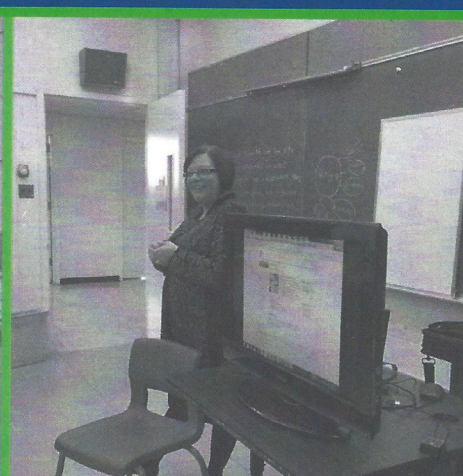
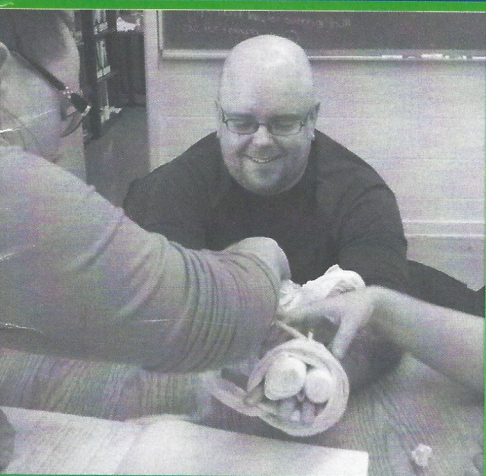
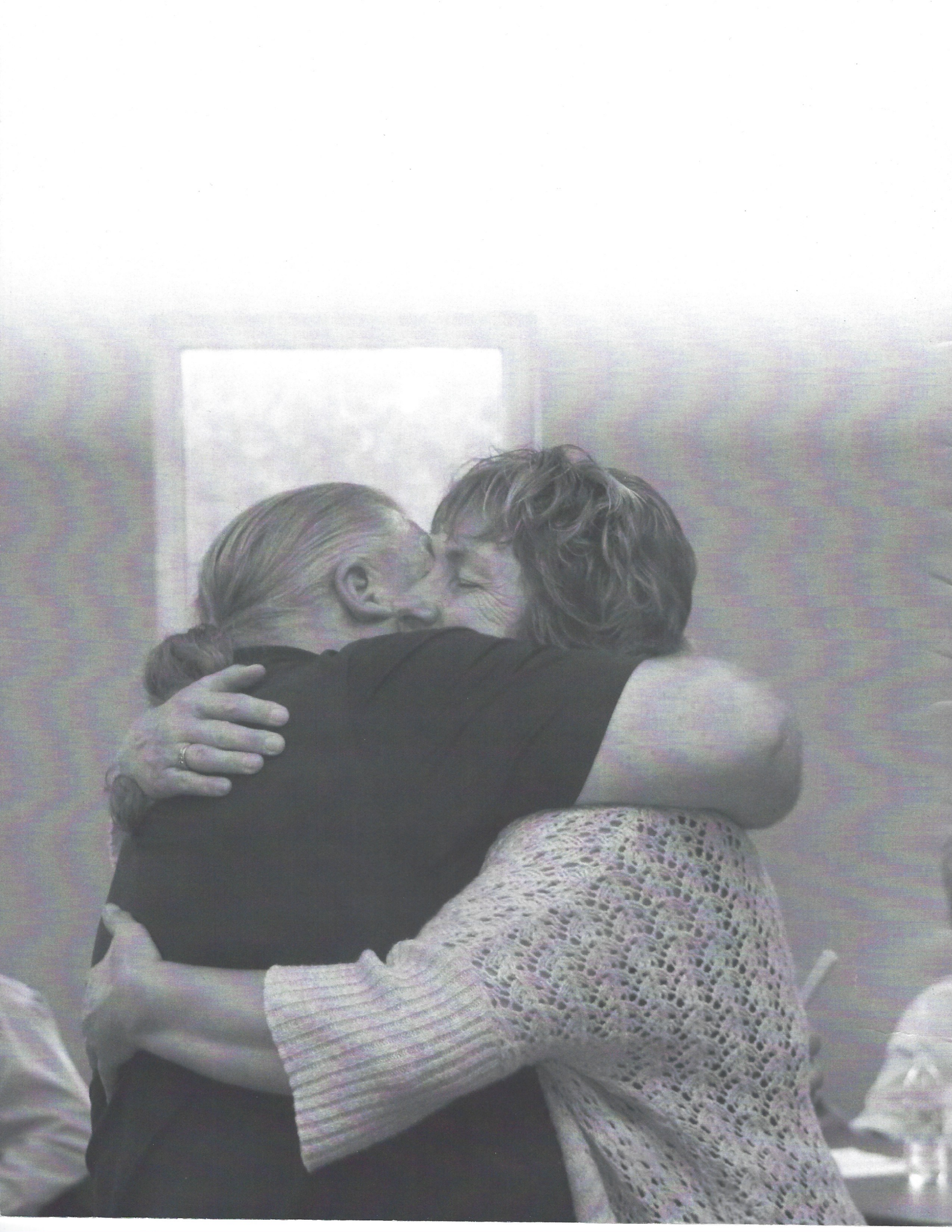




2015 - 2016



COMMUNITY REPORT



Thank you to our funders, community
partners, volunteers and staff for another
successful and memorable year.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The East Hants Community Learning Association believes in a strong and connected community and through individualized programming, we are opening the doors to education and transportation, helping to contribute to a more prosperous and proud community. With a hands-on learning approach, and the availability of rural transportation, we are empowering individuals to live with a sense of freedom and confidence. Everyone has the right to actively participate in their own lives and at EHCLA we aim to support individuals to live their lives to the fullest.

Understanding the educational and learning needs of our community allows us the opportunity to develop and structure programming to encourage the maximum participation with the maximum satisfaction. Whether you want to complete the GED, be better prepared to help your kids or grandkids with homework, learn a new skill or craft, upgrade computer or essential skills, prepare for a better job, or just get creative with learning, we support and encourage individual learning and growth. Through collaborative partnerships, we work with our community to help families reach their learning potential.

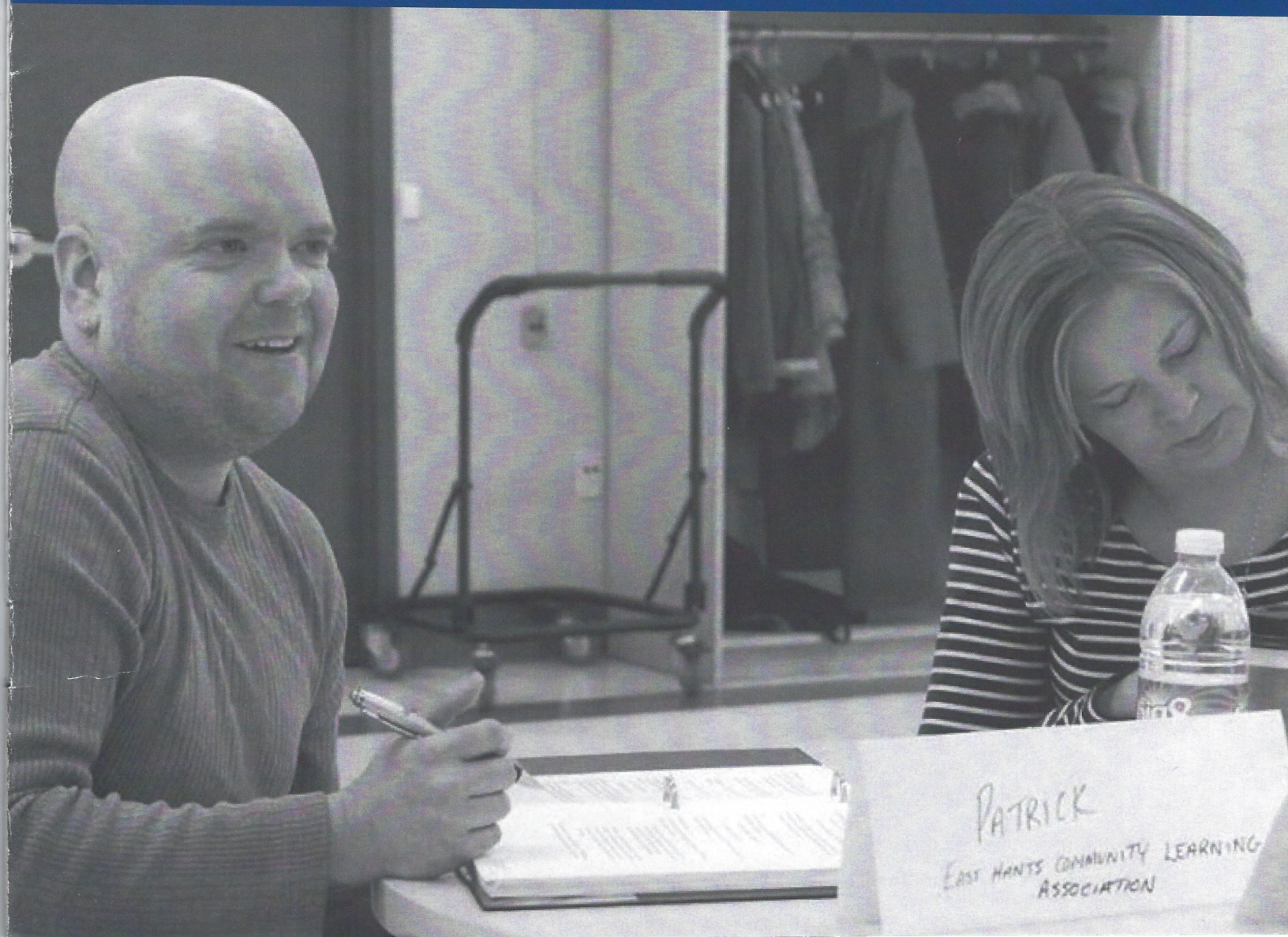
2015-2016 has been a very exciting and eventful year. We have continued to offer our Adult Learning Programs, Family Literacy Programs, an employment preparedness

program, as well as senior focused programming, Intergenerational Learning Programs, and opportunities to develop a variety of personal skills sets around financial literacy, employment, self-confidence, and positive mental health. Through funding received from a variety of sources, a collaborative approach to service delivery, and feedback collected from participants, we continue to close the learning gaps of East Hants residents.

To achieve high levels of success, one must expect to encounter challenges and EHCLA has certainly experienced a few of those during the past year. Overall, our successes far outnumber our challenges. With the support of our diversely talented and dedicated volunteer Board of Directors, EHCLA is guided toward the delivery of high quality programming while exercising fiscal prudence. Our EHCLA and EHCR staff team are, bar none, the most incredible group of people one could hope to work with. They are a talented, committed, compassionate, and qualified team who genuinely care about the clients we work with whether they require education or transportation.

In closing, 2015-16 has been a fast-paced, eventful, and successful year and we look forward to the exciting opportunities that the next year will bring!

WITH A **HANDS ON LEARNING**
APPROACH, AND THE AVAILABILITY
OF **TRANSPORTATION**, WE
ARE **EMPOWERING** INDIVIDUALS TO
LIVE WITH A SENSE OF **FREEDOM**
AND CONFIDENCE.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMUNITY TRANSPORT MANAGER



The East Hants Community Rider (EHCR) is committed to delivering safe, affordable and accessible rides to all those facing a transportation challenge in our community, irrespective of age, or mobility issues. In 2014/2015 we travelled 190,966 km and delivered 8,677 rides. In 2015/2016 we travelled 256,561 kilometers and delivered 9,456 rides. This year, that's an extra 65,595 kilometers travelled and 779 additional rides delivered.

Transportation is a key issue, especially in rural Nova Scotia. EHCR helps seniors and other residents attend medical appointments. Social events are now something to look forward to. EHCR helps many individuals combat social isolation, and keep people in touch with their friends. Relatives spend the holidays with their families and loved ones, rather than spending them alone.

Transportation determines how we get to the places where we live, work and play. It is important that we believe in, and act upon an equity agenda that is people-centered, protects our health, encourages sustainable communities, provides everyone an opportunity to enable growth, and stimulates a vibrant economy. The Community Rider is just as the name suggests, a safe, cost effective transportation service for all those in our community who need it.

2015-2016 was an exciting year for the Community Rider, with the purchase of our new Ford Transit. Our new vehicle seats a mixture of 8 passengers and/or 4 wheelchair passengers, with a full size Ricon lift. We are very proud to say that Community Rider was the first transportation service in the Province to pioneer the Smart Floor technology in our new vehicle. The Smart Floor provides comfortable and inclusive seating options for our wheelchair passengers, in addition to a quick change to a full service for 8 ambulatory passengers, or a mixture of both passengers.

EHCR staff and volunteers are very special people, who care about their community and work extremely hard to deliver a much needed community service. I would like to take this opportunity to publically thank everyone involved with this service, for their hard work and commitment.

East Hants Community Rider is looking forward to 2016/2017, expanding our service, purchasing another new vehicle, working with community partners and potentially offering new services to compliment active transportation in our area.

In 2015-2016, the East Hants Community Rider

Traveled 256,561 km

Delivered 9,456 Rides

Reached 195 members

"I enjoy using the East Hants Community Rider, I've used this service daily for 4 years, without this transportation I wouldn't have been able to go back to school and become a graduate. The drivers are so nice and friendly, they always have smiles on their faces!"



ENHANCING ADULT LEARNING

OUR ADULT LEARNING PROGRAMS

Monday to Thursday EHCLA delivers adult learning programs to students from three locations in East Hants. Our Level III program runs from the Elmsdale location from Monday to Thursday, the Level I program meets twice a week in Shubenacadie, and we have a new group of learners studying towards their GED tests, meeting in the Rawdon Health Centre. In addition EHCLA continues to support students working towards their GED tests two evenings per week from the Elmsdale classroom.

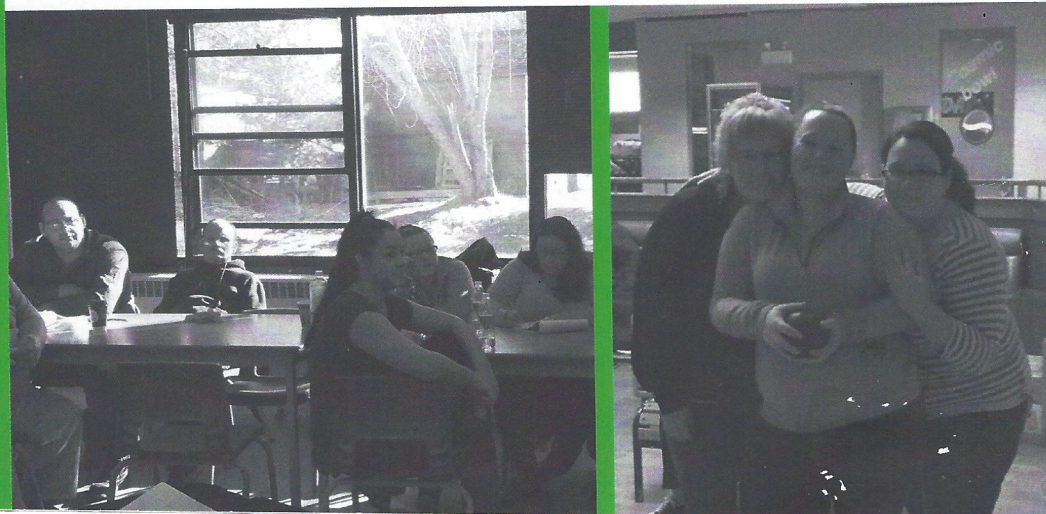
CROSSCUTTING THEMES
OF OUR COMMUNITY
LEARNING PROGRAMS

EMPLOYABILITY
LITERACY / COMPREHENSION
NUMERACY
INCLUSIVITY / DIVERSITY
TECHNOLOGY

Our adult learning programs are designed to help learners improve their literacy, math and essential skills and are aligned with the outcomes of the Provincial Adult Learning Program Curriculum. Throughout the school year students also participate in enhancement activities that broaden their experience, support their learning, build employability and social skills, and get them ready for work in the community.

In Rawdon and in Elmsdale's evening classes learners explicitly registered for GED preparation, and learners in other programs often have the GED tests in mind when they register for our ALP III program. The dedicated GED preparation classes give learners individualized instruction and support in a welcoming and nonthreatening environment. Learners often say that the hardest part is walking in that first time!

In addition to our regular programming, and programming shared with Skills to Work, we attended a GED trial run at NSCC's Akerley Campus followed by a visit to the new Halifax Public Library. We toured the Haley Institute of Aquaculture in Truro, and we did some team building through bowling and a craft at the Clay Café. Edie Shaw, superstore dietitian worked with us on how to prepare healthy and cost effective meals on a budget and we had introduction to physical fitness and healthy lifestyles at Stride's.



HIGHLIGHTS:

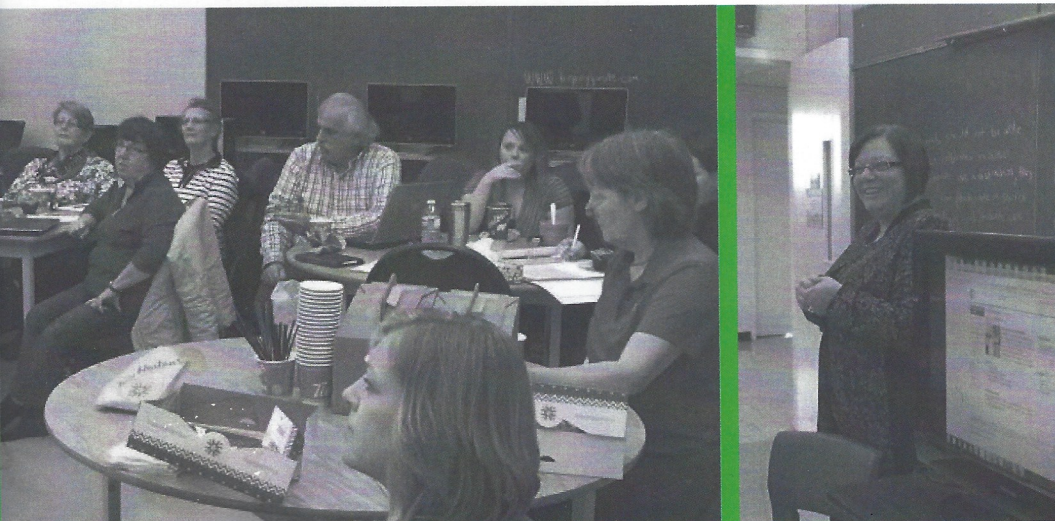
ALP Learners participated in the Skills to Work employability program offerings, including First Aid, Non Violent Crisis Intervention, Mental Health First Aid, World Host, a team building bowling activity, an introduction to physical fitness and healthy lifestyles at Stride's, and Dawn Josey's Your Story in Art personal exploration through art workshop.

GED prep: While we have no official way of tracking GED tests, successful learners often personally report back to us so we can celebrate their success. We estimate that about 25 successful GED tests were written this year, and that 4 students completed all 5 of their GED tests.

Level I: We stood on the ocean floor in Anthony Park, Lower Selma, visited the Museum of Industry, planned, shopped for and delivered a Christmas Cookie Mix program for the Intergeneration Learning program, created a learning game and paid a visit to the Discovery Centre in Halifax.

Orton-Gillingham tutoring: We are now offering Orton-Gillingham tutoring to a limited number of students. Our instructor has completed 45 hours of classroom training, 80 of 100 hours of supervised practicum, and is expected to be fully certified in the fall. Orton Gillingham tutoring is explicit, multisensory instruction in reading and spelling. It is designed to help dyslexic learners improve their decoding and comprehension, and writing skills. So far, the instructor has worked with 5 learners, and the results are very exciting. The Orton- Gillingham tutoring is delivered under the auspices of the Level I-II program.

**60+ students
have come to
EHCLA for our
adult learning
programs**



SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS

INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Through funding from a Positive Aging Grant from the Nova Scotia Department of Seniors, and a Wellness Grant from the Colchester East Hants Community Health Board we were able to offer Seniors' Basic Computer Classes and a series of highly successful Intergenerational Community Learning Classes. These classes are proving to be high in demand and plan to continue to deliver them. This past year we offered the following programs:

COMPUTER CLASSES

Offered in 10 week sessions, twice weekly, local senior's are provided an opportunity to improve basic computer skills training. These classes were offered 4 times throughout the year and are scheduled to continue through 2016-17. Classes are customized to the learning needs of the participants.

PAINTING CLASSES

In the Spring of 2015, Marsha Van Slyke led a group of 21 budding artists in the creation of a painting of a lovely scene of birches. Participants ranged in age from 8-72 years, and at the end of six sessions each had created a couple of wonderful works of art.

SHOPPING TRIP

On December 11th, just in time for Holiday shopping, a group of 8 seniors travelled in our new Ford Transit bus to the MicMac Mall for a fun filled day of shopping with no worries about driving, finding parking, or carrying parcels a great distance. Participants were shuttled directly to and from the mall entrance.

CARD MAKING

In January, led by the very talented card maker, Karen King, a group of 12 participants completed a 6 week card making program where they left with some lovely finished products.

COOKIE GIFT JARS

12 Prospective bakers of all ages (7-70 years), led by EHCLA Instructor, Jean Wright, and the ALP I class, assembled a layered cookie mix in a decorative jar in this December afternoon program.

JEWELRY MAKING

In November and December, Mindy LeBlanc led a group of 19 people, ranging in ages 7-77, through a 4 week Jewellery Making program. Here, participants created earrings, wine charms, necklaces, and bracelets.



ENGAGING COMMUNITY MEMBERS FROM 7 - 70 YEARS OLD

SKILLS TO WORK

From January to March, 2016, participants in our fourth Skills to Work Program have been gaining basic employability skills and building confidence through project-based learning, classroom study and practical experiences.

Student success in this program has been considerable. The employment skills gained and personal growth seen by each participant shows the effectiveness of this program. This year 75% of the students achieved successful outcomes as defined by the project, which are continued education, attachment to employment, or a meaningful volunteer placement. This is considerable, as the population served by this program experience significant barriers to employment.

Skills to Work has a positive impact on the lives of its students and on the community. Investment in the Skills to Work program from the Nova Scotia Department of community Services has proven to be effective in increasing the employment potential and confidence of those that commit to the program.

FINANCIAL LITERACY

Susan Fitzgerald, from our local Royal Bank branch, led two very informative Financial Literacy sessions. The first, in November, dealt with online banking and security, and the second, held in February, focused on basic budgeting, setting financial goals, and the hidden costs of borrowing.

7 "SKILLS TO WORK STUDENTS"
GAINED **EMPLOYMENT** OR
CONTINUED THEIR **EDUCATION**

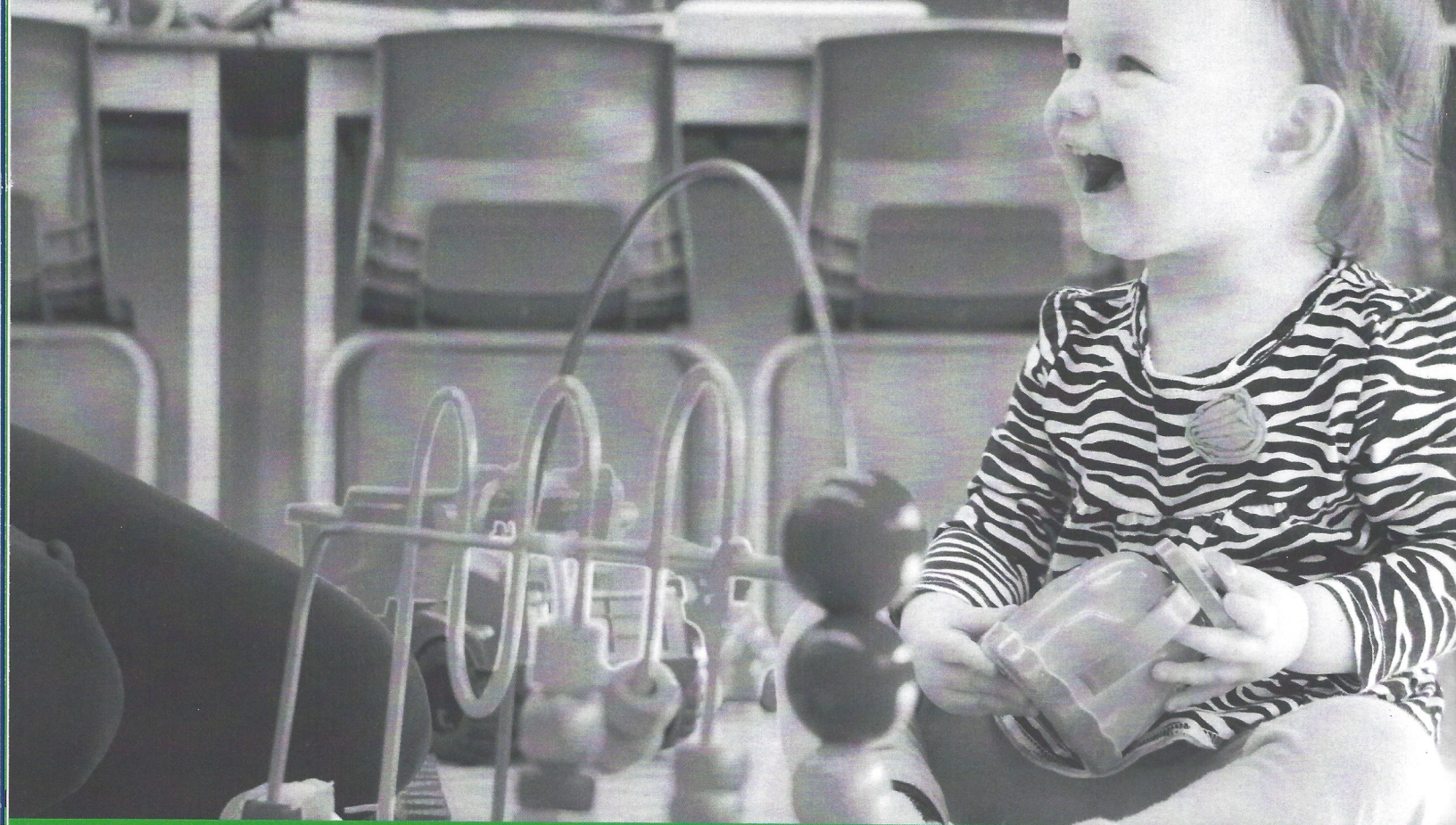
11 STUDENTS PASSED MODULES
TOWARDS THEIR **GED**

64 PEOPLE ENROLLED IN OUR
COMPUTER AND GED CLASSES

12 WOMEN & GIRLS ATTENDED
CARD MAKING CLASSES,
CREATING 18 DIFFERENT CARDS

19 PARTICIPANTS EXPERIENCED
INTERGENERATIONAL
JEWELRY MAKING
CLASSES, MAKING 4 ITEMS EACH





We believe in a collaborative community and throughout the year we have the opportunity to partner with East Hants Family Resource Centre on a number of exciting initiatives to increase and support family literacy.

ALPHABET SOUP IN MOTION

Alphabet Soup in Motion is a program for parents, caregivers and children aged 3 to 5 offered in partnership with the East Hants Family Resource Centre. EHCLA was proud to co-deliver 3 sessions of this six-week family literacy program of stories, rhymes, music, healthy food, and outdoor fun . Each session registered 8 families and those who participated reported that they learned how to easily incorporate daily physical activity and healthy eating into their children's lives, and what fun they had in the learning.

LITTLE TREASURES

Little Treasures is a weekly parenting support and playgroup for parents under 25 years old and their preschool children. EHCLA provides an instructor to work with young parents to develop and support their educational goals. This year Little Treasures had 8 parents join us. One of the young mothers has joined our ALP classes, one of the dads started Orton-Gillingham tutoring, others in the group have continued secondary education, and yet others have started jobs.

MOMMY2B

Mommy 2B is a 6 week prenatal program facilitated by staff at the EHFRC. With funding from several sources including the Department of Labour and Advanced Education's Family Literacy Program funding, this program was delivered 3 times during the past year and has provided much needed prenatal classes covering a variety of related topics. During the past year, Mommy 2B has touched 24 families.

SPECIAL EVENTS

DINNER THEATRE FUNDRAISER

Once again EHCLA and EHCR were thrilled to be selected as one of beneficiaries of the Elmsdale Legion Care Actors' Dinner Theatre. The Elmsdale Care Actors create, rehearse and perform their original shows and donate the profits to local non-profit organizations in East Hants. "Billy Bob's Last Will and Testament" made for a wonderful evening of laughter and raised several thousand dollars for our organization. We want to sincerely thank The Elmsdale Legion Care Actors for their hard work and commitment. They are truly an asset to our community.

"KICK OFF SUMMER" FAMILY PICNIC

June 8 was a day to celebrate Family Literacy! Along with EHFRC, Colchester East Hants Public Library, and Literacy NS, the second annual "Kick off Summer" Family Picnic was held on the lawn in front of our building and welcomed over 200 patrons. There was free pizza, free books, free drinks, free Zumba, a variety of activities, and a wonderful family atmosphere! This event was a great awareness and appreciation event and an opportunity for the community to come together to celebrate literacy.

FAMILY LITERACY DAY CELEBRATION

For the third consecutive year, EHCLA and EHFRC, with the Colchester East Hants Public Library have played host to the Province of Nova Scotia's official celebration of International Family Literacy Day. Literacy Day was celebrated with Provincial Proclamations, artist's presentations and speakers extolling the benefits and pleasures of literacy.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Our fleet of EHCR vehicles, staff, and volunteers, participate in the local Canada Day, Remembrance Day and Christmas Parade events. Through these events, we generate awareness in our programs and services, gain an opportunity to connect with our community in a way where we feel like we are giving something back, and assist people who have transportation issues also attend these events.



"We are so fortunate to live in such a connective, collaborative and compassionate community." Tanya Burke

OUR FUNDERS

Department of Labour and Advanced Education, Department of Municipal Affairs, Municipality of East Hants, Colchester East Hants Community Health Board Wellness Grant, Department of Community Services, NS Department of Energy, NS Department of Health and Wellness, Literacy NS, NS Department of Seniors, Royal Bank of Canada, and the Rural Communities Foundation.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

With the dedication and support of a highly committed and diversely talented Board of Directors, EHCLA and its staff have the strong support of a wonderful group of volunteers who help govern and steer the organization toward meeting the learning and program needs of our East Hants residents.

Mindy LeBlanc
Cecil Dixon
Gina Winfield
Caitlin Patterson

Cathy MacDonald
Richard Taylor
Susan Fitzgerald
Meghan Lloyd

Gennie Himelman
Beth MacNeill
Karen King

2014-2015 CORPORATE MEMBERS

Carmie's Preschool & Daycare Centre
Carruthers MacDonnell and Robson Law Office
Cup of Soul Café
Curly Portables
Dean's Automotive Repair
East Hants Family Resource Centre
Elmsdale Landscaping Ltd.
Elmsdale Lumber Company
Enfield Naturopathic Clinic
Enfield Tailor Shoppe
Gateway Facilities, ULC
Geri's Hair Design Studio
Halifax International Airport Authority
L.R. Ettinger and Sons Ltd.
Lyreco Office Supplies
Margaret Miller, MLA Hants East
McNeill's Shell
MRD Driving School
Noel's Auto Sales Ltd.
Pro Tx Services Inc.
Royal Bank of Canada
Shane's Service Centre
Shubenacadie River Adventure Tours
The Hearing Specialists
Tot's Academy

Geri's
Hair Design Studio



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& ROBSON**



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TAILOR
SHOPPE**
K&K Cleaners

**The
hearing
Specialists**



**SCOTIAN
HOMES
& RENOVATIONS**

THANK YOU!

Connecting Our Community

East Hants 
Community Learning Association

Learning Accessible

&

East Hants Community Resource Centre

Making life a little easier





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