



**Participation
Lodge.** GREY BRUCE

2024

ANNUAL REPORT

Participation Lodge Grey Bruce

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Mission & Vision Statement

Mission Statement

At Participation Lodge Grey Bruce, our mission is to empower and enrich the lives of the individuals we support. Guided by compassion and dedication, our team works tirelessly to help individuals with complex needs achieve a meaningful and fulfilling quality of life.

We believe that true “quality of life” extends far beyond meeting basic personal care needs. It encompasses opportunities for growth, connection, and joy. By fostering independence, inclusion, and dignity, we strive to ensure that every individual has the chance to live their life to the fullest.

Vision Statement

Our vision is to be a community leader in fostering citizenship and inclusion for individuals with complex needs.

We strive to create a society where every person is valued, empowered, and given the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to their community. Through leadership, advocacy, and innovation, we aim to inspire positive change and promote a culture of belonging for all.



A Message from the Board Chair and Interim Executive Director

At Participation Lodge Grey Bruce (PLGB), our mission is clear: to empower the individuals we support - whether they live in Hanover, Owen Sound, or at the Lodge in Chatsworth - to make choices and live the lives they desire.

As you read this annual report, you'll see how our commitment to fostering independence, inclusion, dignity, and choice has enabled the individuals in our Supported Group Living and Acquired Brain Injury programs, as well as those living independently in the community, to truly live life to the fullest.

Over the past year, we have focused on aligning our services with the evolving needs of the people we support, in partnership with Ontario Health's Assisted Living Program and the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services in Adult Developmental Services. Key priorities have included enhancing our capacity to adapt to changing needs, stabilizing operations to enable growth, and staying connected to the dynamic ecosystem of individuals, communities, and activities surrounding PLGB.

We are deeply grateful to the incredible staff team at PLGB. Your unwavering commitment to the individuals we support, their families, and our organization has been the foundation of our success and a testament to our mission.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to our dedicated volunteer Board of Directors and community volunteers. Your time, effort, and passion for PLGB are invaluable, and we are grateful for your continued support.

Together we will continue to empower the people of PLGB to live their best lives.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Robertson
Board Chair

Deborah Hook
Interim Executive Director

Executive Summary

Participation Lodge Grey Bruce has had another impactful year, marked by our ongoing commitment to empowering individuals with complex needs and enhancing their quality of life. This annual report provides a comprehensive overview of our programs and services, highlighting the dedication and hard work for our team, as well as the meaningful experiences of the individuals we support.

Key programs featured in this report include:

Hanover Apartments & Owen Sound Apartments:

These housing initiatives continue to provide stable, supportive environments for individuals, offering them opportunities for independence while receiving the necessary care and support.

Outreach Bathing:

This service has made a significant impact in helping individuals maintain their personal care routines, fostering dignity and well-being.

Kitchen:

Our Kitchen program remains a vital resource, promoting nutrition, independence, and socialization.

Maintenance & Environmental Services:

Our dedicated staff ensure that our facilities are safe, clean, and welcoming, creating an environment where individuals can thrive.

Recreation:

This program continues to offer a wide range of activities that enhance social engagement, physical health, and overall happiness.

Additionally, this report includes a heartfelt recount of the year from one of the individuals living at the Lodge. Their reflections offer a powerful testament to the positive impact of our services and the sense of community we strive to foster.

As we look to the future, we remain focused on our mission to empower and enrich the lives of the individuals we support, working collaboratively to create a more inclusive, meaningful and joyful life for all.

This year, there were a few changes within the Hanover Apartments program. One individual transitioned to a Long-Term Care Home in Durham, and sadly, one of our individuals passed away at the Hanover Hospital. While departures always bring sadness, we were able to welcome two new individuals into the program, each bringing their unique energy and spirit. We remain committed to fostering a welcoming and supportive environment to all those who join our community.

Our dedicated staff team continues to provide consistent care and support, and we were pleased to add several new casual staff members this year. Their fresh perspectives and ideas have strengthened the team and contributed to the ongoing success of the program.



As we move forward, creativity has become an integral part of daily life at Hanover. One individual, a poet, is currently collaborating with a local musician on a song inspired by his poetry. He was even able to participate in the recording process at a music studio in Guelph. His determination was truly inspiring - despite the studio being on the second floor, he made the eight-flight climb up the stairs independently! This experience was invaluable, and he is eagerly anticipating hearing more of his poetry turned into music.

Hanover Apartments

Another individual celebrated a significant milestone this year with the acquisition of an enclosed mobility scooter, which she has affectionately named “Casper”. This scooter has granted her newfound independence, allowing her to attend appointments and explore her town, with her dog riding along in the back seat! Keep an eye out for “Casper” as it makes its way through Hanover - it’s truly a one-of-a-kind ride.



Our Blind Gentleman also had an exciting journey this year, traveling to New Jersey for a month to train his new guide dog, “Kenny”. They have returned home and are settling into their routine, with great success

Throughout the year, the individuals at Hanover Apartments have remained active participants in their community, taking part in “Home Fun” activities such as movie and game nights. One of the most anticipated events is our annual water fight between staff and individuals, which is always a highlight and fun of fun -- “soakingly fun!”



Success is always within their reach, and we are proud to support them on their journey

Owen Sound Apartments

The Owen Sound Apartments program continues to support 10 individuals who show remarkable resilience as they work to regain what they have lost due to significant life events. Their strength and determination are inspiring, and despite the challenges they face, they never shy away from embracing new adventures and creating fresh stories.

Many individuals in our program have been with us for over 20 years, which speaks to the strong, lasting relationships we've built. Our dedicated staff team remains deeply committed to providing the highest quality care and support, helping each individual maintain as much independence as possible. However, as people age, they may encounter more health concerns, which may require us to explore the best options for housing, support, and care moving forward.

The staff team has remained largely unchanged, with a few new casual team members to help support the program. This stability ensures a deep understanding of each individual's needs, and staff continue to incorporate thoughtful timing and multitasking into their daily routines to provide the best care possible.

This year, several individuals have received upgrades to their wheelchairs and other assistive devices, including new electric wheelchairs in vibrant colors like blue and teal - an option that has been greatly appreciated by all!

One individual has also embraced greater independence with the addition of an electric bike, allowing them to explore Owen Sound and improve their mobility, as they are unable to hold a driver's license. This new freedom has made a significant difference in their quality of life.

Owen Sound Apartments

Sadly, "Toby", a feisty little chihuahua who was dearly loved by one of our individuals, passed away, leaving the individual heartbroken. However, when she was ready, she adopted a new companion, "Annie", a sweet little dog who is spoiled not only by her owner but also by the caring staff.

Our resident gardener has continued to thrive, creating several beautiful gardens in the backyard of the apartments. His passion for gardening extends to pickling and jarring, with his creations receiving rave reviews from everyone who tries them. If you ever need gardening advice, he's the go-to expert!

We are excited to share that the new Participation Lodge Cookbook includes some added favourites from our talented "chef" and "baker" in Owen Sound. Both are incredibly proud to have their recipes featured. A highlight is the Chicken Barley Soup, known for its flavourful kick, and the Carrot Christmas Pudding, a family recipe passed down through generations.

The individuals at Owen Sound Apartments continue to inspire us with their perseverance, and we remain committed to providing the support and care they need to lead fulfilling, independent lives.



Outreach Bathing

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The Bathing Program continues to operate successfully in Hanover and Markdale, with a new staff member recently hired for Hanover, who has quickly become well-liked by all. Our dedicated Outreach staff provide essential support to individuals in Wiarton, Durham, Hanover, Walkerton, and Owen Sound.

Expanding these services would allow us to reach more individuals across the Grey Bruce area, providing them with the care and support they need. The individuals we serve greatly appreciate the privacy and dignity this program offers, allowing them to remain in their own homes while staying connected to their communities. This helps them maintain their independence without the disruption of moving.

The program's success is built on the independence it fosters, and the confidentiality maintained by both staff and individuals. (As a result, no pictures are included). This ensures the security of the program, reinforcing its long-term need and value.

We are proud to be part of such a remarkable program, and we look forward to the possibility of expanding it further in the future to serve even more individuals.

Kitchen

2024 has been a significant year for the kitchen at PLGB. One of the key changes was the successful transition from 11-hour shifts to 8-hour shifts for our full-time cooks. This adjustment allowed us to reinstate staff-paid meals, which had been paused during the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, staff can enjoy breakfast, lunch, or supper at a discounted rate while working at the Lodge.

Our kitchen team, currently consisting of five dedicated staff members, also had the privilege of hosting a summer student in 2024. Samantha joined us in May, and together with the individuals we support, their families, and staff across PLGB, we developed a cookbook filled with family-favourite recipes, a brief history of the Lodge, and pictures of our residents and the Lodge itself. This cookbook will be available for purchase by the public, PLGB families, and staff, with proceeds benefiting our recreation department. We plan to continue this initiative, creating new cookbooks in the years to come.



Kitchen

In addition, we're excited to have a co-op student, Austen, from St. Mary's High School (Bruce-Grey CDSB) join us for the 2024-2025 year. Thanks to Austen's help, we introduced freshly baked cookies and other treats available for purchase by staff. We are also developing a new fundraising project featuring pre-portioned dry mix soups, spice rubs, and cookie mixes in jars. These recipes, created with input from our supported individuals, will be available for purchase, and the proceeds will go toward supporting our recreation department in 2025.



Throughout the year, our kitchen team also catered various events, including a summer BBQ to welcome our 2024 students and a staff appreciation event in October, in collaboration with Burger Chief, a local food truck. One of the highlights was catering a retirement party for Linda McLeod, our interim Executive Director, where our team created beautiful and delicious charcuterie cups that were enjoyed by all.

The PLGB kitchen team continues to innovate and contribute to the overall success of the Lodge, creating not only delicious meals but also opportunities to raise funds for important programs. We look forward to further developments and community engagement in the coming years.



In 2024, the Maintenance and EVS teams worked relentlessly to improve and enhance the facilities at PLGB, creating a more welcoming and functional environment for everyone.

One of the year's highlights was a volunteer painting event led by Jeff Lockwood and his company, Lockwood Painting, based in Chatsworth. With paint and supplies generously donated by Sherwin Williams, Jeff's team and volunteers helped refresh the main lobby, residential wing, and dining/TV room. Plans are in place for the team to return to update the vacation wing in fall 2024 or spring 2025.



The Maintenance team also hosted a summer student, Megan, whose contributions were invaluable in completing numerous tasks across the PLGB grounds. Major updates this year included the renovation of both SGL tub rooms with state-of-the-art soaker tubs, new ceiling lifts with tracks, and updated tub chairs. Five aging ceiling lifts in residential bedrooms were also replaced.



A significant project was the much-anticipated renovation of the skylight in the main Lodge lobby. The new design not only enhances the building's appearance but is also expected to significantly reduce heating and cooling costs.

This year, we partnered with Sign Makers in London, Ontario, to design and install a beautiful menu board, activity board, and logo sign in the main lobby, ensuring consistent branding for PLGB. Additionally, with Holm Graphics from Walkerton, we completed signage for our newly renovated gym, yoga/dance studio, and rebranded sensory room, all of which are ready for use by our supported individuals in 2024-2025.



Maintenance & Environmental Services (EVS)

Renovations continued with the transformation of two storage areas into additional office spaces - one on the main floor and one in the basement - providing much-needed workspaces for our team.

Our EVS department, comprising of eight dedicated staff members, has continued to adapt to evolving Public Health guidelines and policies. Their work ensures high-quality cleaning and laundry services, making them the first line of defense for the health and safety of staff and supported individuals.

To show appreciation for the EVS team, we celebrated EVS week in 2024 with some well deserved sweet treats. Their passion and commitment to excellence remain vital to our operations and the wellbeing of everyone at PLGB.



Recreation

The Recreation Department plays a vital role in supporting the well-being of every individual at PLGB. Recreation is more than just leisure; it's a pathway for individuals to discover themselves, build meaningful relationships, and connect with their community. Whether fostering joy, pursuing passions, or achieving personal goals, recreation enriches lives and promotes healthier, happier lifestyles.

Our approach focuses on individual goals, life satisfaction, personal growth, and community connection. Through group activities and tailored programs, we aim to enhance independence and social engagement.



Morning Group Activities

We've found that mornings bring the highest participation for group activities. These sessions are divided into two categories:

1. **Active Engagement** - Activities such as stretching, bowling, scavenger hunts, nature walks, games at Luther Ranch, or even creating ribbon dances encourage movement and energy.
2. **Creative and Reflective Engagement** - Less physically intensive options include crafts, bingo, karaoke, literature time, online word games, or even Survivor-themed challenges.

Recreation

Recreation Highlights from 2024

This year, the Recreation Department - comprising one full-time and one part-time staff member, along with two fantastic summer students - offered an array of memorable activities and events:

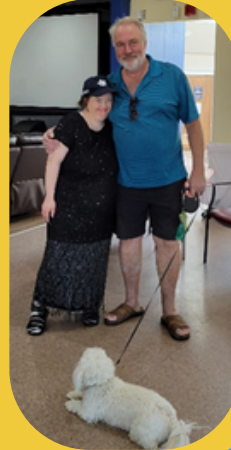
- **Painting and Art Therapy with Lesley Banks:** Monthly art sessions adapted to each person's skills and interests, complete with the added therapeutic presence of Lesley's dogs.
- **Bluegrass Jam Sessions:** Monthly gatherings from September to June in Owen Sound, where one of our supported individuals actively participates with the group.
- **Hope Haven Horse Therapy:** Weekly visits to Hope Haven in Markdale from March to December, fostering personal growth and connection.
- **Breakfast Club:** A much-loved activity where individuals plan, prepare, and enjoy their chosen meals in small groups.
- **Meaford Scarecrow Invasion Parade:** Supported individuals contributed to float planning, decoration, and participation, celebrating community connection.



A snippet of the memories made in 2024

Recreation

- **Community Theatre and Concerts:** Providing opportunities for individuals to enjoy live performances, fulfilling personal goals, and boosting community interaction.
- **Family and Friend Visits:** Maintaining strong personal relationships through regular visits, special events, and digital connections.
- **Blue Jays Games:** A highlight of the summer, offering a fun and inclusive outing for all.



The Need for Expansion

Despite the successes, the Recreation Department's limited staffing poses challenges in providing adequate one-on-one time and fully leveraging community opportunities. The addition of two summer students made a significant difference, and we hope to build on this support in the future.

Looking Forward

The memories and connections forged in 2024 highlight the transformative power of recreation. From everyday activities to once-in-a-lifetime experiences, the Recreation Department continues to bring joy, growth, and purpose to the lives of those we support.

Acknowledgements

A heartfelt thank you to Sandy, Salina, Gabe, Moe, Veronica, and Lori for their dedication and creativity, making this year truly unforgettable for our supported individuals.

This summer, PLGB welcomed six summer students across various departments: Recreation (2), Administration (2), Kitchen (1), and Maintenance (1). As a summer student myself, I can confidently say that this experience has been invaluable and career-shaping.

Each of us had the incredible opportunity to work closely with the supported individuals at PLGB, gaining a deep appreciation for their uniqueness and resilience. This firsthand experience has fostered a personal connection that strengthens our advocacy for individuals with complex needs and underscores the vital role that organizations like PLGB play in their lives.

Recreation Students

Accompanied individuals on numerous day trips, building meaningful connections and creating joyful memories.

Kitchen Student

Learned the intricacies of providing meals for individuals and staff while contributing to fundraising initiatives.

Maintenance Student

Enjoyed sunny summer days maintaining and improving the grounds of PLGB.

Administration Students

Gained practical, hands-on experience in Human Resources and Finance, bringing classroom knowledge to life.

Reflections from the Summer Students of 2024

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One memorable moment was during our orientation when Wanda, the Director of Human Resources and Business Services, personally took the time to ask each of us our names, fields of study, and what we hoped to achieve during our time at PLGB. This level of personalization and genuine interest in our goals is rare in an organization of this size, and it left a lasting impression on all of us.

Personally, I expressed a desire to gain hands-on experience in Human Resources and apply my academic studies to a real-world setting. Throughout the summer, I was entrusted with meaningful tasks that significantly advanced my skills, and this experience has been transformative not only in my university journey but in my personal development as well.

On behalf of all the summer students of 2024, I want to express our heartfelt gratitude to PLGB for this incredible opportunity. The knowledge, skills, and connections we've gained here will stay with us for years to come.



**Thank you,
Summer Students of 2024**

Supported Individual 2024 Reflection

December 2023

The supported residents were very busy during the first two weeks in December. Events included: coffee time first thing in the morning; daily crosswords; sending Christmas cards; dancing with Louise, art with Leslie Bankes and more shopping trips.

On December 6th we had a flu and booster COVID Shot Clinic for all persons in the Lodge.

Due to Rec Stall illness we “borrowed” staff from ABI around mid November. They continued to be with us through December and January.

December 13th onward PLGB was in quarantine due to a COVID outbreak. All outings were cancelled as 17/22 became ill. All supported persons were in their rooms. Many thanks to the kitchen staff and PSWs we prepared, delivered and fed residents. PSW's changed linen and made each resident comfortable during the day. Thanks to all, including Administration who worked around the clock, supporting us.

Our Secret Santa Gift Exchange was held on December 20th. Santa came with his sack full of wrapped presents. I remember thinking that Santa was very thin this year, but he made up for it at the “cookie and beverage table”. While eating, each of us examined our gift and showed it off to others.

Christmas Day dawned with very little snow (unlike last year). We had breakfast and then made our way to the living room Christmas Tree. Under the tree were sacks, holding presents. Each supported person has a Key Contact and at Christmas time, they go shopping for us. Surprises are in each sack, and it was wonderful watching each person laugh, squeal or express their delight at their gifts.

Supported Individual 2024 Reflection

December 2023

After a very few minutes, we had a noon-hour turkey feast - complete with turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, veggies, pickles, cranberry sauce and assorted pies. (As I type this, I am becoming very hungry all over again). A very quiet afternoon followed as some of us were not really feeling all the well, following COVID.

On December 31st we had our New Year's countdown at 12:00 - complete with hats, and noise makers. We had a very special meal-hors d'Oeuvres and little Chinese cakes. Then from 1:00-7:00, some supported persons went to the Roxy Theatre to see the Beckett Family. They then ate on the bus(es) and did a light tour around Owen Sound.



Supported Individual 2024 Reflection

May & June 2024

In May we had craft days when we made Mother's Day Cards for Mom. Mother's Day was May 12th but we had a Mother's Day Tea on May 11th. Moms and special people in the resident's life came for tea and goodies. An awesome day!

In like manner we had craft days devoted to making cards for Dad. Father's Day was celebrated on June 16th, but we had "Coffee with Dad" on the 15th. The coffee and treats were out of this world.



Supported Individual 2024 Reflection

June 2024

Repeated events are: coffee time; trips to Hope Haven; walks in nature viewing birds, flowers, etc.; Octoband Fun outside; Hope Haven trips; breakfast club; art with Leslie; dancing with Louise; stories with Lori and Vicki; bowling in the Lodge; outing to Church; library trip; continuation of gardening both inside and outside (transplanting and watering).



Special June Events

- Cycling with staff for exercise.
- Visiting Gabe's (student) rabbits.
- Two trips to see the Toronto Blue Jay's Game.
- A trip to Ripley's Aquarium.
- A trip to the Toronto Zoo
- Starting Multicultural Series.

Thursday we had celebrated Italy and Jamaica. We studied their geography; dressed in their clothing colours (like the flag); ate their food; played their games. The residents are really enjoying their country adventure.



Supported Individual 2024 Reflection

Summer 2024

Many thanks this past month to Sandy, Lori, Salina (Rec Directors) and our two students Mo and Gabriel. These five people have kept us on the run and provided the best summer months ever. Our thanks.

I will keep our repeated items short: coffee time at 8:00; Breakfast Clubs; dancing with Louise Potts; art with Leslie Bankes; Hope Haven adventures; parachute fun; bowling; soccer outdoors (and was it hot); continuation of multicultural series - this time learning about Egypt including their games; baking and cupcake decorating; campfire with treats; outside bingo; ribbon fun (exercise for the arms) outside; shopping; a trip to YMCA for swimming; many walks to Luther Ranch looking for nature - birds, etc.

Special Summer Events

- Two Blue Jay's Trips.
- Kite making and trying to make them fly (I failed).
- Two trips to Cirque de Soleil.
- An adventure trip to African Lion Safari.
- A swimming trip to a local beach.



Supported Individual 2024 Reflection



Special Summer Events

- A Marsh Music evening with Rogers, Richie and Robinson - they performed the songs of Kenny Rodgers, Lionel Richie and Smokey Robinson like I've never heard them before. It was a fabulous non-stop concert taking me down memory lane.
- A few of us went on a Dairy Farm Tour. On this farm were 95 Holstein cattle. We were in the barn where all the cattle were pregnant. The milking was totally mechanized. One cow went into a chute; the udders were caught; and the cow stood still until it's four stomachs were milked. There was a huge rotating brush where each cow could clean herself. There was a robot to clean the manure; a robot to provide hay and soybeans. We went outside to see the corn fields which would be the height of three men. Then we went in to see the baby calves. For a city girl, what a great experience.

Supported Individual 2024 Reflection

Summer 2024 Events

Continued activities did occur: coffee time in the morning; bocci ball; country drives; adventures at Hope Haven; spa day; movie nights with treats; trips to the library; continuation of Breakfast Clubs (a very good start to the morning); swimming trips to the YMCA; shopping; art with Leslie Bankes; dancing with Louise Potts; bowling; baking and afternoon tea with Gabe; going to Church with Salina.

Special Summer Events

- A day outing to Elmvale Jungle Zoo.
- A night out with Elvis.
- A shopping trip at Keady Market.
- Fishing fun (no fish caught!)
- A 12 hour day at the Lucknow Musicfest.
- Touch a Truck Event in the PLGB front parking lot on August 23rd. Trucks of all descriptions and the community was invited to come and explore the outside and inside of the vehicles. Horns of every type and intensity of sound surrounded the building.
- Three more trips to the Blue Jay's games.
- A few persons went to the Great Benjamins Circus on August 24th.



Supported Individual 2024 Reflection



In closing I must say that August 27th was a sad and very teary day. With each passing minute we knew we had to say good-bye to Gabe and Moe as they went on to further adventures. They promised to visit, as they live in the area and all of us are hoping they return next summer. I have never had a more exciting and enjoyable summer and they were surely a fantastic help and inspiration for the Recreation Staff

Special Events

- Another trip on the Chi Cheemaun.
- We watched the opening of the Paralympic Games and did an update every day.
- A few of us went to Music in the Mountains (Collingwood).
- Getting ready for Christmas we selected our Secret Santa pals/and Scarecrow Invasion Parade Draws.
- Bullseye and Axe Throwing.
- A day trip to Harrison Park.
- A day at Beaver Valley Fair.
- Apple picking and baking.
- A trip to Grey Root Museum.
- A celebration of September 15th: **NATIONAL DOUBLE CHEESEBURGER DAY!**



Supported Individual 2024 Reflection

Fall 2024 Events

As summer turned into fall, so did the supported resident activities. This was done very smoothly and with fun - Sandy and Salina leading the way.

Our coffee hour and breakfast clubs were enjoyed by all. Following was dancing with Louise (every second week); art with Leslie Bankes; stretches and exercises; time spent in the gym and sensory room; trips to Blue Grass Jam; swimming at the YMCA; trips to Hope Haven on Wednesday and Thursday; library trips; karaoke; shopping trips; a trip to the Roxy; and finally, Sunday trips to Church.

Special Events

- A trip to Binbrook and touring the Warplane Museum.
- A visit to the Cat Room in Collingwood.
- Candy floss making - and did we get in a sticky mess. For some of the supported residents it was their first taste of candy floss. Mmm!
- On the 28th a supported person went to London to visit family.
- On October 1st, supported residents went to a football game - cold weather!
- We, the supported residents, were treated to a delightful fall outing. All the supported residents went on a fall outing/tour on back country roads to see the autumn colours. At some point the bus stopped and we were just amazed at nature's beauty. This was a new activity, and I hope it continues.



Supported Individual 2024 Reflection

Special Events

- Each year PLGB participates in the Meaford Scarecrow Invasion Parade. This year, eight supported residents were either on the float or walking beside or behind the float. The float was decorated with 100 balloons to mark Meaford's 100-year-old birthday.
- The next day, two residents went to the Applefest Craft Show in Meaford. This is a wonderful place to buy (Christmas) gifts.
- On October 6th, supported residents went to the Pumpkinfest. Unfortunately, it poured rain that day.
- On October 9th we had a celebration of life for Joseph (Marc) Laferriere. The service was lead by a wonderful minister - in word and song. We were asked "to remember" Marc in our own way. The graveside service was recorded, and we were able to watch final moments with Marc.



Supported Individual 2024 Reflection

Special Events

- Our trip to African Lion Safari was an eventful one. Many animals were out and about - often stopped traffic. The monkeys did not climb on our bus this time but chose to hide in the bushes often with their wee ones. (I had not seen this before). Giraffes, as before walked between cars, looked in car windows, before moving on to their feeding troughs. We left the Safari at 3:15 hoping to be home for supper... not to be. Our bus broke down just outside Berkley. We were lucky we were so close to home. The "Promaster" arrived to take us home. However, there was one problem. There was not enough power/torque and the lift would not come up or go down on the bus we were in. Therefore, no residents could transfer. We called the Fire Station and 911 but "J" was able to fix it enough to lower 5 supported residents. We were so cold as the doors had to be open (smoke inside the bus). Then once outside we waited until we could get on the Promaster. We arrive home at 8:00 - cold and starving. Mac and weenies hit the spot!
- Our last event was a Thanksgiving feast - with all the trimmings - including apple or pumpkin pie. A big thank you to all the chefs!

This year has been one of growth, connection, and cherished memories for our individuals living at the Lodge. Their stories remind us of the resilience, joy, and community spirit that define life at PLGB. As we reflect on these moments, we celebrate not only their achievements but also the incredible support and network of staff, families, and volunteers who help make these experiences possible. Together, we continue to build a place where every individual feels valued, supported, and truly at home.

Conclusion

As we reflect on the accomplishments and milestones of the past year, it is clear that PLGB continues to be a place where individuals with complex needs can thrive, grow, and live with dignity and purpose. From expanding our programs to fostering meaningful connections, enhancing facilities, and empowering both staff and individuals, the year 2024 has been one of progress, resilience, and community spirit.

None of this would have been possible without the unwavering dedication of our staff, the leadership of our Board of Directors, and the support of families, volunteers, and community partners. Together, we have created an environment that not only meets the needs of those we support but also inspires hope and opportunity.

As we move forward into another year, we remain committed to our mission of enriching lives through independence, inclusion, and choice. With exciting initiatives on the horizon and a steadfast focus on growth and innovation, PLGB is ready to continue its legacy of providing exceptional care and support to those who call it home.

Thank you for being part of our journey. We look forward to creating even more meaningful moments and milestones in the year ahead.

With gratitude,
Participation Lodge Grey Bruce Team