

 PHSS Foundation

# 2025

## YEAR IN REVIEW





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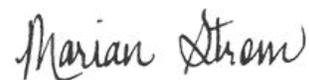
# A MESSAGE *from the*

## PHSS Foundation Chair

As Chair of the PHSS Foundation, I continue to be inspired by the generosity, commitment, and shared sense of purpose that defines our community. This past year was marked by meaningful connection, strong partnerships, and tangible progress toward the goals we care deeply about.

Throughout 2025, our signature events once again brought people together in support of PHSS Foundation's work. Laudables celebrated Clark, whose leadership and generosity strengthen our community. The Bowl-A-Thon remained a highlight of the year, filling Fleetway with laughter, friendly competition, and a powerful sense of inclusion. The Annual Leo Kirwin Memorial Golf Tournament continued its legacy at River Valley Golf Course, drawing dedicated golfers, sponsors, and community partners whose support makes a lasting difference.

None of this would be possible without the generosity of our donors, the dedication of our volunteers, and the continued support of our partners and PHSS community. Thank you for believing in this work and for helping the Foundation turn care, creativity, and opportunity into lasting impact. I look forward to what we will continue to build together.



*Marian Strom*

**Marian Strom**  
PHSS Foundation  
Board Chair



# Laudables

April 29, 2025  
London Hunt & Country Club

In April 2025, the PHSS Foundation proudly recognized Clark Bryan, founder of Aeolian Hall, as the 2025 Laudables honouree. Nearly 100 guests gathered at the London Hunt & Country Club to celebrate Clark’s remarkable contributions to inclusion, accessibility, and the arts, raising almost **\$25,000** in support of PHSS.



Clark is widely known for his commitment to breaking down barriers in music and arts education and for creating spaces where creativity fosters belonging and connection. Through innovative initiatives and community leadership, his work reflects a deep dedication to equity and accessibility, using the arts as a powerful tool to bring people together.



The evening featured warm reflections from community leaders and partners, greetings from Mayor Josh Morgan, and a meaningful presentation of the Laudables award by Chelsey, a person supported by PHSS. Clark’s heartfelt remarks closed the evening, leaving guests inspired by his compassion, leadership, and belief in the strength of community.



The 2025 Laudables event was a powerful reminder of what is possible when people come together to celebrate shared values and support more inclusive communities.

# Bowl-a-thon

June 1, 2025  
Fleetway London

In June 2025, PHSS returned to the lanes at Fleetway London for our 22nd Annual Bowl-a-Thon, an unforgettable day filled with energy, connection, and community spirit. For the first time in Bowl-a-Thon history, all 44 lanes were in use, creating an atmosphere full of laughter, cheers, and shared celebration.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors, sponsors, and supporters, the event raised over **\$37,000** to support PHSS. Proceeds from Bowl-a-Thon continue to make a meaningful impact, helping fund essential initiatives.

The day kicked off with ceremonial first throw by Peggy Sattler, MPP for London West, and Scott McKay, a person supported by PHSS. Bowling, raffles, and auctions kept the excitement going, while people supported, family members, staff, and friends came together to enjoy the fun.

This year's Bowl-A-Thon was made even more special by the incredible turnout from our Owen Sound and Ottawa locations. It was truly amazing to have them with us in person, sharing in the fun and excitement of the day.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who helped make the day such a success.

Mark your calendars for our 2026 Bowl-a-Thon on **June 7, 2026.**





# Leo Kirwin Memorial Golf Tournament

August 15, 2025  
River Valley Golf Club

In August 2025, more than 100 golfers gathered at River Valley Golf Club for the 23rd Annual Leo Kirwin Memorial Golf Tournament. The day brought together friendly competition, shared laughter, and a strong sense of community as golfers of all skill levels enjoyed a memorable day on the course.



From exciting near-misses in the hole-in-one challenge to lighthearted moments that kept everyone smiling, the tournament was filled with both fun and meaningful connection. Thanks to the dedication of golfers, sponsors, volunteers, and supporters, the event raised over **\$44,000** to support PHSS.



Proceeds from the tournament directly benefit the people supported by PHSS, helping to sustain person-centred care and support across Ontario. The success of the day was made possible through the continued support of the Kirwin family, the generosity of sponsors, and the exceptional hospitality of River Valley Golf Club.



The Leo Kirwin Memorial Golf Tournament is a reflection of the power of community coming together to honour a legacy while creating lasting impact.

Save the date for our 2026 tournament on **August 14, 2026.**

# Our 2025 Event Sponsors



Kirwinlane Farms LTD.



R&R Refrigeration

# A Year of PHSS



# Foudation Moments



# An Afternoon With Áine

March 20, 2025

In March 2025, PHSS Foundation had the honour of welcoming Dr. Áine Carroll to London, Ontario for a visit focused on connection, learning, and collaboration. An internationally recognized leader in integrated and person-centred care and support, Dr. Carroll brought valuable insight and inspiration to conversations about the future of community-based care and support.

During her visit, Dr. Carroll toured PHSS locations, met people supported and staff, and experienced person-driven care and supports in action. A highlight included a visit to Community Place North, where she joined an inclusive drumming circle reflecting the power of community and connection.

The Foundation also hosted An Afternoon with Áine, bringing together healthcare leaders, researchers, and community partners for meaningful dialogue. The event featured contributions from Sandra Datars Bere, Brian Orr, Dr. Cathy Faulds and Dr. Maria Mathews, and a keynote from Dr. Carroll, who drew on her global experience to emphasize person-centred, coordinated care and the role of implementation science in driving change.

Supported by the PHSS Foundation, the visit underscored what’s possible when people—not systems—are placed at the centre of care and support.





# Sharing Person-Centred Care and Support on the International Stage

In December, Brian Dunne, President and CEO, and Donnie Antony, Executive Lead, New Directions & Opportunities, had the privilege of representing PHSS at the National Rehabilitation Hospital (NRH) in Ireland, where they connected with international colleagues and shared PHSS’s approach to person-centred care and support.

Brian delivered the 16th Ernest Goulding Memorial Lecture at the National Rehabilitation Hospital titled “From Patienthood to Personhood: A Complex Journey Home.” The lecture was warmly received and highlighted PHSS’s leadership in person-centred care within global conversations about healing, humanity, and belonging.

During the visit, Brian and Donnie also met with the International Foundation for Integrated Care (IFIC) in Dublin, engaging in meaningful dialogue and shared learning with like-minded leaders committed to integrated care and support.

On Friday December 5<sup>th</sup>, Brian and Donnie proudly represented PHSS at NRH’s National Conference on Specialist Rehabilitation Services. Brian’s presentation, “Travelling Together to Get Home,” reflected PHSS’s journey from a local Ontario agency to an internationally recognized voice in integrated care, grounded in the values of personhood, belonging, and community life.

We were honoured to be recognized alongside global partners for our contributions to advancing integrated care and support and a good life in community.



# PHSS Foundation Funds

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## International Networking & Representation Fund

This fund was designed to foster strategic networking and collaboration in the health and social care sector. It presents a unique opportunity for PHSS to actively participate in international conferences and allows us to become educators and evolve innovative models of care and support. This fund gives PHSS an opportunity for professional growth, international collaboration, and to cultivate innovative solutions that have the potential to reshape the landscape of health and social care.

## Staff Support in Hospital Fund

PHSS is one of the very few agencies that continues to send staff with the people we support while they are in hospital. Given the unique care and communication needs, our staff are a significant advocate for the needs, preferences, and wants for those who may have alternative forms of communication. Unfortunately, we do not receive additional funding to provide this service. Donations made to the Staff Support in Hospital Fund help us ensure that we can continue to provide this compassionate service for the people we support and their families.

## Vehicle Fund

Accessible transportation is a major barrier for those we support to get around to activities, meetings, and doctors appointments. This fund will be used to purchase vehicles and make them fully accessible, this might include wheelchair accessibility features, ramps, secure restraints, and other modifications that empower individuals with mobility challenges to travel comfortably and safely. The vehicle fund ensures that everyone in PHSS has the means to participate in various programs and activities.

## Enriching Lives Fund

The Enriching Lives Fund provides financial assistance to people we support to participate in activities that align with their person centered plan. Donations made to the Enriching Lives Fund help to reduce the financial barrier for those we support to achieve their goals and dreams, and in turn, enjoy a more enriching life.





### **Brian Dunne Housing & Accessibility Fund**

Established by friends of Brian Dunne (PHSS’ President and CEO), this fund furthers Brian’s dream of home-based support and community access for everyone who wishes it.

### **Carmell E. Tait Memorial Fund for Advocacy & Social Justice**

This fund was established in 2020 in memory of Carmell Tait, the Chief Operating Officer of PHSS for 32 years. Carmell’s number one priority was helping the people we support and their families. She was a natural advocate for the marginalized, with a sense of fairness and justice at the core of her being.

To celebrate Carmell’s vision, work, and legacy, interest from this fund will be used to further her commitment to advocacy and social justice, to help fund initiatives and efforts that will help people and their families.



### **Elizabeth Leighton Training & Education Fund**

Friends and family of Elizabeth Leighton, a Past President of PHSS Foundation, marked her 60th birthday with the establishment of this endowed fund. Income from the fund will provide training and education for those supported by PHSS, as well as staff who provide support.

### **Fulford Family Fund**

The Fulford Family established this endowed fund in an effort to ensure quality and consistent supports for those we serve. Income from this fund can be used for family or those we support.

### **Project Hope Fund**

As Project Hope is very special to many families, there are some who choose to donate to the program. Project Hope has also run fundraisers throughout the years: Rocking for Hope, the Christmas Art/Bake Sale, and a third party event called the Mummer’s Dance.



### **Lori Hicks Vacation Fund**

Lori Hicks was a long-time PHSS employee who brought a sense of connection to each person she supported. The PHSS Foundation wanted to honour Lori and recognize all of her contributions. In discussions with Lori, she was very supportive of having a fund in her name which would assist people supported to travel, more specifically, to Disney World – which would reflect her love of Disney and travel, as well as her commitment to the people she loved and supported.



# Ann Cross Creative Arts & Wellness Place Update

Exciting progress is happening at the Ann Cross Creative Arts & Wellness Place on the shores of Lowney Lake near Ottawa. Construction on the buildings addition has reached a major milestone: **walls, roof, and windows are now in place**. This sets the stage for the next phase of work, which will focus on completing the interior and installing accessibility features throughout the space.

Future plans include wheelchair-friendly pathways, a pathway leading directly to the dock, lifts throughout the building, and a fully accessible kitchen and bathroom—ensuring everyone can enjoy the retreat comfortably. Once finished, the Creative Arts & Wellness Place will offer a welcoming environment for individuals, families, and friends to connect, relax, and explore creativity and wellness together.

This progress brings us one step closer to making this unique retreat fully accessible and ready for visitors. We look forward to sharing more updates as construction continues!

Thank you to Ann Cross for her generous donation that made this project possible, and to Mike Theberge and his team, whose dedication, time, talent, and resources are helping turn this vision into reality.



# 2025 - 2026 PHSS Foundation Board of Directors



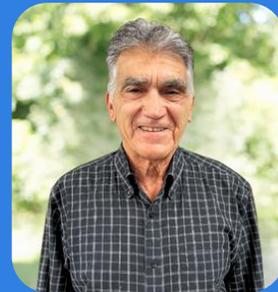
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Interested in joining the PHSS Foundation Board of Directors?  
**Reach out to Linda Antony for more information.**  
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