



MARY CENTRE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 22, 2026



Annual General Meeting

September 22, 2026

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ANNUAL REPORT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

It is with great pleasure that we welcome everyone to our 2026 Annual General Meeting. We extend our sincere appreciation to the people and families who allow Mary Centre the privilege of being part of their lives. All the work our dedicated employees and Board Members do every day provides the strong foundation of our work.

We would like to acknowledge the invaluable support we received from our funders over the past year. Both the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) and Catholic Charities remained steadfast in their commitment to Mary Centre—not only through financial contributions, but also by offering ongoing guidance and encouragement. Their support has been, and continues to be, deeply appreciated.

We are incredibly thankful to our donors for their repeated support of Mary Centre. Their contributions have helped people access our day programs in Peel and Toronto, creating opportunities for connection, engagement, and growth. Their generosity has also provided valuable caregiver relief, helping families balance the demands of caregiving with their own well-being.

A person we support, a Direct Support Professional and the Executive Director were honored to attend a recent corporate team-building event hosted by Honda Canada, where employees assembled four foldable wheelchairs, which were then generously donated to Mary Centre. We were proud to speak about Mary Centre's Vision, Mission, and Values, and to share how these wheelchairs will make a meaningful impact, enhancing mobility, fostering independence, and improving the overall quality of life for the people we support. We are deeply grateful for Honda Canada's generosity and commitment to community inclusion.

This year marked an important milestone for Mary Centre as we purchased the Stouffville property that has been home to six (6) people we have supported for the past six (6) years. This achievement provides long-term stability, peace of mind, and a stronger sense of security for both the people supported and their families.

This year we moved out of the Parkside location in Peel as the lease agreement expired. With the support of Daniels group, we were able to rent two (2) apartment units to support four (4) people. Also, we were able to rent three (3) additional units where we will provide Supported Independent Living opportunities to four (4) additional people in Brampton

We are grateful for the partnership with the Region of Peel, where we can provide housing subsidies and wraparound supports for sixteen (16) people through the Community Agency Subsidy Program (CASP). We hope to increase this number in the coming year.

We continue to be part of the Developmental Services Partner Group Victoria Park development as part of CreateTO in partnership with Alterra and Mahogany Management. As part of this

development, we will receive three (3) units—two (2) two-bedroom units and one (1) three-bedroom unit—which will allow us to support a total of seven (7) people.

We were also part of the Downsview Community Resource Group, reviewing and providing feedback on the thirty (30) year transformation plan of the five hundred and twenty (520)-acre former airport site into a sustainable, transit-oriented, mixed-use community for eighty-three thousand five hundred (83,500) plus residents. We are exploring options of affordable housing and program space for Mary Centre.

Mary Centre is a member of the Faith and Cultural Network, which has a provincial focus and is part of the Provincial Network. This past year they have hosted lunch and learn sessions which have featured presentations about *Servant Leadership*, *The Universality of Catholic Social Teachings* and *Images of God: Through the Lens of Disability*, just to mention a few. The presentations offered a compelling perspective on faith, inclusion, and the rich diversity of spiritual expression and experience.

All our programs continue to operate successfully, and we are experiencing growth in Supported Independent Living (SIL), Day Programs, Out-of-Home Respite, and Community Connections. These services are essential for the individuals and families we support. Through our Individual Support Plans, we create individualized supports that reflect each person's unique needs, goals, strengths, and challenges, helping them achieve their fullest potential.

We remain committed to ensuring that Mary Centre is recognized as a trusted and responsive agency where families can turn to for guidance, support, and opportunities to help their loved ones *Build a Good Life*. This year, we strengthened our presence in the community in several meaningful ways. One of these was our feature on the radio show **Voice 4 Ability** which provided an important platform to share the impact of Mary Centre's work and highlight our ongoing contribution to building a community that values dignity, inclusion, belonging, and meaningful connections for all. We also continued to expand our reach through the Parish Outreach partnership with the Archdiocese of Toronto and Catholic Charities. Through this initiative, the Parish Outreach Facilitator has been actively engaging with Toronto parishes, building relationships with families, increasing awareness of available supports, and participating in ShareLife presentations. This work has helped strengthening community awareness of the needs and contributions of people with developmental disabilities.

The Board of Directors engaged the external consulting firm Laridae to facilitate the development of a new strategic plan for Mary Centre. This process will help us assess current and future needs, identify opportunities for growth and improvement, and establish clear priorities to guide our organization over the coming years. Through consultation with stakeholders, including the people we support, families, employees, and community partners, we are working to create a roadmap that will strengthen our services and ensure we continue to meet our mission effectively and sustainably.

In the past year we launched *The ED Lounge – Building Opportunities and Connections* - a recurring opportunity for open dialogue and connection between employees and the Executive Director. These informal gatherings are designed to strengthen communication, build relationships, create opportunities for employees to meet each other, and develop space for

meaningful conversation about our work, our challenges, and our shared vision, mission and values.

The Board of Directors continues to support the Emerging Leaders Program. This educational program is a way for organizations to identify employees who demonstrate leadership potential and provide an opportunity to build and strengthen this skill.

This year we are introducing a new Employee Award called the “***Building a Good Life***” to honour a Direct Support Professional who exemplifies excellence in supporting people with developmental disabilities. Recipients go beyond routine care to help build a life of purpose, belonging and joy for the people they support. We had impressive nominations, and we are pleased to announce that D’ann Bailey is the first recipient of this award.

The **Doreen Cullen Award** recognizes an employee who demonstrates exceptional leadership, dedication and commitment to the values and mission of Mary Centre. The award is named in honour of Doreen Cullen, whose leadership and advocacy helped shape Mary Centre’s vision. This award recognizes an employee who demonstrates exceptional commitment, compassion, leadership, and dedication to improving the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities. Nominees embody our mission and values through their daily actions and their unwavering service to the people we support. We are pleased to announce that Amanda Leigh and Chamaine Gouveia are the recipients of this year’s award.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our dedicated employees, who bring their passion, commitment, and compassion to Mary Centre every day. Through their efforts, our Vision, Mission, and Values are not only upheld but truly brought to life in the work they do to support people and families.

We also want to thank our Board of Directors for their ongoing leadership and commitment. Meeting regularly throughout the year, both virtually and in person, the Board provides valuable guidance, oversight, and support to Mary Centre. Each Board member generously contributes their time, expertise, and dedication to advancing Mary Centre's mission, and we are deeply appreciative of their continued service and stewardship.

Kevin Finnerty
President – Board of Directors

Denise Tremblett
Executive Director

Toronto and York **2026 Annual Board Report**

Community Group Living

This past year brought positive changes and transition for the people supported in the three (3) Community Group Living Homes in Scarborough. During this period, two (2) internal transfers were successfully completed. Of the two (2) vacancies that arose, one (1) was filled in February 2026 and the second vacancy is expected to be filled by early October 2026.

All people supported have adapted well to these changes, building positive relationships with their new peers and successfully adjusting to their new environments. Employees have been committed to learning and understanding each person's strengths, unique characteristics, preferences, and needs, helping them to ensure a smooth transition and fostering a sense of comfort, belonging, and homelike atmosphere in their new living arrangements.

All people supported are actively working toward personal goals set out in their Individualized Support Plan. These goals include literacy development, English language learning with support from Direct Support Professional, taking a train ride to Lakeshore and learning to drive via virtual driving lessons. Two (2) people supported began cultivating vegetable gardens and have taken great pride in enjoying the fruits of their labour. A significant milestone this year was the acquisition of a custom wheelchair for one (1) person supported through the support of a mobility specialist. This has greatly enhanced their comfort, mobility, independence, and overall quality of life.

Over the past year, people supported benefited from a wide range of opportunities to socialize, build meaningful relationships, and engage in a wide range of recreational, cultural, and community activities that enriched their lives and promoted social inclusion. They attended several theatre productions, including *Juliet*, *A Beautiful Noise*, *Mrs. Doubtfire: The Musical*, *Shrek: The Musical*, and a Meat Loaf tribute show. They also enjoyed musical performances by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and a Beatles tribute concert, as well as movie outings, including a screening of a Michael Jackson film. Community excursions included day trips to Port Perry and Niagara Falls, visits to the Toronto Zoo, the OPP Museum, the Royal Ontario Museum, and the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, as well as walks along Toronto's Harbourfront and viewing the cherry blossoms at High Park.

Additional highlights included attending the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE), participating in summer camp, and arts and crafts activities, and enjoying boat trips to Centre Island, city dinner cruises, and Pirate Adventures boat rides. People Supported also attended a Toronto Marlies hockey game, visited a petting zoo, and participated in community events such as the Taste of the Danforth festival. Recreational activities included outings to Chuck E. Cheese for arcade games and pizza, as well as group bowling events.

To further support community participation and personal interests, people-maintained memberships at the Toronto Zoo, Ripley's Aquarium of Canada, and Variety Village, providing ongoing opportunities for recreation, learning, and physical activity. They also participated in the *Space Explorers: The Infinite* virtual reality experience, which offered an engaging and immersive

educational adventure. These experiences fostered social connections, encouraged community involvement, and created opportunities for people to explore new interests and enjoy meaningful experiences throughout the year.

The Team Lead at Leyton introduced a program designed to enhance social engagement and support skill development through a variety of creative and interactive experiences. Participants have enjoyed activities such as arts and crafts, gardening, music trivia, dog therapy, bingo, movie nights, disco nights, baking, karaoke, and board games. The program has encouraged greater social connection, active participation, and the exploration of new interests, all within a welcoming, supportive, and engaging environment.

In March 2026, all three (3) homes underwent enhancements to the living environment which included all basements being freshly painted, new flooring, and kitchen cabinets refreshed.

Stouffville

The Community Group Living Stouffville program had a busy and rewarding year focused on community inclusion, personal growth and meaningful opportunities for the people supported. In September 2025, the program welcomed a sixth person supported, who successfully transitioned into the home.

Participation in day program remained strong throughout the year. Two (2) people supported attending Inclusion and Change three (3) days per week, while another attended full-time. In June 2026 one (1) person transitioned from the day program they attended to the Family Access Network Day Program where they benefited from enhanced support and expanded opportunities for community involvement, including weekly bowling and karate.

People supported participated in a variety of recreational, social and community activities. Two (2) people attended private swimming lessons, with one (1) continuing through spring and summer. Four (4) people regularly visited the Toronto Zoo through annual passes. Other highlights included day trips to Niagara Falls, snow tubing at the ROC Ski Resort in Georgina, visits to Reptilia, Centre Island, and attendance at community events and festivals, including Applewood Farm, the Port Perry Fair, Markham Ribfest, Unionville Festival, Markham Music Festival, Dragon Boat Festival, and the Stouffville Strawberry Festival. Five (5) people supported also participated in a camping trip to Sibbald Point Provincial Park, while two (2) attended the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE).

The program hosted community barbecues in May, June, and August 2026, creating opportunities to socialize and build relationships with people supported by other Mary Centre programs. Seasonal and cultural celebrations were enjoyed throughout the year, including Halloween and Christmas drive through events, holiday markets, the Santa Claus Parade, Hanukkah celebrations, Valentine's Day and Easter activities, and Victoria Day and Canada Day fireworks. These experiences promoted community inclusion, social connections, skill development, and overall enjoyment for the people supported.

Over the past year, significant progress was made toward individual goals. Achievements included one (1) person supported independently completing morning routines using a visual schedule, two (2) people supported obtaining passports in preparation for a trip to the Dominican Republic, one

(1) person supported completing a hearing assessment, and one (1) increasing communication skills through Proloquo2Go, an augmentative communication app, on their iPad. Additional accomplishments included participation in religious and cultural celebrations with one (1) person supported taking the lead in planning, hosting, and sharing traditional cultural meals with housemates on a monthly basis. These achievements reflect the ongoing commitment to supporting independence, skill development, self determination, and meaningful participation in everyday life.

St. Bernard's Respite

The demand for respite services increased this year with additional people applying for admission. We currently have eleven (11) people who use the Out of Home Respite Program.

Programming opportunities were expanded over the past year to provide people with a broader range of recreational, educational, and life skills experiences. People participated in bowling leagues, attended live theatre performances and movies, and enjoyed visits to the Toronto Zoo, Reptilia, Casa Loma, and Ripley's Aquarium. Community based activities included outings to local parks, libraries, and coffee shops such as Tim Hortons, where social interaction and community engagement were promoted. Opportunities for personal growth and skill development were also incorporated through activities such as cooking, baking, laundry, gardening, and reading. In addition, people attended faith-based services, supporting their spiritual interests and community connections. These diverse experiences encouraged learning, independence, social inclusion, and meaningful participation in community life.

People supported also participated in a BBQ at the Stouffville Group Supported Living. This provided an opportunity to connect with people supported by other Mary Centre locations while enjoying the outdoor space and social atmosphere

The rooms are currently undergoing thoughtful renovations, including coordinated linens and accessories such as matching curtains and towels, to create a warm and welcoming environment. A new Mary Centre exterior sign has also been ordered to enhance the building's presence and visibility.

To honor the legacy of people who contributed to the foundation of Mary Centre, each room will feature a personalized nameplate bearing the names of **Doreen Cullen, Sister Mary Hamilton, Ellen Ballantyne, Father Massey Lombardi, Isobel Ricci, Helen Dionne, and Monsignor Samuel J. Bianco**. This tribute recognizes their invaluable contributions and enduring impact on Mary Centre.

St Bernard's Day Program

Currently seven (7) people utilizing the day program, with attendance schedules varying based on the needs and preferences of each person.

Over the past year, programming has been expanded and enhanced to provide a greater variety of educational, recreational, social, and wellness focused opportunities. A Smart Board was purchased to support interactive learning and engagement. Daily activities include reviewing the

date and weather, participating in group check-ins, and engaging in educational programming focused on mathematics, reading, writing, local news, and current world events. People also enjoy a variety of cognitive and recreational activities, such as tic-tac-toe, puzzles, matching games, word searches and item matching exercises. Programming supports emotional well-being through activities designed to help people recognize, understand, and appropriately express their feelings.

Additional opportunities include baking, shopping, music therapy, daily exercise, and faith-based activities. The program was further enriched by visits from Sunshine Therapy Dogs, providing enjoyable and meaningful interactions for participants. These diverse activities promote learning, social connection, emotional well-being, physical health, and meaningful engagement in daily life.

The day program has freshly painted cupboards and doors. A relaxing area is being set up. We are looking forward to our continued growth in the Day Program.

Supported Independent Living

The Supported Independent Living (SIL) Program currently supports sixteen (16) people, who have experienced a successful, active, and fulfilling year in their social, personal, family, employment, and community life. They continue to participate in a wide range of activities and programs through organizations such as York West Active Living Centre, Centre for Opportunities, Respect and Empowerment, Booth Industries, Famous People Players, Neighbourhood Learning, L'Arche Day Program, and Centennial Infant and Child Care Centre. Highlights of the year included performing at the Paper Mill Theatre, celebrating Italian Heritage Day and Canada Day, attending FIFA Fan Festival events, cheering on the Toronto Blue Jays, exploring cultural festivals such as Taste of the Danforth, the Vietnamese Festival, and Salsa Festival, performing with Keys to the Studio at community fundraising events, and enjoying the Canadian National Exhibition. During the year, one (1) senior gentleman transitioned to a long-term care facility following hospitalization and was unable to return to their apartment.

Among the people supported, accomplishments and personal milestones have included strengthening family relationships and personal wellbeing, pursuing employment opportunities through job searching and resume development, obtaining a Canadian passport to support future travel goals, successfully supporting the developmental needs of children through school collaboration and access to services and orthotics for Autism Spectrum Disorder-related needs, and focusing on important life transitions such as pregnancy and preparation for the arrival of a child. These achievements reflect the diverse goals, aspirations, and successes of the people supported, demonstrating growth in independence, community participation, family life, health, and overall quality of life.

Community Connections

This year the Community Connections program provided people with opportunities to build connections, develop essential skills, and enjoy new experiences in the community. People participated in outings, including going to Blue Jays games, Centre Island, the Art Gallery of Ontario, St. Lawrence Market, Casa Loma, and various museums and exhibits. A monthly lunch program was also introduced at St. Bernard's, people get to plan menus, prepare meals together, socialize, and participate in arts and crafts while developing skills such as cooking, planning, and

teamwork. Their favorite activity was creating tie dye shirts, which they were especially proud of. In this program all the people supported got to celebrate their birthdays together, which created more opportunities to connect and build meaningful relationships. The lunch program also reflects their shared interests in meeting new people and learning how to cook different foods from around the world.

Intake Update:

From September 2025 to September 1, 2026, there were seventy-two (72) calls.

Day Programs

Toronto = six (6) call

Peel = five (5) calls

Out of Home Respite (St Bernards) = Thirty-two (32) calls

Community Supports 54 and Younger

Toronto = two (2) calls

Peel = three (3) call

Community Supports 55 and older.

Toronto = zero (0) calls

Peel = zero (0) calls

Residential Group Living – nine (9) call.

Supported Independent Living – three (3) call.

Miscellaneous call – eleven (11)

Life Skills Assessment – one (1) call

Respectfully,

Cindy Dowdall

Cindy Dowdall

Director of Services Toronto and York

Peel **2026 Annual Board Report**

Community Group Living

The past year has been a period of continued development, transition, and growth across our community group living programs. Throughout the year, our Direct Support Professionals, Team Leads, and leadership have remained focused on providing person centered support, promoting independence, responding to changing health and support needs, and creating meaningful opportunities for community participation.

Over the past year, people supported across the Community Group Living homes in Peel experienced a year of growth, transition, and meaningful engagement. Strong emphasis was placed on supporting independence, health and well-being, community inclusion, and the development and maintenance of important personal relationships.

Several people maintained regular connections with family and friends through visits, shared

celebrations, and ongoing communication. Meaningful relationships continued to be nurtured, including support for family reunification, bereavement, and personal relationships. Direct Support Professionals provided ongoing emotional support and encouragement to help people maintain these important connections and navigate significant life events.

A number of people supported achieved important personal goals related to independence and daily living skills, particularly in areas such as personal care, communication, and participation in household routines. One significant transition during the year involved individuals moving to a new residential setting, where they adjusted well and became increasingly comfortable with their new surroundings and living arrangements.

The homes also supported people with increasingly complex health needs. Direct Support Professionals demonstrated flexibility, collaboration, and dedication in responding to changing physical, cognitive, and medical requirements, while ensuring continuity of care and maintaining quality supports. Environmental modifications and assistive equipment were introduced where needed to enhance accessibility, safety, comfort, and independence.

Community participation remained a cornerstone of programming throughout the year. People supported attended day programs, community-based recreational activities, social events, dances, educational opportunities, and individualized outings. Participation in one-to-one community supports expanded opportunities for people to pursue personal interests, access community resources, and engage in meaningful activities tailored to their preferences. Recreational experiences included visits to cultural attractions, nature-based destinations, recreational facilities, festivals, shopping excursions, dining experiences, and other community events that promoted learning, socialization, physical activity, and inclusion.

Opportunities for social connection were further strengthened through collaborative activities between homes, allowing people to develop friendships, build relationships with peers, and participate in shared experiences. Community engagement, skill development, and personal choice continued to guide programming and support planning across all homes.

The Direct Support Professional teams experienced several employee changes throughout the year. Despite these transitions, employees remained committed to providing consistent, high-quality supports and fostering positive outcomes for people supported. Ongoing recruitment, onboarding, and team development efforts have helped strengthen service delivery and ensure continued responsiveness to the evolving needs of the people supported.

Overall, the year was marked by significant achievements, increased community participation, strengthened relationships, enhanced independence, and continued progress toward personal goals, contributing to a positive and meaningful quality of life for the individuals supported.

Community Connections

Adult Connections

Throughout the year, the people supported through Adult Connections have continued to make meaningful progress in building relationships, strengthening community connections, developing practical life skills, and increasing independence. With individualized support from Direct Support

Professionals, each person supported has been encouraged to pursue personal interests, participate in their communities, develop new skills, and work toward goals that are meaningful to them.

One (1) person supported has made significant progress in developing friendships and expanding their social network. With support from a Direct Support Professional, they registered for a Friends and Advocates membership and renewed their membership with the Polycultural Centre. These opportunities have provided access to social activities and new relationships, helping to increase their confidence and sense of belonging within the community. They look forward to participating in activities offered through both organizations and continue to demonstrate increased enthusiasm for social engagement.

Another person supported has been developing social skills through participation in a community based social program. With individualized support from a Direct Support Professional, they have been able to participate successfully in programming activities and engage with other participants. Regular participation has helped them build confidence, strengthen their communication and social skills, and develop meaningful relationships within the community.

Volunteerism continues to be an important source of purpose, accomplishment, and community connection. One (1) person supported continues to enjoy his volunteer role at a local library, and another continues to volunteer weekly at Salvation Army. With ongoing support from Direct Support Professionals, they have successfully maintained these meaningful roles. This volunteer work provides them with a strong sense of accomplishment while helping them remain active and connected within their community.

Another person supported continues to take great pride in volunteering at their local church. They enjoy contributing to their community and helping others through their volunteer responsibilities. With support from Direct Support Professionals, they have also returned to attending a local golf center, allowing them to participate in one of their favourite recreational activities. These opportunities provide meaningful structure, promote community involvement, and contribute to their overall sense of purpose and connection.

One (1) person supported has been working on budgeting and money management skills with the goal of increasing their financial independence and reducing the risk of food insecurity. With support from Direct Support Professionals, they have been learning to prioritize their needs, make thoughtful spending decisions, and manage their available resources. A significant accomplishment was successfully saving money toward a personal goal and using those savings to enjoy a planned trip to a local historical attraction. This achievement demonstrated their growing ability to plan, make financial choices, and work toward meaningful personal experiences.

Progress has also been demonstrated in communication, literacy, and independent living skills. One (1) person supported is now able to use the telephone independently and can call their brother without assistance. This represents an important step toward greater independence and maintaining meaningful family relationships. Another person supported has demonstrated encouraging progress in reading and has been reading a book with fewer pauses between words. They are also demonstrating improved spelling skills and greater accuracy when sounding out words.

Social awareness and communication skills have continued to develop. One (1) person supported

has made meaningful progress in respecting the personal space of others and is increasingly using appropriate ways to gain another person's attention. They have also begun independently initiating social interactions by waving and saying hello. Positive progress has also been demonstrated in making healthy lifestyle choices, with one (1) person supported independently choosing beverages containing no sugar and demonstrating increased awareness of healthier options. These accomplishments demonstrate the importance of providing individualized opportunities that reflect the interests, abilities, and goals of each person supported. Whether through volunteering, developing friendships, participating in community programs, pursuing recreational interests, managing personal finances, strengthening literacy skills, or building greater independence in daily life, each achievement represents meaningful progress.

The continued development of these skills and opportunities remains a priority for Mary Centre. Direct Support Professionals play an important role in creating opportunities for success while ensuring that each person supported is encouraged to exercise choice, build confidence, develop new skills, and participate as fully as possible in their community.

Elder Connections

Throughout the year, Elder Connections continued to provide meaningful support, connection, and engagement to people supported living in Long Term Care and community settings. Despite several health challenges, Direct Support Professionals remained responsive and adaptable, working to ensure that support continued to reflect the changing needs, preferences, and circumstances of each person supported.

Several people supported experienced changes to their living arrangements during the year, including room and floor transitions, temporary hospitalizations, and moves into convalescent care. Direct Support Professionals provided ongoing assistance and continuity during these transitions, helping people supported adjust to changes in their environments, and maintain important routines and connections. Medical needs also required increased coordination and support, including successful eye surgery, pre-operative appointments, and ongoing hospital visits. Transportation presented additional challenges in some situations due to specialized mobility equipment, requiring Direct Support Professionals to adapt plans and explore appropriate transportation solutions.

The program also experienced periods of respiratory outbreaks within Long Term Care facilities, resulting in temporary restrictions on visitors and community-based supports. During these periods, Direct Support Professionals adapted service delivery to ensure people supported continued to receive appropriate connection and engagement within the limitations of each facility. Once restrictions were lifted, regular support and participation in activities were gradually resumed.

There were also staffing and operational changes throughout the year. Additional Direct Support Professionals were recruited, supervisory responsibilities were adjusted, and ongoing recruitment efforts continued to address vacant positions. Despite this, the program remained committed to maintaining consistency and continuity of support while ensuring that the needs of people supported remained the priority.

The program continued to enhance service delivery through the introduction of new supplies and

technology, including two (2) iPads. These resources have provided additional opportunities for communication, engagement, recreation, and connection, particularly for people supported whose mobility or health needs may limit access to activities outside their residence.

Meaningful community participation and personal connections remained an important focus throughout the year. People supported continued to participate in community and volunteer opportunities where possible, including a volunteer placement at a local animal shelter. Family celebrations and other opportunities for social connection also provided important opportunities for people supported to maintain relationships and remain connected to the people and communities that are meaningful to them.

Overall, Elder Connections continued to demonstrate flexibility, compassion, and commitment in responding to the changing needs of people supported. Through individualized support, community engagement, relationship building, and ongoing adaptation to health and environmental circumstances, Direct Support Professionals continued to promote dignity, connection, participation, and quality of life.

Peel Day Program

Throughout the year, the Day Program continued to provide people supported with meaningful opportunities for recreation, learning, skill development, socialization, and community participation.

The program maintained a diverse schedule of recreational and community-based activities. People supported participated in community walks, shopping outings, bowling, mini golf, library visits, local markets, parks, petting zoos, museums, and a variety of entertainment activities. These opportunities promoted physical activity, social connection, independence, and familiarity with community resources, while allowing people supported to pursue interests and spend meaningful time outside of the program setting.

Cooking and baking continued to be an important component of programming. People supported participated in preparing a wide variety of meals and baked goods, including chicken tacos, burgers, wraps, pasta, chicken parmesan, panzerottis, cinnamon rolls, cookies, and cupcakes. These activities provided opportunities to develop and practice practical life skills, including meal preparation, following steps, kitchen safety, decision making, cooperation, and clean up. Cooking activities also provided opportunities for people supported to make choices, contribute to shared meals, and experience the satisfaction of completing a project.

Educational programming continued to support skill development and promote awareness of health, safety, and social issues. Topics addressed throughout the year included fire safety, bullying prevention, personal hygiene, healthy eating, and cultural learning. These sessions were designed to provide practical information in an accessible and engaging manner while supporting people supported in developing greater awareness and independence in their daily lives.

Music based programming also provided valuable opportunities for creative expression and social engagement. Music therapy and guitar-based activities encouraged participation, communication, confidence, and enjoyment while creating opportunities for people supported to connect with one another through shared experiences.

Community involvement remained an important priority for the program. People supported participated in a community food drive in support of a local food bank, providing an opportunity to contribute to the broader community and develop a greater sense of community responsibility and inclusion. The program also received new supplies and made improvements to the program space, helping to create an environment that better meets the needs of people supported and enhances their ability to participate comfortably and meaningfully in programming.

Supported Independent Living

Throughout the year, people supported continued to work toward their personal goals while developing greater independence, confidence, and meaningful connections within their communities. Through individualized support from Direct Support Professionals, people supported were encouraged to identify goals that were meaningful to them and to develop the skills, confidence, and resources needed to achieve them.

One (1) person supported has made significant progress since joining Mary Centre. Health and wellness were identified as important personal goals, and with support from a Direct Support Professional, this person joined a local gym and began focusing on weight training. They have demonstrated consistency in maintaining their gym routine and continue to make physical wellness a priority. They also participate in a church group, where they have had opportunities to meet new people, develop friendships, and strengthen their social connections. Participation in church celebrations, social gatherings, and sporting events has provided additional opportunities for community involvement and relationship building.

A significant accomplishment this year was the development of stronger money management and budgeting skills for one (1) person supported. With ongoing guidance from Direct Support Professionals, they worked on budgeting, counting and tracking money, reducing unnecessary spending, and setting money aside regularly. As a result of these efforts, they were able to save enough to meet their annual financial obligations and regain greater control over their overall budget. This achievement represents an important step toward financial independence and has helped build confidence in managing personal finances. This person supported also continues to attend a day program four days per week, providing ongoing opportunities for socialization, skill development, and community participation.

Education and personal wellness have remained important priorities for another person supported who has continued their college education in the Child and Youth Care program. They have also been actively working to maintain a healthy lifestyle through regular use of the gym in their building. In addition, they have demonstrated independence in maintaining their home by keeping their unit clean, organized, and well maintained. Recognizing the importance of mental health and overall wellbeing, they have continued to attend therapy appointments and access the support necessary to maintain their wellness.

Health related achievements have also been significant. One (1) person supported successfully underwent cataract surgery and received important assistance from family before and after the procedure, including support in arranging an appropriate respite setting.

People supported have continued to strengthen family relationships through travel and shared

experiences. One (1) person supported had the opportunity to visit family in British Columbia, while others enjoyed vacations at cottages with family and friends.

Health and wellness have remained common priorities across the program. People supported have joined local gyms and recreation centers and have worked closely with Direct Support Professionals to develop healthier routines. This has included learning and preparing healthy recipes, planning meals, grocery shopping, and making informed choices regarding nutrition and physical activity. People supported have also continued to prioritize mental health and emotional wellbeing by attending counselling sessions, psychiatric appointments, and group therapy where appropriate.

Employment remains an important goal for several people supported. With assistance from Direct Support Professionals, people supported have actively pursued employment opportunities and connected with employment agencies within the Peel Region. Support has included developing and improving resumes, completing applications, exploring employment opportunities, and practicing interview techniques. These efforts are helping people supported build confidence and develop the skills required to pursue meaningful employment and greater financial independence.

Personal relationships and significant life transitions have also been an important part of the year. One (1) person supported reached the significant milestone of getting married and subsequently transitioned from the supported independent living apartment into their own home. Another person supported is maintaining a romantic relationship, with support focused on respecting personal choice, promoting healthy relationships, and encouraging independence.

Community participation has remained an important component of supported independent living. People supported enjoyed their annual ferry trip to the Toronto Islands and participated in a wide range of recreational and community outings. Activities included visits to parks, walks to watch airplanes, visits to Woodbine Racetrack, farmers' markets, shopping areas, and lunches and dinners within the community. These activities provide opportunities to make personal choices, socialize, explore different environments, practice community based skills, and participate in activities based on individual interests.

The ongoing commitment of Direct Support Professionals has been essential to these successes. Through individualized guidance, encouragement, skill development, and practical assistance, Direct Support Professionals have supported people in building confidence and making meaningful choices while maintaining dignity, safety, and personal autonomy.

Respectfully,

Marianne Vico

Marianne Vico

Director of Services – Peel

Director of Projects
2026 Annual Board Report

The past year has been busy, and it is a privilege to continue to support the people supported, their families and my co-workers at Mary Centre.

The first area that I will provide a review of is with respect to increasing the housing options for Mary Centre. During this past year we completed another Head Lease Agreement with Daniels Corporation. This agreement provides access to three (3) new living units for people who are seeking community-based housing, which again is a wonderful addition to our housing stock. We also secured, under the same Head Lease Agreement, two (2) additional units that will be utilized by the individuals that were previously part of our Parkside site. I am confident that will be mentioned within the report of Ms. Vico, Director of Services in Peel. We are very appreciative of the “partnership” we have with Daniels Corporation and hope the future provides us with additional opportunities to partner.

Also, with housing opportunities we have remained connected to a Brampton Project that is known as GAVE. This stands for Golden Age Village for the Elderly Campus of Care. This community project is a very significant multi floor complex and we have negotiated a Head Lease for six (6) bedrooms when the project is completed. The final actual number of units will be determined at a later date. In addition to the living units, we will also have office and meeting space on-site. We are very excited and humbled about this opportunity and that GAVE selected Mary Centre to be their partner.

During this past year I/we have participated in two (2) different meetings that involved Catholic Charities and families and/or friends of people with disabilities who are exploring different housing and support opportunities for people. We can all appreciate the complexity involved when families explore how their son or daughter can live with support that, to date, does not involve sufficient funding from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. Mary Centre remains committed to participating in such conversations with people.

Our Parish Outreach Facilitator, Dolly Ducepec, has been with Mary Centre for a year. During the time we have partnered with offices of The Archdiocese of Toronto and Catholic Charities to announce our willingness to partner with local Toronto parishes. Our involvement would primarily focus on two (2) areas; the first is that if local parishes have a member of their congregation who has a developmental disability and is living at home, we are available to the family to explore the steps that might be involved if they are concerned about their son or daughters’ future. The other area of focus is how we can assist the parish in creating an opportunity for the congregation to come together to support other members of their congregation who could use some additional support, but do not know how to access such support.

The latter option came to our attention because of the ShareLife talks that primarily Dolly Ducepec completed. She encountered many situations whereby parishioners approached her to speak of how they needed support, which at times just involved someone supporting them or a family member so they could attend appointments or take a moment to collect themselves. These are not individuals with developmental disabilities, but people who need support. We would assist the parish leaders in starting a process of “building community” to support their neighbours. We continue to hope that both areas of attention will expand across the parishes.

Mary Wu, Director of Human Resources, continues to provide support to eight (8) other agencies that are supported by ShareLife and Catholic Charities. This partnership program continues to strengthen the connection between the nine (9) organizations. The Agreements will all, hopefully, be renewed this month.

Mary Centre continues to host the province wide Emerging Leaders Program. To date we have provided seven (7) cohorts, which have provided training to about one hundred and forty (140) employees of agencies that support people with a developmental disability. In addition, we hosted a cohort for one (1) agency for their own employees, which numbered another thirty-five (35) direct support professionals. The Board of Directors of Mary Centre continues to support this province wide training opportunity, and it is greatly appreciated.

Finally, a significant amount of time has been spent on preparation for the steps involved in our accreditation journey. A separate presentation will occur at the AGM and therefore no further information will be duplicated in this report.

Respectfully,

Don Walker

Don Walker

Director of Projects

Human Resources **2026 Annual Board Report**

Over the past year, I provided comprehensive human resources support to Mary Centre and ten (10) affiliated Catholic charities, promoting consistent, compliant, and mission aligned practices across all agencies. Through ongoing guidance, consultation, and problem solving, I supported leaders in aligning their human resources practices with employment legislation, organizational policies, and recognized best practices. This work strengthened governance, enhanced the employee experience, and improved organizational readiness across the participating agencies.

A significant area of focus was the review, updating, and standardization of policies and procedures. This work improved compliance, clarified expectations, and supported greater operational consistency across the agencies. I also planned and implemented the annual Employee Engagement Survey, coordinating communications, administration, and the reporting of results to leadership to support informed decision making and future engagement initiatives.

In addition, I coordinated the nomination process for organizational awards, ensuring that the process was transparent, fair, and accessible to employees. I managed numerous complex employee relations and disability management matters, providing leaders with timely guidance, supporting compliance with legislative requirements, and facilitating safe and timely return-to-work processes. To further strengthen leadership capability, I delivered targeted human resources training to Service Coordinators, enhancing their understanding of human resources processes, documentation standards, and employee management expectations. Collectively, these initiatives contributed to stronger organizational practices, increased leadership capacity, and a more

consistent and supportive employee experience across Mary Centre and its affiliated Catholic charities.

Respectfully,

Mary Wu

Mary Wu

Director of Human Resources

AGM 2026

Employee Recognition

Thirty-Five (35) Years

Patrick Reid

Mary Centre proudly recognizes Patrick for an extraordinary thirty-five (35) years of dedicated service. As a part-time Direct Support Professional in the Supported Independent Living program, Patrick continues to provide meaningful, consistent, and person-centered support to two (2) people supported. His commitment, reliability, and genuine care have helped foster greater independence, confidence, and community participation, while supporting each person to pursue their individual goals. Patrick's thirty-five (35) years of service reflects a lasting commitment to the people he supports, and to the values of Mary Centre. Thank you, Patrick, for thirty-five (35) years of service!

Thirty (30) Years

Charmaine Gouveia

Mary Centre proudly celebrates Charmaine and her remarkable thirty (30) years of dedicated service as a Direct Support Professional. Over three (3) decades, Charmaine has made a lasting impact across Community Group Living, Community Connections, and Supported Independent Living programs. Through her compassion, commitment, patience, and genuine care, she has helped people supported build confidence, develop independence, strengthen relationships, pursue their goals, and participate meaningfully in their communities. Her dedication is reflected not only in the support she provides, but also in the many relationships she has built, and the positive difference she has made in the lives of those she supports. Thank you, Charmaine, for thirty (30) years of service!

Debbie Figueredo

Today, we are proud to celebrate Debbie and her remarkable 30 years of service with Mary Centre. Since joining the organization in October 1995, Debbie has made a lasting and meaningful impact through her dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment to the people we support and her colleagues. From her early years running activation programs across our homes, to her work at Redcastle, Our Lady of Victory and Whitecap, and ultimately returning to Redcastle as a full-time Team Lead, Debbie has consistently demonstrated excellence in everything she does. Beyond her leadership role, she has contributed significantly to policy development and has been a valued member of the Health and Safety Committee, helping to foster a safe and supportive environment for both staff and the people we support. Over the past three decades, Debbie has shared her knowledge, experience, and wisdom with countless individuals, serving as a mentor, role model, and trusted colleague. Her kindness, professionalism, team spirit, and dedication have helped shape Redcastle into the special home it is today. Congratulations, Debbie, on this extraordinary milestone, and thank you for everything you have given to Mary Centre, Redcastle, your colleagues, and the people we support.

Ten (10) Years

Amanda Leigh

Congratulations to Amanda on reaching an incredible milestone of 10 years with Mary Centre.

Throughout the past decade, Amanda has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership, dedication, and commitment to both the people we support and the teams she leads. Her passion for fostering meaningful opportunities, advocating for person-centered supports, and empowering staff has made a lasting impact across the organization. Amanda's unwavering commitment, professionalism, and positive influence are truly valued, and we are grateful for her many contributions over the years. We look forward to celebrating her continued success and leadership in the years ahead.

Five (5) Years

Laura Stewart

Today, we are pleased to celebrate Laura's five (5)-year milestone as a Service Coordinator with Mary Centre. Over the past five years, Laura has demonstrated outstanding dedication and commitment to both the people we support and the team in Stouffville. Through her strong leadership, guidance, and person-centered approach, she has helped create meaningful opportunities that empower each individual to pursue their goals, build connections, and experience a fulfilling life in their community. Laura's passion and unwavering support have had a positive impact on the lives of those we support as well as the employees who work alongside her. Thank you, Laura, for your commitment, leadership, and the difference you continue to make every day. Congratulations on this well-deserved milestone!

Julie McClean

Over the past five years, Julie has been a valued member at Mary Centre. During her time with us she has demonstrated dedication to the individuals we support in our SIL and Community Connections program, a commitment to their work, and a willingness to contribute to the team. We appreciate her knowledge, experience and positive presence she brings to the agency. Congratulations on five years of service Julie