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*THANKS TO DONORS*



## FRONTLINE WORKERS ARE ESSENTIAL

*Working hard on the frontlines  
through the crisis.*

**WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER!**

March 2020 was an extremely busy month, as BPACL began to implement changes in response to the Covid19 Pandemic. We have updated our existing pandemic plan to minimize risk to people supported, and to ensure adequate staffing is available for essential services.

Effective Tuesday, March 17, 2020, BPACL suspended the Community Participation program and services to limit exposure for our community. Community Participation employees have been redeployed to residential services until social, recreation and leisure activities can safely resume.

Throughout this global pandemic, there has been very little mention of the Developmental Services Sector. Support workers continue to come to work, supporting people as needed, assisting with hygiene and personal care, assisting people with grocery shopping and making meals, while reminding people of the reasons we are socially distancing. In addition, support workers are facilitating activities to help ease the boredom and loneliness experienced by many. These support workers, much like health care workers are caring and dedicated, coming to work and helping people. BPACL is doing everything possible to keep both support workers and people supported safe.

Effective March 18th, our head office closed its doors, and the requirement for a pre-screening test prior to in-person appointments was implemented. Pictured (page 3 bottom left) managers Jeanie Finger, and Laura Balint sent a social media message to all BPACL Support Workers:

**“We are here!!! Keeping our distance!!! But we are here!!! Thank you for showing up every day too! We are so proud of you..and the work that you do.”**

Jeanie and Laura have been working long hours, continuing to support and guide our front-line workers through these unprecedented times.

While there have been many challenges over these past few months, we have seen firsthand what an incredible team of people we have at BPACL! We are so grateful to have so many amazing and dedicated people working with our organization. Our management team and our frontline workers come to work each day and do the best they can to support people through this difficult time. There is great work being done!



## SUPPORTING PEOPLE THROUGH THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



**A Happy Easter**



**Support Workers facilitated a 'socially distanced' Easter Dinner.**



**An 'at home' exercise class led by a Support Worker**



**Left to right: Jeanie Finger and Laura Balint, BPACL Managers offer their support from head office.**



**Vicky created stained glass window art with a support worker. "Stay Safe!"**



## TEAM ONTARIO AT THE THUNDER BAY 2020 SPECIAL OLYMPICS



**Derek and his teammate stand with Team Ontario coaches/volunteers ready for the Special Olympics Canada Winter games.**

On February 22nd, Derek began his journey to Thunder Bay to compete with Team Ontario in the Special Olympics Canada Winter Games. After much hard work and preparation, he was selected to represent Ontario in cross country skiing from February 25th to February 29th, an amazing accomplishment!

Before leaving for the Winter Games, Derek said, "My favourite thing about the tournament is that I get exercise." He definitely had his share of exercise this year! When asked how he prepared for this event, Derek stated that he practised with other team members in Owen Sound and Port Elgin, usually for about four or five hours per week. He also worked out at the Y in Owen Sound and at Warton Fitness using the cardio machines and working on strength training. Derek won 3 gold medals and one silver medal in last years' Special Olympics event and had hopes of winning some races again this year.

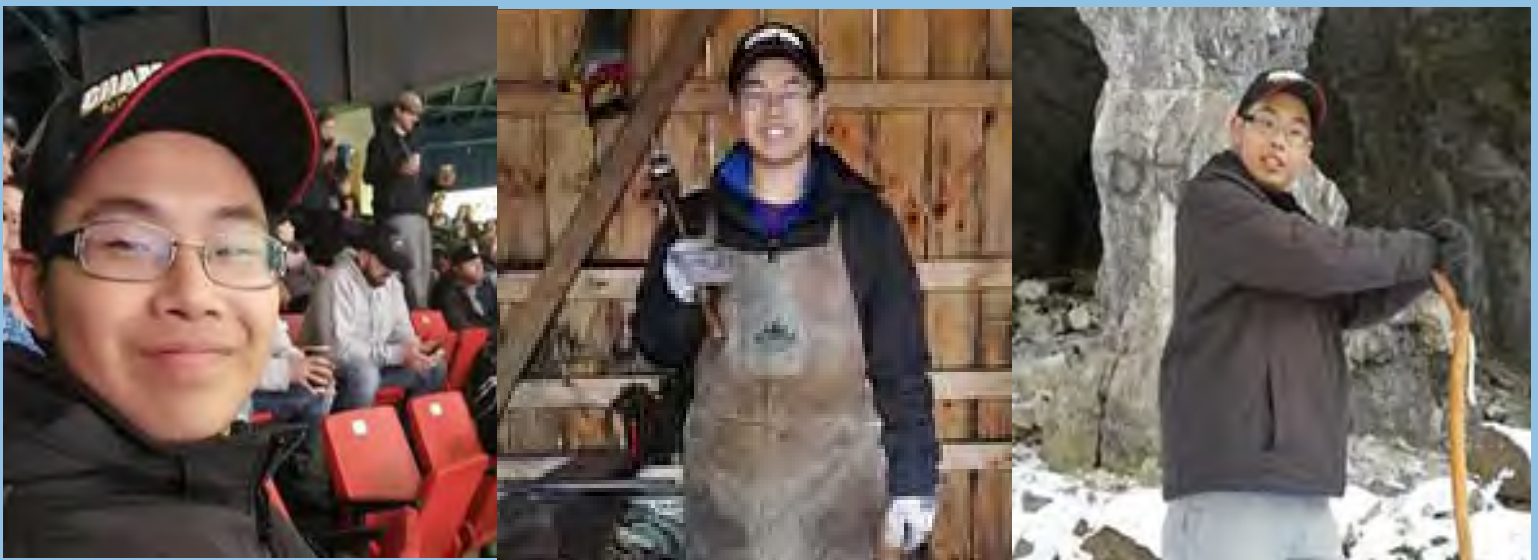
Things did not quite turn out as Derek had hoped. The evening after his first race, he had a mild injury, requiring him to adhere to concussion protocol. He was unable to compete any further this time around, but he was there to cheer on his teammates and enjoy observing the events! This was an amazing opportunity for Derek, made possible through hard work and determination. We are celebrating Dereks achievement!

## FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM CONNECTS WITH BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF GREY BRUCE

BPACL's Family Support program provides help to families on the Bruce Peninsula who have children or relatives with intellectual disabilities. Our Family Support Coordinator, Cathy Irving provides assistance in a variety of ways: connecting families to local resources, assisting with paperwork, providing educational opportunities, helping families to access services/navigate ODSP, and helping families to address service gaps. Recently, a partnership was formed between our Family Support program and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Grey Bruce. Eric was introduced to his new 'Big Brother', Brad, and they have formed a friendship that they both enjoy.

Eric Park and his family are supported through the Family Support Program. Eric's goal was to find natural connections in his community. Cathy Irving explained. "Eric did not qualify for a lot of funded supports, and natural friendships/connections were challenging for him." The partnership started when Cathy participated in a school team planning meeting for Eric. The school had a connection to the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, and knew that the criteria and application process had recently changed, allowing Eric to apply. Cathy facilitated a meeting for Eric and his family with the program director, Mandi Lambe. Eric was interested, and he and his family participated in a training session outlining the terms of the program. Eric was matched with a local big brother, Brad, and they hit it off immediately! Brad and Eric meet weekly, enjoying social/recreational activities together. An amazing connection for both Eric, and Brad!

BPACL's Community Participation program provided people with the opportunity to participate in the 'Bowl for Kids Sake' fundraising event put on by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Grey Bruce this year. It is fantastic to be connecting with other organizations in the community and finding ways to work together and help each other.



Eric Park and his 'Big Brother' Brad went to a hockey game, learned from a blacksmith and went hiking together this year. Special thanks to Brad for sharing these photos!



## RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

This winter, the Random Acts of Kindness group made some great dog toys out of used clothing from the Salvation Army Store. They shared them with the community by placing a bucket of them at the local dog park with a note: "Please enjoy a homemade toy, from: Community Living's Random Acts Of Kindness". What a wonderful idea!



**Stanley holds up one of the 'dog toys' made by the group.**

In addition, the group brought flowers to Gateway Haven, Made cards for people to express appreciation, delivered homemade cookies to the OPP, and donated

homemade meals to the Salvation Army.

The Random Acts of Kindness group has been busy doing good deeds in the community this Winter, spreading joy and helping others.

## BPACL OFFERS HOLIDAY PHOTOS



**Left: Shawn poses as Santa      Right: Cody poses as Santa**

BPACL organized a community outreach in December offering families the opportunity to come and have their photos taken with Santa in Wiarton. This was a great offer as normally families travel elsewhere for holiday photos. Shawn and Cody, both supported through BPACL, dressed up as Santa and posed for pictures, with families, children and even pets.

was a bit nervous with all the kids being there, I'm not used to it. After a while I felt more comfortable. I did well when I was Santa, taking pics with the kids, and it was nice that it was special for them."

It was a wonderful way to give back to this community, and a job well done!

Holiday photos were offered on two different days, and there was a great response! The photos turned out beautifully, and each family paid \$5, receiving a memory stick with their pictures saved on it.

Both men have stated that they would like to do this for the community again next year!

When asked about his experience, Shawn stated, "I liked being Santa. I



Left to right: Christi Ronholm receives donation from The rotary club president, Mike McMillan, and Director of Service projects, Kathy Christie.

## FUNDRAISING AFFECTED BY COVID-19

BPACL's Travel Raffle ticket sales are temporarily on hold due to Covid-19 and the importance of social distancing. We are unsure in this uncertain climate when the ticket sales will resume, but we will keep our community updated as things change.

BPACL's Vesey's Seeds fundraiser has also been cancelled due to Covid-19.

We are so grateful for the continued support of this community.

## BPACL RECEIVES DONATION FROM THE ROTARY CLUB

The Rotary Club of Warton is an amazing organization, consistently giving to our community and helping out wherever they can. The club has been a loyal supporter of BPACL for many years, and BPACL is extremely grateful for the support. In March they provided us with a generous donation once again.

Kathy Christie, the Rotary Club's Director of Service Projects, invited Christi Ronholm, Communications/Fund Development Manager for BPACL, to come and speak at their March 14th meeting. They were happy to receive more information about the services and supports offered by BPACL, and gain a deeper understanding of our mission and values. They presented Christi with a card and donation at the meeting, and shared some sad news: Due to the Covid19 pandemic, they had to cancel their Maple Magic 2020 fundraising event. There was a large investment of time, effort and money spent on this event, and it was very disappointing for the club, but the most important thing to them was the safety of our community. **You can still support the Rotary Club's efforts by buying your maple syrup supply from Regal Point Elk Farm where you will find a self-serve table.** Fifty percent of all sales will go to charities supported by the Warton Rotary including the hospital foundation, and the Bruce Peninsula Food Bank.

In addition to providing a donation to BPACL, the Rotary Club also included BPACL as a listed charity in their rotary 5050 Lottery. To buy a ticket for the draw, supporters can go to the website: [rotary5050lottery.com](http://rotary5050lottery.com) and choose 'The Warton Rotary Club'. Next they can click the 'Buy now' button, and they are then directed to select a charity via the drop down menu. If no charity is selected, the Rotary Club selects one. BPACL is grateful to be on the list of charities supported through these draws. **Please note: due to Covid19 all lotteries are suspended until further notice, but be sure to check this website out for future use.**



## BPACL'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



Our annual Christmas Luncheon was once again held at 'The Meeting place' in Wiarton. A beautiful Turkey 'lunch' buffet with all of the 'fixings', followed by 'Karaoke with Lenny'. Once again, this event was a great success, a time for people supported and their families and friends to get together and celebrate the season. Music and dancing, laughter and merriment filled the hall, a very pleasant afternoon!



## BPACL STAFF PARTY

BPACL held it's Staff Christmas party at Stonetree Golf and Fitness Centre. It was a fun night including a buffet dinner and dancing. A relaxed and enjoyable evening together outside of work! Special thanks to our social committee for all of their hard work to organize such a wonderful evening!.

*Bruce Peninsula Association for Community Living appreciates and relies on donations from the community. BPACL is sincerely thankful for the generous donations recieved this Winter*

**Colpoys Bay Institute  
Ferndale Lioness Club  
St. John's United Church  
Hepworth/Sauble Pastoral Charge  
Rotary Club of Wiarton  
St. Andrew's UCW  
Parkhead United Church  
Warton Marina**

**All those who generously provide monthly and individual donations**

*To make a donation: Visit our website at [www.bpacl.com](http://www.bpacl.com) and click on "make a donation now", or click on "how to donate" to learn more*