

In House

A Newsletter to our Community

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Marilyn Neufeld Award

On October 7th, 2020, Hutton House held a surprise award ceremony for our annual Marilyn Neufeld Life-Long Learner Award. This award is usually presented at our Adult Education Learner's ceremony in the Spring but, due to the pandemic, the ceremony had been cancelled in the best interest of the public's safety.

The Marilyn Neufeld Award is presented to a Hutton House participant who is recognized by a staff member for overcoming their challenges, working hard, and for the dedication they put into improving their lives within the last 3 years. This year the award was awarded to Cristhian Jimenez! 24-year-old Cristhian has been utilizing Hutton House's Passport services since 2018 when he was accepted for Passport funding, and his family wanted help managing his funds.

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Cristhian was nominated by two of his Passport support workers that he communicates with regularly at Hutton House. His Passport workers recognized his commitment to learning and his passion for giving back to those around him through his excitement and devotion to helping young kids in his community. Cristhian fell in love with helping youth with disabilities after volunteering in his high school special education classes.

After graduating from high school, Cristhian worked with an employment agency to develop skills that benefit him on his career journey. Through the employment program, Cristhian started a paid placement with the Boys and Girls Club of London, Ontario. Impressed with his work ethic and commitment, the Boys and Girls Club offered Cristhian a permanent part-time job. Two years later, he is still employed there and works part-time during the school year and full-time during school breaks. In September, Cristhian will finally achieve his long-time goal and will start his studies in the Community Integration through Cooperative Education (CICE) program at Fanshawe College!

Since starting at Hutton House, Cristhian has accomplished many personal learning victories. Cristhian can successfully take the bus on his own, has secured a job, learned to swim (his job involves possibly supervising campers in water and he wanted to be even more employable), applied and got accepted to college, applied for OSAP, and started attending community events in London. Cristhian was even recruited by his supervisors to pick up a second job with the City of London supervising the skating rink at Covent Garden Market because he impressed them so much with his independence, reliability, and personality.

Although Hutton House was not able to host a formal award ceremony, we could not let the opportunity to recognize such an outstanding young man pass. Hutton House threw a small surprise ceremony held outdoors. Staff members were invited to attend from the comfort of their home via a live zoom broadcast to virtually watch the event online, or attend socially distanced with VIP seating in their cars where they could view the ceremony from the parking lot.

The event was a complete surprise to the Marilyn Neufeld Award winner! Cristhian attended with his family and friends to celebrate his accomplishments. We were happy to have Cristhian's supervisors from the Boys and Girls Club London attend the event as well. Marilyn Neufeld, the previous Executive Director of Hutton House attended

through Zoom and gave a speech all the way from British Columbia! The Board of Directors president, Claudia Bayona lead a beautiful ceremony and gifted the winner with a gorgeous bouquet of fall flowers and a \$500 cheque, which Cristhian says he will use towards his education costs at Fanshawe College.

The afternoon came to a close with delicious individually packaged vegan cupcake treats provided by The Boom Box Bakeshop, a small local London Ontario business, which our guests loved!

Thank you to all those that helped to organize this unique event. We would like to give a final congratulations to Cristhian on achieving so much during his time at Hutton House and a special thank you to his Passport team, Sarah McRae and Jeremey McCall that has helped him along the way. Cristhian we cannot wait to see what you accomplish next!

Marilyn Neufeld Award Nominees

This year Hutton House staff nominated 7 participants for the Marilyn Neufeld Award that is awarded annually to any Hutton House participant within the last 3 years who has demonstrated a passion or commitment to lifelong learning by actively pursuing their goals through personal improvement and/or professional development. The following are some excerpts from the nomination forms.

Asima Ahmed – submitted by Jennifer Blane and Carmen Quinlan

Asima has been with Hutton House since 2010. Asima has been involved in Adult Education, taking computer classes; Artworks; Fitness, Skills for Life for 3 years and the Day Break program for 2 years. She is presently attending Day Break, five days per week. The Skills for Life program benefited Asima significantly, allowing her to shine and learn new coping skills. Asima has worked diligently to overcome challenges and has since rejoined programs within Hutton House. She has been thriving in the Day Break program, improving many skills, such as cooking/baking, daily tasks in the kitchen, art and crafts. She has shown interest in using apps on the iPads. Asima enjoys reading to her peers in Book Club. She is eager to improve her reading skills, as well as, her math skills.

Andrew Rowland – submitted by Justin Paisley and Kim Neable

Andrew is a graduate of the GPS program and is supported through Hutton House Employment Services. Andrew has been working at Metro for the last 2 and a

half years as a Front End Associate. Since Andrew began working at Metro, we have witnessed so much personal growth and self-determination. For the last few years, Andrew met weekly with his Employment Specialist, both of them talking to the manager for jobs and prepping what to say when dropping off resumes. Having a job with Metro has allowed him to grow personally and sharpen skills, and, most important, really gain a lot of self-confidence.

James Jackson

Jamie has been actively working in the employment program, attending the networking group weekly and seeking one-on-one support from his case managers to further develop his social/life and employment skills. Eventually, his hard work paid off. Hutton House was able to assist Jamie with securing an interview with Canadian Tire (Argyle) where he wowed them with his skills, positive outlook, and loyalty. Starting off with a 3-month job trial, Jamie continued to work 2 jobs to support his family until he knew he had successfully been hired with Canadian Tire. Jamie is one of the most hardworking and loyal individuals who strives for excellence in everything he does. He teaches his young son that by never giving up and to always keep going even when things are hard, that you can achieve your goals. Jamie has always put the needs of others before his own.

Kelly-Lyn Webster (Kelly)

Kelly has been with Hutton House since 1999. Kelly has attended Recreation and Leisure programs, Artworks programs and Adult Education. Kelly has been with Day Break since it opened. Kelly has been in Access Voluntarism program for 17 years. Kelly is a social butterfly. When Kelly enters a room, you are greeted with a big smile and a "Hello Beautiful". At the Day Break program Kelly is eager to try new things. Kelly asserted her independence by learning how to use an iPad and ask for what she needs. Kelly volunteered through the Access Voluntarism program at Chartwell Chateau Gardens. She started by visiting a resident who she had met through Hutton House. Over the years Kelly volunteered, she would regularly seek out other seniors to visit, and became a wonderful weekly visitor to many. Kelly brightened everyone's day and made a difference in many senior's lives, keeping them company and letting them know people cared, especially to those whose family or friends were not able to visit often.

Shaun McNichol

Shaun has been involved with both YER and the GPS

programs since March 2019 and continuing to today – currently accessing support within Employment Services.

Shaun was undaunted by any challenges and continuously accepted guidance and support that was offered by staff and other participants through different Hutton House programs. Throughout his time at Hutton House, Shaun has consistently and constantly been able to grow and participate in his own learning and development. Each milestone that he was able to achieve, he started immediately searching for the next one. Shaun was tireless in accessing supports, taking the time to make change, and has ultimately been successful.

Sara Albers

Sara has taken many courses in the Artworks and Fitness programs. Sara volunteered at Storybook Gardens where she was very friendly and always very happy to be volunteering. Sara has been a member of the Book Club and is now participating online. Sara also completed the budgeting course offered through Adult Education and applies her skills to daily life. Sara doesn't hesitate to try new activities. She is fully engaged in classes and gets the most out of them while being helpful and supportive to her classmates. Sara leads by example. She tackled any challenge within the Adult Education program with an open mind and curiosity. Once she learned a way that best suited her needs she applied and practiced it each week. Sara has always been eager to meet, receive information and get support from her job coach in her position at Goodlife. Sara works in the Jump Program, the club daycare. Sara is also a Team Member at McDonalds, where she is thought of in the highest regard for her energy, thoughtfulness and respect for the customers. Sara recently celebrated one year of living in her apartment and is looking forward to attending the CICE program at Fanshawe in the future.

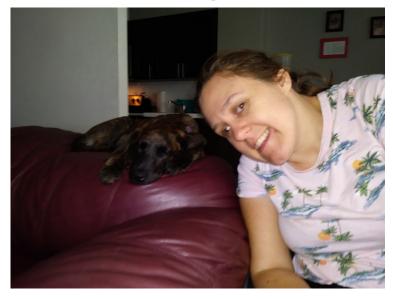
The Committee made up of Board members and Marilyn herself had an extremely difficult time deciding who should receive the award this year. They appreciated learning about each candidate and admired their dedication to lifelong learning and self-improvement. The individual selected to receive the 2020 Marilyn Neufeld Award was Cristhian Jimerez. His story can be found on the front page of the newsletter. Congratulations to all the nominees. You are all truly inspiring!

Volunteer Services

Volunteers helping "Virtually"!

The pandemic has presented challenges, and we've adapted and turned them into opportunities! Our volunteers have been helping us every step of the way with a continued desire to help our program participants. Their flexibility and creative volunteering knows no bounds!

Fun & Games with Faye



Volunteer, Faye Simmons continues to inspire by doing great things for others!

As soon as Hutton House introduced online programs, long-time volunteer, Faye Simmons, offered her support immediately. Always resourceful, Faye looked at the lockdown as a chance to do what she does best – help people! She has kept busy putting people in touch with services to help them receive groceries or get to appointments, checking in with people over video-chat, and doing friendly phone calls as a volunteer with VON to help people from feeling isolated.

Volunteering online meant Faye had to adjust from tutoring one-to-one to working with a group to facilitate the "Fun and Games" program, learning more of the features of Zoom along the way. Faye embraced the changes with a positive attitude, and says, "I had used Zoom a little for talking with friends and family but I was open to learn more. You can look up anything on Youtube and find out how to use it. Why not give it a try? Zoom is a good thing for people to learn in this changing world to help them in the future. Hopefully, through time all the schools will be teaching students how to use this

technology."

"As it happens, I know a lot of the participants in this group from tutoring in the past. (Faye tutored 16 people a week, one-to-one, prior to the lockdown!) Honestly, the thing I like about working with a group - they can help each other too, such as with reading the question for someone else. It brings in the "help each other" aspect. Once you learn the different personalities and strengths it gels together well. On Zoom it's like we're having a big party!"

"Although I can't tutor as many people in an online session as I previously tutored in-person weekly, (8 -9 participants in an online program works best), "I see many benefits," says Faye. "Some people will feel more comfortable in online programs – with less anxiety than going to a different environment or meeting people inperson, and they might show up a bit more because it's easier to access from home. It gives people more control - they can choose not to do it today if they don't feel like it. External stimuli or circumstances can aggravate some individuals. With online programs - they can choose to stay in a session as long as they like."

"For some people with disabilities online programs are a good option because they don't like, or aren't able to wear a mask, or the programs they usually attend aren't running yet, or they live in a group home. Travelling is often difficult for people, so Zoom gives a great option for many, especially over the winter. I know that I'm less physically active in the winter so that's why I've signed up for online fitness programs with Hutton House myself." "Personally, I really enjoy working from home. It's changed my life completely, but in a positive way I'd like to continue. I see less people in-person, but I am interacting with so many people on Zoom. It's important to keep your screen time balanced though, as you can get "screen fatigue"."

"The technology can be challenge for people to master at first. It helps if they have a support person, but even if you don't, everyone gets better at using Zoom through time!"

"I'm finding that people are being friendlier and kinder to each other these days as a result of the pandemic. Our participants are just so happy to see each other on screen. Zoom provides a social connection – participants feel included, and look forward to the program each week." "Today we did – a "Guess the Disney Character" game and everyone just thought it was the funniest thing. Lots of laughter! We are having an absolute hoot in "Fun and Games"!"

There's no place like Zoom!

It's been a pleasure working with Volunteer Candida Carr-Harris to facilitate the Zoom Book Club. When we approached her with the idea of an online Book Club, she didn't hesitate to accept! She has dedicated so much of her time and energy into learning Zoom's features to better facilitate the group, and she's always planning creatively and enthusiastically with our staff for each and every session.

It seemed "meant to be" that the "Wizard of Oz" had already been abridged by Val our Adult Education Assistant and ready for us to use. We felt the beloved story had a timely theme during the pandemic, as it emphasizes inner resilience - recognizing the strengths we already have, and also the bonds of friendship, ie; "there's no place like home." The story tells us to be grateful for the friends and family around us, and the good things we do have in life.

From the first class, it has been heartwarming to see the joyful greetings between participants and how supportive they are of each other.

During our second class, Candida created a tornado in a bottle to show everyone what the tornado was like for



Fun times reading a classic story in the Zoom Book Club!

Dorothy in the story. Group members were then emailed instructions of how to make their own tornado. When asked about volunteering online, Candida had this to say:

"When I was first introduced to the idea of facilitating the Book Club using Zoom meetings, I was thrilled. It was a great opportunity to be able to reconnect with our Club participants and to have something worthwhile and fun to share with them. And I think they felt the same way. There was a very positive energy that did, and has continued to permeate all of our sessions so far. I think the participants are happy to be reading again, but even more than that to be sharing important time learning, growing, and finding out more about each other and themselves along the way. The camaraderie among them is inspiring. And their love of reading for the pure sake of it is a wonder to be around. I really do count myself as lucky to be a part of their journey."

"As far as my own journey, I love learning new things in general, especially about technology, so it was a real bonus for me to be able to attend the training sessions and pick up all these new abilities! I look forward to being able to use them for tutoring students individually in the future. And I have already happily hosted my own Zoom meetings using the various capabilities the program offers."

"Facilitating the Club online as opposed to in person has a lot of great advantages. First of all, it's been encouraging to see how dedicated the Hutton House staff are. They are keen to bringing worthwhile, quality content to their clients wherever and however they can. Every day they're developing new ideas and materials to ensure the next session is a success!"

"The very first week I facilitated our Book Club I noticed how happy the participants were just to see each other. Zoom meetings offer them the opportunity to connect during this time of isolation and distress which is infinitely beneficial in itself. And I think it's exciting for them to be doing something completely original and new, to be picking up skills that give them a sense of mastery and satisfaction."

"And then there's their love of books. It is no accident that so many of our participants keep coming back. Their love of story, humour, learning and reading for the pure pleasure of it is so palpable, it's an inspiration to see!" "One slight disadvantage of online learning is the social interaction isn't as natural as an in-person conversation. You have to be mindful of "taking turns" and can't talk as freely, because when any two people talk at once, the sound talks over each other and cuts each other out. That can be frustrating at times to navigate!"

"But the advantages of learning and socializing despite this pandemic far outweigh anything else. I think we all feel lucky to be able to share and grow regardless of the restrictions on us; it really is the best we can do in the situation we are in. And I have to say, Zoom offers a pretty amazing experience considering what life would

Volunteer Services

have been like even ten years ago. We can see each other, share stories in interesting and creative ways, using the whiteboard, for example, and most importantly spend time together even if only in a virtual way. Only the real thing could be better!"

Praise to our volunteers for their resilience and flexibility to adapt to volunteering in new ways!



Thanks to all our volunteers that have been creating letters, bookmarks and poems for participants to brighten their days!

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Access Voluntarism

Like the rest of the world, our dedicated volunteers in the Access Voluntarism program have been staying safe at home. Our wonderful staff have been keeping in touch through phone calls and emails.

Though we do not know what the future holds for many of our volunteers and their roles, some of our participants have returned to their volunteer work. We have six participants who have returned to four partner agencies. Mission Thrift Store, The Salvation Army Centre of Hope, the Mission Store and Faith FM.

We spoke to a few to see how they feel about returning to the community.

Nicholas has been volunteering his time to clean at a

local radio station, Faith FM, since Sept 2019, and he was finally able to return in September.

We asked Nicholas a few questions about his time off and



returning to his placement. This is what he had to say:

- 1. How do you feel about being back at placement? I feel okay because I had nothing else to really do.
- 2. Is there anything you are worried about since returning to Faith FM? No, I don't have any worries.
- 3. How did you find getting back into your old routine? It was pretty good. I am happy to be back at work.
- 4. What did you do during isolation to keep busy? I was bored out of my mind. Mom and I binged watched some TV shows – Buffy The Vampire Slayer and Bones. We wanted to go to the movies but haven't been able to yet. We kept ourselves busy enough.
- 5. What's the best part about being back at placement? Just getting back to work.

We now hear from Leeanne, who has been giving her time volunteering at the Mission Thrift Store since April 2018.

- 1. How do you feel about being back at placement? Good, excited to be back.
- 2. Is there anything you are worried about since returning to the Mission Thrift Store?

No concerns, I'm used to wearing a mask and had a mask handy.

- 3. How did you find getting back into your old routine? I feel safe and enjoy doing different jobs.
- 4. What did you do during isolation to keep busy?

 During isolation I listened to music, played games and coloured on my iPad. Went for walks and helped my mom in the flower garden and yard.



5. What's the best part about being back at placement? I like to work and have the cookies as reward.

Meet Dino. Dino has been a devoted volunteer at the Mission Store since May of 2014.

- 1. How do you feel being back at placement? I feel good because I am working again.
- 2. Is there anything you are worried about since returning to the Mission Store?No, nothing, unless somebody says something not nice then I worry. It's fun to be back.
- 3. How did you find getting back into your old routine?

It has been good. I have so many masks I have to wear.

- 4. What did you do during isolation to keep busy? I did the dishes, put the clothes away. I would go with my dad to the club. I walked around the neighborhood.
- 5. What's the best part about being back at placement?

placement?
Doing the stuffed animals because it is so easy and I do a good job.



"My experience as a student staff member with Access Voluntarism this summer was a really rewarding learning experience. Despite COVID restrictions moving us online, with the direction of Jen and Roberta, we navigated moving resources to an online format and continuing to support our participants volunteering efforts. I learned many skills that I'll be able to take with me as I continue working toward



a degree in social work and a career in helping others as a team. Thank you!". ~Sonya Klein

Social Worker Services Can I Help You?

Our Social Worker can provide individual counselling to help with personal issues and in locating community resources. Support is also available to complete forms for various services including ODSP, housing, CPP and assistive devices.

For more information, contact: Lisa Havens, MSW, RSW at 519-472-6381 ext. 240 lisah@huttonhouse.com



Employment Services

Employment Specialist Joe Gansevles was asked by Hutton House partner London Waldorf School if



we had a participant who could "help with a little bit of everything" to assist the school get ready for the "new normal" in September.

Joe reached out to our Employment Specialist team and John and Jeremy knew they had the right participant for the job.

Chris's experience as a painter and post-secondary education in Electronics made him a strong candidate for the position. Chris was hired by the school and has been an "absolute asset" in the words of his supervisor. Chris brought professionalism to each task that needed to be completed. Chris has assisted in everything from



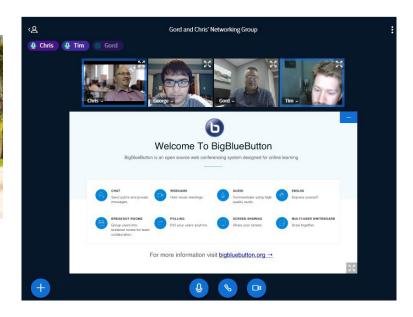
building outdoor classrooms, to a new bathroom, fixing walls and installing new doors. While Chris's job was initially going to be a shortterm contract,

Chris will be kept on by London Waldorf School as his skills are a huge benefit to the school. Chris brings a positive



attitude to work and with each job given to him, he never stops till the job is finished and completed right.

Networking Group



In the new reality of social distancing, networking is still just as important as it always was and always will be, however it looks a little different now. This is a screenshot of Gord and Chris in the networking group meeting virtually! Week to week, we have an open session where participants can meet, connect, and support each other not only to job search but to also maintain balance in their lives, and if they are working, to maintain and achieve balance there as well.

Each week is an open forum, we discuss topics such as online networking, job development and we have also talked about simply how we interact with people in our lives. One of the things that seems to be missing in this pandemic is the ability to communicate with others, so one of the focused items for us getting together every week is to have a safe and welcoming place to share ideas, share supports, and most importantly just to share energies.

We are always bringing new topics in different areas to explore and discuss. As Gord will fondly say, it only takes one person with the right action and the right time to make the right difference for you. Gord has a philosophy to keep it simple and elegant, which he does. He reminds us all that simply having a conversation is the best way to build a bridge to opportunity. You never know what problem somebody might be trying to solve until you take a moment to be patient, be appreciative of them sharing, and just ask the simple question. How can we help you?

To join our Employment Services and connect with our Networking Group please call 519-472-1541 ext 232 or email **intake@huttonhouse.com**.

London & Area Works Job Fair

Hutton House participated on September 22, 2020 in the 10th annual London & Area Works Virtual Job Fair which was attended by 1100 job seekers and supported by many employers and resource partners in the area. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the organizers did a wonderful job accessing online platforms so it could continue for job seekers in the region and serve employers that have hiring needs. This is one of two regional job fairs held each year in September and April to support London and area job seekers from London/Middlesex, Oxford and Elgin counties in their search for employment. The event is sponsored by the London Economic Development Corporation, City of London, Elgin, Middlesex, Oxford Workforce Development Board, Elgin County, Future Oxford and the Employment Sector Council of which Hutton House is a member.

This event continues to be a valuable event for job seekers including participants of the Hutton House Employment Services programs. It offers a variety of employers to choose from and an opportunity for participants to develop the skills of job searching such as researching employers they are interested in, preparing and rehearsing for questions and answers and becoming more confident in their ability to talk about themselves. The event provides a unique opportunity for job seekers and employers to come together in a different way and have a comfortable, safe and open discussion about each of their hiring needs. Hutton House will continue to support this valuable event for our participants and looking forward to the spring Job Fair!

Employment Services

Since the pandemic was declared in mid-March, we have continued to support participants in the Employment Service Programs such as the Youth En Route(YER) Program and Employment Support Program(ESP) funded under the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development (MLTSD). Some participants were laid off and started to seek other employment opportunities and needed assistance from Employment Specialists with job development, pre- employment supports and job coaching. The JobWORKS Program funded by the Ministry of Children Community and Social Services (MCCSS) continues to support participants in job development and job coaching to maintain job retention during the pandemic. As of October, 2020 JobWORKS has exceeded milestones and targets outlined in the contract. The Goals, Preparation and Skills Program (GPS) that is funded by Service Canada

started a new contract as of the end of March, 2020 for 2.5 years. During the 3 weeks of the in-class component staff implemented a 30 hour on-line version per week. During the 12 week placement the staff developed job placements, supported pre-employment supports and provided job coaching. As of October 2020, 19 GPS participants have been recruited and the first group have recently graduated and have secured permanent jobs from their employment experience placements.

GPS

The GPS program supports youth (15 –30 years of age) in a 15-week program – 3 weeks of virtual skill training workshops and a paid 12 week work placement. The GPS staff want to take a moment and highlight one of the amazing participants from group 1, Alissa. Alissa was fantastic to have in the workshops and made a seamless transition to her placement at Kelseys' as a dishwasher and line cook. Below is Alissa's reflection of her time in the GPS program.

Alissa's Reflection:

"I absolutely loved my experience in the GPS program at Hutton House. I gained so many valuable skills that I will take with me as I further my career as a working professional. If you are thinking about joining the GPS program, I couldn't recommend it enough. I gained confidence in myself which couldn't have come at a better time. I had an amazing support system from Hutton House that I feel made the experience so much more enriching. I came into this program feeling lost and anxious about a lot of things. But now, I feel empowered to take on my goals and dreams head on, and I have Hutton House and their amazing team to thank for that! My placement experience was very valuable I learned many things, but one thing is that I want to work for myself and build a business and one day employ youth who may not have the opportunity otherwise."

Hutton House Best Buddies Program



Best Buddies is returning with a very different look. While we are not able to have our group events in person, we plan to have virtual events so we can still connect with our friends. If you have any questions about the program, please contact Jen at jennifery@huttonhouse.com.

Grant Announcements

Community Wellness & Artistic Program

The ARTworks and Fitness programs were grateful to receive a generous grant this fall. Through the Emergency Community Relief Fund, administered through the United Way, both programs are offering online art and fitness classes for participants. To accompany some of these classes, Art and Wellness Kits are designed, assembled, and delivered to participants. The kits contain the supplies needed for each class. For example, the Drawing class kit contains a blank notebook as well as pens and markers, and the Relaxation and Meditation class includes a yoga mat. All the supplies in the kits are the participant's to keep. We are excited to work with Kerri Jerome as our new Art and Wellness Kit Specialist. Kerri is involved in every aspect of the project including registration, planning projects, assembling and delivering kits, and facilitating online classes. Welcome to the team, Kerri!

Emergency Community Support Fund

COVID-19 has given Hutton House a chance to do and try things we have never done before such as online classes. We are learning a lot about online platforms as we go. This summer, the Federal Government had announced an Emergency Community Support Fund through Employment Social Development Canada (ESDC) administered by United Way Elgin Middlesex. We are proud to say that Hutton House was successful in obtaining a \$60,625.00 grant. The initiative is intended to help charities and non-profit organizations serve and support vulnerable Canadians during the COVID-19 pandemic. By obtaining this grant, it will allow us to help people with disabilities by providing them with opportunities to make meaningful connections with their peers in a safe, moderated online environment, while maintaining physical distancing.

Day Break SWLHIN

The pandemic can close Day Break for a bit but it can't stop a renovation! Yes that's right! Through the South West Local Health Integration Network's (SWLHIN) support, Day Break was able to get a complete make over! The location will see a completely transformed craft area and main kitchen renovation. New cabinets, countertops, backsplash and sink will ensure there is lots of food, art and laughs around those tables. Stay tuned for some great

photos soon! If only our grant writer can find us money for a new paint job for the space? As they say, once you start a renovation you can't stop!

The good news doesn't stop there for Day Break. The SWLHIN also supported us in additional purchases that will only make the experience in Day Break that much better! A brand new passenger vehicle, lots of games, educational items and sensory items for our Snoezelen room.

We can't stop smiling and thinking about the participants returning to enjoy these items.

Thank you SWLHIN!

Community Support Pandemic Fund

Hutton House is proud to be one of the Community Support Services organizations that have partnered together to support seniors, adults with disabilities and caregivers with urgent needs during the ongoing pandemic.

Through the funding, we have been able to help participants who are in need by providing nutritious meals from Meals on Wheels. As well, Care Kits, containing essential items such as masks, sanitizer, paper products, and cleaning supplies have been delivered to help those in need.

Caregiver Respite is also available for up to 10 hours of respite at no cost to the caregiver until the end of March 2021. Funding is limited, and when the resources are exhausted, requests will be closed. Caregiver Respite is accessed through a central intake at 519-673-6617.

This is all made possible through the United Way Emergency Community Support Fund, funded by the Government of Canada.

Join Now!

Memberships at the Hutton House Fitness Centre are only \$15 per month! Virtual classes are available.

Other News

Reopening Plans

Although our Wonderland Road and Oxford Street West locations remained closed in October, we have been busy adapting the locations to ensure that it is safe and ready for our reopening. Our commitment is to you! We are working hard to make sure that we have all of our cleaning and safety measures in place so that you and or your caregiver are confident for your return.

Please know that although we would really like to see all of you back in our building, only some programs will be gradually returning as we reopen. For more up to date information, please visit our website and our social media to check for updates.

Participant Survey Results

In September, Hutton House felt that it was very important to have your thoughts about returning back to Hutton House and how we could make your return successful. Also, we wanted to know how things were working for individuals accessing our new online classes. 235 participants, caregivers and family members participated in the survey! Your participation and encouragement was greatly appreciated.

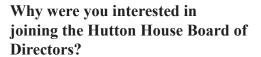
Here are just some numbers from that survey:

- We learned that 117 people participated with Hutton House online classes during the pandemic.
- We learned that our participants were mostly engaged with our ARTworks, Fitness and Adult Education classes.
- We learned that there is still a need for affordable/ subsidized internet and technology.
- We learned that 102 participants would be comfortable coming back to Hutton House.

We thank you for your feedback! We really appreciated hearing your thoughts.

Hutton House Welcomes A New Board Member

Hutton House is pleased to have Bill Mills join the Board of Directors. We asked Bill to answer a few questions and here's what he said.





Hutton House was my last employment before retiring. It was also the most rewarding job held in my 36 years in the Human Services field. I felt that with my background and knowledge of Hutton House's programs I would be able to assist in whatever way needed.

How do you hope you can contribute to the work of the Board?

As I learn more about how Hutton House operates and the function of the Board, I hope to utilize my talents more.

What is your favourite way to relax and have fun?

I am also heavily involved as a volunteer with Special Olympics Ontario, and a lot of "free time" goes in that direction, as a coach, Treasurer and Head of the Development Committee. I also enjoy workouts at the YMCA, walking, biking and pickleball.

Welcome Bill and we look forward to working with you to achieve the mission and vision of Hutton House.

Need help to find a job?

We support individuals with:

- Physical, Developmental, Learning Disabilities and Mental Health needs
- Limited Education and/or Work Experience

We Get It! We Can Help! 519-472-1541 x 232 FindWork@huttonhouse.com

ARTworks

By popular demand, Artworks has brought back Celebrate the Seasons on Zoom! Celebrate the Seasons is an arts and crafts class making all things related to the season. We use a variety of mixed art materials and meet each week to make step-by-step projects. This session we are celebrating pumpkins, leaves, Thanksgiving, harvesting, Halloween and more! Our art classes are small and intimate with each participant receiving an art kit with

World Traveller Denmark all the supplies, templates, and papers inside to create planned autumn projects for the session!

This week our theme was Harvest! We created decorative corn using pipe cleaners, red, yellow and metallic beads and a golden ribbon to finish it off. We also created a scarecrow out of popsicle sticks, markers, googly eyes and some decorations. When we are not crafting, the group is chatting about all things relating to our theme of the week! Check out our fun crafts!





Day Break

Day Break has been in contact with participants and families through email and phone calls twice a month. The Day Break team started out in April having participants get together on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The gatherings gave participants a chance to see each other and staff. It was everyone's time to connect. We meet on the Zoom platform. It has been a learning experience for the staff, participants and parents. Thank you to the parents and participants for all their patience. We also appreciate the feedback on what we are doing well and what you would like to see improved. Without the parents and participants feedback we would not be able to improve and do our best to meet the needs of participants. In May we delivered a care package which included activities to keep everyone engaged. There were crafts, jewellery making kits, games, colouring pages and coloured pencils.

As time went on, the staff had scheduled activities for the



get together days. It consisted of participants having a chance to talk to everyone in the group and then go to a break out room which allowed participants to have one on one time with staff and peers. We also do yoga, baking/cooking demonstrations and games. Once a month we have a movie night.

In September we started our 5 day virtual programing. The 5 day virtual program consists of education, craft and Friday fun day. We have themes for each month. In September we travelled to the Caribbean and October is all about autumn. Each month staff delivers the supplies for the month's activities. The Day Break team works very hard to create the packages. We are enjoying the virtual programming as much as the participants and families. We welcome you to come check out our virtual programming if you haven't already.

Day Break enjoys researching monthly themes and creating activities to offer through virtual programming.

Board of Directors

Hutton House is seeking 3 volunteers with an interest in adults with disabilities to serve on the agency's Board of Directors.

Hutton House Association for Adults with Disabilities is a registered charity with more than 65 years of experience facilitating the goals and aspirations of adults with disabilities. Within each program offered, individuals may customize their involvement to maximize their own capacity to learn, work, live and participate in the community. In turn, our vision will be realized by building community partnerships and opportunities that strengthen the inclusion of all citizens in society.

Hutton House is looking for committed community members to serve on an inclusive and supportive policy-governance board, providing assistance and direction to the Executive Director. The Board is currently seeking applicants with experience in one or more of the following areas:

- Strategic Planning
- Business/Community connections
- Arts
- Social Enterprise
- Marketing/Communications
- Finance/Accounting

Prior experience as a Board member is not required, but is considered a strong asset. Mentorship and orientation is provided for new Board members. Board members are expected to attend monthly meetings, committee meetings, events and fundraising activities.

Please apply with a cover letter and resume to the Board Nominating Committee at: lorif@ huttonhouse.com. An application will be sent to you for completion.

Time Commitment: approximately 4 hours/month

Closing Date: December 31, 2020

LIFEworks 2

LIFEworks 2 has been busy since May, learning new things and adjusting to getting together from afar. COVID-19 has brought along a lot of change for all of us and LIFEworks 2 is no exception. We have been busy learning a new way of doing things. We've had lots of phone conversations to keep connected and to check in. We've been fortunate to have porch visits to drop off activity and wellness packages to help people keep engaged while at home. We then rolled out virtual programming and have been connecting via video chats. Everyone has thoroughly enjoyed being able to see each other, wishing friends a happy birthday with guitar and song and keeping connected with friendly conversation.

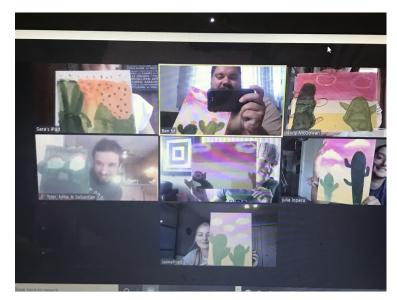


We have shifted some of our traditional programming online. This includes BINGO, Yoga, mindful meditation while colouring, and paint days! We've also been learning about the world around us by taking virtual trips to faraway places to learn about different cultures, cuisines, and customs. We've also tried some new games such as animal and Fall themed Jeopardy! Although we've been enjoying connecting virtually, our hope is that we can get back together soon!

LIFEworks 3

LIFEworks3 had a quieter summer than we are used to but, we have been keeping connected and busy virtually. Everyone has enjoyed being able to see each other and share stories of what they have been doing and their accomplishments over the summer. We have kept up with our World Traveler segments where we learn about different places around the world and discuss them. We

aren't able to be together to make a meal for our Monday Lunches from the places we've 'visited' but we have sent recipes to be explored at home! We have been keeping active with some chair Yoga and Just Dance virtual dance parties. It has been fun doing some activities such as card making and virtual paint days together. It is hard not being able to be together, but we are making the most of our time with our virtual hangouts! We've enjoyed celebrating each other's successes and checking in to see how everyone has been doing. Connecting virtually has been wonderful for us all, but we sure do hope we can be together in person again one day soon!



LIFEworks 4!

The LIFEworks 4 group may have taken a pause on inperson classes, but we have been keeping things going online! We have been meeting virtually every week since April. Every week we start things off with our group chat, where we take turns telling our friends how our weekend was and then passing on the conversation to the next person. After that, we do an activity together. We have done a range of activities over the last six months, some are for fun and exercising our creativity, and others are educational where we all end up learning something new. For example, we have enjoyed learning about new topics such as the solar system and dinosaurs with interactive presentations and short videos. The group has explored famous pieces of art at the Louvre museum in France and pre-historic antiquities at The Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington D.C. Of course we have had a bit of fun showing our trivia knowledge during Jeopardy games, and learning to draw pictures step-by-step – and they turned out really good! Also, who could forget about the cute koala bears we visited at the San Diego Zoo, and virtually seeing the Eiffel Tower in Paris, the Great Wall of China, and the coral reefs in

Australia? Those were good times! Those who have joined us virtually have done a great job adjusting to this new way of being together and learning together. Those who cannot join us virtually, your friends miss you and we can't wait to see you in person again one day!

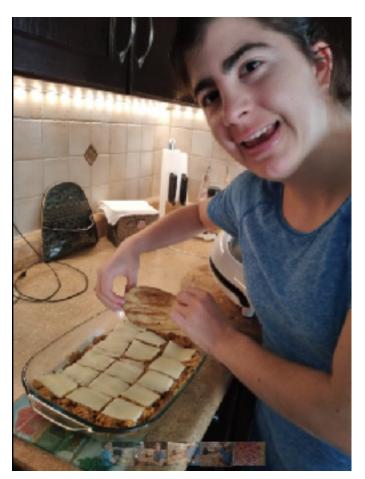


Our first in person Lifeworks program began the week of November 16. It was wonderful to see some familiar faces back at the main building.

Fitness & Wellness

Virtual fitness classes are being offered and participants are enjoying getting active again. Online classes include circuit training, bands and stability, stretching and relaxation and recipe sharing with nutrition tips and cooking demonstrations. We have individuals of all abilities participating and our goal is to tailor workouts to participant needs as best as we can. Participants also have a variety of goals which range from social time to completing a challenging workout. The pandemic has been tough on everyone and many of us have not been moving the way we used to so this is the opportunity to get out of your chairs and exercise with some Hutton House friends!

If you have been thinking of joining but are worried about not having any equipment, don't worry! We can supply you with equipment such as yoga mats and resistance bands. Contact Tami at tami@huttonhouse.com for more information.



Valentina during a cooking class in Fitness & Wellness.

Passport Program

The Passport program at Hutton House is gradually implementing our new community support guidelines. These guidelines are being introduced to safely support our Passport participants during COVID-19. Some supports will continue virtually with phone calls, video calls and online gaming. We have also started doing porch drop off of activities and drive by visits. The new guidelines have recommendations about how to have a safe in person visits in the community including activities such as mini putt, outdoor fitness, picnics and outdoor visits together. Support workers in the Passport program are excited to see participants face to face. Please know that Hutton House is committed to keeping all participants and staff safe at all times. All Passport staff and participants will complete a symptom screener before each in person visit.

If you have questions about the Passport support guidelines connect with Sarah McRae Passport Facilitation Team Lead at sarah@huttonhouse.com or leave a message at (519) 472-6381 x247

Adult Education

The Adult Education program has moved online! Staff and learners are enjoying the group Zoom classes.

We are learning about animals around the world. We travel to Australia, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa and North America. Each week, the group talks about the animals that live in one of these continents and nowhere else in the world. Short videos help make the animals come to life and show interesting facts about them.

Learners in other classes are practicing reading and writing skills. We are also talking about the math

used every day
such as time and
measurements used in
baking and weather
reports. Our weekly
theme is included in
the reading, writing
and math work.
There were some
thoughtful answers to
the question, "If you
could travel through



Emily as the narrator.

time, would you rather go back in time or to the future and why?"

In Net Quest, participants are learning different ways to find information and be safe on the Internet while having fun. Each week, they read a short story, explore interesting topics and answer comprehension questions using online tools. A trip to Australia, the Olympics and

the invention of pizza are some of the topics in this unique course.

Recognizing Disney silhouettes got the Fun and Games class shouting and laughing. They really know their Disney characters. Other popular games include Freeze Dance when we try to stop moving when the music stops and personality quizzes (just for fun.)



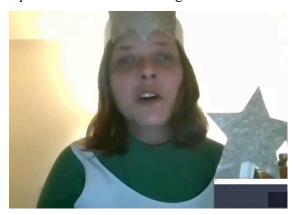
Ellen as the witch.

What kind of pet would you be?

This term, the Book Club is reading The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe. Over the summer, they read the Wizard of Oz. Book Club members suggested that the

book would make a good play, so... The summer staff, Abi, wrote the script. With the help of Roberta and the Book Club volunteer, Candida, we recorded the dramatic reading over Zoom complete with costumes and props. We had a viewing party November 9th which included reporters on a red carpet interviewing the actors. The laughter, enthusiasm, support, and hard work of the club members was captured on film. The cast got to watch

some of those outtakes and a preview of film clips. Check out the movie trailer on Hutton House's Facebook.



Lora as Glinda.

The Gateway

program in partnership with the Thames Valley District School Board is doing a combination of online classes and independent work. The Hutton House Adult Education program has limited spaces for fee-for-service online oneto-one tutoring. We have also put together websites with education links and fun activities.

Tutoring has made its way online, too. Participants are studying with staff one hour a week to focus on specific goals. Participants enjoy the 1-on-1 attention and working towards their unique goals.

We appreciate all the learners who have adapted to this new way of learning and the people who have helped with this new technology. We also realize that not everyone is able to participate, and we look forward to when we are able to be back in person. If you would like more information about our programs or just a friendly call, please call Heather at 519-472-1541 ext. 228 and leave a message or email her at **heatherj@huttonhouse.com**.

We have your next great employee!

Contact Kim Neable via phone 519-472-1541 ext. 229 or email Kim@huttonhouse.com

COVID-19 Guidelines for Participants and Families

We miss seeing participants and coworkers and are working hard to reopen although in a limited capacity safely. Programs will start giving out our new <u>COVID-19</u> <u>Guidelines for Participants and Families</u> which can be found on our website under **News** or we can send you one by calling 519 472 6381 and leaving your name and phone number.

Hutton House COVID-19 Pandemic Update

In addition to our virtual services, we are preparing to provide limited in person services however there will be less people permitted to come due to the size of the rooms and the need for everyone to keep 2 metres/6 feet apart. Cleaning has been increased and we have bought personal protective equipment such as masks, face coverings, gloves and gowns. The reception areas at the Learning Centre and the Main Building have a Plexiglas barrier around the desk. We are removing furniture and storing it in other rooms – keeping only the furniture that is necessary in each room. We are marking floors with signs to remind everyone which way to walk and where to stand if you need to wait for something. We also are posting signs in each location about wearing your mask, physical distancing, coughing and sneezing etiquette, hand washing and COVID-19 symptoms. Supplies and equipment are being placed in plastic containers with lids and/or covered with plastic to keep everything clean. Anything that is touched needs to be cleaned after using it.

The Middlesex London Health Unit advises all of us to stay two metres (six feet) apart from others, wear a mask, avoid large groups, wash hands frequently, clean high-touch surfaces often and get tested if you have symptoms, or if you think you've been exposed to the virus. We hope to be safely together again soon. Please stay safe and healthy.

See the list on the next page for community resources and supports or call us at 519-472-6381 or contact us via email at **hhservices@huttonhouse.com** and we will get back to you to help you find the supports you need.

Annual Christmas Party

For over many decades, Hutton House has celebrated the holiday season with a bang. We have enjoyed many years of great friends, food and dancing. Sadly this year will be different. With a sad heart, Hutton House has made a very difficult decision to cancel the annual in person Christmas party. Due to the uncertainty and wanting to keep the safety of others first, it was the best decision for all.

Instead, Hutton House will be hosting a virtual Holiday Party online December 17th at 2:45 to 4:30! We are busy planning and can't wait for this event to happen. Please make sure you follow us on social media for updates.

We hope that you take the time to safely spend with those that matter the most to you this holiday season.







Shop London businesses at Hutton House's Holiday Season Online Auction

Proceeds raised help support life-enhancing, education, art, and employment programs for youth and adults with disabilities

Start bidding live November 23rd-December 16th 2020!
To see products available visit

www.huttonhouse.com

Support while you are at home during COVID-19

If you need help about:

- how to get medications and/or groceries
- how to get medications or groceries delivered
- supports to deal with stress, anxiety, loneliness etc
- what to do if you feel sick

please call 519 472 6381 and leave a message and we will call you back. You can also email us at **hhservices@huttonhouse.com** for help as well.

Other Help

NAME OF ORGANIZATION	HELP OFFERED	PHONE NUMBER	WEBSITE/EMAIL
Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA)	Help to manage our mental health.	Call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week: Reachout: 519-433-2023 or 1-866-933-2023	www.cmhamiddlesex.ca/support-during-covid-19
The Middlesex London Health Unit	Information about COVID-19	519-663-5317	www.healthunit.com/novel- coronavirus
London Foodbank 926 Leathorne Street London	Provide food items Monday to Friday 9:00 -4:00	519-659-4045	Website: www.londonfoodbank.ca/ Email: info@londonfoodbank.ca
My Sisters Place 566 Dundas Street London	Serve lunch and provide basic needs	1-877-859-0352 or 519-679-9570	Website: www.cmhamiddlesex.ca/ about-cmha/msp Email: mysistersplace@cmhamiddlesex.ca
Lifespin 866 Dundas St, London	Provide information and support for individuals surviving on low-incomes	519-438 8676	Website: www.lifespin.org Email: life@execulink.com
Government of Canada Resources	Information about financial support for individuals during COVID-19		www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html
Ontario Government Resources	Information about financial support for individuals during COVID-19	1-866-797-0000	www.ontario.ca/page/how-ontario-is-responding-covid-19
Community Support Services	A website with information for caregivers on how to find local resources ie finances, mental health, abuse, social/physical distancing. Information also available on printable tip sheets.	London-Middlesex 519-673-6617	http://www.cssontario.ca/covid-19



Due to the Coronavirus pandemic this year's 24th Annual Golf Charity Classic was moved from July 8th to September 21st. It turned out to be the perfect way to spend the last day of summer. Safe social distancing procedures were adhered to throughout the day. All golf carts had a plastic safety shield between the driver and rider and two lunch packages were in each cart. Following everyone's round of golf, participants had a delicious gourmet dinner either in the club house or on the patio with plenty of spacing or the third option of taking

their meal home. West Haven Golf and Country Club took very good care of us.

Our tournament follows the unique and engaging "Shark Shootout" format where golfers compete playing 6 holes of best ball, which was won by Peter Holland and Frank DeCicco, 6 holes of scramble, won by Rodd Lucier and Chris Newcombe, and the 6 holes of alternate shot, won by Johnny DeVuono and Peter Trudell. The competition was friendly, but intense when it came down to the putting contest with the big win going to Don Organ. Congratulations to all the winners of the night!

















We were unable to hold our annual silent auction but we did hold our live auction which included items such as the VersaBank's Budweiser Gardens Suite for a Knights game, Champagne Hot Air Balloon Flight for two sponsored by JACK 102.3 and Sundance Balloons, Gourmet Dinner for 8 at West Haven and a West Haven Golf Event Page both sponsored by West Haven Golf & Country Club.

A special Thank You for all of our Sponsors:

Event Sponsors:

Buehler Custom Woodworking Libro Credit Union

RBC Place London

Leavens Volkswagen & Volvo Spriet Family Companies

WestJet

On Course Sponsors:

Air Design Services

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G & S Electric Ltd. LBF Group - Nick Niro Logan Funeral Home

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- John Brennan

Oxford Dodge Chrysler Jeep Peter & Sandy Lochead Robertson Hall Insurance Rotary Club of London

Thuss Investment Group - CIBC Wood Gundy

Unique Training & Development

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MacMaster Chevrolet Cadillac Buick GMC

NFP Insurance Orchard Electric Palumbo Homes

RBC Dominion Securities

Cunliffe Hicks Wealth Management Group

Selectpath Benefits
Tuckers Pottery Supplies
ZTR Control Systems

Our 24th Annual Charity Golf Classic was a great success (\$26,000 was raised) thanks to our supporters and volunteers and participants who generously donated their time, money and energy into this event in support of a great cause.

Thank You for Your Support!



Locorum exists to support local

The one stop for everything going on in your community. Highlighting local events, news, businesses and the best of what your city has to offer - all under one roof.



Purchase our handmade local pottery online!

Hutton House Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The Board of Directors held their Annual General meeting on Wednesday July 8 2020 virtually over Zoom with all staff in attendance as well. In addition to the acceptance of the Financial Statements ending March 31 2020, the appointment of auditors of 2020/2021 and the ratification of Acts of the Board, staff years of service awards were also highlighted. Congratulations and thank you to the following staff for their dedication and commitment to the programs and services of the organization.

10 Years of Service: Tami Clark, John McCracken, Gord Fansher

5 Years of Service: Amy Bell, Megan Cartwright, Dorothy Smith, Kelsey McRae

3 Years of Service: Julia Lopera, Ben Mills, Lexi Sheriff, Theresa Van, Kate Minnick

The appointed Board of Directors for 2020/2021 are:

President: Vice President: Treasurer/Secretary:

Claudia Bayona Tilda King Peter Holland.

Other Directors are: Bryan Smits, Eric Riley, Jon Lavkulich, Julie Watson, Michael Ketelaars, Wendy McGowan, Nelson Rodrigues, and Bill Mills.

Jean Knight Retiring from the Board of Directors



Jean retired from the Board after being with us since November 2006. Over her 18 years she has seen many changes. Jean was Board President for 3 years 2017-2019. Jean is a very active community volunteer and has shared her vast board experience with us. Jean has been a strong supporter of our journey to become accredited with Focus Accreditation. She has helped us assess, develop and compile Board documentation to meet the compliance standards.

Jean always attended Hutton House functions representing the Board and also to meet our participants, families and volunteers. Jean rarely missed an event whether it was a picnic, Volunteer Recognition Celebration, Access Voluntarism and Adult Education Award Nights,

program anniversaries, Employment Services graduations, Fashion Shows, Golf Tournaments and the Christmas Party. Her presence reflected her genuine interest in the activities and successes of participants and Hutton House services.

In the time that Jean has been with Hutton House our participant numbers have more than doubled. She is also a faithful shopper/supporter of the Hutton House Gift Shop so we hope to be able to catch up with her the next time she needs a gift or something for herself!

Thank you Jean for supporting all of the programs and events to meet the needs and interests of participants in the London community and for your leadership to the Board of Directors. We will miss you and your thoughtful comments and guidance to the work that we do every day. All the best in your retirement from Hutton House.



Coming Events

2020 Holiday Season Online Auction

November 23 - December 16, 2020 Check the website for details.

Hutton House Virtual Christmas Party

December 17th 2:45 pm to 4:30 pm Check the website for updates.

Visit the Hutton House booth for your Christmas shopping needs at the Market at Western Fair

900 King Street
Saturday 8am to 3 pm
Sunday 10 am to 2 pm
Also open December 23rd 4 pm to 9 pm



Supporting youth & adults with disabilities

Visit **www.huttonhouse.com** for Events & News updates

Hutton House Customer Service Commitment

Our most important customer is YOU.
In a safe, supportive and respectful environment
We will work together
With open and honest communication
to enable you to discover
and achieve your goals.

Our Mission:

Hutton House promotes and supports persons with disabilities through learning and life enhancing programs that focus on each individual's strengths, abilities and interests.

Vision:

Persons with disabilities have equal access to participate in all aspects of community life.

Board of Directors:

Claudia Bayona - President Tilda King - Vice President Peter Holland - Treasurer Jeanette Dutot - Ex-Officio

Directors:

Wendy McGowan Michael Ketelaars Jon Lavkulich Eric Riley Bryan Smits Julie Watson Nelson Rodriques Bill Mills

Charitable Registration (Bn) No. 10807 1861 RR0001

"In House" Next Publication Deadlines

March 12th, 2021 July 9th, 2021

We gratefully accept articles, personal stories, and photos involving participants of Hutton House.

Please submit information directly - and early - to Lori@huttonhouse.com