

# Staff Recognition

2024-2025



# Thank You

**“The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.” Pablo Picasso**

***A heartfelt congratulations to each of you who are celebrating a career milestone with Community Living Guelph Wellington.***

Your dedication, compassion, and commitment to supporting people to live their best lives is truly inspiring. You’ve gone above and beyond, not only in the work you do each day but also in the way you show up for your community—with passion, kindness, and unwavering care.

The impact you’ve made is felt deeply by the people you support, their families, your colleagues, and our entire organization. We are so grateful for your contributions, and we celebrate not only the years you’ve given but the difference you’ve made along the way.

Thank you for everything you do, and for continuing to make CLGW a place where everyone feels supported, valued, and included.



**Cindy Kinnon**

Executive Director





35

**Years Of Service**





# 35

## Years Of Service Award Darlene Holton

With CLGW since September 1989

An infectious laugh. Friendly smile. Wellness leader. Pen, paper, and stacks of paper. These are all attributes to describe Darlene. She is a “go-to” person when you need to brainstorm creative solutions to difficult problems. Many of us are shocked that Darlene has worked at CLGW for 35yrs....we all swear that she just celebrated her 35<sup>th</sup> birthday 😊

Darlene was first hired by fellow Supervisor Paul Zappacosta to work at the “Townhouse Program”. Darlene had initially declined the position as she was going home to the East Coast for a chunk of time. Paul remembers contacting Darlene a month or so later because a woman moved into the Townhouse and he felt that Darlene would be a great fit to support her. Darlene recalls that while she was working at that site, she got married and honeymooned not with her new husband, but with the PWS from the Townhouse as they were going on a cruise and she went to support them!

Darlene loves what she does and has found her niche in our Modified Group Living service. We admire Darlene’s patience and resiliency to walk the line between dignity of risk vs mitigating risk when supporting people who don’t quite fit into the boxes that we create. She always has an open door or listening ear for her teams, PWS, community partners, and families.

She helps the Service Team keep focus on our wellness and approach to life and work. Ask her about the benefits of yellow kiwi or how many beans and nuts you should eat in a day.

Regardless of the situation, Darlene tries to approach life with positivity and a smile.

Thank you Darlene!



# 35

## Years Of Service Award Kim Morrison

With CLGW since March 1990

I spoke with Kim about her time at CLGW, and she shared some inspiring moments. She started in the north at Birmingham Lodge in Mount Forest. When the first group home opened at Melissa Crescent, she began working there full time.

Kim recalled that Melissa Crescent was the only house on the crescent, surrounded by fields—it seemed lonely at first, but she made it a true home for the people we support. She spent over 30 years there before moving to Jeremy's Crescent.

Kim has always been dedicated to the people we support, often taking them out into the community. One memorable moment was a grocery shopping trip with a person who had previously lived in an institution. He showed interest in a mother and her baby, and with Kim's support, he was able to interact and hold the baby—an experience that helped him build confidence and community connections.

Over the years, Kim has organized cottage trips, day outings, and festival visits, always maintaining a person-centered approach. Her dedication, care, and passion for helping others achieve their goals make her an inspiring colleague. It has been a pleasure to work with Kim, first as a DSP and now as her supervisor.

Kim's 35 years of commitment have enriched the lives of the people we support, fostering independence, community connections, and lasting memories along the way.

Thank you Kim!



# 35

## Years Of Service Award Angela Blackett

With CLGW since May 1990

She began her career in Mount Forest at Birmingham Lodge before residential homes were established. In 1991, when Jeremy's Crescent opened, Angela joined the team and has been there ever since.

A familiar face and full-time DSP, Angela is a go-to source for anyone wanting a history lesson on CLGW in Mount Forest.

When asked what has inspired her to stay so long, Angela shared that seeing the people we support achieve their dreams and enjoy a better quality of life keeps her motivated. A recent example is the baking and cooking activities she leads with two individuals at Jeremy's Crescent. Their confidence has grown, and they are now trying more complex recipes—Angela recently recertified her food handling certificate to support them.

Angela also loves helping plan holidays, decorating, and involving everyone in home activities.

Outside work, Angela enjoys spending time with her grandchildren and baking at home—she even recently shared a delicious protein bar!

Her dedication has made Jeremy's Crescent feel like a true home for the people we support since 1991.

Thank you Angela!



# 35

## Years Of Service Award Jennifer Mckenna

With CLGW since June 1990

In Jennifer's own words: "I enjoy a good giggle on shift and most of the time it's at myself."

Jenn is friendly, quick to laugh, curious, and deeply supportive of the individuals she works with at CLGW. Since starting with the Agency in 1990, she has supported a wide range of people—from seniors to youth, in both home and day support settings.

She believes that when DSPs are respectful, professional, and focused on the people they support, strong and healthy teams are built. Jenn's genuine curiosity often leads her to research topics and share them with her teammates, valuing the diverse perspectives her team brings.

Something that had left a memorable impression on Jenn was an 8 week empowering course offered to DSP to attend alongside the individuals they supported. Learning what empowering means and ways to achieve it was an eye opener for Jenn. She is a strong supporter of advocating and giving individuals a voice.

Outside of work, Jenn's love for animals, especially dogs and cats, and her passion for gardening reflect her caring nature.

Her commitment to what she loves to do in her spare time speaks volumes to her commitment and love for her job as a DSP.

Thank you Jenn!



25

**Years Of Service**





# 25

## Years Of Service Award Barbara Alexander

With CLGW since March 1999

Barb has spent 25 years connecting with and supporting the people we serve, while also being a positive role model for her colleagues. Her commitment, thoughtfulness, creativity, and strong work ethic have made a lasting impact.

Currently, Barb is a full-time Direct Support Professional at the Robertson residential home. Whether at home or in the community, she ensures the people we support are engaged in meaningful activities—whether Wii bowling, cooking, volunteering, feeding swans, or participating in community events.

Barb has always taken the time to learn what each person enjoys and works creatively to make those experiences happen.

Some highlights of her work include:

- Developing and running the Funky Monkey Café at Fergus Day Options, involving people we support in all aspects.
- Offering woodworking and sewing activities, fostering creativity and participation.
- Organizing annual overnight camping trips to Conestoga Campground.
- Supporting submissions to the Fergus Fall Fair.
- Helping maintain friendships and family connections.

It is people like Barb who create meaning, create membership and create opportunities for the people we support, who are most fortunate to be in receipt of her care.

Thank you Barb!



# 25

## Years Of Service Award Jennifer Wilson

With CLGW since October 1999

After starting part-time at Holody Home and raising her two children, she went on to work at William, Belwood, and the Fergus Base, where she continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of the people she supports in Fergus.

Jenn has been an incredible part of the Community Living team, helping shape the day services over the years. What started as a bustling workshop of computer dismantling and running the Funky Monkey café has grown into a vibrant program where participants' interests and strengths are at the center—and Jenn has been key to making that happen.

She loves getting out into the community with the people at CPS Fergus, finding meaningful volunteer opportunities that match their skills and passions. From assisting at the Fergus Food Bank to volunteering at the Mission Thrift Store, gardening, and even visiting cats, Jenn has a talent for discovering what participants enjoy and connecting them with opportunities where they can thrive.

Outside of work, Jenn enjoys time at her cottage up north, boating, and hiking. She is also a fitness enthusiast, regularly teaching classes in Fergus, and recently became a Certified Holistic Nutritionist, with plans to run workshops on natural living. Her two babies are now grown and one is leaving the house to set out on their own with his girlfriend. It's a new stage of life being almost an empty nester and she will focus on her own goals and continuing to work at Community Living.

Jenn sees the person first, and empowers them to achieve and contribute in meaningful ways in their communities.

Thank you Jenn!



# 25

# Years Of Service Award Tammy Stewart

With CLGW since December 1999

Today, we recognize and celebrate an extraordinary milestone—25 years of unwavering dedication and service from one of our valued team members. For a quarter of a century, Tammy has been a passionate advocate for people she supports, consistently championing the best outcomes and ensuring that every individual she supports is treated with dignity, respect, and compassion.

Her relationships with the people she supports are nothing short of inspiring. Built on trust, empathy, and genuine care, these connections reflect her deep commitment to person-centered support. She brings creativity, punctuality, and thoroughness to every aspect of her work, and her organizational skills ensure that nothing is overlooked. Whether planning engaging daily activities for the ladies at Egremont or embarking on overnight adventures, she is always seeking new and exciting experiences that enrich the lives of those around her. Tammy's ability to think outside the box has brought joy and opportunity to countless individuals at CLGW.

We extend our heartfelt thanks for her long-standing commitment to our agency and the people we support. Tammy's contributions over the past 25 years have left an indelible mark, and we are incredibly grateful for the quality, consistency, and compassion she brings to her role every single day.

Tammy's work reflects a deep belief in the potential of every individual, making 25 years of service truly inspiring.

Thank you Tammy!



# 25

## Years Of Service Award Rebecca Heal

With CLGW since January 2000

Congratulations, Becky on reaching the 25<sup>th</sup> year of working at CLGW!

Becky has worked in several of the CLGW sites in Centre Wellington over the past 25 years. She is currently a full-time Direct Support Professional at the Harvey residential home.

Becky has met and supported many people over the past 25 years. You can tell by Becky's approach that she loves to get to know the people she supports and to find interests they enjoy! She finds ways to make things happen for the people she supports and for them to fulfill a dream or wish they have. Her positive energy and strong work ethic means things get done by Becky! Who knew you had a love of Bingo!

Becky's sense of humour and personable approach put people at ease with themselves and their surroundings. Becky is a strong advocate for the people we support and her co-workers at CLGW and this is evident in her daily work life and her involvement with agency's union. Thank you, Becky for your leadership, positive energy, your voice and great sense of humour!

She's a true advocate—whether for staff, the people she supports, or anyone in the community, she never hesitates to speak up and make things right.

Thank you Becky!



20

**Years Of Service**





# 20

## Years Of Service Award Ann Marie Williams

With CLGW since January 2004

Celebrating 20 years of service is a significant achievement that reflects exceptional dedication and commitment. Although I haven't worked alongside Ann Marie for long, it's already clear that she is someone who brings genuine heart and care to everything she does.

As a direct support professional, Ann Marie consistently shows a deep commitment to the people she supports. Her care is evident in the way she engages with individuals—always with kindness, respect, and a focus on their well-being. She takes pride in helping others feel seen, heard, and valued, and her efforts make a real difference in their daily lives.

What also stands out is how approachable and dependable Ann Marie is. She's someone her team can count on— not only for her experience but also for her willingness to step up and take on tasks without hesitation.

A big congratulations to you, Ann Marie, on this incredible 20-year milestone! Your hard work, dedication, and genuine care have shaped so many lives—and it's a privilege to be working alongside you.

Ann is the go to person on her team. Her experience, knowledge, and, above all, her passion for supporting people make her truly exceptional.

Thank you Ann Marie!



# 20

# Years Of Service Award James Porter

With CLGW since February 2004

Today we celebrate Jamie and his incredible 20 year journey as a Direct Support Professional, Yuju! What an amazing milestone!

From day one, Jamie has been a spark of joy at CPS Guelph, filling every space with laughter, energy, and positivity.

His cheerful spirit is contagious. Whether it's cracking a joke, starting a sing-along, or cheering someone on with a big "woo-hoo," he makes each day fun and memorable for the people he supports.

The individuals at CPS Guelph light up when he walks through the door because they know they're in for something special: a smile, a laugh, or a moment that makes them feel truly valued.

But Jamie's magic goes beyond the fun stuff. He's also a rock for his team and his community. He's always ready to jump in, offer a hand, share his knowledge, and keep things running smoothly. Over 20 years, he's built relationships, created experiences, and left a lasting mark on everyone he's met.

Congratulations, Jamie! Yuju! Here's to your passion, your energy, and the countless ways you've made life brighter for the people you support.

Jamie, thank you for showing us that work can be joyful, meaningful, and full of heart every single day.

Thank you Jamie!



# 20

## Years Of Service Award Paul Turner

### With CLGW since March 2004

Paul has been involved with Special Olympics for 46 years—he loves the athletes and builds strong connections with them. He has coached many sports, but his first love is floor hockey, now evolving into floorball, and has led his teams to numerous Provincial and National championships. Traveling to Austria with his team was definitely a highlight!

He started with CLGW as a DSP, forming meaningful connections with the people he supports, some of which still last today. As a DSP, he created routines that got participants out into the community, such as trips to the West Montrose Bridge. Later, he transitioned into an administrative role, overseeing the rental and upkeep of the Holody Centre for Sports and Recreation on Royal Road.

Thanks to his hard work and dedication, the facility is always in excellent condition, and the relationships he has built with rental groups ensure smooth operations. His attention to detail—whether following up on equipment, score clocks, alarms, or making surprise check-ins—reflects his commitment to excellence. Supervising two PWS general workers, Paul ensures the gym is well-maintained and supportive of the groups who rent it. His passion for the gym is unmistakable.

Outside of work, Paul enjoys golf at Victoria Park Valley, hockey at the rink, and supporting his children and grandson in their hockey pursuits. At home, he loves his orange cat and golden retriever, keeping up with pet hair and regular vacuuming with a good sense of humor.

Paul's 20 years of dedication and care have made a lasting impact, and we are grateful for his passion and commitment to CLGW and the people we support.

Thank you Paul!



# 20

## Years Of Service Award Joseph Van der Jagt

With CLGW since May 2004

How the years fly by so quickly and just like that Joseph has been working at CLGW for 20 years!

His kronos file says he has been doing sleepovers at Lambert for many of those years but I also know he had been doing the sleepover shift at Kipling for the earlier years.

Working for CLGW has always been his 'night' job as he has also always held down another job during the day time hours. He has primarily worked in residential home settings and has experience working with a wide range of people from childhood ages to the elderly with mental health and other disabilities.

Joseph says his favorite part of the job for him has always been seeing the world through the eyes of the people supported and so often has been presented with a fresh perspective as a result. He has trouble picking just one favorite memorable moment – there have been so many opportunities to experience the richness that has been added to his life because of the work he does. What a great way to have a growth mindset and stay fresh and new in the job the he has been doing for so many years.

Serving the community has given him a deeper appreciation for life, enriching both his personal and professional journey while offering a fresh perspective every day.

Thank you Joseph!



# 20

## Years Of Service Award Beverly Kim Fudger

With CLGW since May 2004

Kim is currently a Direct Support Professional at the Watt Street residential home in Fergus.

Her team values her work ethic, honest communication, sense of humour and thoughtfulness to the people she supports and her teammates. Kim enjoys helping and supporting people to connect with their communities in activities they enjoy. This includes playing sports in the community and in the backyard! It includes music as well.

Kim has supported people to find ways to fulfill their interest in music. This includes annual trips on the Grand River Cruise; connecting a person we support with a group of musicians who gather to jam at the local bar with the outcome being playing music together and developing friendships; and attending Drayton Theatre music productions and The Grand Theatre in Fergus.

Her passion to serve goes beyond her role as a DSP and shines through in every relationship—whether as a coworker, neighbor, or friend in the community. She is always ready and happy to help, staying actively involved both in the community and with the individuals she supports. Thanks, Kim for your work at CLGW and your contribution to enriching the lives of the people we support!

Kim's impact goes beyond her role as a DSP. She supports, inspires, and uplifts everyone she encounters.

Thank you Kim!



# 20

## Years Of Service Award Tanya Cremer

With CLGW since September 2004

It's an honor to recognize Tanya for reaching an incredible 20 years of service with CLGW. While I may be newer in my role, it didn't take long to see the remarkable difference Tanya makes every single day.

In direct support, reliability and compassion are essential—and Tanya brings both in abundance. Her work ethic is unmatched, and her deep understanding of the individuals she supports shines through in every interaction. Whether she is offering a listening ear, navigating a challenging moment, or finding creative ways to bring joy into daily routines, Tanya approaches it all with heart, patience, and care.

Beyond her technical skills and dedication, Tanya's sense of humor and warmth light up the room. She brings a perfect balance of professionalism and friendliness, uplifting her team, fostering a positive environment, and creating a space where everyone feels valued and respected. Her encouragement and support for colleagues make her not only a trusted team member but also a mentor and role model within the agency.

Twenty years of service reflects not just commitment but also an incredible ability to adapt, grow, and continue showing up with purpose, energy, and dedication. Tanya's contributions over the years have touched countless lives, leaving a lasting impact on both the people she supports and her colleagues.

When you love what you do, it never feels like work—and that's the perfect way to describe the passion Tanya brings to her role and to the people she supports.

Thank you Tanya!



# 20

## Years Of Service Award Danielle Stiles

### With CLGW since October 2004

Time flies when you're making a difference! Danielle has been a valued member of Community Living Guelph Wellington for over 20 years. She began as a Relief and Part-time worker at the former "Ajax" Program Site and quickly moved into a Full-time Support Worker role at Peachtree Home in 2006.

Over the next 12 years, she worked at multiple homes, including Metcalfe, Kipling, and Flaherty, building strong connections and earning a reputation for her enthusiasm, care, and dedication to the people she supports.

In 2018, Danielle expanded her role to join the Scheduling Department while continuing her Support Worker duties. She became a Permanent Full-time Scheduler in May 2019. Her extensive residential experience has been invaluable in scheduling, training new staff, and finding innovative ways to optimize the scheduling software. Danielle's confidence, technical skills, and pride in her work have made her a cornerstone of the team.

Outside of work, Danielle is a devoted mom to her two sons, Keiran and Grayson, and her playful Dachshunds, Bubba and Milo. She enjoys camping, sports, exploring nature, and even "rescuing" bugs—living life with curiosity and energy. Danielle recently checked off a bucket-list item by traveling solo to Iceland, embracing adventure with the same passion she brings to her work.

Danielle's curiosity, energy, and heart for service make her an invaluable part of the CLGW family.

Thank you Danielle!



# 20

## Years Of Service Award Grace Wilson

### With CLGW since December 2004

Grace has been a valued member of the CLGW team for 20 years, bringing dedication, compassion, and a positive spirit to every aspect of her work.

Her journey began in high school, when a friend invited her to a local Community Living Christmas party. The experience of interacting with residents and seeing the joy and laughter of those involved inspired her to volunteer, and she quickly developed a deep understanding of intellectual disabilities. This early experience sparked a lifelong commitment to supporting people to achieve their goals and enjoy the meaningful opportunities everyone deserves.

Over the years, Grace has maintained a positive outlook, approaching her role as a chance to build relationships and create meaningful connections rather than simply completing tasks. Her pride in her work ensures homes run smoothly and fosters a supportive environment for both the people she supports and her coworkers. She contributes ideas, listens actively, and respects the experience of long-time staff to find the best approaches for each individual.

Outside of work, Grace enjoys reading, walking, listening to music, and exploring collectibles and antiques. She also has a love for animals, both domestic and wild, and appreciates their presence in her life. Grace's ability to combine dedication, teamwork, and compassion makes her an exceptional member of the CLGW community. Her thoughtful approach, strong relationships, and commitment to fostering positive outcomes reflect the heart of what makes her a cherished and respected team member.

For two decades, Grace has turned every task into an opportunity to build relationships, support growth, and inspire those around her.

Thank you Grace!



15

**Years Of Service**





15

## Years Of Service Award

Thank you for all of your fifteen years of dedicated service to Community Living Guelph Wellington

Marillet Bernardino

Meigan Tindall

Sandra Livingstone

Tracy Sabeen Smith

Christine Dalcourt

Joe Rawding

Elizabeth Hawboldt

Katilyn Sturgeon

Dave Lubrick





10

**Years Of Service**





10

## Years Of Service Award

Thank you for all of your ten years of inspiring service to  
Community Living Guelph Wellington

Lee Dokis

Morgan Smales

Heather Mc Tavish

Pamela Lamont

Jennifer Hahn

Brittany- Lee Mc Tavish

Lorraine D'Andrea

Taylor Herron

Martha Wanyoike

Margo Glaab

Margaret Fisher

June Sutherland

Elizabeth Wilson

Heidi Dippel





5

**Years Of Service**





5

## Years Of Service Award

Thank you for all of your five years of helping people live their best lives

Dawn Kingsbury

Sarah Brisbin

Elsita Baculio

Tammy McGlone

Amanda Hanson

Matt Stubbington

Michele Mercer

Helen Holmes

Nancy Underwood

Olivia Pigozzo

Mitchell King

Anna Ablog

Matthew Heidinga

Gurnit Singh

Sarah Wheeler

Kylee Mazerolle

Selam Demissie

Caithlyn Frost

Cindy Hall

Jennifer Smaglinski

Hazel Macaraeg

Sarah McFaddin

George Ampofo

# Thank you!



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