



# The Beacon

Volume 4 Issue 1

SUMMER | FALL 2021

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DEANNA FINCH-SMITH

### Stay Awesome and Carry On!

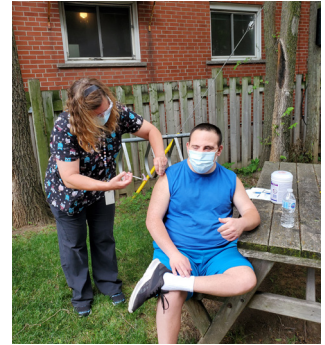
Wow how time flies! Our Lawson team has continued to be fearless in providing services and support over the last 17 months.

I am extremely proud when I reflect on the work that has been done over this time! I would like to recognize how with the dedication and perseverance of each and every staff member we have managed to not only continue to provide top quality of services to the individuals in our programs, we have also created new opportunities.

While unfortunately having to put community day supports and the PIAC on hold, we navigated our way through the months. We created virtual programming ideas and activities, ran virtual bus training, created an original virtual online shopping experience for vintage items at our Thrift store. The MCK cooked and delivered 20,000 community meals. Smores n Snores camp evolved. We created weekly Dance parties, exercise sessions, spiritual care, music, art, and more! We celebrated the Autism Center 10 year Anniversary, birthday parties, Sani Awards, and held celebrations of the lives



*Ryan A enjoying his virtual art*



*Benny S gets the big shot*

of those who left us. And of course, the creation of the talented videos from Airborne Films & team! I know there was more! Dr Kerry Beal and her team supported us with testing and vaccination clinics onsite. We also faced outbreak situations where our Lawson team rallied together with each other and stepped in to ensure the folks continued to receive quality care.

It was certainly a time when things were against all odds; however, our team faced it head on and has come out of crisis with more strength than ever! I am so honoured to work with such a motivated and talented team! Thank you to each and everyone of you from the bottom of my heart. Please continue to take care of each other as we move towards re-envisioning new opportunities for all!

## It's Time to Get Fierce!

KIRAH COULSON-GILLESPIE Shift Supervisor

In April, a group of Lawson staff had the opportunity to attend a 3 day virtual training called Fierce Conversations. The goal of this training is to teach us how to improve the way that we communicate and to enrich relationships with those we work with.

The workshops focused on teaching five conversation models: Team, Feedback, Confrontation, Coaching,

and Delegation. The training provided resources, models as well as framework for each conversation style. The focus of Fierce Conversations is to get real, be in the moment, interrogate reality, and provoke learning. Effective communication gives us the opportunity to grow, tackle challenges head on, and improve team cohesiveness and collaboration.

NEWLY REVISED AND UPDATED  
National Bestseller

## FIERCE CONVERSATIONS

Achieving Success  
at Work & in Life,  
One Conversation  
at a Time

**SUSAN SCOTT**

Foreword by KEN BLANCHARD, PhD

## Open Mic with Webster

**MARK WEBSTER** 1590 Resident



*Clockwise from top left: Mark W, Angela Richardson, and Lisa Schumpha chat about staying safe during Covid.*

It all started when Lisa came to me and said, "How would you like to have a podcast show". I named it Open Mic with Webster after Open Mic Mike Bullard. Next, I came up with my first topic, community safety during Covid. My very first guest was Angela Richardson. My second podcast topic was on self-advocacy. My guest for that show was a very good friend for Lisa and I, Ann Fudge Schormans who we met at McMaster. During this podcast, I was able to add my own experience with self-advocacy.

My next show was on challenger

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLMT6reoQu1OQ8DKwBGUhcEvuhvBuEb9E0>

baseball. My guest was Mike Butler Jr, one of many teammates I have played with. I added challenger baseballs trip to the baseball hall of fame in Cooperstown N.Y. The Webster family was one of thirteen families that went. My next show was on service dogs for autism. My guest was Vicky who runs service dogs for autism. Service dogs for autism is my most interesting show up to this point. My next show was on the Environment, it was a special for Earth day. My guest for this show was Lynda from Environment Hamilton. It was about safe drinking water and sewage Hamilton. My next show was on edible plants. My guest for this show was Lawsons good friend Matt Koning. He used to work for Lawson ministries and now he works for La Rocha Canada.

I have attached my link below for readers to access my podcast online. Finally, if anybody has an idea for my podcast channel Open Mic with Webster, please contact me at [markwebsterpodcast@gmail.com](mailto:markwebsterpodcast@gmail.com)

## National Donut Day comes to Lawson!

**DEANNA FINCH-SMITH** Executive Director

Friday June 5 2021, marked National Donut Day! National Donut Day was established in 1938 in honour of the Salvation Army's "Donut Lassies" who served donuts to the forces during World War 1. Now National Donut Day is symbolic of the social services work that the Army provides today.

Our Public relations department delivered donuts to each program site, unfortunately due to Public Health restrictions Sally and the emergency van were not able to visit this year, and handout donuts. Donut day for those we support provided joy and happiness during these difficult days and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the donuts!



*Katie Castellan (left) and David T (right) excited about their donuts.*

## C.A.R.E.

The C.A.R.E (Connect, Accept, Relate, and Explore) group continues to work with clients on journaling and growth mindset. Last summer, this led to the care project.

The care project set out to deliver personalized self-care kits to clients during the pandemic. Through the help of our funders, the care project was able to deliver 43 personalized self-care kits.



Another goal with the care project was to display the messages our clients either drew or wrote to share with their community. Displayed at our 333 King Street location (pictured) is the wonderful display our partner on the project, Sara Heinonen, created to highlight these amazing messages.

As we continue to work through this challenging time, please take a moment to reflect on everything you are grateful for and set time aside to focus on your own self-care.

## EMPLOYEE PROFILE

## Terry Denis: Agency Training Manager



*Terry Denis (left) meets a new friend courtesy of The Reptile Man (right).*

**When did you start working at Lawson?**

April 1989

**What brought you to developmental services?**

I worked at Rideau Regional Center in Smith Falls during summer breaks while attending university. It was there I met Justin Clark. A young man who entered the institution as a very young child and later challenged societal attitudes and bias; to exert his independence and self-advocate, to have and make choices and to be integrated into the community as a valued member. He, like many I was privileged to work with had many challenges, but if you took the time to look beneath the surface, you soon learned the depth of the person.

Every individual has their own hopes and dreams for their future, and there is frustration that comes with not being heard, not having any say, control or choice in their lives. I learned a lot about others and from those experiences, which I have tried incorporate in my time at Lawson.

These experiences lead me to other positions within developmental services and when I graduated it seem natural to continue.

I would be remiss though if I did not acknowledge Major Thelma Richardson, one of Lawson Ministries first executive directors who truly lead by example and from whom I learned the importance of the role we can play in the lives of those we support.

**What would you say to young people who maybe considering working in DS sector about the pros and any cons.**

There are definitely Pros and Cons working in the field. While it is getting better, some people may say the pay is low. However, the benefits received when performing such service, goes beyond the pay rate.

There will be good days and some not so good, days where you will question if there is any point? Is this what you want to do? But when those you have been working with are successful, you realize that all the time, work, effort and even frustration was more than worth it. When those we support are successful, we are successful. If you want to make a difference in someone's life, you definitely can work in the DS sector.

If you believe that, every life has value regardless of abilities or challenges, if you are willing to give your time, patience and understanding the DS sector needs you. If you're looking for challenges and opportunities to learn and grow as a professional, as a person, as a human being the DS Sector can provide those challenges and opportunities.

**What training best equips people to work with folks with developmental disabilities?**

Chances are most of us did not arrive at Lawson with formal training in Developmental Services. Prior to coming to Lawson, what all staff have is positive attitude and while you cannot train attitude, it is critical to any training staff attend.

Coming into training with an open mind ( no matter how many times you may have completed it before), prepared to participate, contributing your knowledge, experience and expertise, making an honest effort to incorporate the information and processes into our positions, our interaction with those we support and our peers.

However, the best training we probably will get is from those we support, we learn from them, about them, about their world and differences that can exist between theirs and ours. We learn what we may take for granted they cannot. That stigma and bias still exist and opportunities and inclusiveness do not always exist. We teach, assist and encourage the skills and independence that build self-esteem, which will then provide new experiences and opportunities.

With this knowledge we take on the role as the life enhancers, trying to guide and ensure the best quality of life possible to those we support.

**Lisa:** Thank you Terry for 32 years of dedication to the mission, vision and values of The Salvation Army Lawson Ministries and most importantly to the mission of inclusion for people with developmental disabilities!



## LAWSON PROGRAMS

### The Peer Mentorship Program

**JASON K.K. GOODALE** Residential Counselor

A little over a year ago, our agency came together and created a Peer Mentorship team. After multiple meetings and survey development, we came up with activities for team members to come closer together, learning and growing with each other as a supportive team at all locations; Community SIL, Farm, Limeridge, and 1590.

We started gradually only working with one team at a time and learned as we went along about coming together and opening the doors for growth. That was in 2020. We have come a long way since then both as a committee and as a team. Together we shared ideas, discussed challenges, and we forged our vision forward. Now, in August 2021, we have a structure, foundation and strong committee.

Currently, we are slowly preparing our



*Jason Goodale sporting his peer mentor hoodie.*

launch of our new and dedicated Peer Mentorship program at all locations. Our aim is to bridge every gap necessary to support one another, develop and provide a positive workplace, flow in a good direction, and to grow in all ways together. As Peer Mentors, we dedicate ourselves to our work, and we hold our torches high on our mission.

### The Caledonia Thrift Store

**JOSH DION-BROADLEY** Lawson Staff Member



Welcome Back! After a very long time and multiple stops and starts, the Caledonia Salvation Army Thrift store was finally allowed to welcome back its customers for in store shopping! It was so nice seeing all our customers back in the store.

While being closed due to COVID, our team developed a website to offer our customers an online option to find some of Caledonia's best deals during lockdowns. When ordering online, cus-

tomers are free to pay either online or with cash, debit or credit upon pick up.

We are so happy with the reception we have received from our Caledonia and Hamilton online communities. Transitioning sales to an online option helped us through some difficult times. The Caledonia Salvation Army Thrift store is currently open Monday to Saturday 11:00am-4:00pm. Online shopping hours continue to be available 24/7 at [www.sacts.ca](http://www.sacts.ca).

To celebrate a return to in person shopping as well as our new online venture, we would like to offer all staff of Lawson Ministries 25% off their entire purchase at checkout. Please use coupon code **STAFF25OFF** to start saving!

### Kaitlin's Korner

**KAITLIN A.** 1590 Resident

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome is a disorder I was born with it. I did a video about FASD with Contact Hamilton to show that everyone is different, everyone is unique and everyone is equal.

When my mother was pregnant with me, she drank alcohol. I was affected by the alcohol. I did not know at times; I could lose my temper, become impatient and not act my age because the alcohol had affected my brain. I have learned how to calm myself down by using deep breath-



*Kaitlin living life to the max.*

ing, yoga and other strategies I've learned over the years that keeps me centered. I am more joyful and enjoy many activities like gardening, yoga, puzzles. I am super at helping and I AM MORE than FASD. I am 28 years old and I am looking forward to my dreams coming true.

## ALWAYS LEARNING

# Learn to ride the bus with The Salvation Army Lawson Ministries!

**KELLY PATTON** CAT Program Manager



*Esther (left) and Carmen (right) demonstrating how to properly board the bus. This image was taken from the CAT program video series, which was created to help people in Hamilton to ride the bus.*



*Cam the bus driver. One of the stars of the CAT program video series.*

To promote independence for individuals with disabilities, The Salvation Army Lawson Ministries in Hamilton is restarting an innovative program to help those with disabilities learn to use the Hamilton transit system.

The Community Access to Transportation (CAT) program, funded by the City of Hamilton to date, was established in 2012 and is firing up again as we slowly ease out of Ontario's pandemic restrictions.

"We teach people with disabilities, 16 years of age and older, in Hamilton to take the bus independently and safely," said Kelly Patton, the program coordinator for CAT.

Since the onset of COVID-19, the training has been virtual and includes fun online games and activities, the basics of riding a bus, using the Presto pay system, trip planning, personal safety, safety during COVID, and problem solving.

Lawson Ministries started the program in 2012 to provide clients with another transportation option other than the door-to-door DARTS accessible bus

system and has since trained almost 350 individuals.

"We provided the original program to help individuals with developmental disabilities feel part of the community by providing independence and new ways of mobility," said Lisa Schumph, director of operations for Lawson Ministries.

Plans for additional Lawson programs include training on the safe use of GO Transit and assisting those with visual or auditory impairments.

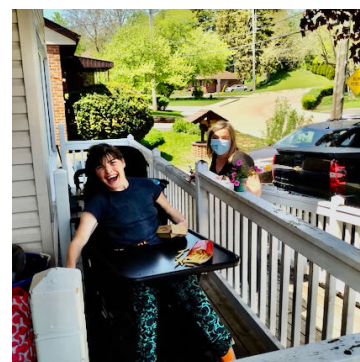
"We're very committed to our community's needs and envision a community in which everyone belongs," said Deanna Finch-Smith, executive director of Lawson Ministries. "We will continue to provide support and develop essential programs for individuals with developmental disabilities."

At this time, the CAT program is no longer taking new students. Stay tuned for our next phase of travel training!

[lawsonministries.org/cat/](http://lawsonministries.org/cat/)



*Phil C (left) and Lisa Schumph (right) spreading some love*



*Amber D (left) gets a home visit from Lauren Roberge (right)*



## HEALTHY AND STRONG

### S.A.F.E. Team

**MEAGAN ROSS** Shift Supervisor SIL

Our team at Lawson Ministries has been working on launching a sexuality-focused committee for many years. In 2020 a few key team members took the lead on putting this committee into action so individuals had access to supports around sexuality across the agency. Throughout the development of this committee, it was determined that the need was much greater than just sexuality within our agency. It was apparent to everyone that the strategy for the sexuality committee needed to shift.

As a result, Lawson Ministries is proud to announce our S.A.F.E Team! S- Sexuality A-Abuse F- Families E-

Education! Our team is now a multi-dimensional support network available for both internal and external individuals. Our goal is to support individuals who have an interest in having healthy sexual relationships and appropriate sexual expression, education around abuse and intimate partner violence, providing support and education for individuals interested in starting a family or are pregnant or parenting. We will be utilizing resources and community partners to meet and address individual needs and concerns after referrals. Our referral process will be inclusive and easily accessible for individuals, families and support workers. Through our website, we will

be launching an easy read online form that individuals can complete with or without support. We will also have a direct line for individuals to call and leave a voicemail and someone from our intake team can phone back and assist with the process. The intake process will assist the S.A.F.E team in ensuring we are finding the best way to support the individual. We are so excited to begin connecting with you all!

The S.A.F.E Team: Megan Ross, Lisa Schumph, Kourtney Woodhouse, Caitlin Donaldson, Alicia Clewley, Nancy Du, Terry Denis, Emily Shaw, and Lesley Poole

## Operation Wild AROCHA at Cedar Haven

**KAITLIN A.** 1590 Resident



*Dimos K goes on pest control*

1590/CPS participants had the chance to take part in an 8 week horticulture program to learn, connect with the environment and grow plants/vegetables in both a rural and suburban setting. Operation Wild provides hands-on environmental and accessible nature experiences for adults living with disabilities to promote well-being, environmental stewardship, and social inclusion.

Kaitlin, one of the 1590 residents was involved with this program and wrote the following about her experience.

*"My friends at 1590 and I had a chance to learn about gardening; it was at a farm, the farm wasn't stinky like a normal farm. I learned about plants that sunlight, water and time; that is a formula for plants!"*

*I planted vegetables, Brussels sprouts and tomatoes, squash, kale, cucumbers, zucchini and eggplants and watered the plants too. We had lunch there, everyone brought packaged lunches and did not bring any foods that other people are allergic to by a nice pond close to the horse.*

*The tools that we used were blades, forks and watering cans /hose. We used nets to catch insects by the garden to research what type of bug they were and if they were good or bad for the garden then would let them go. Some of the bugs eat the vegetables from the garden so we would walk around spraying the leaves that had holes in them.*

*We were able to create our very own garden which is behind 1590 Main St W in the backyard, I planted peppers, tomatoes, radishes, kale, carrots, squash and Brussel sprouts so that everyone at 1590 can enjoy this community garden. I want to be the leader of the 1590 gardening and make sure they grow nice. It was so nice to be outdoors and active and I hope that we can do it again!" -Kaitlin*



*Mark W waters the garden.*

## NEW INITIATIVES

### Let's Ride! Learn to bike around Hamilton

KELLY PATTON SIL Team Leader



*Kelly takes the trike for a spin*

To promote sustainable mobility and physical health, Lawson Ministries is offering a new program to support adults with developmental disabilities who want to learn how to bike around

Hamilton safely! This program will be broken into two streams: (1) basic safety lessons and (2) road safety and riding in the community. Individual lessons in each stream are tailored to meet each client's unique needs and will include both online safety classes and practical classes.

No bike? No problem! Lawson Ministries Hamilton will have bicycles available for you to ride. You can also rent a bicycle through Hamilton Bike Share or buy one from a local used bike shop. Currently this is a pilot project and only open to participants of Lawson Ministries supports, however we do hope to expand and offer this program to the larger community in the

future. Stay tuned!

For more information or to register, visit [www.lawsonministries.org/letsride](http://www.lawsonministries.org/letsride), complete the sign-up forms, and email Kelly Patton at [letsride@lawsonministries.org](mailto:letsride@lawsonministries.org).



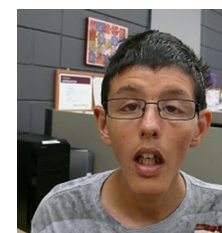
*Whitney Austin shows off some new bikes*

## Those who have Passed

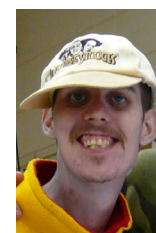
JOSH DION-BROADLEY Lawson Staff Member

As we move forward with hope through the pandemic it is important to remember those close to us we have lost. Each one of these people was a member of the Lawson Ministries family and we are proud they chose to spend some of their time here with us.

We made many great memories along the way that we will always cherish. To Buck, Terry, George, Nick, Wayne, Mike and Anthony, we will keep you alive in our hearts as you look down and smile upon us. Thank you.



*Anthony Romeo*



*Terry Wheeler*



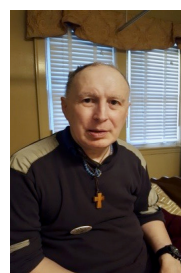
*Buck Burrows*



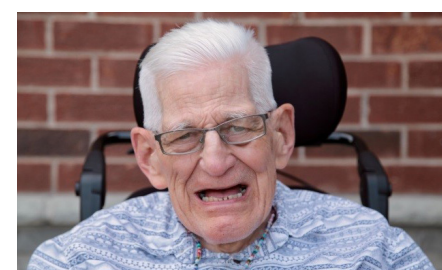
*Wayne Fludder*



*Nick Brown (left) with Olympian Catriona Le May Doan (right)*



*George Patterson*



*Michael Wager*



*Katie Castellan (left) assists nurses in setting up vaccine station in the underground parking lot*



*Nick P helps out with Community Kitchen*





*The Salvation Army band comes to play a concert for Johnny H (left)*

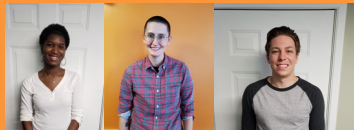


*Kaitlin A (left) films a promo for her yoga series, with her staff Shawntel Austin (middle) and her camera crew, Mark Van Noord.*

## New Hires

We are excited to have some new staff join our Lawson team. Welcome to:

- Vanessa Su
- Keirsten Paynter
- Shawntel Austin
- Preston Dennis
- Christina Ribble
- Caitlin Holloway
- Andrea Trevor
- Daniela Nosowski



*Left to right: Shawntel Austin, Caitlin Holloway, Preston Dennis*

## The Beacon

### EDITOR

Kourtney Woodhouse

### LAYOUT

Mark Van Noord

### EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Nancy Du

Sara Heinonen

Kelly Patton

Lisa Schumph

### THANKS TO:

Sara Heinonen

## FROM THE CHAPLAIN

### DORA KEEPING

It seems that fall is coming much too fast and summer is a distant blur however, memories of good times are still dancing in my head and heart. One of those memories is our 2021 camp at home.

Camp at home this year was a virtual cruise around the world in search for the light of God by visiting lighthouses in England, Australia, Hawaii, Newfoundland and the Maritimes and then on to British Columbia. Our clients, with help from staff, parents and caregivers were able to visit all of these places to see some very cool lighthouses and learn about God and how His light shines in our lives.

Our clients were able to sing songs and do crafts that will help them to remember the camp theme, as well as help them when they are going through storms and difficulties in their own lives.

I want to say a HUGE thank you to the staff, parents and caregivers for being the hands-on help with our clients. Thanks to Broadview chaplains that helped me plan and build this camp and to Mark Van Noord for the fabulous filming.

As chaplain, I also want to thank each of our staff for the great care you have given our clients through this covid storm. Thank you for shining your lights, your smiles, and giving your care and compassion to the people you care for everyday. We are blessed to have you all.

Keeping you all in prayer. May God continue to Bless our Lawson Family.



*Participants of Camp at Home 2021 embark on an exciting cruise to historic lighthouses in exoctic locations. From top to bottom: Chaplain Dora, Sean D, Drew C, Karen G.*