



ANNUAL REPORT 2018



Belonging

By Meghan O'Neill

I cannot say enough about our family's experience with the Club.

From the moment my daughter, Lauren, who has significant autism (very little language, behavioural difficulties, toileting needs, sensory issues, etc.) began attending the Club, her world changed. Though she cannot tell me in sentences, she is able to communicate to me that because of this organization, her life is happier. I hear her say the names of all of her friends from the Club, over and over, and always with a huge smile on her face...sometimes followed by a giggle. I truly believe that Lauren has found her 'special place' with people with whom she truly connects. It is a place where people just 'get' her and her uniqueness. As a parent, knowing that your child is happy, and feels a genuine sense of belonging and love, is indescribable. This is especially true since we live in a world where inclusiveness does not always exist.

Though there have been many instances where I have felt Lauren is truly part of the family at the Club, there is one memory that I have that will stay with me always. It was Lauren's first time attending summer camp: One lunchtime she became over stimulated, which then resulted in aggressive behaviour. I picked her up and brought her home for the rest of the day. I was so sad and scared. Sad because I felt the Club might not work for Lauren, and scared when Alice encouraged me to bring her back the next day. I was imagining everyone being upset upon her return. The next morning, I got Lauren in the car and we made our way to the Club.

All the participants were waiting outside for the bus to take them to the beach. My heart began to race the moment Lauren stepped out of the car. I was positive they would be angry. The first participant to see her said, "Hey look! It's Lauren!" This was followed by the rest of the group jumping up and yelling, "Hi Lauren! Hi Lauren!" Lauren could not stop flapping her hands in happiness and was grinning from ear to ear. My heart nearly exploded. I was overcome with joy and gratitude. I could not stop crying tears of joy. From that day onward, I knew the Club would become a very special place for Lauren and for our family. My daughter belongs. And so does every other person who walks through the Club's doors.



Taking Care of Business

By Chantel Meister

This is my second year at the Taking Care of Business Program and I am really enjoying it. My favourite thing about the day program is the people. Everyone here is super nice and everyone makes me feel included, no one is ever left out at the Club!

We are learning how to manage starting our own businesses, and having fun while we do it. Jackie and the other staff always come up with super fun, cool and creative things for us to do. We dance and keep fit, go on outings, do crafts, cook, and work on our different business ventures.

In the future I hope to write and edit my own magazine for girls with diverse abilities. As a first step we've started our own monthly newsletter and I'm getting experience writing and editing it. We're also working on a podcast and I'm interviewing people for that. I like making crafts and hope to sell my own crafts. Since I've been in the program I've learned jewellery-making skills and made lots of different crafts to sell. I also ran a stall at the St James Anglican Church Craft Fair. These are all great experiences to put on my resume and I'm excited for my future.



A word from our President

President of the Board of Directors, Robert Maingot

The Club Inclusion celebrated an important birthday in 2018. It's been 10 years since Alice Evans and Renée Pye first started Club programs with the vision of 'Social, Cultural and Recreational Inclusion for all'. It's been 10 years of remarkable growth and community, with what started as a Theatre Club and Cooking Club for 27 people, now transformed into an array of daily programs that serve nearly 250 members and their families.

Over those ten years remarkable connections have been made, and relationships built. Participants in our programs, along with staff, volunteers and family members, have built a strong and stable community, where friendships blossom. This year even saw an engagement with Justin McGarragh going down on one knee and proposing to Jackie Rivers at Drop In Club!

We have seen our capacity grow over this past year. Drop In Club figures have continued to rise, with 45 people now attending some afternoon sessions. Inclusive Choir sees up to 40 people every week, and our Summer Camps have been extended to six weeks to meet demand with 75 teens and young adults taking part. We started March Break Camps and Parent and Caregiver Supports.

Via our pilot Daytime program we are now able to effectively serve people with complex disabilities who had previously found themselves excluded from Social Enterprise or Employment schemes in the area because their challenges were seen as being too great. Not only are 28 participants learning skills and working on setting up their own businesses, but The Club Inclusion is leading the way in person-directed programming that enables individuals to realise their unique skills and talents.





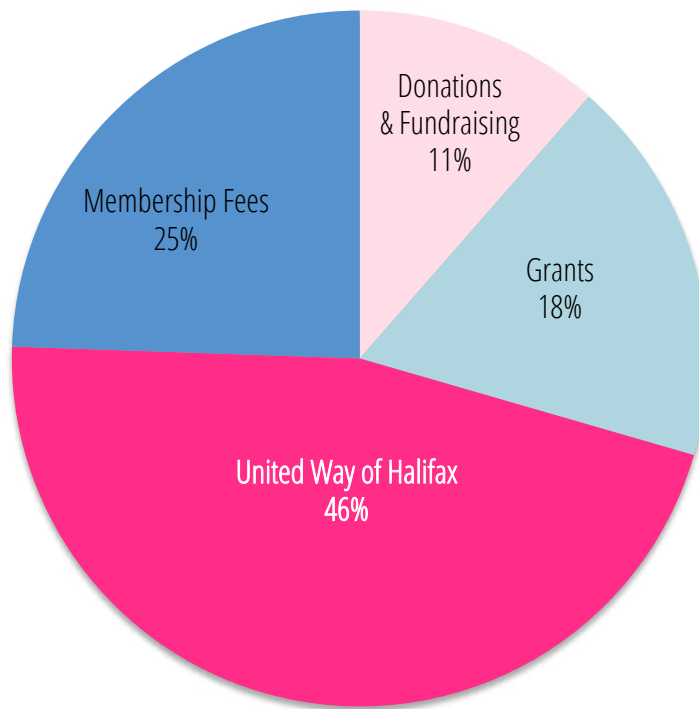
Partnerships with St James Anglican Church, the United Way of Halifax, Grace United Church and Canadian Progress Club, have blossomed into relationships based on trust and joint working. In addition to funding, this year Progress Club members provided pizza nights for our members, invitations to some very glamorous events, and advice on operations development. We were able to provide First Voice input to the United Way's Poverty Strategy, and further developed the Inclusive Choir with Grace United. Students from Dalhousie University, NSCC, Success College and St Mary's have been taking part in practicums in the Club, and the Parish of St James Anglican Church have continued to provide us with a home in Halifax. We are immensely grateful to all our partners and funders for enabling us to continue to provide a high quality service for persons with diverse abilities.

Throughout this growth the Board and Executive team have focused on risk management and staff and volunteer training to ensure full inclusion for all, while always emphasizing safety. We are dedicated to building a sustainable future for this community, and take the trust that families place in us very seriously.

Whether you take part in a Choir every week, join us in running the Bluenose Marathon, have adventures at Summer Camp, perform in our play at the Neptune Theatre, cook at Supper Club, dance at a party, or hang out at Drop In, we hope you too know you have a community and friendship at The Club Inclusion.

Robert Maingot, President

How we funded Drop In Club in 2018:



Offering affordable programs is a major priority for The Club Inclusion and we make sure to offer bursaries and low rates so that everyone can take part in our Drop In Clubs. In 2018, Membership Fees covered just 25% of Drop In Club costs. In order to run our programs we fundraised and applied for grants to cover the remaining 75% of the costs. We are extremely grateful to the United Way of Halifax for their ongoing support.

If you would like to be a part of our volunteer Fundraising Team and help make 2019 a successful year for The Club Inclusion, please contact Alice Evans at alice@theclubinclusion.com. We welcome your ideas and your practical help!

If you would like to make a donation to support The Club Inclusion or help to provide a bursary for someone on a low income, you can do so online via Canada Helps, at any of our programs, or by contacting Patricia Neves at patricia@theclubinclusion.com

The Club Inclusion is a Registered Charity and we provide official tax receipts for donations
Registered Charity #836137422RR0001

Volunteering at The Club Inclusion

By Hasti Ataye

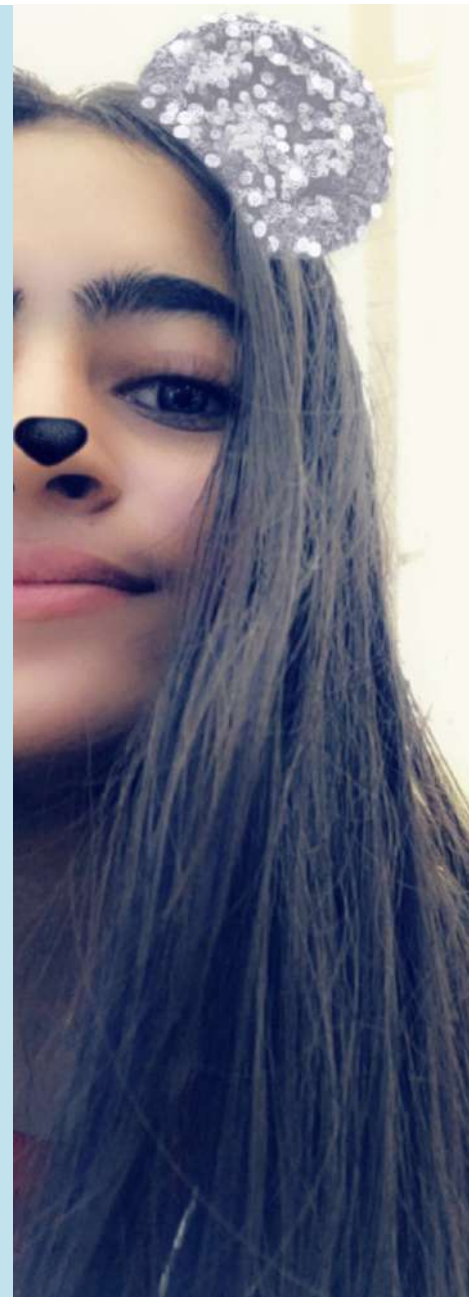
Hi, my name is Hasti and I am 15 years old. I have lived in Canada for 3 years and before that I lived in Russia and Afghanistan. People's attitude towards people with disabilities is different in those countries and it's worse. I have a sister who has a disability and there was no place like the Club in Russia. There were no places where people with disabilities could go and have fun. Here in Canada she has more opportunity and I hope she will have a great future.

The Club Inclusion is such an amazing place for people to come and just have fun, and forget about their problems. It's also a great place to communicate with other members, play different games, do fun activities, or dance with me! If you want a place to go and have fun, and communicate, Club Inclusion is that place.

I started volunteering in September and since then I'm here a few times a week. Sometimes after school, I could be really tired but when I come to the Club I'm full of energy.

I just love what I do here, it just makes me so happy. I think that's why some people call me crazy, like, who else would put on a random song and start dancing? Right me! It's all the vibe. I think everyone who works here or comes here feels that vibe. I love dancing even though I am not really good at it, but the fact that the Club members are dancing with me makes it more special.

I'm happy that I have an opportunity to volunteer here. I would never stop volunteering until someone is gonna kick me out of the Club!



If you would like to volunteer at The Club Inclusion, please contact Jackie Rivers, Program Director at jackie@theclubinclusion.com. You will need an up to date Criminal Record Check with Vulnerable Sector Check and a Child Abuse Registry Check. Times and types of volunteering can be arranged to suit your availability and skills. Interpreters can be provided. Contact us to find out more!

50 Supper Clubs!

In 2018 we celebrated our 50th Supper Club. This monthly life skills and cooking program is a wonderful way to join with friends to cook, eat and socialize. There's an emphasis on independence and life skills, with everyone contributing to the meal, cleaning up, and learning new healthy recipes to try at home. We are so grateful to Audrey Samson for developing this program with Club participants, and for organizing the past fifty sessions. That's a lot of chopped veg! Thanks also to our amazing volunteer team and to the United Way Halifax for their support of this program. To find out more email our new Supper Club Lead Kari Plaggenborg: kari@theclubinclusion.com



Going to Choir

By Nadia Rossong

I first heard about choir in the newsletter for The Club Inclusion. I loved it from the first time I went. It was cool that it included everyone!

My favourite moments this year were the TV interview [with CTV News] and the warm up activities Adam, our Choir Director, does. Some of the tunes I really like are Don't Stop Believing, Hallelujah, Rockin Robin, and Waltzing Matilda. We also did concerts for Port Wallis United Church, the Disability Rights Coalition and March of Dimes. People should know that all abilities can join, that it is fun and you get to meet lots of new people.

Inclusive Choir practices take place on Monday evenings, 6.30pm to 7.30pm at Grace United Church Hall, King St, Dartmouth. Thank you to Grace United Church for the funding and support to make this program possible.

Financials

The Club Inclusion

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

Year ended October 31, 2018

For plain language information please email:
alice@theclubinclusion.com

| Income | \$ |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Government Grants | 31,043 |
| Other Grants | 77,310 |
| Fundraising | 22,952 |
| Donations | 56,887 |
| Membership Fees | |
| Club Dartmouth | 1,400 |
| Drop In Club | 24,952 |
| Lunch Club | 964 |
| Summer Camp | 37,215 |
| Supper Club | 1,690 |
| Taking Care of Business | 45,395 |
| <u>Miscellaneous Income</u> | <u>891</u> |
| Total Income | 300,699 |

| Expenses | \$ |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Amortization | 6,455 |
| Office | 25,624 |
| Fundraising | 2,968 |
| Club Dartmouth | 2,617 |
| Drop In Club | 57,841 |
| Lunch Club | 2,649 |
| Summer Camp | 54,940 |
| Supper Club | 3,681 |
| Taking Care of Business | 57,472 |
| Programming Salaries | 34,406 |
| <u>Administrative Salaries</u> | <u>36,085</u> |
| Total Expenses | 284,738 |

Balance 15,961

Statement of Financial Position Year ended October 31, 2018

| ASSETS | | \$ |
|-------------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Current | Cash | 135,950 |
| | Accounts Receivable | 3,605 |
| | HST Recoverable | 167 |
| | Prepaid expenses | - |
| | | 139,722 |
| | Equipment & Leasehold Improvements | <u>11,225</u> |
| | | 150,947 |
| LIABILITIES | | \$ |
| Current | Accounts Payable | 7,404 |
| | Deferred Revenue | <u>63,641</u> |
| | | 71,045 |
| Net Assets | General Fund | 25,337 |
| | Internally Restricted | <u>54,565</u> |
| | | <u>79,902</u> |
| | | 150,947 |

Treasurer's Note:
As in keeping with the Board's
Sustainability Policy, we have continued to keep a
reserve fund in case of unexpected eventuality

The Club Inclusion Accountants are
Optio, Chartered Professional
Accountants
5991 Spring Garden Road
Halifax, NS B3H

Thank you

We are incredibly grateful for the support of our funding partners and proud to be a United Way of Halifax funded agency and to be supported by the Canadian Progress Club – Halifax. We want to say a special thank you to the following people and organizations for their financial support:



Canadian Progress Club
Club Progrès du Canada



United Way
Halifax



Andrew & Carmel Raymond
Anna Gillis & Family
Anonymous Benefactors
Bethany United Social Outreach
Committee
Bluenose Marathon Team for The Club
Canadian Progress Club – Halifax
Chebucto Community Health Board
Councillor Sam Austin
Councillor Shawn Cleary
Darlene Mott
Evolve Fitness
Federal Government of Canada

Flemming Foundation
Flewelling Family
Grace United Church, Dartmouth
Halifax Assistance Fund
Jamie & Debbie Munro and family
Janet, Mike and Jillian Arthur
Leith Johnson
McInnis Cooper
Micco Companies
Minister Lena Diab
Claudia Chender MLA
Murphy Business Atlantic
100+ Women Who Care, Halifax

Paul Lepine
Province of NS Dept of Community Services
Province of NS Dept of Communities, Culture
& Heritage
Reverend Ihasz & Family
The Lloy Family & the Malay Family
The Chronicle Herald
Trampoline Creative Inc
United Way of Halifax
Uta Donahue
Victoria & Robert Apold
Westmount Neighbourhood
St James Anglican Church, Halifax

Mailing Address:
2185 Quinn St, Halifax, B3L 3E5
Telephone: 902 478 1917

Halifax Programs:
2652 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax
Dartmouth Programs:
Grace United, King St, Dartmouth
Email: Registerinfotheclub@gmail.com
www.theclubinclusion.com
www.facebook.com/theclubinclusion
www.twitter.com/clubinclusion



Building Community and Success

Our work would not be possible without key partnerships in the Community. Thank you to the following groups and individuals for their support. It has been a pleasure to work with you during 2018:

Avi Arora Photography

Dalhousie University, School of Health and Human Performance

Dalhousie University, School of Nursing

Dalhousie Theatre Association

Dr Brian Hennen

Dr Lindsay Vellacott

Dr Paula Hutchinson

Dr Barbara Hamilton-Hinch

DJ Ace

Eastern Front Theatre

Geoff Breen, Legal Counsel, Cox & Palmer

The Parish of Grace United Church

Halifax Global Consulting

Halifax Association for Community Living

Heartsparks Music Therapy

ISANS Immigrant Settlement Agency

Karen Bassett

Kim Hayward

Meridy Thomson

Neptune Theatre

Nova Scotia Association for Community Living

Nova Scotia Partnership for Respite

Nova Scotia Community College

Success College

St Mary's University

The Parish of St James Anglican Church

Zumba with Darin and Shelley

Henrick Strait-Hennerichsen

Leith Johnson

Jason Fanning

Justin McGarragh

Canadian Progress Club, Halifax

A special thank you to Justin McGarragh and all our amazing volunteers for your contributions during 2018. We are so touched by your continued kindness and commitment.

2018 Staff Team:

Executive Director: Alice Evans: alice@theclubinclusion.com

Administrator: Patricia Neves: patricia@theclubinclusion.com

Program Director: Jackie Rivers: jackie@theclubinclusion.com

Senior Session Leaders: Justin Eweka, Kari Plaggenborg, Audrey Samson.

Program Team: Alyssa Larade, Celilidh Wright, Corey Morrison, Denielle Miller, Ewa Rudnicki, Fatema Alawadhi, Heather King, Jami Proude, Katie Ashley, MacKenzie Lefebvre, Merrilee Rowse, Sylvia Beliveau.

Inclusion Officer: Heather King

Inclusion Intern: Denielle Miller

Choir Director: Adam Johnson

2018 Board of Directors:

Robert Maingot, President, Sharon Malay, Past President, Uta Donahue, Treasurer, James Robertson, Secretary Anne Louise Desrosiers, Sarah Cooper, Les T Johnson Dawn Le Blanc, Jenn MacDonald, Grant MacLean

Jo-Ann McNamara, Jocelyn Tingley

Non-voting members:

Alice Evans, Executive Director

Staff Representative: Jackie Rivers

Member Reps: Katelyn Isenor with Conar Clory, Karley Gates and Mike McCully

Legal Counsel: Geoff Breen, Cox and Palmer

The Club Inclusion Co-founders:

Renée Pye & Alice Evans 2008

Photography: Avi Arora

Volunteer Fundraiser: Brad Milligan



www.theclubinclusion.com

Registered Charity
#836137422RR0001

In loving memory of our
dear friend, Tony Hauser

