



MARY CENTRE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024



Annual General Meeting

September 25, 2024

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ANNUAL REPORT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

It is with extreme pleasure we welcome everyone to our 2024 Annual General Meeting.

Although as a province and a sector we have relaxed many of the previous requirements for Covid -19 we remained cautious this year as we know it continues to be present in our lives and can still cause significant illness to certain "at-risk" populations, such as the people we have the privilege to support.

We would also like to acknowledge the support we received from our funders during this past year. Both Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) and Catholic Charities remained supportive of Mary Centre during this past year both in a financial manner, but also in being able to provide guidance and support. Those supports were and are greatly appreciated.

Catholic Charities has undergone a leadership change, and we look forward to working with Dr. Agnes Thomas and her team in their efforts to review and perhaps alter some past practices so as to remain responsive and supportive of our community.

Our internal Occupational Health and Safety Committee remains very diligent in their work, and we appreciated their oversight in all our health-related matters.

As people are likely aware, ShareLife is the main funder of Catholic Charities and as we have in past years, we have attended masses to ensure people understood the benefits of donating to ShareLife. Recently, Denise Tremblett, Director of Services Toronto and Don Walker, Executive Director, and two (2) members of our Board of Directors, Steve Ferrigni and Dalton Albrecht, attended a ShareLife fundraising event and we are appreciative of the support to Mary Centre provided by ShareLife Executive Director Arthur Peters.

This past year was a continued period time of growth for Mary Centre. We have been very fortunate to have been approached to provide Supported Independent Living support for additional people in Brampton in combination with the Daniels Corporation and the Region of Peel.

At our AGM in 2023 I spoke about our partnership with the Cultural Education Centre of the Minime Sisters of the Passion in Vaughan. After a period of time and review it was determined that the benefits we had hoped for were likely not to come to fruition and the Board of Directors

decided it was in our best interests to step away from the partnership and look for other opportunities.

We have continued to address our Strategic Plan, which has three (3) primary domains identified. The domains include the following: Opportunities Find Us- How will Mary Centre attract positive attention and assess opportunities for expansion. As mentioned earlier, we have expanded our SIL services, and we are also pursuing other opportunities within Toronto. The second domain is entitled Building a Good Life Requires Great Teams – we have identified and completed a few significant touch points in this area. One was the creation of what can be considered a document that explains “The Foundation of Mary Centre’s Culture”. This document builds upon some of our earlier training, reviews our values and outlines five (5) pillars of building a Culture of Character, which highlights what we do and why we do it regarding our approach to services.

There was also a major revision to our Performance Review and, previously called, supervision process. The revised Performance Review document has embedded each job description into the document. As a result, the Performance review process will focus on each person’s job description and the progress that is being made in accomplishing and demonstrating at a high level the completion of the tasks related to each person’s role. We are making a significant shift away from the concept of “supervision” and moving towards a “coaching” approach. We believe that each employee can demonstrate success in meeting the tasks within their job description but can benefit from a “coaching” and encouragement approach.

We also undertook an introduction into the arena of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEI+B). We believe that previously we all demonstrated respect and compassion for each other, but felt it was important to be aware of new approaches to the DEI+B work. An external organization was hired, and several employees received updated training on this work. We are considering how we can ensure the information and approaches we were presented can remain a part of Mary Centre’s future and the final domain is Getting Ready for the Journey – How can Mary Centre be best prepared for the MCCSS transformational focus within Journey to Belonging. We have started to prepare ourselves for the possibilities this initiative will bring, over time, to the Developmental Services Sector.

There remains work to be done within each domain and that will start to be rolled out very soon. As you may recall, from last year a reference was made about our tag line “Building a Good Life” and that we have seen some external references to wording that is very close to our tag line. Therefore, in the interest of protecting Mary Centre we filed to have our logo and tag line trademarked. We are pleased to report we have been granted approval for the next ten (10) years of our trademark and tag line.

We have also continued to make a solid effort to meet the expectations of the Town of Stouffville and their Fire Department to ensure the safety of all the people involved in our

Stouffville services. This has been a challenging endeavor, and we are close to completion of the task. We thank MCCSS for their continued support for this project.

We also completed another successful MCCSS Compliance Inspection, Risk Assessment and Ministry of Labour inspections of some of our Community Group Living locations. Our appreciation is expressed to all the people who have been involved in ensuring the success of these reviews and inspections.

During this past year the Board of Directors continued to meet monthly, both online and in-person. Each member of the Board of Directors is very committed to Mary Centre and their volunteer time, support and guidance is greatly appreciated. The members of the Board of Directors were very involved in the accomplished work for the Vaughn Project and the decision to re-consider our continued involvement. Their support of our continued efforts to improve, as we can, the compensation package for the employees is appreciated. The Board of Directors also reviewed how Mary Centre could approach the aspect of fundraising so that there were a mix of events that provided the opportunity for people of all abilities to attend.

The Board of Directors continues to look forward to their contributions towards the Strategic Plan and raising the profile of Mary Centre within all the communities we are involved with or could become involved with.

In closing, a note of acknowledgement and gratitude is sent to all employees and volunteers at Mary Centre. Your efforts to keep the people we have the privilege to support, their families and your colleagues working together to ensure we are successful in "Building a Good Life" for people is to be commended.

John Fisher

President – Board of Directors

Don Walker

Executive Director

Toronto and York Services

Community Group Living

Over the past year, the people supported in our three (3) Community Group Living sites in Toronto have been participating in social and recreational programs, and their faith communities. The connection with Birchmount Neighbourhood Community Centre has continued to keep everyone active and engaged on an individual level based on the person's abilities and interests.

Three (3) supported people had the opportunity to plan and attend holidays. One (1) person went to Niagara Falls. One (1) person, who previously faced difficulties in leaving the home, was able to successfully take a trip to Florida in January 2024. While in Florida, he visited Disney Land. The trip was a huge success. One (1) person went to New Brunswick to celebrate the holiday season with their family.

People supported continue to participate in day trips with the community senior groups and enjoy the attractions in Toronto. They have gone to Ripley's Aquarium, the Science Centre, Centreville, the Toronto Zoo, the Hockey Hall of Fame, various beaches and parks, and multiple sporting events. People supported attended the Great Canadian Wrestling match, the Canadian National Exhibition and various theatre shows like Tina Turner, Six The Musical, ABBA Tribute Show and Fleetwood Mac at the Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre, The Royal Alexandra Theatre, Roy Thompson Hall and Casino Rama. Cirque du Soleil was another outing some of our people enjoyed. One (1) person who went downtown to the Wahlburgers restaurant was disappointed when the restaurant closed down. It was one of her favorite restaurants.

People participated in a *Kitchen Catchers* program which incorporated various meal preparation from start to finish including the making of a grocery list, grocery shopping, preparation of the food, and serving to fellow mates. Others participated in *City Hoppers* which is a program that is offered every Saturday for five (5) hours attending various functions around the city, such as farmer's markets, festivals, or small community events. Many of our people enjoy attending *The Mix* on a monthly basis and have a membership at Variety Village where they exercise, and one (1) person swims weekly.

A person supported had a significant life goal to return to "his church." He was able to rejoin the congregation from his childhood. He was welcomed back with open arms by the congregation and leadership. He is now reconnecting with family, friends, and old childhood teachers. This has made him very happy. His story, "In His Own Words," was featured in the Catholic Charities newsletter Volume 2-Issue 2.

One (1) person Mary Centre supported since October 2000, passed away in May 2024. This person was first supported in the Out of Home Respite Program, and In Home Respite Program,

before moving into one of our Community Group Living locations. Her health had begun to decline over the past several years, and we continued to support her in her last days of life. Everyone misses her laughter and dancing. Her brother had a celebration of life ceremony at the funeral home, and she is now resting next to her parents.

Over the past year many new purchases have been made for the houses which include new washing machine and dryer, a fridge, dishwasher, dining table and chair sets, and new computer desks for all the offices at the Community Group Living offices.

The people who live at Stouffville have been very active over the past year. One (1) person graduated from High School, and one (1) person will be returning in September 2024 for the final year. One (1) person attended Autism Ontario Camp over the summer. During the summer there were private swimming lessons and an overnight camping trip to Sibbald Point Beach. The Stouffville home also hosted a BBQ party in June, July and August 2024 for all people supported in Mary Centre.

One (1) person supported attends the Inclusion and Change Day Program Tuesday through Thursday. Five (5) people supported attend drop-in leisure swimming twice a week and greatly enjoy using the therapy pool. Two (2) people supported continue to attend Sky Zone Trampoline Park twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Five (5) people supported went to Applewood farm, Strawberry Creek farm, and Willow Grove farm where they purchased apples and strawberries for baking, and pumpkins to carve. One (1) person supported has been attending Bocce Ball through the Special Olympics Foundation, and drop-in leisure swimming at the Magna Centre every weekend.

Each person supported have created goals that they want to achieve, and they have worked on accomplishing these goals over the past year. These goals included life skills building, community inclusion, and finding programs and activities that are meaningful to them. They all participate in their own way in the home environment by completing chores within their abilities. Direct Support Professionals have also been engaging all people supported in in-house sensory and academic programming daily. Two (2) people supported achieved their goal of learning how to complete and put away their laundry. One (1) person supported achieved their goal of participating in prayer and synagogue services during the high holidays, as well as attending family dinners during the holidays with the support of Direct Support Professionals.

Two (2) people supported achieved their goal of learning their address and phone number and can successfully identify community helpers and can differentiate the uniforms of police, fire and ambulance workers. One (1) person supported achieved their goal of saving for a trip to the Dominican Republic. One (1) person supported achieved their goal of practicing yoga by attending a community program on Thursday evenings and practicing with Direct Support Professionals in the home. One (1) person supported achieved their goal of discontinuing the behavior of chewing on their clothes with positive behavior interventions by Direct Support Professionals.

Mary Centre is fortunate to have several employees in our Community Group Living locations celebrating milestones in years of service. This year Manu Verma and Cheryl Walker are celebrating twenty-five (25) years of service with Mary Centre. James Adeniyi is celebrating five (5) years of service with Mary Centre. Congratulations to you all.

Supported Independent Living Programs (SIL)

The Direct Support Professionals continue to empower the people supported to give them a sense of confidence and purpose in life. At Our Lady of Victory four (4) people continue to participate and derive quality of life fulfillment in their social, instructional, and recreational programs at York West Active Living Centre, DreamWorks, and The Salvation Army Booth Supportive Services. One (1) person continues to work in his dream job as a Teacher's Assistant at Centennial Infant and Childcare Centre and is also an active advocate for ARCH while still attending Literacy Tutoring at North York Library. One (1) person is receiving support services through Neighbourhood Learning and Employment Services through Youth Employment Services (YES). Two (2) people are long-standing participants of the Centre for Opportunities, Respect and Empowerment (CORE) Toronto program and continue to be given the opportunity to learn much needed social, instructional, and educational programs. One (1) person attends Booth Industries and enjoys their weekly social and recreations day program. One (1) person continues to attend the St. Alban's Boys and Girls Club, and participates in the Theatre, Drama, and Vocal Programs at Swansea Hall. One (1) person is part of the Symphonic Passion Chorus and participated in the annual Christmas performance at The Church of the Holy Trinity. This person decided to enter the Catholic Charities Christmas Card Design Contest which was advertised early November 2023. Another person continues to be a valued performer and puppeteer at Famous People Players and attends social programs at Foster Club House. After a lengthy stay in a rehabilitation centre due to a sustained injury, one (1) person successfully transitioned back into his apartment with additional family paid supports to help monitor his safety, wellbeing, independence, and autonomy.

The three (3) gentlemen supported in East York have been attending Woodgreen Community Centre's recreation and leisure programs and Health and Wellness programs. They have a long term goal to find alternative housing, as maintaining their home is becoming more challenging. In conjunction with their family, Mary Centre has been exploring options that may be available to them. Mary Centre has requested a three (3) bedroom unit in a new complex which is being built in the Victoria Park Avenue and Danforth Avenue area, which would be an ideal area to support the gentlemen. The three (3) of them have joined Variety Village where they are using the gym, the walking track and playing floor hockey. The team has been supporting the brothers with budgeting and finding ways to have meaningful experiences while being fiscally responsible. This includes meal planning that encourages healthy eating.

At Monte Kwinter, we support four (4) people. One (1) person moved from Tippet Park into a two-bedroom apartment in Monte Kwinter. One (1) person is attending George Brown College to upgrade her math and English pre-requisites to enter the Dental Assistant Program. One (1) person is attending "Talk it Out" program affiliated with the University of Toronto. One (1) person is taking online courses for her GED (high School diploma) and has already achieved one of the certificates for the course. One (1) person is pursuing enrollment in Medix College for the Community Service Worker program. Two (2) people have joined the Youth Employment Services (YES) program. This program helps people on Ontario Disability Support Plan (ODSP) to find a career path and/or find and maintain employment. One (1) person's youngest son began public school in September.

This year, James Berko, a part-time employee with twenty-four (24) years of service retired from Mary Centre. We wish James all the best!

Community Connections and Day Program

In the Community Connections program Mary Centre is currently supporting six (6) people. The Community Direct Support Professional is helping them all to find meaningful activities in their neighbourhoods. The People Supported go to Community Centres, libraries, sporting events and seniors clubs. Others have been working on reading comprehension, communication skills, social development, and life skills such as cooking skills and food safety. The program is individualized to each person's goals, interests, needs and abilities.

This year D'Ann Bailey, a full-time employee in the Community Connections Program is celebrating twenty-five (25) years of service with Mary Centre. Congratulations D'Ann.

In the Day Program we have five (5) people who attend on a regular basis between two (2) to five (5) days a week, this includes the people who attend the Day Program when they are in the Out of Home Respite Program. The activities change daily to meet the needs and interests of each person. The People Supported have expressed interest in cross stitching, finger painting, drawing, creating puzzles, music therapy, cooking simple meals, baking and other home management skills. They attend various activities in the community such as going to the movies, visiting local parks, and participating in health and wellness programs.

St. Bernard's Respite Program

We currently have six (6) people who use the Out of Home Respite program. Individual Support Plans have been developed with each person's participation to indicate the goals they would like to work on while staying in the Out of Home Respite Program. Some of the goals identified include learning to socialize with others, cooking, home management skills, and moderate exercise programs. Families have been very thankful of the availability of service during times

when they are facing medical concerns, taking a vacation, or just need time to themselves. The families are very appreciative of the support we provide.

Intervenor Program

The person being supported in the Intervenor Program is continually active. She has a yearly event calendar that lists all her faith/cultural events she will attend throughout the year. She also has a monthly calendar that details her daily programs. She swims at the YMCA and also utilizes the therapy pool. She also has a membership to Variety Village where she exercises with the support of an Intervenor Direct Support Professional. This year we were able to provide training to the Intervenor in the program. This training was completed by the President of the Canadian Deafblind Association and Professor at George Brown College. The training focused on equipping the intervenors to work confidently and capably within the person's environment while exercising their critical thinking and problem-solving skills. It also provided Intervenor with a foundational understanding of Deafblindness and Congenital Deafblindness. The training also included how to use Total Communication Approach which covers the physical skills necessary to communicate with the individual using Sign Language (with gestures and body language) and other significant modes of communication, including voice, picture cues, 3D cues, experience books, experience documents, calendar system, conceptual board, touch cues, and olfactory cues.

Faith Outreach Program

During the past year, people continue to be supported in their faith communities. We participated in *five (5) ShareLife* presentations between June 2023 to June 2024.

Agency Intake

From May 20, 2023, to September 6, 2024 the Intake Coordinator received a total of eighty five (85) inquiries about Mary Centre Services. The breakdown of inquiries is.

Day Programs

Toronto = zero (0) calls

Peel = eight (8) calls

Out of Home Respite (St Bernards) = thirty-three (33) calls

Community Supports 54 and Younger

Toronto = three (3) calls

Peel = five (5) calls

Community Supports 55 and older.

Toronto = zero (0) calls

Peel = three (3) calls

Community Group Living – eleven (11) calls
Supported Independent Living – four (4) calls
Miscellaneous call – eighteen (18) calls.



Denise Tremblett
Director of Services – Toronto and York

Peel Services

Community Group Living

Over the past year, the people we support in our three (3) Community Group Living sites have been actively involved in their communities, attending various programs, and working towards achieving their personal goals.

All three (3) Group Living locations remain active participants of the weekly drop in dance at Paul Palleschi Community Centre in Brampton. Three (3) Supported People continue to attend the weekly PAHA Social Group, which provides an opportunity for socialization and interaction with peers through activities and community outings. Two (2) People remain engaged in various Special Olympics sports including bowling, baseball, and lawn bowling. Two (2) People continue to attend Flower City Seniors Centre weekly to participate in a game of shuffleboard with fellow community members. Five (5) Supported People continue to attend their respective Day Programs.

People Supported had the opportunity to go to Wet 'N' Wild Waterpark, Canadian National Exhibition, Playdium Arcade, and Aerosports Trampoline Park. People enjoyed visits to the sensory room at Paul Palleschi Community Centre, joined community drop-in swimming classes, frequented local beaches, and spent time exploring Toronto's waterfront. The People Supported at each Group Living location purchased a Conservation Parks Pass which gained them entry to a variety of local Conservation Areas. Everyone had the opportunity to visit new parks, where they explored hiking trails, shared picnic lunches, and played a variety of games with each other.

With the assistance of the Direct Support Professionals, the four (4) Supported People living at Parkside planted and attended to their annual vegetable and herb garden, which yielded an abundance of crops. The herbs and vegetables were incorporated into many meals and enjoyed by all. Two (2) People achieved their goal of incorporating their Vietnamese culture into their daily lives. Direct Support Professionals incorporated their favourite meals into the weekly menu and worked closely with their family to find their preferred television series and movies to watch at home.

The People Supported at our Greenbriar home have been receiving bi-weekly visits from a volunteer therapy dog named Oakley from Sunshine Dog Therapy. Everyone looks forward to Oakley's visits, and she has brought an abundance of joy to the People at Greenbriar. Two (2) People attended overnight camp at Belwood Camp and Lodge for one (1) week and enjoyed their time with friends. Two (2) People remain active members of their local Catholic Church and look forward to attending with the Direct Support Professionals each week. One (1) Person achieved their goal of consistently wearing their compression stockings to improve their health.

Greenbriar had the opportunity to support a Developmental Services Worker (DSW) Student from Fanshawe College, as they completed their placement. The Direct Support Professionals were supportive of their learning and assisted them to increase their skills. When the placement concluded, they successfully applied for a part-time position, and they are currently providing support to People at Greenbriar and Parkside.

The People Supported at our Aberdeen home have been very busy, participating in their local Friendship Group, music therapy, and exploring local farms and parks. One (1) Person returned to their local Catholic Church and looks forward to attending weekly mass. One (1) Person achieved their goal of joining a program for people who are visually impaired. Two (2) People have been working on increasing their life skills in completing laundry independently, grocery shopping, and reading and writing.

A Person Mary Centre supported in one of our Community Group Living locations sadly passed away in June 2024. Their health had begun to change over a period of time, and the Direct Support Professionals worked hard to ensure their needs were met. A celebration of life was held at the home, where a perennial flower was planted in their honour, and memories of their life were shared. They are now resting peacefully next to their mother.

Supported Independent Living

The Supported People at our three (3) Supported Independent Living apartments sites are doing well, participating in their community through social groups and volunteering, and working towards their goals.

One (1) Person continues to attend their day program at Meta Centre four (4) days per week. They have many friends at the program and enjoy the various community outings the program offers. Two (2) People continue to volunteer at their local Catholic Church, and the City of Brampton, respectively. One (1) Person began taking clarinet lessons and discovered a new interest. One (1) Person joined the PAHA Social Group, and one (1) Person continues to play shuffleboard on a weekly basis with (2) Supported People from Greenbriar. One (1) Person had the opportunity to visit their brother in British Columbia, and two (2) People took vacations to cottages with their family and friends.

Three (3) Supported People have committed to improving their health and have joined their local gyms and recreation centres. They are working closely with their Direct Support Professionals to learn new healthy recipes and grocery shop for the ingredients. Three (3) People have been focused on ensuring their mental health and wellbeing by attending individual counselling sessions, psychiatrist appointments, and group therapy.

Two (2) People are in the process of exploring options for post secondary education and have expressed interest in working in the fields of early childhood education and social services. One

(1) Person successfully completed a CPR course to add additional skills to their resume. One (1) Person recently achieved their goal of obtaining their G1 Driver's License and is eager to begin driving lessons.

Four (4) People are actively searching for employment with the assistance of their Direct Support Professionals. They have been connecting with employment agencies in the Peel Region to assist with their job search, enhancing their resume, and practicing interviewing techniques.

The People we support continue to work closely with their Direct Support Professionals to increase their life skills in areas such as home management, budgeting, and meal preparation. Direct Support Professionals accompanied Supported People to medical appointments to assist them in managing their changing health needs.

This year, two (2) Supported People began a romantic relationship with each other. This was a new experience for them, and they were assisted by their respective Direct Support Professionals to navigate their relationship.

Community Connections and Day Program

The Community Connections Program provides support to People living at home either independently or with caregivers. The program provides opportunities for social and recreational programs, life skill building, and fosters a connection between the People we support and their local community.

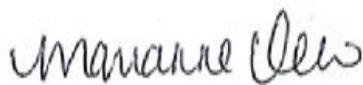
Three (3) People continue to volunteer at their local Churches, libraries, and Salvation Army Thrift Store with the support of their Direct Support Professional. One (1) Person is working on learning calming techniques to decrease their anxiety. One (1) Person is learning personal boundaries through the *Circles* program. One (1) Person has been going to the movie theatre to watch their favourite cultural movies on the big screen. One (1) Person has been enjoying going to the arcade and bowling with their Direct Support Professional.

The People Supported in the Community Connections Program have had the opportunity to come together as a group to participate in outings together to the Canadian National Exhibition, Ripley's Aquarium, Arcadia Earth Exhibit at The Well, Centre Island, and Black Creek Pioneer Village. Everyone looks forward to exploring new places and spending time with their friends. The Peel Day Program is currently supporting eleven (11) People throughout the week.

Participants can attend as many days as they would prefer, based on their needs. The People Supported work together each month to build a schedule of activities and outings they would like to participate in and look forward to exploring their local community as a group.

While at the Day Program, participants are focused on increasing their literacy and numeracy skills, preparing simple meals and snacks, and participating in group fitness activities. The People attending the Day Program have had the opportunity to participate in various community outings including pottery painting, mini golf, bowling, local farms, and the arcade. They have signed up for computer lessons at the local library, attended the Peel Safety Village to learn about community safety from Peel Police Officers. The People Supported celebrate all major holidays and birthdays with related themed crafts and activities, and treats.

Boston Pizza, located at 65 Resolution Drive in Brampton selected Mary Centre as the recipient of their February 2024 *"Raise Some Dough"* fundraising campaign. Throughout the campaign, Boston Pizza sold paper hearts, heart shaped pizzas on Valentine's Day, and caramel dessert cookies to their patrons. Boston Pizza successfully raised over \$1,000 for Mary Centre, and we thank them for their efforts and generosity. Boston Pizza has recently confirmed Mary Centre will once again be the recipient of their February 2025 fundraising campaign, and we look forward to sharing the details of the campaign on our website as they become available.



Marianne Vico
Director of Services, Peel

AGM September 2024 Employee Recognition

25 Years of Service

Manu Verma

Manu Verma began her career at Mary Centre as a volunteer with one (1) of the people supported at Redcastle. She then started working as a part-time Direct Support Professional with Mary Centre working shifts at all the Scarborough Community Group Living locations. Within a few years she became a full-time Direct Support Professional and then the Team Lead at Whitecap. Manu is very committed to the work she does. She goes up and above for the people she supports. She says her biggest accomplishment at Mary Centre is the lessons she has learned from the people supported. Manu is a very busy volunteering in her South Asian Community and also encourages her community to give generously to Mary Centre. Manu has obtained many donations which have helped purchase furniture and kitchen items for Whitecap.

Cheryl Walker

Cheryl Walker began her career at Mary Centre working as a part-time Direct Support Professional. As a part time employee, Cheryl worked in all three (3) Community Group Living Locations in Scarborough and adapts her skills to successfully support everyone at each location. In February 2018, Cheryl accepted a position as a full time Overnight Awake Direct Support Professional. Then in December 2019 Cheryl requested to return to part time status. Cheryl is very caring, and person centred, focused on encouraging the people we support to achieve their goals. Cheryl is outspoken and will be honest when communicating with others as she truly wants only the best for everyone. She is very dedicated to her job; she is thorough and has a strong work ethic. Cheryl takes a lot of pride in her work and the people she supports. She is strong member at Mary Centre and a true asset to the team.

D'ann Bailey

D'ann Bailey began her career at Mary Centre twenty-five (25) years ago as a part-time Direct Support Professional at Leyton. After working for six (6) years in the Community Group Living location, Mary Centre received funding to support three (3) brothers in their own home, and D'ann began working as a Community Support Worker in the Supported Independent Living Program. D'ann helped organize the structuring of the program. In 2007 D'ann was transferred to work in the Community through the now Community Connections program and continues to work in that program to date. She supports people with developmental disabilities who live in their own homes or in Long Term Care Facilities. The people she supports say that she is kind-

hearted, caring and helpful, and always smiling. She is a delight to be around as she always has a bubbly upbeat personality. D'ann is always willing to help at any time and would be the first person to rise to a challenge.

Belzye Manning

Belzye's years with Mary Centre has meant that many people have benefited from her support over this time. As a Full Time Direct Support Professional, Belzye is often looked to as a resource and support to her colleagues at Aberdeen. Belzye has a strength of character that makes her a great ally and advocate for the People she supports. She has built a special relationship with her Primary Supported Person at Aberdeen, and it's always a joy to see them together doing activities or just chatting over tea. It's evident that Belzye truly cares for the People she supports and is appreciated by them. We thank Belzye for all that she's brought to Mary Centre and the difference she has made in so many people's lives. Congratulations, Belzye, !

10 Years of Service

Christine Marwan

Christine joined Mary Centre as the Integrated Seniors Program Coordinator in 2014, providing Direct Support to three (3) People and leading a team of Community Direct Support Professionals. When the role of Community Group Living Coordinator became available, Christine successfully transitioned into the position and is currently overseeing the Community Group Living Homes in Peel. Christine is a dedicated leader, finding innovative solutions to challenges which may arise, and helping the teams work together to provide the best support possible. When she is not at work, Christine enjoys spending her time outdoors gardening and camping, and building memories with her children. Thank you, Christine, for your 10 years of service!

Don Walker

Don joined Mary Centre ten (10) years ago as the Executive Director. During this period Mary Centre has expanded its service footprint in both Toronto and Peel and also has expanded services into York Region. It has been his pleasure to work collaboratively with the various Board of Directors, management people at all levels and a very dedicated group of Direct Support Professionals. It has been his privilege to serve the people we have the privilege to support and their families.

5 Years of Service

James Adeniyi

James has been working at Mary Centre for the past five (5) years at Whitecap as a part time Direct Support Professional. In the last year and a half, he has worked overnight during the week. James is a team player. He is flexible with his schedule and is always there to provide support in a time of need. He is dedicated to his job and the care he provides for the people supported at Whitecap. James has a caring nature, and his colleagues stated it's a pleasure to work with him. In May 2023 James was successful in passing his exam and being registered as a Licensed Practical Nurse. Congratulations James on your success.

Clarissa Sandoval

Clarissa began her role at Mary Centre as a Part-Time Direct Support Professional in the Community Connections program. When the program was temporarily closed due to the pandemic, Clarissa transitioned to facilitating the virtual day program. When the Day Program resumed in person participation, Clarissa became the successful incumbent for the Day Program Direct Support Professional position. Clarissa is compassionate, resourceful, and is always willing to go above and beyond to meet the needs of the People she supports at the Day Program. When she is not at work, Clarissa has a passion for art and enjoys travelling. Congratulations, Clarissa, on your five (5) years of service!

Alanna Mitchell

Alanna joined Mary Centre as a Direct Support Professional in our Scarborough Community Group Living Homes. In 2022, when a Full Time Direct Support role became available in our Supported Independent Living Program in Peel, Alanna transitioned into the role and is currently providing support to seven (7) People living in Brampton and Woodbridge. Alanna has built a trusting relationship with the People she supports and their family members. She works diligently to support everyone in meeting their personal goals and remaining active members of their community. In her free time, Alanna enjoys going to the gym and spending time on the waterfront with her Husband. Congratulations, Alanna, on your five (5) years of service!

Theresa Adaka

Theresa began her career at Mary Centre as a Part Time Direct Support Professional in our Community Group Living Homes. Soon after, Theresa became the successful incumbent for a Full Time Overnight Awake Direct Support Professional role at Aberdeen. Theresa's calm presence is a great benefit to the team and the People we support. She is always willing to help a fellow co-worker, brainstorm solutions to a problem, and share her knowledge with the team. When she is not at work, Theresa is dedicated to being a mother and enjoys spending time with her family. Congratulations, Theresa, on your five (5) years of service!