

New Leaf: Living and Learning Together Inc.



Annual Report 2018 - 2019

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MISSION STATEMENT

New Leaf will offer an alternative to the endless pursuit of rehabilitation in an urban environment for individuals with a developmental disability and complex needs. New Leaf will endeavour to provide quality supports and services that offer a rural option to individuals with a developmental disability, dual-diagnosis, and/or other complex needs.

New Leaf will embrace the values of personal choice, dignity, social inclusion and self-actualization in all of our services and supports as we assist individuals to live, work and play as valued members of society and the community.

PRINCIPLES OF SERVICE DELIVERY

The fundamental beliefs and principles of service delivery that are the motivating force behind all decisions of New Leaf: Living and Learning Together Inc. are as follows:

Citizenship Rights

Individuals have all rights of full citizenship, regardless of their abilities or disabilities.

Respect for the Individual

Individuals have unique needs, goals and desires and should be treated with respect and dignity for their personal choices.

Individualized Planning

The personal goals and desires of an individual provide the direction for developing the services and supports provided by the organization.

Support for Families

Families play an important role in the lives of their family member with a develop mental disability and this relationship is recognized and supported.

Building an Inclusive Community

Individuals are supported in their efforts to participate in the community and New Leaf: Living and Learning Together Inc. will continue to advocate and pursue opportunities for inclusion.

Collaboration

Partnerships and collaborative ventures are essential to effectively and efficiently respond to the needs, goals and desires of individuals with a developmental disability.

Managing Change

Change is a necessary part of living and therefore the outcomes of the supports and services provided by the organization will be continually evaluated to respond to the needs of individuals as well as the emerging directions in policy, research and best practices.



2018 / 2019 Message from the President and the Executive Director

Over the period covered in this report New Leaf has provided full residential support to 90 individuals, and this is expected to increase to 95 by the end of the current fiscal year. In addition to the active residential supports we operate an exciting Day Services program that not only meets the needs of the people we support residentially, but provides service to a further 12 individuals and their families from the community. Our Community Supports Program (Day Services program), is comprised of our farm, the pool and rec centre programs, expressive arts, and woodworking. This is in addition to numerous individualized activities in and around our community. The vision for our Community Supports Program is to provide adults with meaningful experiences that promote their personal interests, skill development and growth. Our programs and site provide a therapeutic setting where horticultural and farming activities provide an opportunity to be engaged with nature. We encourage all staff members to take an active role in supporting all individuals in programming designed to reach personal goals, growth and individual interests. We are particularly proud of the variety of activities we provide to meet the individualized interests of the people we support.

On Canada Day 2019 New Leaf Community Supports Program organized our very own music festival on the farm property called “Farmstock:”. This was an outdoor musical event open to residents from our agency and sister agencies in the community. Over the summer months we have developed and supported New Leaf residents to participate in our baseball and soccer teams. These teams have competed with participants from other service providers. Our field is also used frequently by the Newmarket and Area Special Olympics teams. New Leaf has also collaborated with Community Living Central York to allow some of our folks to participate in ice hockey at the National Training Rink in Newmarket. The “Swim Meet” at our recreation centre provided for our very own version of swimming Olympics. Resident and staff members participated in races cheered on by the crowd.

We are proud of the services provided over this fiscal year. These services are being reviewed and revised continuously and plans are actively underway to refresh and reinforce our greenhouse and agricultural programs. I want to thank the staff and management in both our residential and in our Community Support Programs for their dedication and commitment.

The fiscal year 2018-2019 was a very active and exciting year at New Leaf. It was also a very tumultuous year with major and minor disasters occurring in a few of our programs, and with political and economic uncertainty related to the implementation of Bill 148 (later repealed by the current Conservative government). Bill 148 was estimated to cost New Leaf an additional \$280,000 in operat-



ing costs. This in addition to the ongoing unfunded pressure of pay equity, and previously negotiated salary increases would have had an overall impact of close to \$500,000. So, as you can imagine, a great deal of time and energy was spent calculating and planning for the financial impact of these changes while working hard to ensure that our funder was aware of the pending impact of this legislation. MCCSS (MCSS at the time) did respond by providing agencies with some one time fiscal support.

On February 1, 2019 there was a major flood at our Farm residence due to a broken sprinkler system pipe. This emergency required a very quick response on the part of our entire management team as plans had to be made to relocate 13 residents, who, as it turns out, would be out of their home for three months. The response to this emergency was impressive, and a testament to the skill and professionalism of our management team.

We are exceptionally grateful to the Churchstation Foundations for a generous donation of one million dollars in support of the establishment of a new residential site. With this significant contribution we were able to purchase and retrofit a house that will eventually be home to six individuals, along with a room that will serve the needs of individuals in transition, or families experiencing emergencies where a short term immediate response is required to keep people safe while longer term plans are put into place. On July 12, 2018 we took possession of a house in Georgina, and spent the next eight months renovating it to meet the specialized needs of the people we support. We are also grateful to the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services for their generous support of \$173,373 to install a fire suppression sprinkler system, fire and security panels and other security and safety related items.

We are thankful once again to the Toronto Real Estate Board for their donation of \$10,000 to support our aquatic program.

As has been mentioned in previous reports, the Region of York will be building a large sewage treatment plant adjacent to our Pines residence. Since this was first announced a number of years ago we have been working and negotiating with the Region regarding the sale of this property and the subsequent relocation of our residents and program to a new site. These negotiations intensified over the fiscal year, and set the framework for a final agreement to be achieved in the current fiscal year.

I am very pleased to report that after only three days of negotiations we were able to reach a deal with the Service Employees International Union for a three year renewal of our Collective Agreement. The agreement was ratified by our staff on January 8, 2019 and will run until it expires on December 31, 2021.

Once again, New Leaf has successfully met the requirements under the ministry's Quality Assurance Regulations.

We are very proud of what we have been able to accomplish over the last fiscal year and excitedly look forward to the challenges and opportunities of 2019-2020.

**2018/ 2019 Message from the President
and the Executive Director (cont'd)**

In closing we would like to thank our staff and management teams for their hard work and dedication. We also want to thank the Board of Directors for their ongoing guidance and support.

Sincerely,

Charles Dyer, President and Ron McCauley, Executive Director.





Treasurer's Message

This past fiscal year, New Leaf was the grateful recipient of a million dollar donation from Churchstation Foundation to purchase and retrofit a home to serve individuals with an intellectual disability and complex needs. With these funds New Leaf purchased a home in the Town of Georgina which now houses our new Sycamore House residential program.

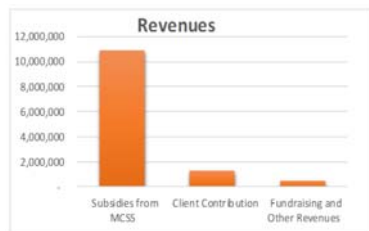
Although 2018-2019 presented the agency with a number of challenges as we dealt with the uncertainty related to changing government policies, the provincial election, and a change in government, New Leaf was able to chart and maintain a steady course toward a balanced budget on March 31, 2019.

We are thankful to the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services for their continued financial support. This year we received \$173,373 in additional, one-time funding to purchase a sprinkler system, fire doors, fire panels and security related equipment at our new Sycamore house site.

We also received \$235,393 in much needed stabilization funding. This funding was provided by the former Liberal government and was intended to be permanent annualized funding. Since the change in government it is unclear whether this funding will remain in place as we have yet to receive our budgets for 2019-2020. We implore the new government to commit to funding on an annualized basis the previously committed to stabilization dollars. This will be the first annualized adjustment in many years, and the funding is desperately needed to meet the ongoing needs of some of Ontario's most vulnerable citizens.

Once again our finance and management staff ensured that the agency ended the fiscal year in the black. I would like to thank our dedicated management team for their competence and commitment. Thank you also to my fellow Finance Committee members Charles Dyer and Margaret Simmons for their time and skills spent in the service of New Leaf.

Jim Thompson
Treasurer, New Leaf Board of Directors



The Year in Review



Community outings are numerous, including computer club at the library, date nights, drum circles, Good Will Day at the Highland Yacht Club, grocery shopping and more.



The Year in Review



As always, our annual Christmas celebration is a huge success featuring our amazing choir and, of course, Santa and his helper.



The annual New Leaf swim meet was another great success this year. Many personal bests were rewritten this year. Congratulations to all participants.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mr. James Lockyer Vice President

Mr. Douglas Anderson 2nd Vice President

Mr. Jim Thompson Treasurer

Mr. Daniel Blanchard Secretary

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Mr. and Mrs. B. Simmonds
Smartmeds Pharmacy
Smith, Sykes and Leeper Management
Mr. Peter Smith
Ms. Vincenza Stephenson
United Way Greater Toronto Area

New Leaf has also received numerous memorial donations for which we are most appreciative.

THANK YOU!



For more information about
New Leaf, please visit our
website at

www.newleaf.ca

Thank you.