

Christine Wilson's Legacy

By Karen Belyea, Executive Director

TCE lost a big piece of its heart and soul this summer with the passing of Christine Wilson, who along with her husband Murray and interested community members, founded TCE in 1979.

It all began with Christine's chance encounter with a little boy named Jamie in the 1970's who had been through many foster homes by the time they met. No one recognized Jamie's deafness or looked past his multiple disabilities to the boy who was eager to learn and connect with the world. Christine and Murray brought Jamie home and became his permanent family. Over time as Jamie grew and their family expanded to include Adam, then Nicholas and Christopher, they realized that long-term, Jamie would need a home with caring professional staff to provide support to him and other young people.

Through Christine's tenacity and hard work, TCE incorporated in 1979 and our first Children's home opened in 1980 with Jamie as its first resident. It did not take long for the home to fill and in 1986, the first adult home opened.

Christine's early experiences as a child of deaf parents along with her sister Merry and brother Dan, laid the foundation for a life committed to assistance and support for those less fortunate; community engagement & development; and being a voice for those whose own is not heard. Christine was one of the first American Sign Language Interpreters in Ottawa advocating for services for the deaf and for more than ten years was the sign language Interpreter on the Cable Public Affairs Channel (CPAC) for the House of Commons's daily Question Period.

Growing up with sign language as her first language, the deaf community played a significant role in Christine's life as they have within TCE. Christine's volunteer efforts extended to services for the Deaf, including early advocacy on the right to interpreting services in government, hospitals, courts and other publically funded services. In recent years, Christine worked countless hours with a small working group to establish a designated long-term care unit for deaf sen-

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Christine and Murray Wilson



Christine and Murray with their family on vacation



Christine and Murray at TCE's
35 Anniversary Gala



Christine teaching Sign Language



Christine, Janice, Candice and her daughter



Christine with other Board members in 2008 (left to right): Pam, Candice, Christine, Janice, Susan, Lorena, Henry and Carol Ann



Jamie learning Sign Language from Christine

Greetings from TCE's Board Chairperson

By Lacey Sheng



Lacey Sheng, TCE Board Chairperson

It has been another busy and rewarding year at TCE as we worked with employees, volunteers, individuals, families and community partners to deliver our Mission and further our Strategic Plan. New people and their families joined TCE as well as new employees and volunteers.

We said farewell and thank you to three long-time board members and welcomed two new members to our board, Ken Anderson and Ibtihal Ridha. We would like to thank everyone for their support and contributions, we are very fortunate to have a competent and dedicated Board of Directors.

Another year has come and gone, as is reflected in the pages of our newsletter, the stories of joy, challenges and commitment. We hope the coming year brings you and your family all the good health and happiness this season can bring. On behalf of the Board of Directors, Happy Holidays.

Happy New Year!

iors at the Glebe Community Centre so the Deaf could stay in their home community. In addition, Christine was one of the key organizers and volunteers to participate in palliative care support and interpreting for the Deaf at the Maycourt Centre.

There are so many other organizations and causes Christine played a critical role in, including the Glebe Community Playgroup, the Children's International Summer Village, hosting the first ever International Deaf Village in Ottawa and as a volunteer with her children's schools through the Ottawa Carleton District School Board. Her energy knew no bounds and her achievements were many during her remarkable life. Often people would wonder how she could do so much. She always said that her secret was getting up early in the morning because she could accomplish so much in those few hours before anyone else was awake.

Despite all of the amazing volunteer and non-profit organizations Christine was involved in, nothing rivalled her love for and pride in her family. Her husband Murray, her high school sweetheart and their boys, Jamie, Adam, Nicholas and Christopher were the centre of her world. As life progressed, that circle joyfully expanded to include much-loved daughters-in-law, five amazing grandsons and two precious granddaughters. Christine embraced the role of grandmother as if this was what she had been waiting for all of her life. Christine's memory will live on through her sons and grandchildren as they and Murray keep her memory alive with all of the wonderful memories and traditions they share.

Christine's legacy lives on at TCE through the advocacy and support our employees demonstrate every day.

Christine always said and truly believed "We are only as good as our direct service staff" and she was incredibly proud of how caring TCE staff are.

We have been thinking about ways to commemorate Christine and the values that established our organization long ago through the lived example of Murray and Christine. It is in this spirit that we will be announcing two new projects in the New Year. One project will involve an annual grant for an employee, nominated by her or his peers to attend or participate in an educational course, training or conference of their choosing. The other is a multi-media project. Stay tuned for more details in the spring.



For many years Christine with other Board and FSN members wrapped Christmas presents for TCE residents

Family Support Network

By Coreen Blackburn, Family Liaison Board Member

TCE has a Family Support Network (FSN) that is composed of family and friends of people who receive support from TCE. We meet a couple of times during the year, usually in the spring and fall, to network and discuss common interests and issues. This is a great opportunity to meet other families, learn from each other, have a discussion with the Executive Director and meet Board members. Invitations to the April meeting will be circulated to all families.

In addition to meetings, TCE will be launching other strategies in 2020 to keep families informed and engaged on a more regular basis. You will hear more about this at the spring family support network meeting and the Annual General Meeting.

TCE Families

Watch for an upcoming invitation about how we can advocate for our TCE family members, particularly in these times of uncertain government funding.

Let's explore ways to support each other and TCE, so that we can ensure quality service continues to be provided for our family members.

Board (family) members:
Christopher Wilson
Coreen Blackburn
Marge McCabe

Visit TCE Website: <https://www.tceottawa.org> and Facebook Group: Total-Communication-Environment

Volunteers Make TCE Possible



Candice Presley



Candice (left) and Moriah presenting their reports at TCE's 2015 AGM

By Karen Belyea

The unsung heroes of TCE are its volunteer Board members who work tirelessly in the background to ensure our organization keeps working. It takes a great deal of commitment, time and dedication to provide the oversight and governance that is their responsibility. Did I mention that it is a volunteer position?

This past year, TCE said farewell and thank you to several veteran Board Directors and welcomed two new Board members.

For ten years, Candice Presley served on our Board in a variety of capacities and in her last position, as Chairperson of the Board of Directors. Candice is a founder and principle in Sign Language Interpreting Associates Ottawa Inc. (SLIAO) and has a keen sense of social justice and the rights of people with disabilities. Her commitment to the people supported at TCE, their families and our staff members was always foremost in her mind in any decision making of the Board. Her compassion, curiosity to learn and understand issues affecting TCE, and her ultimate pride in our organization has left an indelible mark. I am sure Candice's husband Michael and their three children will be happy to have a little more of her time.

Moriah Waddington is cut from the same cloth as Candice. Moriah joined the Board in 2013 and from her first day was an outstanding Treasurer. Moriah's expertise as a Chartered General Accountant and Auditor helped tremendously in taking complex statements and breaking them down into more easily understood concepts. She provided professional advice mixed with common sense so that all Board members truly understood the financial health and picture of our organization. Moriah did all of this through major life milestones which included becoming engaged, married, buying a first house, having a baby and returning from maternity leave. I guess she earned her retirement from the Board.

Candice and Moriah, TCE cannot thank you enough. You set the bar very high and are an inspiration to the spirit of volunteerism.

Clark Lindsay



Clark Lindsay, another long-time volunteer Board member at TCE, passed away this summer leaving his wife Nathalie Martin and a close group of friends, both in Ottawa and France, to grieve his passing.

Clark had an MBA and put it to great use during his career at the Bell family of companies. Clark and TCE first connected through a friend who had a brother living at TCE. Clark wanted to do whatever he could to help and his expertise lay in governance of Boards. Clark was instrumental in leading the Board of Directors through several Strategic Plans and providing wise advice and input in many different areas. We miss Clark's valuable contributions to TCE and extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

Times of Change in Ontario

By Karen Belyea

The decisions Government make directly impact citizens with developmental disabilities and their families waiting for support, resources and services as well as organizations like ours, non-profit charities, who provide such services. There are long waiting lists in Ontario for people with developmental disabilities and their desperate families who require access to resources to live a socially inclusive life.

We have received clear messages from the Government that change will be coming. There is a comprehensive review of the sector currently underway by KPMG with a final report due by the end of the fiscal year. In the 2019 budget, the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services identified that they would be seeking \$510 million in efficiencies in the social services sector. How much of that will come from developmental services is unknown at this time. Organizations were informed that efficiencies will be achieved through a streamlined developmental service system and that may include back office efficiencies, streamlined transfer payment agreements and mergers.

Expectations are that there will be no service disruptions for people and that the trend is toward a free market approach of expanding direct and individualized funding for people with developmental disabilities and that this will lead to a re-designed system.

If you see your Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) over the Holidays, tell them you believe in a strong developmental services sector and that there are many individuals and families in desperate need. More resources are required not less and cutting funding will have a significant and negative impact.



A Dedicated Staff Member and Trainer

By D. J. McDonald, Director of Operations

Don Lewis, one of our longest-serving direct service employees who has likely held every position at TCE, also has another special distinction; Don has been TCE's First Aid & CPR Trainer for the past 21 years. It all began in 1998 when Don taught his first class. Who knew then that would lead to 21 years and countless numbers of classes. Don, at one time or another has taught every employee within the organization.

Don says that he always enjoyed the opportunity to gather with TCE supervisors and peers through teaching first aid. "It's been a way to stay connected with current events within the agency, meeting new staff while catching up with old friends, all while learning and re-learning skills necessary in maintaining a safe environment for each other and the individuals we serve." In Don's spare time, we don't know how he has any, he is a volunteer firefighter and loves to host some of the people we support and give them the official tour. Don, we cannot thank you enough for your dedication and commitment along with excellent teaching skills and professionalism all of these years.



Right:

Don giving Mark a special tour of Osgoode Township Fire station

Retirement At Last!

By Sonia Nadon-Campbell, Residential Counsellor

May 29, 2019

In the last few years, three of the women who make Hillmount their home, were able to semi-retire and stay home throughout the day thanks to the support of the special fund program. The Special Fund provides resources to individuals or groups for life enhancing and joy inducing experiences, support or purchases from a designated fund.

Margaret, Maddy and Laura were very happy to sleep in and start their day at their own pace. Laura started with Mondays and Fridays at home in the first year, and then Wednesdays were added in the second year. Retirement certainly agrees with Laura. Previous concerns about her declining weight and mood, lack of interest in her hobbies, going out for walks and even enjoying her favourite foods, have all improved since she has retired. After just one year of semi retirement, Laura's weight has increased and it is rare to see her without a smile on her face. She even is up and at the door before her roommates, eager to take on whatever the day may bring. Yay Laura!

Margaret and Maddy are both turning 79 this year and although they had a leisurely pace at their recreation program, it still meant having to get up and leave the house each morning. Now they are enjoying being able to sleep in and make their own decisions, about what, if anything they want to do. With a leisurely start to their days, both ladies are loving the adventures of walking by the water, sharing music with friends and local rock star Arlene Quinn at Baxter House, and even just relaxing over coffee at the local shop.

With the approval of Passport funds this year, from the Ontario government, these three lovely women are now able to fully retire and enjoy whatever adventures life have in store at their own pace.



Maddy knows how to enjoy the moment!



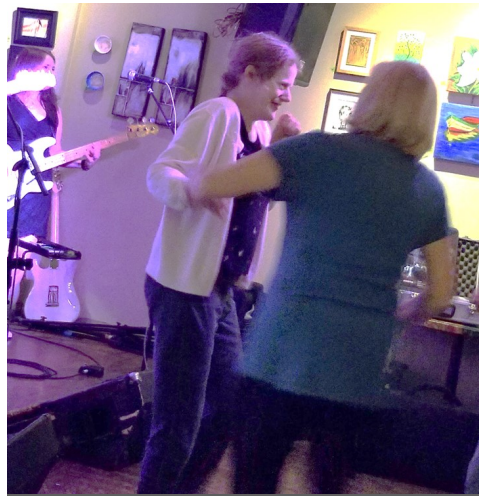
Maddy visiting the SPCA



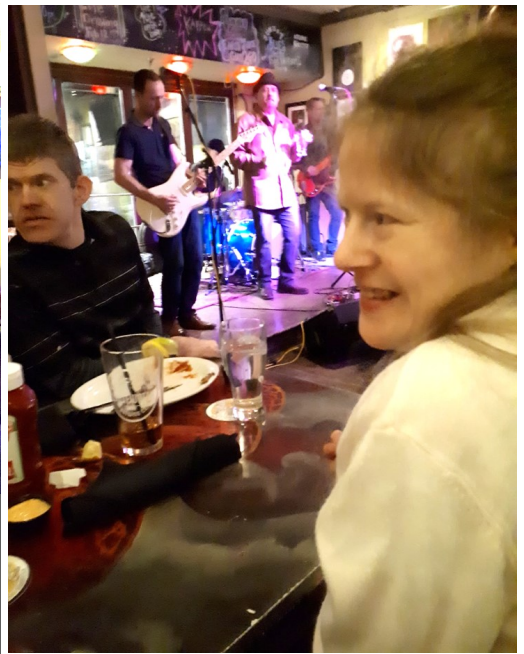
Margaret, Laura and Madeleine enjoying retirement



A Night At The Atomic Rooster



Pictured at the "Rooster", Left: Jimmy.
Center: Sherisse on the dance floor.
Right: Jimmy and Sherisse, enjoying their night out together.



By Sonia Nadon-Campbell

About a year ago, Jimmy and Sherisse, who are brother and sister with both receiving support from TCE in different homes, began meeting up on Sunday nights at the Atomic Rooster. This wonderful and familiar tradition is able to happen because of passport funds, which are small amounts of individualized funding from the Ontario government.

The Rooster is not only a place where live music happens, it is also a place filled with many happy memories of their earlier years. Jimmy and Sherisse spent many Sundays with their mother sharing a meal while listening and dancing to the music. Now every second Sunday the servers reserve a table and Sherisse waits with excitement for her brother to arrive so their evening of dancing and socializing can begin. The wonderful community of the Atomic Rooster welcomes Sherisse and Jimmy with open arms and often joins them on the dance floor for fun and friendship.

Thanks to the Passport program, these siblings have opportunities to meet up and create new memories.

Celebrating Another Year of Hard Work—Well Done!



Crew Cuts celebrate their end of season for 2019, with lunch and a few rounds of bowling.

Great work everyone!

Dreams Can Come True

By Mary Ellen McKenna, Program Supervisor

During Anna Marie's Person Centre review, she highlighted something that was important to her, the television program *Smallville*. In particular, the actor Tom Welling was her absolute favourite and there were several posters of him on display at her gathering.

When Anna Marie learned that Tom Welling would be appearing at this year's Ottawa Comicon, needless to say, she was pretty excited. With the assistance of passport funds and supportive staff members, Anna Marie planned a very special day.

The opportunity to realize one of her dreams, as she described in her person-centred review, to meet the 'cute gentleman' she loved to watch on T.V. was a very meaningful and thrilling experience.

"Steph took me and he is so cute and he play on *Smallville*, I love his show. I was so excited and recognized him right and said to Steph 'that's Tom Welling! OMG he is so cute' and he heard me. I shook his hand and was a little nervous. We talked for a bit about how much I like his show, it was awesome! I couldn't wait to tell everyone when I got home that I met him. Great time!"



Anna Marie at Comicon

Family Signs

By Stacy Jones, Residential Counsellor

My name is Stacy Jones and I have worked for TCE since July 2008. I have been married for 8 years this September to my husband Daniel and together we have three beautiful children Aubrey, Colton and Charlie.

When I first became part of the TCE community, I worked with the people who live at the Quinn home. To enable much needed renovations, everyone was temporarily accommodated in two separate homes in Nepean. When the renovations were complete, some people returned to Quinn house and some moved into a new home called Rosebella.

From the first day I started to work at TCE, I knew that providing support for these individuals would always hold a special place in my heart and that could not be any truer today. I have been able to work and support many of the individuals within our organization over the years and feel very lucky to do what I do.

I first became interested in sign making when I was working at a TCE community program. Shelly, Doug and the individuals receiving support there were making signs at Christmas for a fundraising project. This sparked my interest in my new hobby of sign making. I went off on my third and last maternity leave with my daughter Charlie and when I had some down time, not that there is a lot with three little ones, I would find myself painting signs for my family and friends.

After returning from maternity leave, I started a temporary part time rotation at Rosebella and became inspired to make a family sign that would fill a bare space nicely! When my temporary position ended, I moved back to the community program, where I supported a couple of people from the Quinn home location. Karen Walker, Program Supervisor and I discussed a new family sign for the freshly painted walls that required new art. I was so happy to make something for the two homes that have been such a big part of why I love what I do today!



Patrick and Stacy



Beautiful signs were made for Quinn and Rosebella

We Wish You Merry Christmas and a Happy 2020!



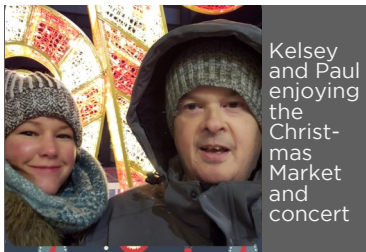
Craig enjoy the festivities with his family



Kim enjoying the music



Three happy elves, Jimmy, Paul and Kelsey



Kelsey and Paul enjoying the Christmas Market and concert

On December 9, 2019 TCE came together with all its members to celebrate Christmas and the coming New Year.

We were delighted to host the individuals we support, their families, staff members, board members and Santa and Mrs. Clause of course! Special thanks to Arlene Quinn who makes any gathering special as well as the great folks at the Centurion Centre.

Happy 2020!



Michael, Mrs. Clause and Santa!



Three Reindeers ready to go



Gareth and Mark in the Holiday spirit!



Karen and Claire happy to spend time together



Gareth and Lindsay singing at TCE's Karaoke night.



Terry, what are you three up to?

TCE Newsletter

You are reading the official newsletter of Total Communication Environment (TCE), a registered charitable organization dedicated to supporting individuals with multiple disabilities and special communication needs. If you've received this by mail, please help us to save resources by consenting to receive communication by email.

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Email: tceadmin@tceottawa.org

Web site: www.tceottawa.org



Total Communication Environment Homes and Programs

Wilson House

5 Eisenhower Cres.
Nepean, Ontario
K2J 3Z8
(613) 843-7516

Hillmount

24 Hillmount Cres.
Nepean, Ontario
K2G 3E3
613-224-4406

Anderson Place

42 Leeming Drive
Nepean, Ontario
K2H 5P7
613-828-2578

Baxter Community Program

644 Golden Ave.
Ottawa, Ontario
K2A 2G2
613-722-4946

Baxter House

644 Golden Ave.
Ottawa, Ontario
K2A 2G2
613-722-4946

Kilbarron

12C & 12D Kilbarron Rd.
Nepean, Ontario
K2J 5A8
613-843-8038 (12C)
613-843-8039 (12D)

Riverbend

5 Riverbend Dr.
Nepean, Ontario
K2H 5G9
613-721-5143

Wilson House Community Program

5 Eisenhower Cres.
Nepean, Ontario
K2J 3Z8
(613) 843-7516

Eleanor

16 Eleanor Drive
Nepean, Ontario
K2E 7G1
613-224-5975

46 Clenning St.

Nepean, Ontario
K2J 5B2
613-843-0593

Rosebella

1838 Rosebella Ave.
Ottawa, Ontario
K1T 1G5
613-216-0529

Riverbend Community Program

5 Riverbend Dr.
Nepean, Ontario
K2H 5G9
613-721-5143

Quinn

2785 Quinn Rd.
Gloucester, Ontario
K1T 3V4
613-822-6366

Burma

164, 166, 168 Burma Rd.
Ottawa, Ontario
K1K 4N2
613-742-6521

Starwood

75 Starwood Rd.
Nepean, Ontario
K2G 1Z4
613-723-8222

Kirkwood

575 Kirkwood Ave.
Ottawa, Ontario
K1Z 5X3
613-761-7468

Wyman

3554 Wyman Cres.
Ottawa, Ontario
K1V 0Z2
613-247-9294

Colonnade Community Program

190 Colonnade Rd. S., Unit 100
(east side loading dock entrance)
Nepean, ON K2E 7J5
613-233-0129

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Giving is easy:

1. Go to www.tceottawa.org
2. Click on the Donate button

If mailing your donations, please include the following information:

Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____

(please make cheque payable to **Total Communication Environment**) or

Please charge my Visa/MasterCard: Card # _____ Expiry Date _____

Name as it appears on Card: _____

Signature _____

Please print name & address as you would like them to appear on your donation receipt:

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____ Do you prefer correspondence by email? ☐ yes ☐ no

Total Communication Environment is a registered charity. BN: 11926 7714 RR0001

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Making Connections for Life