

## The Greatest Gift of All - Giving

*"At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us."*

— Albert Schweitzer

Christmas 2013 was greeted with joyful sounds of thankfulness as 30 grand-families experienced community giving. The Grandparents, Parenting Again Support Group was sponsored by Sun Life Financial through the coordinating efforts of Elisabeth Conroy. Elisabeth and her team of co-workers, family, friends and community partners were able to place beautifully wrapped parcels that once lived on a Christmas wish list under the tree.

Christmas sponsorship inspires deep gratitude, not only for the generosity of gift-giving; but, for the acknowledgement of the realities facing grand-families in our community. Elisabeth has become an active volunteer with the "Grands"

group and has kindled a flame of awareness for Simcoe Community Services "Grands" program within our community. The Barrie Police Training Unit, the Heart & Stroke Office at Commerce Park and the Waterford Retirement Community joined Elisabeth and her team and kindled the spark of making a difference in our community. Through their combined efforts, 40 grandchildren and the grandparents who are raising them were able to experience the joy and happiness of the season. While raising a family on a seniors' fixed income and navigating a complex social system of support, grand-families often feel invisible within their community. However, with the gift of sponsorship, Elisabeth and her team have given the greatest gift of all: rekindled joy and hope that we live in a community that sees and supports grand-families.

Leanne Ross



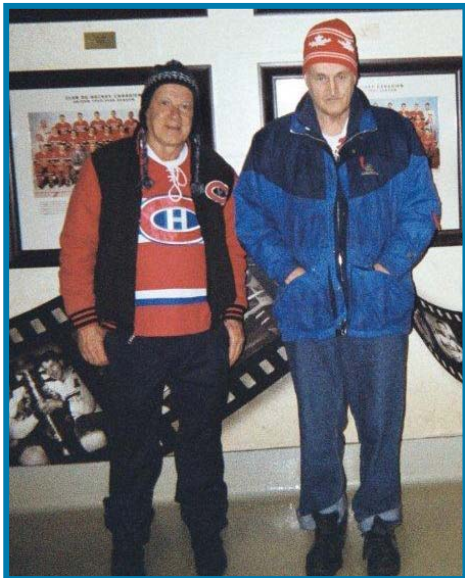
Photo - Stan Howe, Barrie Advance  
Santa Elisabeth Conroy presents gifts to grandparents Susan and Allan Dubé and granddaughter Breanne

**Grand-families and other families supported through the agency experiencing financial hardship received sponsorship to make their Christmas more special from the following generous donors:**

**Honda of Canada Plastic Injection Associates • Doctors & staff @ ENT Associates & Helix Hearing Care (Barrie North Office)  
Gloria Parham and her team of Secret Santas • Meghan & Dave, Ryan & Tanya and Stuart and Nancy Cardwell.  
Kristen Hancock • Tammy Hudgin • Cory Clarke • McBride Financial Services • Carolyn & Kale Soderberg  
A number of current and former employees and departments within the agency**

## Hockey Dream Becomes A Reality

On Friday, January 10th, 2014, Willis Amos and his Home Provider, Richard Williams set off by train and made their way to Montreal for a weekend get-away to fulfill one of Willis' life-long dreams. Willis has been a die-hard Montreal Canadiens fan since he was a young boy and always dreamed about going to the Bell Centre to watch the Habs on their home ice. At the age of 68, his dream finally became a reality!



Richard and Willis enjoying the hockey experience

Willis's Home Provider, Richard, is also a huge Canadiens fan, so it was only fitting that these two guys could make the trip to Montreal together to cheer on their favourite team! They have enjoyed spending many evenings watching and cheering for the Canadiens in the comfort of their own home so it was an incredible experience to take in the live hockey action.

Willis and Richard had the opportunity to tour old Montreal and check out the history of their favourite team by visiting the Montreal Canadiens Hall of Fame, where Willis saw memorabilia of his all time favourite player #4, Jean Beliveau. On Saturday night, the big moment arrived and Willis and Richard found themselves 10 rows back from centre ice to witness a battle between the Montreal Canadiens and the Chicago Blackhawks. Willis was excited to see his favourite player, P.K. Subban, take the ice! In the second period, Montreal scored and the crowd erupted. Willis enjoyed high fiving his fellow Canadiens fans and taking part in the celebration. Willis and Richard proudly wore their new Canadiens jerseys, which was a gift from Willis' sister, Clara, for their trip. The Canadiens ended up beating the Blackhawks 2-1 in an intense overtime win, which topped off their awesome hockey adventure!

We are so happy your dream came true, Willis! Go Habs Go!

Andrea VanLeusen

## Upcoming BIBA Registration

The Barrie Integrated Baseball Association (BIBA) is embarking on its 26th season. Registration will be held on Thursday, March 27th from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. and on Thursday, April 10th from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Registration will take place at 129 Ferris Lane.



## 19th Annual Fashion Show/Silent Auction

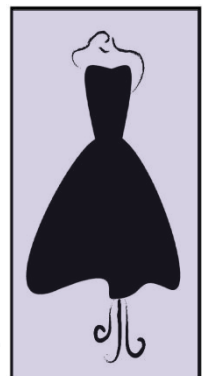
### "I HAVE A VOICE"

Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014

The Ranch, 56 Bayfield St.  
Barrie ON

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.  
Fashion Show starts at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$35.00  
(includes appetizers & desserts)



Igniting the unlimited potential of all people





## CEOs Message



Marion Graves, Chief Executive Officer

This winter has been a most challenging one and I am sure that you are as anxious as I am to welcome some sign of spring. Since the beginning of 2014, we have experienced a few days of program closures that resulted from extreme temperatures and blowing snow which caused dangerous driving conditions.

This is the first time in almost a decade that Simcoe Community Services has closed programs due to severe weather. The Select Committee on Developmental Services continues its work and many self advocates, groups and family members have made presentations to them related to issues that exist in the developmental sector. At present, we have been advised that the interim report of the Select Committee will be issued no later than February 26, 2014. Once this report is available, SCS will create an opportunity for discussion for those interested in receiving information about the main themes presented to the committee. The Ombudsman's office continues their work. A report should be available by early summer.

As part of our "Looking to the Future Plan", we continue our efforts to transform our currently owned buildings to meet our present and future needs. In some cases, needs have changed and the current footprint and design are no longer suitable. Some areas are too small and others are too large and not fully utilized. There are heating and cooling issues that require correction and the cost of leasing space has presented challenges. We anticipate the completion of the

work at 40 Fraser Court by fall 2014 and look forward to establishing programs presently conducted out of 129 Ferris Lane and 39 Fraser Court at this newly renovated site.

Our staff team continues to work on the SCS strategic plan and, most recently, Fred Galloway facilitated a session wherein the work plan and timelines were decided. Over the next several months, each program will identify and address the specific projects that will bring us closer to meeting our goals during the term of the strategic plan.

As a member of the Child, Youth and Family Services (CYFS) Coalition of Simcoe County, we participated in a strategic planning day in October, working with a number of our significant community partners. Together, we identified some strategic goals that will form the basis of our work for the next few years.

Through its Barrie Housing Support Services, representatives from Simcoe Community Services have been active in their work with Barrie Pathways which is a collaboration of community agencies with the goal of creating a service and support hub for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. We are very

pleased to be a member of this important community initiative.

I am so proud to recognize the United Way Campaign Committee at SCS that recently received an award for hosting an "Outstanding Employee Campaign" (500-1,999 employees). Thank you to the leadership of Kamila Romanowicz and Caitlin Foisy and committee members Renee Felker, Angie Bendo, Joanne Bimm, Leanne Ross, Carolyn Harris, Anne Zarecky, Patricia Carruthers, Tania Drury, Jamie Ellis, Aaron Neuman and Tracey Bedford for this achievement. Caitlin and Kamila were also nominated as Employee Campaign Coordinators of the Year. Renee Felker and Carolyn Harris were nominated for Ambassador of the Year and SCS was nominated for the Outstanding Agency Campaign Ward. We are very grateful for the energy and commitment you have all demonstrated in assisting United Way in surpassing their fundraising targets this year. United Way is a significant funding partner for several programs at SCS. I am sure you join me in anxiously awaiting the first sign of spring after a long Canadian winter.

Marion Graves, CEO

## Barrie Housing Support Services to the Rescue

Financial hardships can produce stress, anxiety, and worry. People can lose their homes, utilities can be cut off, spending becomes tight and so much more, depending on the severity of the situation. Barrie Housing Support Services has a program that helps with utility and rental arrears called the Housing Retention Fund. One woman, Dorothy (alias name for confidentiality reasons), came in to Barrie Housing Support Services searching for assistance with her utility bills. She was behind in the payment of her utility bills to the point that a disconnection notice was issued for her hydro, gas and water bill. As her situation was discussed, it became apparent that Dorothy was on maternity leave from her full-time job. She was a single parent with EIGHT children. The lack of regular income seriously affected her budget, considering her grocery bill was approximately \$1400 a month. Fortunately, she was able to apply for the Housing Retention Fund and was approved to pay for her utility bills before the disconnection happened. Had she not connected with Barrie Housing Support Services that day, she and her eight children would have been living in a house with no power, no heat and no running water.



Aaron Neuman

## Simcoe Community Services 2013 United Way Campaign Exceeds Target!

It was another fun filled, exciting and successful year for the United Way Campaign in 2013. This year's goal of \$25,000 and 25% participation was blown out of the water thanks to the hard work of everyone on the committee as well as the support of the staff at Simcoe Community Services.



Caitlin Foisy and Kamila Romanowicz led an award winning team

This year's United Way Campaign raised a whopping \$26,175 with a participation rate of 26%. Thanks to everyone's efforts, Simcoe Community Services achieved the spirit award for "Outstanding Employee Campaign" in the 500-1999 employees category.

The campaign began with the Annual Baseball Kickoff Game in September. Ambassadors attended team meetings in October and part of November to spread the important message of the United Way. This year we had many fun events to enjoy including the Chili lunch, Ball Hockey, Bingo, the Silent Auction and Bake Sale. We had many opportunities to purchase great gifts, not only for others, at the

vendor fairs, through catalogues and also at the bake sale. We had a lot of fun and we learned about the many wonderful things that the United Way does in our community that touch each and every one of us, in one way or another.

The committee would like to again thank everyone at Simcoe Community Services for a wonderful year. Let's do it again next year!

Caitlin Foisy & Kamila Romanowicz

## Honour an Educator Who Goes the Extra Mile

Belonging, participating and excelling along with your schoolmates seems like such an everyday event. For students who have an intellectual disability, participating meaningfully alongside classmates can be the exception rather than the rule.

The Inclusion Excellence Awards were established in 2007 by Simcoe Community Services to acknowledge the efforts of educators who creatively and meaningfully sought out ways in which students who have an intellectual disability could belong and excel alongside their classmates. These awards acknowledge educators who look for opportunities in their school environment where everyone can excel.

Over the past seven years, teachers, educational assistants, vice principals and principals have been acknowledged. If you know of someone who goes "above and beyond" as an educator, consider nominating them for this award. Contact Reet Skelton at rskelton@simcoecommunityservices.ca (or at (705)726-9082 ext 2238) for more details.

## Preschool Services

### Community Partnerships Enhance Baby's Beginnings

The Simcoe County Infant Development Program provides service to our agency's youngest clientele. Referrals come from many sources including parents, doctors/paediatricians, community agencies and hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Units.

For some of these little ones, their entry into life has been quite a journey. In some instances this journey includes an extended stay in hospital in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). We know that, in order to best support these infants and their families, collaboration among service providers is key.

The Infant Development Program is part of the larger Early Intervention system comprised of many agencies and service providers including specialized therapy services, Resource Teacher programs and a number of other agencies involved with families, which may include the Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program with the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, Community Care Access Centre, Children's Treatment Network, the Children's Aid Society, as well as government and private funding agencies. Joint home visits often occur with many of these agency providers in order to best support families with their goals for their child and family.

In order to better assist families to enter into the service system, the Infant Development Program has recently partnered with Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Beginning in August 2013, the Infant Development Supervisor, Patricia Kneeshaw, has become part of the team supporting infants and families at Paediatric Rounds in the NICU at RVH. Under the leadership of Neonatologist, Dr. Vincent Ho, the team includes the Resource Nurse, Social Worker, Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapist, Dietician, Pharmacist, Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program Public Health Nurse and Infant Development Supervisor. Each family with an infant in the NICU and their Registered Nurse is invited to attend as well to update the team on the baby's progress and receive direction and "next steps" for their care.

Families who qualify for community services are informed of the service and referrals are made at that time. The continuity of care and support that families and their infants receive through this partnership has been valuable and truly appreciated by the families and the community partners.

Patricia Kneeshaw/Michele Kapteyn





## The Benefits of Early Years Programs – A Parent’s Perspective

Juggling 4 kids is a definite challenge at times. Keeping them busy, happy, healthy and active has been an important part of our everyday lives. When I had my first daughter, Brianna (now 12), we were fairly new to the Innisfil community. After a visit from Welcome Wagon, we quickly learned about the Early Years Centre and their programs. We were excited to take advantage of their programs and meet some people from our community. Very quickly my daughter and I were enrolled in several programs, meeting new friends, and having the staff advise me of other programs and links to help me with the many questions of a new mother. The Early Years Centre became a big part of our everyday life. Once my second daughter was born, we joined groups that could involve both an infant and toddler. We took advantage of

the open play time to help my children socialize and share and enjoy the many activities and crafts. Once my children became preschool age, I wanted to be sure they had every advantage to succeed with the transition from being at home with mom, to a full day at school. The Early Years Centre gave me the information I needed to decide to enroll my children in a local preschool program. My children developed the basic skills needed to feel comfortable with the transition. The Kindergarten teachers acknowledged their skills and were aware that they had the benefit of preschool behind them.

Several years later I had premature twins. (29 weeks). As they developed a little slower than a full term infant and toddler, I again wanted to give

them the same opportunity as their siblings, so we once again sought out the Innisfil Early Years Centre and took advantage of their programs. (I was happy to see a lot of familiar staff faces.) Now with my twins becoming preschool age, we will take the same advantage and enroll them in the same preschool and hope they develop the skills and the advantages they need to enter Kindergarten next year.

In today’s society, I feel our children need to be given every opportunity to achieve great success in their lives. The Early Years Centre definitely was an amazing centre for my family to be involved in, with many friendly staff that could always inform you of their services and programs for infants and toddlers.

Lorine Betts



Lorine, Carter & Courtney Betts

## Community Living

### Community Partnerships

The primary goal of Community Support Services (CSS) is supporting people to make a meaningful contribution in their communities. Recently, 13 people supported by CSS at the 39 Fraser Court location were honoured at a presentation at Allandale Heights Public School. Here’s what was shared:

*“We want to sincerely thank our Community Living volunteers for all they do at Allandale Heights Public School concerning our recycling program. Each Monday, Wednesday and Friday, volunteers visit each of our classrooms and collect paper, plastic and metal recycling items. Our earth is precious and we appreciate your help in keeping it green with us!”*

*“Our Community Living Volunteers take care of the food needed for our Breakfast Program and Daily Snack Bins. They make a shopping list of what is needed and then head off to the grocery store to fill our needs. Nutrition is important for growing bodies and minds, and we thank you for making healthy food choices for us!”*

*“With a show of hands, how many staff and students have walked past our kitchen and smelled freshly baked muffins? Ahhh, yes... lots! Many of us at Allandale Heights appreciate the freshly baked food you prepare and the sliced fruit and vegetables for our snack program. Your efforts remind us how easy, fun and healthy it is to prepare food in our kitchen!”*

*“Thank you for making our partnership work for you and for us. Your efforts are all appreciated at Allandale Heights Public School! We hope you enjoy reading and looking at the student-made thank you cards. We had fun designing them just for you!”*

*“Three Cheers for our Community Living Volunteers....Hip Hip Hooray!”*

Junior Students at Allandale Heights Public School and Bobby Jo LeMay



### RBC Dominion Securities presents:

### The 19th Annual Simcoe Community Services Golf Tournament!

Friday June 20th 2014 at Noon  
Shotgun scramble start, best ball format

\$150 per person (\$160 after May 31st) (Includes: lunch on the patio, 18 holes, golf cart, banquet dinner, gift and charitable donation tax receipt for a portion of the fee)  
Join Simcoe Community Services Foundation and friends on the golf course in support of youth with intellectual disabilities! Help us to achieve our goal of \$30,000!  
We are looking for foursomes, sponsors, silent auction and prize table donations.

### Getting My Wii!

I really wanted a Wii game system. My friend, who is a police officer, gave me a wonderful idea - to wait until some stores like Walmart or Shoppers had a sale on any Nintendo Wii systems. He said to me “check the flyers from the newspapers for any sales.” I called around to the different stores. Then I made a trip to the Hock Shop. I waited until I got my GST rebate and the employee had a Wii with my name on it. I had to wait until the employee of the Hock Shop formatted the Wii. My friend was excited that I had kept the box. He also mentioned to me if I decide to sell my Wii to let him know first before I do anything else!

Mike Hardy



## Simcoe Community Services Foundation

### Raising the Roof of O’Brien House

O’Brien House is home to 10 adults with intellectual disabilities in the twilight of their life. The property is located in Shanty Bay and has been owned by Simcoe Community Services Foundation for the past 10 years. It was built and acquired by generous contributions from the community. In order to adequately maintain O’Brien House, significant upgrades are needed for fire safety and a new roof is needed.

The residents of O’Brien House enjoy their life in this country oasis. Marion Bell has lived at O’Brien House since 2004. She is a bright, joyful 83 year old woman, with an infectious smile. She is very fashionable and wears purple highlights in her hair. Marion enjoys her suite with private bathroom and view of the surrounding landscape. She enjoys the company of her housemates, sitting around the kitchen table with a cup of tea and chatting.



Marion was very close to her sister-in-law (Emily Bell) “Lee” as she liked to call her. Marion and Lee would visit regularly and Lee always had a gift for Marion. Lee survived Marion’s brother Charlie Bell and lived on her own even though she was legally blind, until her passing at 96 years of age this past December. Lee left a very substantial legacy behind to support the people and causes she loved. Lee’s gift continues to give in her passing, by helping to assure the future for her sister-in-law Marion, who she loved so dearly, and others living at O’Brien House.

Lee’s generosity, and that of other donors in our community, is ensuring that O’Brien House will continue to be a safe, comfortable and dignified place to live for the older people who we support.

It will cost over \$200,000 to move forward with the significant and necessary improvements to O’Brien House. With Lee’s recent donation and previous funds raised, we are nearing our goal. We still need \$65,000 to raise the roof of O’Brien House!

If you would like to find out more information on the O’Brien House “Raising the Roof” Campaign or would like to support this or our “From Dreams to Reality” campaign, please contact the Fund Developer at 705-797-5276 or lspinks-smith@simcoecommunityservices.ca

### Monthly Giving:

### A great way to make a difference!

Although Simcoe Community Services receives funding from the government to provide basic supports for people with intellectual disabilities there are more needs than available funds. Requests continue to pour in to the Foundation from people with intellectual disabilities who are living on or below the poverty line. Here’s just one of many stories we hear every day...

Shane is a 56 year old gentleman who has an intellectual disability. Shane is very much involved in his community. He is always out visiting friends and takes pride in his appearance. His glasses recently broke and he is not eligible for a new pair for another two years through ODSP. We temporarily fixed his glasses by taping them together. Shane frequently mentions his glasses and asks if he can get new ones. The cost of a new pair of glasses is \$300. Just think... your monthly donation of \$25 would make Shane’s dream of new glasses come true!



Joining the Simcoe Community Services Foundation monthly giving program is one of the easiest charitable decisions that you can make. Your donation will help Shane and others like him who need our help to have a better quality of life.

As a monthly donor, you will receive updates on the impact of your support, a charitable tax receipt (issued annually), as well as a small gift. Best of all, by giving a little each and every month, your support adds up, making a big difference to people with intellectual disabilities. There is no long-term obligation and you can change or cancel your support any time by simply calling the Foundation office.

Please consider joining our Monthly Giving Program today. Even a donation of \$5 or \$10 a month helps and will go a long way toward ensuring people with intellectual disabilities receive the resources they need to get and stay involved in their community.

For more information or to sign up as a Monthly Donor, please contact the Fund Developer at 705-797-5276 or lspinks-smith@simcoecommunityservices.ca



# In Memoriam

## Remembering Diane Grier

Diane was born on April 1, 1941 in Midland, Ontario to Helen Contois and Norman Grier.

When Norman returned from the war in 1945, the family moved to South Porcupine, Ontario. Norman procured work as an underground miner in the gold mines and the couple purchased a small house. On June 14, 1946 a brother, Brian was born.



Diane at age 3 with mom and dad

On January 31, 1951 tragedy struck the young family when Norman was killed in an underground mining accident. Economic realities resulted in Diane being sent to live with her grandpar-

ents in Midland. Helen remarried in 1953 and Diane returned to live with the family who had moved to Schumacher, Ontario (a suburb of Timmins).

Diane and Brian's relationship strengthened as 12-year-old Diane and 7-year-old Brian spent extended periods of time together, particularly during the summer vacation months. A favourite haunt of the pair was the playground at the Schumacher Public School, where Diane could enjoy one of her favourite activities, riding the swings while singing at the top of her lungs. No one was there to complain about the lyrics or the tune.

Schumacher was also blessed with an outdoor swimming pool, which was only open during summer vacation. At that time, a child's swimming pool season pass could be purchased for the cost of 35 cents. Passes were purchased for both children, and Brian with Diane in tow made daily pilgrimages to the pool, weather permitting. Diane would demonstrate her

swimming prowess by sitting in the water on the pool steps and dunking her face.

When not at the playground or the pool, the siblings spent their time playing, generally with each other. On one very memorable day, late in the summer of 1954, Diane was taken away in a car with no explanation given to eight-year-old Brian. The siblings were separated and it was later learned that Diane had been placed in the Ontario Hospital School, in Orillia.

One cannot begin to imagine the shock, the fear, or the loneliness Diane must have endured when she was sent to live in an institution for the next 34 years.

In 1974 the Ontario Hospital School, Orillia was renamed the Huronia Regional Centre and placed under the Ministry of Community and Social Services. In 1988, as a result of de-institutionalization, Diane moved to the community to the care of Simcoe Community Services. She went to live with Home Providers, Sue and Jim Darlington in 1991, where she remained as a member of their loving family until they retired in 2007. Subsequently a new family was found for Diane. The Strachan Family (Sean, Denise, Mack, Rachel, Seneca, and matriarch Gail) instantly fell in love with Diane and she with them.

*"It's a long and winding road that leads to your door, You left me standing here, A long, long time ago".....Paul McCartney*

After a lengthy search, Brian located his sister at Simcoe Community Services and made contact with Kristen Hummel, Diane's social worker. After some introductory confirmations, she worked her magic and the siblings, Diane and Brian enjoyed a tearful reunion on May 29, 2011.....57 years after they had been separated.

The reunion was short lived, however, as Diane passed away suddenly at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie, on December 24, 2013. Ironically, Diane passed away on the eve of her favourite holiday, when her favourite boyfriend, Santa, was on his way to visit.

A memorial service for Diane was held at the Church of Je-

sus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Barrie, on January 18, 2014. It was wonderful to see the large number of people in attendance despite the winter storm. Diane was certainly blessed with many friends.

To Kristen Hummel and Alex Deneault, Diane's social workers, and the staff of Simcoe Community Services, I cannot thank you enough for placing my sister with two marvelous families and for advocating for her over the past 25 years. Your efforts went above and beyond the job and will not be forgotten.

Jim and Sue Darlington took Diane into their family, where she spent 17 happy years. I did not get to know you, but I have no doubt that my sister loved you both....my never ending gratitude, for the love and care that you gave her.

The Strachan family, whom I did get to know. What can I say? Diane's Mom and Dad (Denise & Sean), her grandma (Gail), her brother Mack and her sisters Rachel and Seneca made her a part of their family. They loved her, cared for her and made



Reunited siblings Diane and Brian Grier

her life better. The whole family is very special and I love them all. It is easy to see why Diane loved them so much.

And lastly, Diane, my sister. My eternal gratitude for having been fortunate enough to know her and have her in my life. To know her was to love her. She was the most loving, innocent person I have ever known. She will be sorely missed. The world is a lesser place without her.

In the spring, Diane's remains will be interred with her father, Norman, in the Lakeview Cemetery in Midland, Ontario.

Brian Grier

## In memory and honour of Brian Segovia

Brian will be forever missed for his big smile and charm. Brian was well liked by all who knew him. He was a happy man with a wonderful family. Brian had lived at 35 Bishop for the last 20 years. Whether Brian's family lived right in the neighbourhood or further away, his mom and siblings were always consistent visitors.

Brian was a strong and brave man who touched the hearts of many people during his life. Over 80 people attended Brian's Celebration of Life. Many heartfelt speeches were shared including this poem:

"I give you this one thought to keep,  
I am with you still I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow,  
I am the diamond glints on snow  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain,  
I am the gentle autumn rain  
When you awaken in the morning's hush,  
I am the swift uplifting rush of quiet birds in circled flight,  
I am the soft stars that shine at night  
Do not think of me as gone,  
I am with you still in each new dawn."

Brian Segovia will truly be missed by everyone who had the opportunity to meet him.

Kerrie Christie



## Remembering Ryland

Ryland Staffen was born on March 29, 2009. Unexpectedly on December 21, 2013 Ryland passed away while surrounded by his family. Ryland was involved with the agency's Infant Development, Resource Teacher and Family Support Programs.

Ryland attended a community daycare program where he was surrounded by many friends and teachers. In September 2013, Ryland transitioned into full-time Junior Kindergarten. Ryland was supported by many agencies and he will be missed but never forgotten by all the people he touched in his short life.

Patricia Carruthers



**SIMCOE COMMUNITY SERVICES**

### Mission Statement

We support people of all ages and abilities to realize their full potential and to enhance their quality of life.

As a community, not-for-profit, multi-service organization, we provide:

- ★ Services for children and adults with intellectual disabilities and their families;
- ★ Programs that promote the healthy development of children of all abilities;
- ★ Services that respond to community needs

### Simcoe Community Services Board of Directors

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**United Way**  
Greater Simcoe County