

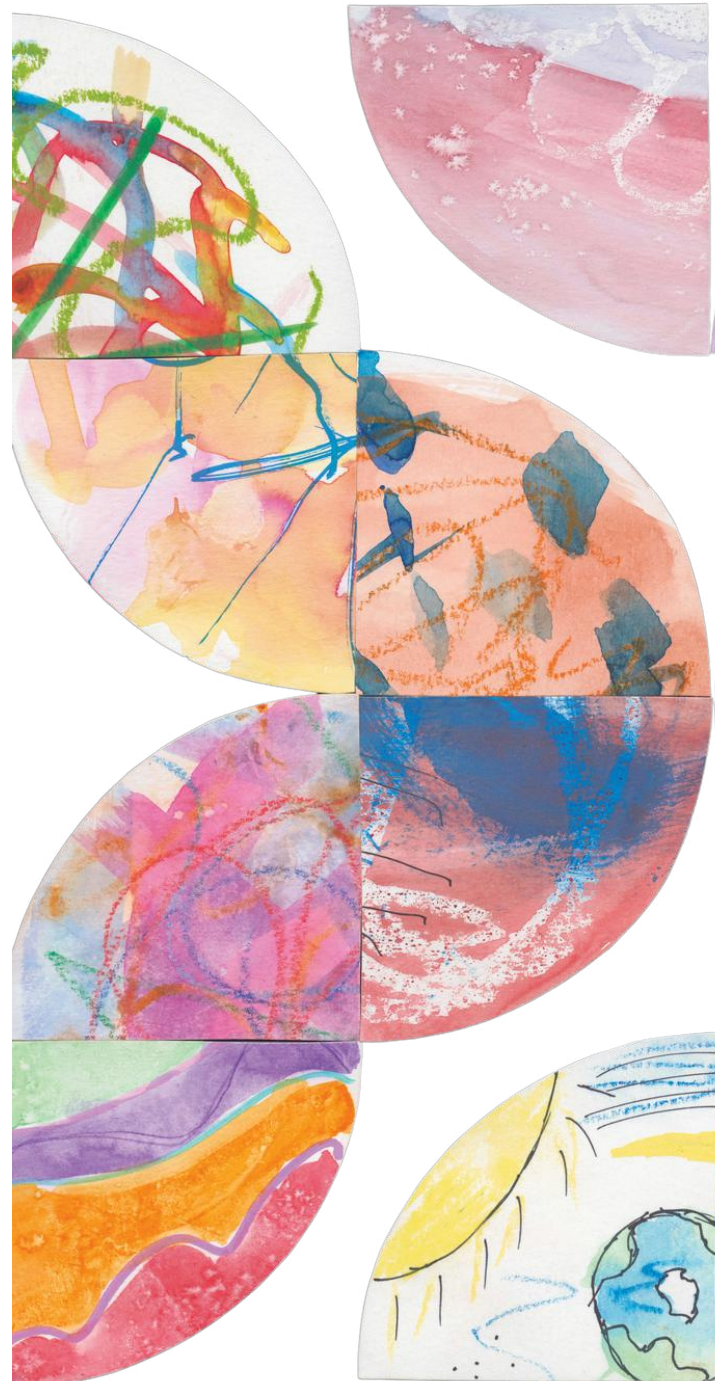
2025 SUMMER SPEAK OUT



EMPLOYER
PARTNER

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UPCOMING EVENTS



Country Hoedown

Date: September 21, 2025

Time: 2 - 7 pm

Location: Beer Kitchen at 100 Kellogg's Lane

Annual Carmell Tait Memorial Walk

Date: October 1, 2025

Time: 1 - 4 pm

Location: Eco Park, Arva

Possibilities in Paint Art Show

Date: November 22, 2025

Location: Community Place North

Holiday Party

Date: December 11, 2025

Location: Hellenic Community Centre



Digital by Design

PHSS Wins 2025 CIO Award

PHSS has been named a 2025 CIO Awards Canada winner for our project, Digital Transformation of PHSS- Digital by Design. The award, presented by IDC Canada and CIO, celebrates organizations that are using technology in innovative ways to create real impact, and we're proud that our work has been recognized among such strong nominees.

Our project, Digital by Design, was built in partnership with INVORG to meet the unique needs of PHSS. The system brings together scheduling, payroll, timesheet management, incident reporting, and communication into one integrated platform. With mobile access, staff will have critical tools at their fingertips, making day-to-day work more efficient, accurate, and person-centered.

While the platform is still being rolled out and improved, we're already seeing the benefits. Teams are spending less time on administrative tasks and more time focusing on what matters most: supporting individuals.

This award is a reflection of the collective effort it took to make the project a reality. We are grateful to INVORG for their innovation and collaboration, to the PHSS project team who dedicated so much time to shaping this platform, and to our staff for embracing these changes with openness and enthusiasm.

We look forward to celebrating alongside other incredible organizations at the IDC Presents: CIO Summit & Awards Canada 2025 in November.





International Conference on Integrated Care 2025

From May 14–16, PHSS proudly took part in the 25th International Conference on Integrated Care (ICIC25), held in Lisbon, Portugal. Organized by the International Foundation for Integrated Care (IFIC), the annual conference brings together global leaders, practitioners, researchers, and community representatives to explore innovative approaches to health and social care. This year's theme, "Synergising Health and Care: Leveraging Integrated Care for a Sustainable Future," set the tone for three days of learning, sharing, and collaboration.

With more than 1,000 delegates from 56 countries, 150+ sessions, and 50 patient and family representatives, the conference provided a powerful platform to address key issues shaping integrated care worldwide. Discussions ranged from advancing universal health coverage to tackling inequities and barriers that prevent individuals from accessing the supports they need.



PHSS was represented by President & CEO, Brian Dunne, and Executive Lead, Donnie Antony. Together, they co-chaired the session Strengthening Health Policy for Equity and Inclusion, with Brian also chairing a panel on Overcoming Barriers to Healthcare Access. Both sessions sparked thoughtful dialogue and highlighted the importance of person-centred, inclusive approaches in shaping policy and practice.

For PHSS, ICIC25 was not only a chance to contribute to the global conversation, but also a reminder of the impact that collaboration, innovation, and advocacy can have on building stronger systems of care and support. Brian and Donnie returned inspired and energized to continue working towards advancing integrated care and support here at home.



Summer Social



This summer we celebrated the **third year of Summer Social at Community Place North**, and it was our best one yet! Summer Social is all about creating opportunities for young adults with developmental, medical, and complex physical needs who are still in high school to reach their full potential, build confidence, make friends, and feel part of a community.

This year we were thrilled to welcome new participants as well as familiar faces returning for another summer of fun. The fact that so many came back, some even choosing to extend their time partway through the program, shows just how much Summer Social means to the participants. For many, it's a place where they are surrounded by friends and supported in exploring new activities.

The summer was filled with energy, laughter, and creativity. Participants loved jumping into weekly themes like sports, ancient Greek games, and science experiments. They also enjoyed days out at the beach, visiting the baseball museum, and had a blast at the Rec Room. Whether it was casting a line during fishing, playing a game of baseball or cricket, or tackling a new challenge with friends, there was always something exciting to look forward to.

We are so grateful to the amazing team behind Summer Social, who pour their passion, planning, and creativity into making each summer unforgettable. Their hard work ensures that participants leave with new skills, great memories, and friendships that last well beyond the summer.

Here's to another summer filled with joy, connection, and community!



2025 Annual

Our 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place on August 7th at the Fanshawe Conservation Area Watson Porter Pavilion, bringing together the people we support, staff, families, friends, and community partners for an afternoon of celebration and recognition. Guests enjoyed lawn games, vendor tables, and a lively bingo game hosted by the DEI Team, all while reflecting on the accomplishments and milestones of an incredible year.

This year, we were proud to present the **PHSS Community Champion Award to Mina Abdelsayed**, Director of Operations at London Medical Pharmacy. Mina has been a consistent supporter of PHSS, someone we can count on not only in times of crisis but every day. From ensuring access to PPE and essential medications during the COVID-19 pandemic, to creating a

customized medication delivery process that meets the unique needs of PHSS, Mina has consistently gone above and beyond. His generosity extends far beyond his role, from sponsoring PHSS events to employing people we support, and always finding meaningful ways to give back. We are honoured to recognize Mina's unwavering commitment, kindness, and partnership as our 2025 Community Champion.

We were also delighted to honour **Bliss Kealey with the PHSS Unsung Hero Award**. Bliss has been a driving force behind some of PHSS' impactful initiatives, including the Saturday Hub and Summer Social, both of which provide inclusive opportunities for young adults and vital respite for families. Her creativity and energy have brought to life countless



General Meeting

community connections, events, and partnerships, from recreational programs to unique fundraisers, all rooted in belonging and inclusion. Bliss doesn't seek recognition; instead, she builds spaces where others shine, fostering a culture of mentorship and joy that truly reflects the heart of PHSS.

During the AGM, we were also honoured to announce that PHSS has been named a **2025 CIO Awards Canada** winner for our Digital Transformation – Digital by Design project. This recognition from IDC Canada and CIO celebrates organizations using technology in innovative ways to deliver measurable value, and our platform has done exactly that. Developed with INVORG, the Digital by Design Platform is a custom, integrated system that streamlines scheduling, payroll, timesheet

management, incident reporting, and communication across our 80+ locations. By extending these capabilities to mobile devices, staff can now access critical tools anytime, anywhere, enhancing efficiency, accuracy, and the delivery of person-centered care and support. This award is a testament to the collaboration, innovation, and dedication of our staff and partners who brought this transformative project to life.

The AGM was a wonderful reminder of the strength of our community and the impact we can achieve together. It was a day to celebrate accomplishments, recognize outstanding contributions, and look ahead with excitement for what's to come. Thank you to everyone who joined us in making this year's AGM such a meaningful and memorable event.



Karl's Story

A Journey of Belonging, Hope, and Determination

Karl's life is a remarkable testament to perseverance, family devotion, and the transformative power of inclusive community-based care and support. Born with developmental and physical disabilities, Karl's future was uncertain from the very beginning. Medical professionals offered bleak predictions suggesting he may not live long or thrive but Karl's parents, especially his mother Christel, refused to accept a future defined by limitations. With unwavering love and relentless advocacy, they chose instead to fight for his potential.



The Power of Connection

Today, Karl lives in his own home with a roommate, supported 24/7 by dedicated PHSS staff. His days are filled with joy and connection. He attends church every Sunday, sings in the choir, and even occasionally conducts. He volunteers weekly at SARI Therapeutic Riding, forming a special bond with a horse named Belle. He also enjoys a music group with friends and cherishes memories captured in annual family scrapbooks. Whether through his boisterous "Amen!" during long sermons or his big smile when offered a Tim Hortons coffee, Karl's presence brings light to every room.

But this vibrant life wasn't always guaranteed.

A Challenging Beginning

Christel knew something was wrong during her pregnancy. After Karl's birth, doctors advised the family not to bring him home, advice they swiftly rejected. They instead immersed themselves in a journey of therapies, sign language, and sensory supports. Despite missing developmental milestones and being nonverbal at age five, Karl began learning sign language at his child care centre. The entire family joined him, proving that communication and connection could flourish in new ways.

Christel, a special education teacher, recognized the power of music in unlocking language. One day, while singing "Silent Night," Karl joined in. It was his first spoken communication, a moment of magic that revealed not only his voice but also his spirit.

Navigating a Broken System

As Karl grew, so did the challenges. When his sisters left for university, Christel faced a difficult decision. With no support available during her work hours, Karl transitioned to a group home. Unfortunately, this placement was misaligned with his needs, placing him in a distressing environment with individuals whose behaviours and physical size created a sense of fear and isolation.

Christel never gave up. She brought Karl home on weekends, clinging to the hope that a better option existed. Eventually, when the agency responsible for his care was shut down by the government, Christel mobilized friends, family, and her church community to advocate for a new opportunity. Their collective voices reached PHSS, an organization known for its person-centred, community-rooted approach.



Legacy of Impact

Karl's story is not just personal, it's emblematic of the broader mission of PHSS: to ensure every individual, regardless of complexity, lives a good life in community. Through responsive, flexible care and support grounded in empathy and innovation, Karl has found more than a home, he's found his community.

A New Chapter at PHSS

In 2003, Karl began a new chapter of his life when moved into his home with support from PHSS. With a stable living environment, tailored supports, and meaningful community connections, Karl's life transformed. He began volunteering, drumming, building relationships, and living with dignity and independence. Christel still keeps every letter from their advocacy campaign, a powerful reminder that belonging doesn't happen by accident. It's co-created through courage, collaboration, and love.



Ottawa

A TRIP TO REMEMBER

Denise recently went to her friend's wedding in Ottawa, and she brought Kailey and Chrissy along to join the trip! During their stay, they explored the ByWard Market, visited the Canadian Museum of Nature, and enjoyed the beautiful Tulip Festival.

They also took the opportunity to meet Charlotte and Sienna, people supported in Ottawa.



An Evening Under the Stars



Joey welcomed his friends over for a cozy dinner and an outdoor movie night in the backyard. Joey hosted dinner before everyone settled in with blankets to watch a film under the stars. Joey's sister baked a cake for everyone to enjoy for dessert.

It was a simple night of food, movies, and laughter with a group of friends. Between sharing stories, joking around, and just enjoying each other's company, it was the perfect way to spend a Friday night together.

Game Day

BLUE JAYS, BURGERS, AND A VIEW

Laurie has always been a huge Blue Jays fan, and his biggest wish was to watch a game. This summer Laurie booked a hotel room, giving him the perfect view of the stadium so he could enjoy the excitement of the game in comfort.

With his favourite food, hamburgers and coffee close by, Laurie settled in for the game. The energy of the crowd and the thrill of a live game, and Laurie couldn't stop smiling. For him, it was the perfect night, baseball, good food, and the simple joy of live sports.



Cottage Memories

SHARING SUNSHINE AND MEMORIES IN GRAND BEND

A group of friends got together to share a week at the Dashwood cottage in Grand Bend. Throughout the week, small groups took turns enjoying sunny beach days, making colorful tie-dye t-shirts, visiting with family, and playing games.

The shared cottage stay gave everyone a chance to relax, connect, and make memories together. Laughter, friendship, and simple joys filled the week, making it a truly memorable experience for all.



Paddles for Paint

June 21, 2025

This year's Paddles for Paint event at Eco Park started off with a little rain, but the sun broke through and set the tone for a wonderful auction.

Over 100 family members and friends joined us for an afternoon filled with laughter, community, and generosity. Thanks to everyone's participation, **we raised more than \$4,300 to help provide art supplies for Possibilities in Paint.**

The day featured 60 auction items, 10 exciting silent auction prizes, and plenty of friendly competition. Everyone enjoyed to atmosphere of the quarter auction, and some guests walked away with big wins!

Our BBQ lunch was made possible thanks to a generous donation from Sysco, and we were thrilled to have support from the London Air Show for our live auction.

Thank you to our outstanding volunteers who make this event possible year after year. Thank you Peggy Sharpe, Mary Pearson, and Nancy Inchley for welcoming guests at registration, as well as Peggy and Merv, who rolled all the quarters at the end of the day. We were also excited to welcome a new face to this years volunteer team, Jim Gilmore, who joined the BBQ line.

We also want to extend our gratitude to the CPN team, who put in an incredible amount of work leading up to the event. They dedicated their time, energy, and talent to making sure every detail was taken care of so that the day ran seamlessly. Their hard work behind the scenes ensures the event went off without a hitch, and we couldn't have done it without them.

We are so grateful to the families, artists, friends, and donors whose contributions make this event such a success. Many look forward to it all year, so be sure to **save the date for next year: June 20, 2026!**





Accessible Sailing

This summer, Tom, Gord, and their staff team once again welcomed people to Rondeau for two weeks of Accessible Sailing, and what a season it was! Over 75 people had the opportunity to set sail, feeling the wind in their sails and the joy of being out on the open water.

From first-time sailors experiencing the freedom of the lake, to returning sailors eager to get back on board, the program offered unforgettable moments for everyone involved. The program is part of Rondeau Yacht Club's Access BOOM program, an inclusion-based sailing school designed for students with adaptive needs. For years, the Access BOOM program has partnered with clubs, schools, and community organizations across Ontario to open the world of sailing to people with disabilities—and every summer, we're grateful to be part of that story.

A big reason this program is possible is the specially designed Access Dinghies, boats created with accessibility in mind. These remarkable dinghies make sailing both safe and empowering:

- **Stability:** A weighted centerboard and keel prevent capsizing.
- **Comfort:** Forward-facing seating provides security and ease.
- **Accessibility:** Joystick steering and roller-furling sails make handling simple, even for sailors with high physical or cognitive support needs.

Together, these features give people the chance to sail independently, something that may have once felt out of reach.



Onam at CPN

Community Place North celebrated Onam with colour, laughter, and sweet treats. Onam is Kerala's vibrant 10-day harvest festival, usually held in August or September, marking the Malayalam New Year and symbolizing prosperity and cultural unity.

To bring the spirit of the festival to life, CPN filled the space with beautiful flower arrangements and traditional Onam decorations. Everyone joined in the fun with games that brought lots of smiles, and they even had the chance to taste a traditional treat. The celebration was also a time of learning, as people discovered the meaning behind Onam and its importance in Kerala's culture.



PHSS Foundation's Laudables Award

On April 29, 2025, nearly 100 guests gathered at the London Hunt & Country Club for the PHSS Foundation's 2025 Laudables celebration, honouring Clark Bryan, founder of Aeolian Hall. The evening recognized Clark's remarkable contributions to inclusion, accessibility, and the arts, raising almost \$25,000 in support of PHSS.

A tireless advocate for breaking down barriers in arts and education, Clark has created inclusive initiatives such as El Sistema Aeolian, the Pride Men's Chorus London, and The Rebelheart Collective. Beyond music, he champions equity, mental health awareness, and human rights, earning recognition including the Canada 150 Medal, a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Forest City London Music Awards, and a place on the City of London Mayor's Honour List in 2025.

The evening featured reflections from community leaders, including Mayor Josh Morgan, and concluded with Chelsey, a person supported by PHSS, presenting Clark with the Laudables award. Clark's words of gratitude left guests inspired, highlighting the power of community and the arts to create meaningful change.



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PHSS Foundation's Bowl-a-Thon

On June 1, 2025, the PHSS Foundation hosted their 22nd Annual Bowl-a-Thon at Fleetway London, and for the first time ever, we filled all 44 lanes! Nearly 300 bowlers, families, and supporters came together for a day filled with laughter, cheering, and community spirit.

Thanks to your generosity, we raised over \$37,000 to support the highest priority needs across PHSS, funding essential initiatives like accessible transportation and the Staff Support in Hospital Fund. Highlights included a ceremonial first ball from MPP Peggy Sattler and Scott, a sold-out 50/50 draw, 40 raffle baskets, a lively silent auction, and a pizza lunch courtesy of Pizza Projekt.

This year was extra special with a strong turnout from our out of town locations, including bowlers from every Ottawa home who made the trip to London. Bowl-a-Thon 2025 was a powerful reminder of the joy and connection we create when we come together. We can't wait to see you back on the lanes next year!



Thank you to all of our King Pin Sponsors!



PHSS Foundation's Leo Kirwin Memorial Golf Tournament

On August 15, 2025, golfers hit the greens at River Valley Golf Course for the Annual Leo Kirwin Memorial Golf Tournament, and what a day it was! Under sunny skies, golfers teed off at 8:30 am and enjoyed a day filled with laughter, friendly competition, and community spirit.

Together, we raised over \$44,000 in support of PHSS! Exciting moments kept the energy high, from an almost hole-in-one on the contest hole to a perfect shot in our ball toss game (you can't get any closer than sinking it right in the hole!).

Thank you to all our golfers, sponsors, and volunteers who made this year's tournament such a success. It was a day of fun and generosity we won't soon forget, we can't wait to see you back on the course next year!



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