going out in the community. The Dalhousie Tigers basketball game was really fun. I like meeting people, working with the Community Crew and the Maintenance team. I helped replace a toilet! I feel at home and am trying new things." - DJ



- Staffing shortages and absences directly impact participants' daily activities and quality of life. To minimize the impact, we streamlined our hiring & training process so that we can interview and make job offers more quickly, helping us get the right people in place faster.
- Being able to welcome volunteers back allowed us to resume opportunities for participants to engage in enriching activities, from community events to art classes.
- Re-opening The Shop on Central and creating the Community Crew increased our visibility in the community and initiated new community-based employment opportunities for participants.



"Long may you continue this good work!" - Barb

"I enjoyed my association with Bonny Lea Farm and wish you all warm thanks! Long may you continue this good work!"
- Barb, Board Member & Volunteer

**Thank you Barb for always going above and beyond for participants!



"I love it here." - Joanne

"I have lived here a long time and have worked everywhere. I work in the Alt Program* now. I just started doing paper prep for shredding. Removing staples. I like learning something new. I love it here."
- Joanne

*Alternative Program



"We're more than home and work." - Heidi

"We're more than home and work. Part of our holistic approach means that we are concerned with participants' overall well-being. We ensure health care appointments are made and appropriate follow up completed and that staff receive health related training.

This year **362** medical appointments were supported; **9** staff training sessions were delivered; **13** footcare clinics were held; **3** immunization clinics were hosted; **4** Covid outbreaks were contained; and the Medication Administration Record was revised."
- Heidi, Health Care Consultant



"My biggest success was getting a job from my work placement" - Linda

You learn a lot about yourself and skills that will help you when you go to work. My biggest success was getting a job from my work placement."
- Linda, SSWAP participant

"They made me think big." - Noah

"They made me think big. I enjoyed working in the woodshop and seeing all of the different things you can make with the tools. The skills I learned in Life Skills helped me improve my relationships with my family. I got hired as a cashier when I finished my placement at Sobeys." - Noah, SSWAP participant

**Noah (shown right), Linda and Sirius (shown above) were three of the 34 participants in the South Shore Work Activity Program this year.



Financial Report

We are reporting a deficit for the second year in a row with a shortfall of \$54,159. Our operating costs have increased due to inflation, while our funding remained stable and our donations saw a decrease. The gap would have been larger if it were not for our diligent financial management & fundraising.

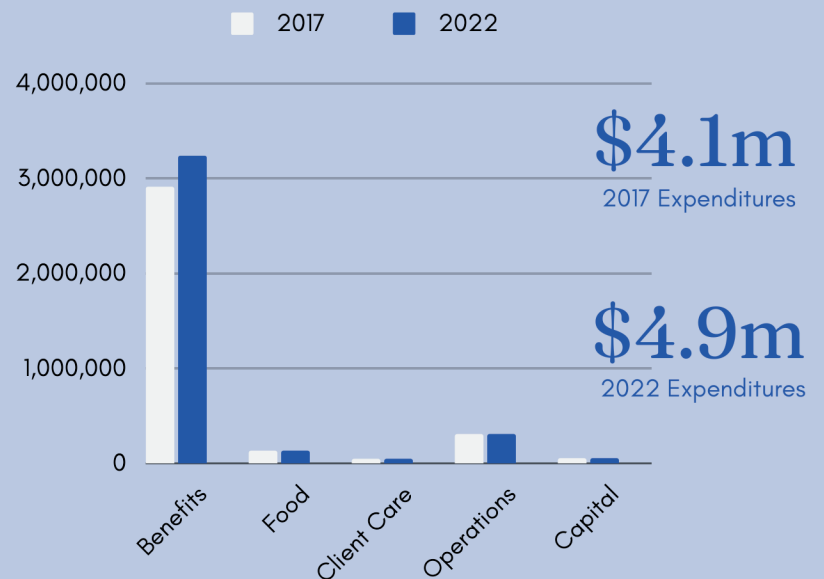
We are grateful that the Disability Support Program is increasing salaries for direct support employees by almost 13% in 2023, recognizing the professional services they provide.

We, along with others in our sector, are hopeful for a similar increase in our food, client care, general operations, and capital budgets, which have not seen an increase in 5 years.

Many positive changes are happening within the Disability Supports Program. We are optimistic that funding will improve.

*Contact us for complete audited financial statements

Department of Community Services Funding: 2017 vs 2022



Acknowledgements

We are grateful for our staff who work tirelessly to deliver our mission, empowering participants to live as independently as possible.

Thank you to our volunteer board of directors who provide guidance and oversight.

We thank all of our funders and supporters who enable our mission through donations, sponsorships, gifts of securities, gifts in their wills, memorials, tributes, capital campaign pledges, grants, work placements & their time.

Through your support the lives of 50 people are changed. You help provide the comfort of home and the dignity of purpose & independence. Thank you. We couldn't do this without you.

* Contact Liz at 902.277.0986 for a complete Fund Development Report.
Charitable Registration #11915 8459 RR0001 / IRS EIN #23-728-3520



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

Thank you for empowering people since 1973.