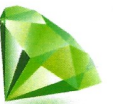


COMMUNITY ANNUAL REPORT

2016-2017

Accessible Learning | Accessible Life





When I was told there would be a page dedicated to mum in this year's annual report, I honestly didn't think I would be writing for it. Infact, I wasn't asked- I just filled in this space and hoped they'd at least read it and know how much my mum adored her community.

If you knew my mum, you were ever so lucky. She was amazing. I realize I might have some bias here, but honestly, I think I had the best mum in the entire world. I was so lucky, all my siblings were. She was my best friend, my role model, and my daily phone call (ok, so sometimes a couple of times a day). I miss her every second.

Now, mum's accent may have given her away, but we grew up in the UK, and travelled to Nova Scotia in 2008. She was one of the most impulsive, exciting and adventurous people in the world. Since she and my dad arrived in the East Hants community, they told me they felt like they belonged.

Working at EHCLA & EHCR was the perfect fit for my mum, and we all knew it. Again, my bias may be showing here- but there was nothing she couldn't do. She loved every second working in that small office, with those wonderful people.

Over the years, mum became truly integrated into the community, and everyone who met her, fell in love with her. Tanya certainly couldn't resist her - after just a few months of working together, they became inseparable. Tanya, I want you to know that mum knew you were a softy and she loved you with her whole heart, and knew you'd be an amazing mother. Hayley, well, if mum could have adopted you- I think she may have! Mum wanted the world for you, and always wanted you to know how truly smart and beautiful you are. I know how proud she would be for everything you've done in the last year. Mum loved her drivers too- that's right, her drivers. Neil, Dave & Brian- to me, you'll always be her drivers, and she valued each and every one of you.

I wanted to thank you all, everyone she met in this community. Thank you for welcoming her the way you did, thank you for making her smile, and thank you for loving her. It brings me comfort to know how much she is missed- I guess it validates for me- that she was a truly beautiful person, and the world is a lot less bright without her. I miss you mum.

Caitlin
Vice Chair, EHCLA & Daughter of Saran and Gary.



A Message from our Executive Director

The mission of the East Hants Community Learning Association (EHCLA) is to empower individuals to live with a sense of freedom and confidence through accessible transportation and learning opportunities.

With strong leadership, community connectivity, volunteer commitment, and passion, EHCLA will continue to work towards three important strategic priorities.

1. Community Engagement
2. Program Excellence
3. Organizational Sustainability

The 2016-2017 year has witnessed much change and certainly it's challenges. The strength and commitment of our EHCLA and EHCR team, as well as our dedicated and talented Board of Directors, has enabled us to persevere through.

Our EHCLA community-based learning organization has seen many successes this year; gaining a new instructor, maintaining all but one of our adult literacy programs, delivering a successful family literacy program, and delivering multiple intergenerational learning

opportunities. As we look to the next year, we will continue to collect feedback from our participants, families, community partners, and fellow service providers, to meet the

varied and changing learning needs of our community.

Our Board of Directors has worked very hard this past year to develop a new five-year strategic plan, and to review and upgrade our policy and procedures manual. The guidance and direction of the Board ensures we maintain on our path of delivering exceptional, relevant programming, while remaining fiscally responsible.

Our East Hants Community Rider service has also continued to see growth;

exceeding last year's kilometres driven, gaining a new driver, and purchasing a new vehicle.

Although our year was filled with successful figures and programs, we also faced significant challenges and loss, as a team and a community. As many of our community know, we lost our dear and valued friend and coworker, Saran.

As I close, I would like to leave you with a message for the year. I am so proud, and grateful to be a part of an organization that is staffed with such talent, commitment, diversity and compassion. I am fortunate to spend every day with people who genuinely care about their work, who constantly strive to provide the best services and programs as possible, who roll up their sleeves when we need an extra hand, and who are filled with kindness and strength.

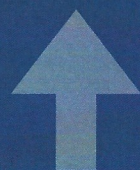
Thank you,
Tanya Burke

"The East Hants Community Rider was extremely helpful, accommodating and friendly. I was able to attend numerous doctor's appointments and specialist appointments. The volunteers went out of their way to ensure I was able to attend all appointments. Without this service I would have been left with no transportation to seek proper medical attention required over a period of months. I am extremely grateful for our community having such a great service in place. "- Anonymous



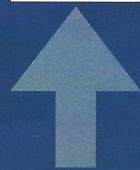
267,075km

travelled through the Community Rider



10,056

rides delivered



238

clients reached their destination

A Message from the Community Rider



For the team at the East Hants Community Rider, our year was one filled with some wonderful highs, and some significant lows. Our team lost our much-loved Community Transport Manager, Saran Jarvie in August, and although our team continues to grieve, we are driven by her passion and love for the community, and strive to make her proud every day in our work.

Transportation is a key issue, especially in rural Nova Scotia. EHCR helps seniors and other residents attend medical appointments, get to work or educational events, run errands, visit the library, enjoy time with family and friends, attend social functions. We support individuals to combat social isolation by providing them with access to transportation, which allows them to visit friends, spend time with family, and have the freedom we all deserve.

At EHCR, we are committed to delivering safe, affordable and accessible rides to all those facing a transportation barrier in our community. We are here to help anyone, regardless of their age, situation or mobility issues.

Our new Dodge Pro Master comes fully equipped with a mixture of seven ambulatory passengers and/or two wheelchair passengers, and even a full size Braun Century lift! The Pro Master, like our Ford, has a smart floor which allows us to rearrange seats, making sure that passengers can enjoy their ride to appointments, work or school, comfortably. Equipped with our new vehicle, we will be saying goodbye to our trusted Dodge Caravan, which has travelled 315,000 with the East Hants Community Rider.

As we look to the future of EHCR, we first would like to acknowledge and thank the wonderful team, comprised of both staff and volunteers, who work extremely hard to deliver this exceptional service. As the service continues to see such success, we hope to increase our client base, corporate members, and funding opportunities. Our fleet is planned to grow and upgrade, and we hope to be able to provide access to transportation for more residents beyond our community lines.

Thank you,
Hayley Miller & the EHCR team



Strategic Planning



Our Mission: Empowering individuals to live with a sense of freedom and confidence through accessible transportation and learning opportunities.

Accessible Learning, Accessible Life. is a five-year strategy that will strengthen the impact of the East Hants Community Learning Association and the East Hants Community Rider. With strong leadership community connectivity and continued passion, EHCLA will be guided by the following strategic priorities:



Community Engagement

We will develop and enhance sustainable and strong partnerships; expand and invest in marketing and awareness initiatives, and increase involvement in local and industry policy discussions.



Program Excellence

We aim to improve the quality and diversity of programs delivered; develop and implement a needs assessment in East Hants to identify areas of growth, and embrace opportunities to expand EHCLA services.



Organizational Sustainability

We will increase diversity in funding and achieve financial sustainability; review, redevelop and reinvigorate internal policies and procedures, and strengthen our Board of Directors.



New Vehicle Launch

On Friday, March 3 at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #48 in Elmsdale, our drivers, users, staff, funders and other community supporters gathered to celebrate our new accessible van- an asset that will increase our ability to make life accessible to residents of East Hants. Municipal Councilors Cecil Dixon and Stephen King, and Municipal staff Wendy Hill were present. An email from Scott Brison was also shared.



Special Events

Social Isolation Conference

With financial support from the Rural Community Foundation, EHCLA/EHCR organized a day-long conference focused on "Social Isolation" – an experience we have increasingly observed among our clients and participants. The evaluation from the 20 participants from both the social and public sectors was overwhelmingly positive.

The Final Report noted a few lessons for future initiatives:

- 1) Efforts to increase a sense of belonging need to start with the individual
- 2) People are best motivated by their interests, not their loneliness
- 3) A successful initiative needs to engage the community from the beginning to develop a sense of ownership.

Picnic in the Park



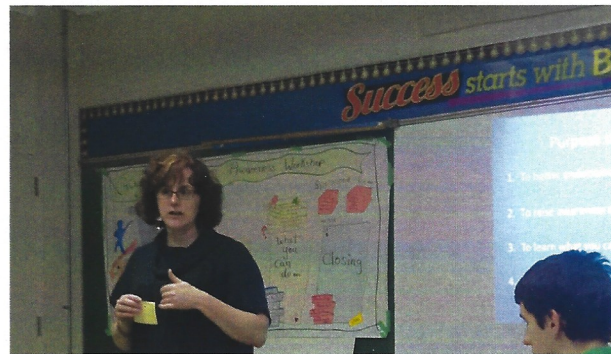
Family Literacy Day



Special thanks to our part-time coordinator, Wendy for coordinating the Social Isolation Conference!

Enhancing Adult Learning

Our instructor has completed the Orton-Gillingham tutoring certification and has worked with five students this year. The Orton-Gillingham method of tutoring is explicit, multisensory instruction in reading and spelling, designed to help dyslexic learners improve their decoding, writing and comprehension skills. This program is offered under the auspices of the Level 1-2 program.



Increasing access to education...

EHCLA adult learning programs were offered in three locations: Level 1 program participants met in Shubenacadie two mornings a week, Level 2 learners met in Elmsdale two evenings a week, Level 3 students met in Elmsdale four days a week. Once a week, the Kennetcook Fire Hall hosted a small group of learners working towards their GED tests. In addition, EHCLA offered one-on-one Orton-Gillingham tutoring at both the Shubenacadie and Elmsdale sites.

58 Students registered in Adult Learning Programs

Learners in the Kennetcook class and in the Elmsdale evening classes have explicitly registered for GED preparation and learners registering for Level 3 classes often have writing the GED tests as a goal. The dedicated GED preparation classes offer individualized instruction in a welcoming and supportive environment. 10 tests have been completed, with 3 students completing all 5 required!

The Adult Learning programs were designed to help learners improve their literacy, math and essential skills and are aligned with the outcomes of the Provincial Adult Learning Curriculum.

26 Learners participated in computer classes

Throughout the school year students also participate in extracurricular activities that broaden their experience, support their learning, build employability and social skills and get them ready for work in the community.

Dawn Josie's Art Program

We were fortunate to have a local artist work with our learners in the Spring. Dawn Josey is a mixed media/collage/assemblage artist with a sharing philosophy when it comes to making art. She guided the students through the process of making cards, a papier-mâché creation and a Canvas Art piece. Students responded well to these activities and were able to expand their creative side.



First Aid

Students from our ALP program completed Basic First Aid/CPR training, 12 hours of Mental Health First Aid training, one day workshops in conflict resolution, and stress management. The Mental Health First Aid program provided an evidence-based course that offered significant positive impacts for participants and their workplaces, communities and families to foster the following:

- Significantly greater recognition of the most common mental health problems
- Decreased social distance from people with mental health problems
- Increased confidence in providing help to others
- Improved mental health of the MHFA participant her/himself



Conflict Resolution

Provided learners with strategies to effectively handle difficult situations in both their personal and professional lives. Learners were very optimistic about this particular workshop and responded very well to all suggestions.

Finding Your Happy

Learners had an opportunity to participate in a workshop entitled Finding Your Happy. They worked collaboratively on self-esteem building activities, viewing situations through a more positive outlook and team building exercises. It was a great way to explore positive and relaxing activities.



Employability with Reachability

Our learners participated in a week long program entitled "One Step Closer". This program focused on the following: providing participants with strategies to reach their full potential as they prepare to enter the workforce, improving communication skills, recognizing individual strengths, managing stress and anxiety, practicing effective communication and improving employability skills. This was a very interactive workshop with practical activities.



Specialized

Intergenerational learning programs have increased in popularity, resulting in new and creative workshops being developed and led by specialists in the community.



Working Together for a Stronger

EHCLA and EHCR strongly believe in collaboration, and partner with many other organizations and institutions in our community. We believe that our community support is our greatest asset. Cooperation and collaboration make us more effective and more efficient. Thank you to our partners & collaborators!

Community

Community Transport NS

Rural Transport NS

Literacy NS

East Hants Family Resource Centre

Association of Workplace Educators of NS

East Hants Workplace Education Committee

East Hants District Chamber of Commerce

Association of NS Community Learning Organizations (ANSCLO)

Special thank you to our community for providing ongoing support. This year, we raised almost \$8,000 through fundraising activities! Thank you to all who supported us at our Open East Hants Car Wash, purchased 50/50 tickets and donated for the Holiday Season. We'd also like to give a huge thank you to RBC for their continued support!

OUR FUNDERS



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.

Beth McNeil
Caitlin Patterson

Cathy MacDonald
Cecil Dixon

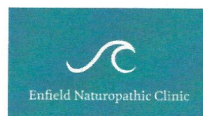
Gennie Himelman
Gina Winfield

Karen King
Mindy LeBlanc

Paula Wadden
Stacey Harrison

Susan Fitzgerald

2016-2017 CORPORATE MEMBERS



Deans
Automotive





easthantslearning.com

