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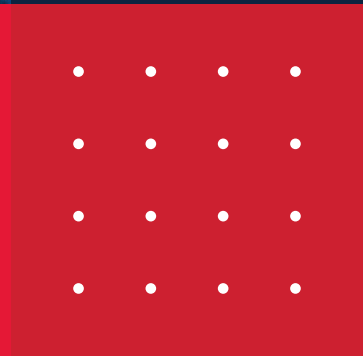
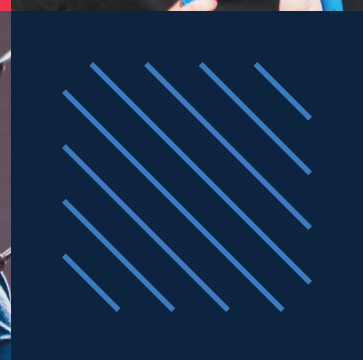
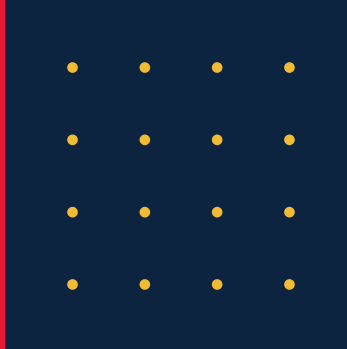
Easter Seals
**Newfoundland &
Labrador**

Gratitude Report 2022



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Our vision is for a community where all people with disabilities live full, healthy, and active lives. Our mission is to **engage**, **inspire**, and **maximize opportunities** for people with disabilities of all ages by providing meaningful programs and services.

Approximately 100,000 people of all ages in our province live with disabilities such as physical, sensory, cognitive or other disabilities which present barriers to full participation in society. It is our objective to tear down these barriers and build an inclusive Newfoundland and Labrador.



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A letter from our 2022 Ambassador

My name is Brandon Bowen, and I am the 2022 Easter Seals Ambassador for Newfoundland and Labrador.

I honestly can't believe my time as the Ambassador is almost complete-- like they say, "time flies when you're having fun". Being the Ambassador was an amazing experience for me.

2022 marked the 100th anniversary of Easter Seals Canada. I had the opportunity to travel to Ottawa to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Easter Seals Canada. I met with Senators, Ministers, got a tour of the House of Commons, visited the Senate building, and participated in the declaration of the 100th anniversary of Easter Seals Canada. It was definitely one of the highlights of being the Ambassador.

Having this role as Easter Seals Ambassador has made such a positive impact on my life. It has boosted my self-esteem, and I have gained great public communications and media relations experience -- it's pretty cool to hear yourself on the radio. I have enjoyed being involved in virtual meetings with Easter Seals Canada, discussing inclusion awareness, and representing the promise of today's youth becoming tomorrow's leaders.

When I enter the Easter Seals building, my disability is left at the door. I've been involved with Easter Seals NL since age 2, participating in many programs, such as summer and winter camps, swimming, boccia, sledge hockey, wheelchair basketball, and family events. Sadly, being a teenager with a disability hasn't been easy because I'm often not accepted amongst my peers, but this is where Easter Seals continues to help me.



Everyone is always considered equal at Easter Seals NL, which is very important. Anyone who has been involved with Easter Seals can understand-- you see the smiles, hear the laughter, notice the friendships, and you're accepted for being you. This is why I love Easter Seals. We have a fantastic Easter Seals family, and, most importantly, it continues to grow.

It continues to grow because of all the support starting with Easter Seals staff, volunteers, participants, donors, sponsors, government, and communities. I want to thank each of you for making this possible. Because of your support, we were able to accomplish so much in 2022, including hosting many successful events and campaigns, and I was able to perform in a music video with Opera on the Avalon. Isn't that amazing!

I would also like to send a big thank you to Fraser Edison for funding the Ambassador scholarship. This will help me tremendously with my post-secondary education, and it is greatly appreciated.

Again, **thank you to everyone who's made my role as the Easter Seals Ambassador an experience of a lifetime over the last year.** It's something I will never forget. To be honest, I am sad to see my role come to an end, but I am also excited for the next lucky person selected for this important role. You will have a blast; enjoy every minute of it!

By becoming an Easter Seals Ambassador, I became a voice for people with disabilities, and now, my voice will never go silent.

Sincerely,
Brandon Bowen

The Fraser Edison Easter Seals Ambassador Trust (FEESAT) was established by Fraser Edison in 2003 and provides a \$2,000 educational scholarship to Easter Seals Ambassadors. FEESAT celebrates the unwavering determination, positive attitude and future promise of children with physical disabilities.

To learn more about the ambassador program or the FEESAT, please visit www.eastersealsnl.ca/ambassadors.



It is an honour to serve as Honorary Patron of Easter Seals Newfoundland and Labrador. I have been blessed since becoming Lieutenant Governor to have the opportunity to meet so many wonderful individuals who provide and avail of the programs and services available because of Easter Seals. The wonderful facilities and programs, such as the Accessible Park Project, provide opportunities for them to fully enjoy outdoor activities. The inclusive park that was made possible by the generosity of those who recognize the importance of making a difference in the lives of others is an incredible initiative and I am grateful for your contributions.

**Her Honour, The Honourable
Judy M. Foote**

*Lieutenant Governor of
Newfoundland and Labrador*

*Patron Easter Seals Newfoundland
and Labrador*





To our community of supporters



It was another incredible year at Easter Seals Newfoundland and Labrador as we continue to make great strides in our mission to engage, inspire, and maximize opportunities for people with disabilities in the province. I would like to extend a heartfelt **thank you** to all who have given to our organization in 2022. Your support allows us to continue to break down barriers to create an inclusive community, offer over 20 meaningful programs and services, and build upon our accessible park and playground on Mount Scio Road. With the completion of Phases I and II, comes the beginning of another phase of our park project, Phase III, which will include an outdoor hardcourt surface area and accessible bleachers.

Today, we recognize our donors, sponsors, and community champions who believe in the value of our work and continue to contribute and celebrate our accomplishments. We could not do this work without you.

Please enjoy our 2022 Gratitude Report.

Sincerely,

Mark Bradbury, MBA, CPA, FCMA
Chief Executive Officer



With our 2nd annual Gratitude Report, we acknowledge the generosity from countless donors, sponsors, and supporters who have given to Easter Seals NL in 2022. We are grateful for a community that continues to tear down barriers to create a more inclusive Newfoundland and Labrador.

Our accomplishments included, but were not limited to, offering our accessible overnight camp after a two year hiatus due to the pandemic, seeing an incredible influx of new participants register for programs, and selling out our Luxury Cabin Lottery for a 2nd consecutive year, allowing us to continue to provide valuable programs and services.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank the countless donors, sponsors, volunteers, staff members, and of course participants and families. We celebrate our successes with you, as they are yours as much as ours.

Gratefully yours,

Michael Duffy
Board Chair 2022



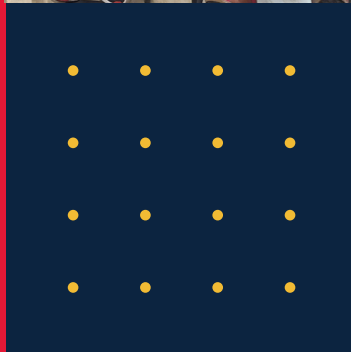
Thank **you**

On behalf of the board, staff, and volunteers at Easter Seals Newfoundland and Labrador, we want to thank all of our donors, supporters, and community champions who supported our organization in 2022. Your contribution, big or small, directly impacts the lives of people of all ages with disabilities in our province.

When reading these stories, it is our hope that you understand the lasting impact that your support has on our participants, and know that some of these moments would not have been possible without your support.

Thank you to all the families and participants for sharing your memories, learnings, and triumphs.

**We hope you enjoy our 2022
Gratitude Report.**



ENGAGE



Just a kid doing kid things



With his wide grin and big belly laughs, **Thomas** first started attending Easter Seals NL programs and activities around the age of 3 when we learned about the Let's Get Active program through our daycare provider. We quickly added Wheelchair Basketball and, later, Creative Expressions Music to our roster of programs, but it wasn't until 2021, the summer Thomas turned 10, that he attended day camp.

That first summer was not all sunshine and rainbows. Thomas had a hard time adjusting to being around so many people every day and settling into the rhythms of day camp life. I received multiple calls to pick him up as he was disrupting the other campers. But, over the course of the 8-week camp, we saw a transformation. Thomas settled, he found his way of communicating when he wasn't happy, and the counsellors worked with us to find ways to distract and redirect Thomas when he was becoming elevated. At the end of summer talent show, he even got up on stage and performed with the counsellors as they did their final dance!

Summer 2022 came around and I enrolled Thomas in day camp without hesitation. It was the best decision ever. He strolled through the sliding doors that first day as if he owned the place. The confidence he has developed through the careful nurturing of the Easter Seals NL staff, and the opportunity to participate in activities he wouldn't otherwise be able to, such as wall-climbing, blows me away. When he felt overwhelmed by the noise and movement, he would speak to a counsellor and they would find him a quiet corner or play hacky sack to help him regulate.

It made my heart happy to read his report each day and learn how he had participated in a craft

(definitely not a preferred activity) or helped the counsellors explain a game to the other campers - Thomas loves to be the teacher! Knowing that he was spending every day in an environment that not only allowed him to be himself, but positively encouraged it, all while giving him a chance to be a kid and do kid things, was balm to my soul.



Easter Seals NL is changing lives – not just of the participants, but their families as well, who also find a community here. **Thank you to all the donors and supporters whose generosity allows our children to shine when the outside world can often move to dull their sparkle.**

Oh, and he's still got the belly laugh!

Written by: Emma Speagell

Disability does not mean Inability

“

The Easter Seals NL “I Can Too” program has been an integral part of Holy Trinity Elementary for many years, and since meeting Rachel Warren (Opportunities Fund and ‘I Can Too!’ Disability Education Coordinator), it has grown significantly in our kindergarten to grade four school. We are able to reach the majority of students every year. It is more than an educational program that focuses on increasing awareness of individuals with disabilities; it is a safe space where students and staff have shared some extremely personal experiences. I remember one teacher opening up to her students about her own brother, who was in a wheelchair, which led to the students having an open conversation sharing stories about their

own families, asking questions, and having some life changing moments. It builds on our school culture of being safe, respectful, and responsible while focusing on people with disabilities who can do the same things as everyone else, just in their own way! These young children spread kindness and acceptance throughout our school, in their communities, and at home. We genuinely look forward to our “I Can Too” presentations every year and appreciate that Easter Seals NL is able to provide such a great program.

– Lee Ann Roche, Guidance Counsellor at Holy Trinity Elementary, Torbay

Since 2005, Easter Seals NL staff and volunteers have been delivering the “I Can Too” Disability Awareness Program in elementary schools across the Country. This program uses stories, videos, and dolls with a variety of disabilities to demonstrate to students that disability does not mean inability. **Thank you** to Holy Trinity Elementary, Octagon Pond Elementary, and the countless other schools for opening your doors and allowing Easter Seals NL the opportunity to teach students about the importance of inclusion. And thank you to the **Community Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador** for providing the necessary funding to continue delivering the ‘I Can Too!’ program in 2022.

To learn more about the ‘I Can Too’ disability awareness program, please visit <https://eastersealsnl.ca/i-can-too>.



“

We are so thankful that our students at Octagon Pond Elementary were able to take part in the “I Can Too” presentation. Through this very fun, engaging, and interactive program, they have learned so much about how disability does not mean inability and that we are the same, regardless of how we may do some things differently. They absolutely loved naming the dolls, learning all about their differences and how things can

be adapted to allow them to participate in their favourite activities. The “I Can Too” program is such a great way for children to become more inclusive and accepting of each others’ differences, which is important as we create more inclusive environments in our schools.

– Janice Kelly, Guidance Counsellor at Octagon Pond Elementary, Paradise

Meet Jane



Jane is 22 years old and has recently completed high school. Combined with the pandemic, it has been a difficult adjustment for her. Jane is a very social person and enjoys interacting with friends and peers, however the past three years have made that very difficult. Jane has Down Syndrome, and loves working with art and different mediums. She has thousands of original drawings and many other projects that she works on at home, which has kept her going these past several years. She loves engaging with her friends over Zoom and following guided drawing videos on Youtube.

However none of that filled the need for normal, face-to-face social human interaction.

Since enrolling in the Pottery Program at Easter Seals NL, we have seen a very noticeable positive change in her. Jane's anxiety has noticeably decreased, and her anticipation and enjoyment of the sessions is very obvious. The overwhelming joy she felt as she planned out, prepared, and finally presented her finished pieces as gifts to friends and family was very fulfilling. She was so proud.

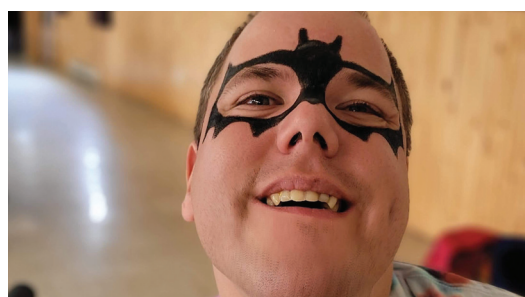
The program at Easter Seals has been a very important and key part of Jane's social recovery from the pandemic and has gone a long way toward rebuilding her mental health. We are so happy to see her fully engaged and enjoying every session.

Thank you to the staff and all the supporters of Easter Seals NL. This program has been so beneficial for Jane, her mental health and her well being.

Written by: Will Parsons, Jane's dad

Meet Josh

I have been a part of Easter Seals NL since the beginning. I love all of the programs; I have been a part of boccia, build your skills, the creative expressions music program, and target shooting. But my absolute favourite program is boccia because it is so fun and I get to play with my friends. I got to go back to adult overnight camp this year, and I was so excited. The best part was the time we spent dancing. Thank you to the people who have supported me and my friends at Easter Seals NL.



Meet Andrea

This is my first year participating at Easter Seals NL and I love it! I have learned a lot of things at the Build your Skills program like taking care of money. I go to creative expressions music class, dansability, boccia, and a lot of other activities like the Christmas dinner and dance. I tried rock wall climbing and I will be going to Let's Get Active. I want to go to overnight camp too but I need someone to take care of my cat Lilly. My favourite thing this year was singing on stage at Celebrate the Season and being in the video with Shanneyganock. I would like to do that again! I have lots of friends at Easter Seals NL - I love all the staff members and I am really glad I joined. Thank you everyone who helps with Easter Seals. We are so happy that you care.



A move worth making

Meet **Michael**, our 29 year old awesome son, who absolutely LOVES everything to do with Easter Seals NL!



Three years ago, we made the decision to move back to St. John's from Happy Valley-Goose Bay, where we had spent the last 30+ years. Retirement and having family support for Michael in St. John's made the decision much easier. Shortly after moving here we heard that Easter Seals offered programs for people with many different types of disabilities, including Autism. We met with the [interim] Recreation Programs Manager, Dayna, and found out about all the wonderful programs that Michael could avail of at the center. We were totally amazed at what they had to offer! We signed him up and there has been no looking back. Easter Seals has become such an important part of Michael's life.

Easter Seals has had an unbelievable impact on not only Michael's daily life, but our entire family's. Michael takes part in many programs including Build Your Skills, where he has grown independence and that is amazing to see.

He participates in a Creative Expressions Music Class and enjoys making music with his awesome teacher and his friends. How could he not be happy, being part of "a rock and roll band"! Michael has the time of his life at his Dansability class; a chance for him to shine, as he follows along and dances to his heart's content.

This past year our monthly calendar has been full of events that Michael participates in at Easter Seals. Aside from his weekly programs, Michael attends every party and dance on the go. Our family attended almost every single lunch concert over the summer, Trunk-or-Treat, Run, Walk, Stroll and Roll, Christmas parties and of course the Spectacular "Celebrate the Season" with Shanneyganock!

The event that totally amazed us, by far, was Camp Bumbleberry! We had taken Michael to the family camp that was offered in July and it was great. We had a wonderful weekend and met lots of new friends. He had so much fun, that the Easter Seals team encouraged us to let Michael come to the overnight adult camp on his own. We had never left him before, so you can only imagine our reluctance. But, our main goal for Michael has always been independence; so we decided to try him on his own. We were very confident of the group of counselors and Michael was excited to be going! We dropped him off and had a few days on our own to take a mini vacation. The team checked in with us to let us know how he was doing, and of course, he was having the time of his life. He can't wait to go back next year!

As parents, we would like to say a **heartfelt thank you** to all the sponsors and donors who have made it possible for our son, as well as his many friends, to be able to avail of all the fantastic programs at Easter Seals NL.

Easter Seals NL lets Michael be himself and be accepted for the awesome guy that he is!

Written by: Susan & Kevin Lamond



To learn more about our Recreation Programs including Build Your Skills and camp, please visit www.eastersealsnl.ca/programs.

Your impact in 2022: Recreation Programs

87

new participants
registered for
recreation programs

18

meaningful recreation
programs offered to
participants

1176

hours of recreation
programs, excluding
camp and special
events

60

new volunteers
who supported
programming

36

families accessed free,
specialized equipment
through the Equipment
Loan Program and
Linda's Equipment
Crossing

229

registrations at
summer camp

13

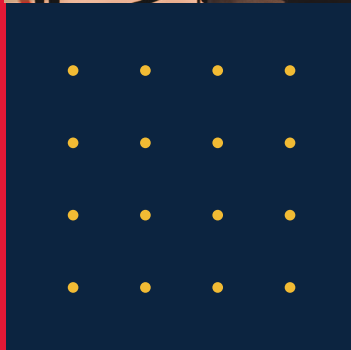
businesses and
organizations engaged
through recreation

4

new recreation
programs created

13

recreation events,
including Trunk-or-Treat,
holiday parties, socials,
and more



INSPIRE



A full circle moment

From a very young age, **Valerie** loved music. We incorporated music into her physiotherapy treatments and exercises, so when she began to talk she already had favourite songs. We quickly learned Valerie loved to sing and one of her favourite groups was Shanneyganock.

Fast forwarding a few years, Valerie expressed an interest in music lessons and knowing she could already sing, the next logical move was voice lessons. Her first lesson was an absolute hit! Her music teacher was thrilled with her excitement to learn and her passion for music. She would arrive at each lesson having learned a new song she wanted to share. At her first ever Christmas recital, in front of a huge crowd at the MUN School of Music, she performed--you guessed it--a Shanneyganock song!

When the opportunity arose for Valerie to participate in Celebrate the Season, she jumped at the chance! She was so excited and nervous, all at the same time. She could not believe that she had been chosen to sing.

Valerie shined on stage. I don't think I have ever seen her smile so big or be so confident. Sitting back and watching Valerie on stage from the crowd was a full circle moment -- from a little girl who loved to sing along with one of her favourite groups on the radio to singing with them on stage! As parents we could not be more proud.

I cannot express how grateful our family is for those who continue to support the annual Celebrate the Season event, and of course, Shanneyganock. It is because of you that participants are able to show their potential and all of their abilities.

When we asked Valerie how she felt about performing in Celebrate the Season, she said, **"I felt included, I felt confident, and I was happy to sing and make people smile. I sing for those who may not have a voice."**

As parents I don't think you could want anymore than that.

Written by: Dwayne & Tanya Byrne



To learn more about our annual events including Celebrate the Season, please visit www.eastersealsnl.ca/events and follow us on Facebook to stay-up-to-date (@EasterSealsNL)



Celebrating 100 years of Easter Seals in Canada with music



Easter Seals' across Canada celebrated a milestone in 2022; it's 100th year of supporting people with disabilities in the Country. To celebrate in Newfoundland and Labrador, Easter Seals NL hosted our inaugural Summer Concert Series.

Every Friday during July and August, local talent would take to the pavilion stage to play an afternoon of music for the public. The Concert Series was an opportunity for Easter Seals NL participants and the community to enjoy live outdoor music, barrier-free. And what an incredible summer it was!

Each afternoon, Easter Seals NLs' day-campers and counselors would make their way outside to enjoy the performance and while everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, one participant was always in the front row.

"The Summer Concert Series at Easter Seals NL was an amazing experience and something that I looked forward to every week," says respite worker Brooke Squires. "More importantly, the young man I work with, **Alex Snow**, loved it even more! Alex is 27 and lives with a disability. He is the most cheerful and loving person you could ever be around, and he loves music. Alex is happiest when he can sing and dance to live music, so he'll often watch his dad's band play at different events." And the concert series was no different.

Every afternoon, Alex was front row, cheering on the musician and singing along. "When Alex attended the Summer Concert Series, his face instantly lit up with joy. He was unable to sit down for more than 5 minutes because he wanted to be up on the stage dancing and singing along. Alex was up dancing right next to the performers at every show, and when they were done he would clap and cheer them on."

The goals of Summer Concert Series when creating the event were four-fold: to offer free live music to our participants and their families, barrier-free; to invite the community to the Easter Seals NL building and show off what their support has created; to bring awareness to our organization and our mission of supporting people with disabilities in the province; and to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Easter Seals in Canada.

The Summer Concert Series was attended by many of the same people every week, which demonstrated the desire for such a community event. It became something to look forward to for many, like Alex. "Alex was excited to attend the Concert Series every week, because he knew that he would be spending an hour or more enjoying the outdoors and listening to some amazing local talent. He was just excited to dance and sing with all of his Easter Seals NL friends."

Easter Seals NL was ecstatic to offer the Summer Concert Series as a means to connect more deeply with the community. We would like to acknowledge our sponsors of the series, **Century 21 Seller's Choice, Browning Harvey Ltd., and Come Home Year**. With your support, we have touched the hearts of many through music. "Alex is one of the many participants of Easter Seals NL that benefited and enjoyed the Summer Concert Series every Friday and we will definitely be back in Summer 2023!"



A message from Century 21 Seller's Choice

Thank you to Easter Seals Newfoundland and Labrador for the opportunity to take part and sponsor the Summer Concert Series. At Century 21 Seller's Choice, Easter Seals is a big part of our lives and we love to give back to the local community. We spent every Friday throughout the summer BBQing and volunteering as a team at the Summer Concert Series, and it was amazing to see the joy and pleasure it brought to the patrons, participants and many other people who stopped by. It was a great time to just get together as an office and just relax, laugh, and have a good time. As each week went by we got to know more and more of the families and participants. **It was an absolute pleasure to hear their stories and jokes, and I really appreciate what the organization does and how heartwarming it is to give to such a worthwhile cause.**



As a father of 2 young children, I had the opportunity to bring my kids along to a couple of the concerts and they absolutely loved the facility. I always like to bring the kids to teach them all about being inclusive and interacting with other people, no matter what their challenges might be. Every time we would leave, my kids would be so amazed at how some kids overcame barriers to play, and they always had such glowing smiles and such a great day.

— Mark Fagan, Century 21 Seller's Choice Realtor



Easter Seals NL is home to an accessible park and playground on Mount Scio Road, St. John's. After dreaming about an inclusive space for our participants and their families for over 10 years, we were able to begin this project and break ground in 2015. Phases I and II are now complete which include the park, a beautiful outdoor pavilion, accessible fire pit, sensory gardens, and BBQ area. We are excited to complete this dream with our final phase, Phase III, which will include an outdoor hardcourt surface area and accessible bleachers.

This legacy is yours.

With your support, we are able to see this dream come to fruition. We are able to create lasting memories for participants and their families by offering a safe and accessible space. **Thank you, endlessly.**



A boccia star on the rise



When I was 12 years old, I transitioned to using a wheelchair. This was a big change for me as I couldn't play sports and participate in activities like I used to. Then, when I was 13 years old, I found Easter Seals NL. The Easter Seals facility is fully accessible and inclusive, and I have been able to get back to doing fun activities that I had lost. I have been able to participate in swimming, wheelchair basketball, and Boccia. I even got to go to a week-long summer camp. The people who work and volunteer at Easter Seals are very kind, helpful, and encouraging. They make me feel like part of the Easter Seals' family.

My favorite activity is Boccia. Boccia is a paralympic sport that is similar to lawn bowling or curling that is played indoors. It can be played by anyone of any ability. The first time I tried Boccia, I loved it. It is challenging and fun. Through Boccia, I met people who I otherwise wouldn't meet. Over the past year I won silver in the 2022 Provincial Boccia Tournament, hosted by Easter Seals NL, and my team also won the Jeremy's Cup last summer. I am really proud of my ability and very grateful to the coaches, volunteers and other players who have taught me the ropes.

But none of this would be possible without the generosity of donors who give to Easter Seals NL. **With your support, Easter Seals has helped me build confidence and new skills, have fun and meet new friends.** You have helped me take the 'dis' out of my disability!

Written by: Andrew Woodrow

To learn more about Boccia and other recreation programs, please visit www.eastersealsnl.ca/programs.

Securing her future

We first met **Emily** in the winter of 2021 when she joined our Horizons Work Experience program. After recently moving to Newfoundland from southern Ontario, Emily was living on her own for the first time with few personal connections. Emily was having some difficulty with certain aspects of independent living, including navigating the world of financial literacy.

In Horizons, Emily learned how to shop responsibly, read a pay stub, and the importance and the basics of income tax reporting. While this did help Emily navigate the basics of personal finances, she knew there was more she needed to learn. When the TD Secure Futures Program started in spring 2022, Emily was one of the first participants to sign up!

In Secure futures, we teach our participants ways to spend wisely, and importantly how to borrow, responsibly. “In Secure Futures, I learned a lot about credit cards and the cost of borrowing money. I knew about interest, but I didn’t really understand that I was paying more when I used my credit card.” Participants in the Secure Futures program learn about needs versus wants, making a budget, saving for the future, spending responsibly, and borrowing.

The aim upon completion of the program is for our participants to feel empowered, with a greater understanding of personal credit, and how credit scores can affect their ability to plan for the future. “I’m much smarter with my money, and I now know how important it is to pay my bills on time.”

In Secure Futures, we strive to create a safe space for participants to talk about personal finance and struggles. We found that in facilitating these discussions, participants were

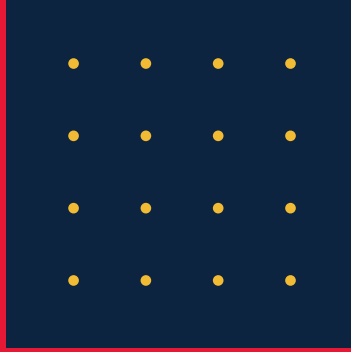
able to find community and share valuable experiences. “I loved being able to talk openly about money with other people with disabilities because I felt like I wasn’t alone, and I learned a lot from the other people in the group.”

Overall, by creating a space for our participants to share ideas and vulnerabilities we were able to introduce new concepts and ideas in an approachable and even enjoyable way. “I liked learning about taxes and how to save money and writing out a budget - I wasn’t taught that in school; I was never shown how to do it”

With the support from TD Bank, we are able to provide this unique program to participants like Emily. Thank you!

To learn more about the TD Secure Futures Program, please visit <https://eastersealsnl.ca/secure-futures>





MAXIMIZING OPPORTUNITIES



I know I'll be okay

Nathan entered the Horizons Work Experience program having completed high school virtually during the pandemic. He described his social anxiety as “debilitating,” and shared that new experiences, places, and people would often trigger panic attacks and stress for him.

In our Horizons pre-employment training classes, we discussed accommodations and tactics to reduce anxiety. We practiced interviews with Nathan one-on-one and in groups, until he felt comfortable with his answers. When he was offered an interview with national department store Rossy, he asked Horizons staff to join him for support. “Between Matt and Petra helping me in class and accompanying me to the interview, it helped me be able to get a job,” Nathan shared.

Nathan gave a great, confident interview, and was hired on the spot. Starting with cleaning windows and mopping the floors, he has since moved on to pricing shipments, stocking shelves, assembling furniture, and helping customers. He says the key to his growth is that his employers are willing to train him on a new task, but wait until he is ready to take it on. “They have really helped ease me into things,” Nathan said. “I would have never been able to do cash, but now we’re considering training me to be a cashier.”

Nathan’s employers rave about his work ethic and positive attitude. “Nathan is awesome. He is just terrific,” said Rossy store manager Les Crane. “Everything you ask him to do, he does it. He’s always on time, he always shows up, he always stays as late as you need him. Everything he does, he does well. **He’s just exceptional.**”

Though Nathan’s employment began through a wage subsidy, his employer plans to keep him on staff for as long as Nathan wants to continue working.

Nathan says “Even if that doesn’t work out, **just hearing that I’m good enough to keep on as staff means a lot.**”

Everyone has seen growth in Nathan since joining the program. He speaks up in class, has made friends with classmates, and advocates for himself. His confidence and self-worth have grown exponentially. “I see a world of difference in him for the better,” says Nathan’s father. “He’s growing more comfortable with being independent. Interacting with customers, exploring the area around work, stuff that he’d admit would have caused him great anxiety before, he does now no problem.”

Nathan says, “A year ago I couldn’t even go into a store alone to buy something because of my anxiety. Now I’m on the other side - working in a store and helping customers.” He chalks that up to his success in Horizons. “Getting a job for the first time on my own, without the support of a program like this, I wouldn’t have been able to do it. I don’t know how I would have ever managed to get into the workforce, but with the help of you guys and my employers, even when the program is over, I know I’ll be okay. **This whole program has helped a lot. I don’t know what I would have done without it.**”

Thank you to **Service Canada** and the **Royal Bank of Canada** for funding the Horizons Work Experience Program. You continue to pave the way for people like Nathan to shine in the workforce.



To learn more about the Horizons Work Experience Program, please visit www.eastersealsnl.ca/horizons.

From Disabled to Differently Re-Enabled



I would like to offer you a scenario of some challenges I had to deal with resulting from being involved in a horrific vehicle accident a few years ago; transforming me from a relatively healthy man to a disabled man who could not work in my previous occupation.

I received a variety of medical treatments from surgery to physiotherapy after my accident, but am still limited in my mobility. I am back to about 80% of the man I was before my accident, now using a cane and custom orthotics to assist me. This was a great improvement to where I had been just after the accident, but I knew I couldn't resign myself to not getting back out into the workforce. I hit the streets in my pursuit of employment but it was obvious that some employers were not interested in hiring a person with limitations such as mine.

Fortunately, I ended up meeting up with an old friend of mine who had gone through a similar situation and they suggested that I meet with the folks in the Career Services department at Easter Seals NL. I acted upon their suggestion right away and met with Paula (Director of Employment and Educational Services) and Rachel (Opportunities

Fund and 'I Can Too!' Disability Education Coordinator) to discuss my pathway to employment and the challenges that I had encountered. They took the time to talk with me about where I saw myself working, my skills and talents as well as any workplace accommodations that might be necessary. After our conversation, they said that I would be a great fit for their Opportunities Fund program. Three days after that meeting, **I had secured employment as a part time customer service representative at Hickey's Timber Mart** on Torbay Road! I love going to work, interacting with customers and my colleagues as well as using the skills I had developed in my previous roles. I have nothing but **extreme gratitude** for Easter Seals NL, Paula, and Rachel for all the support and encouragement they have given me as well as Brad Hickey and Hickey's Timber Mart for seeing the value in hiring a person with a disability.

Written by: Wade Greening, Opportunities Fund Participant

Thank you to **Service Canada** for supporting the Opportunities Fund and participants like Wade. For more information about the Opportunities Fund, please visit www.eastersealsnl.ca/opportunities-fund.

Your impact in 2022:

Career and Educational Services

4000

students reached
through "I Can Too"
presentations

140

"I Can Too"
presentations delivered
in **16** communities
in the province

47

participants employed
through the Opportunity
Fund wage subsidy
program

7

participants provided
with disability supports
including laptops,
smartphones, orthotics,
equipment, and more

13

participants took part
in various professional
development and
training to advance
their careers

19

participants took part
in the Horizons
program

260

hours spent in the
Horizons classroom
by the 2022 Horizons
participants

21

community employers
who have hired
an Easter Seals NL
participant since 2000

13

participants hired into
the workforce who took
part in the Horizons
program





Give the gift of inclusion

Our vision is for a community where people with disabilities of all ages in Newfoundland and Labrador live full, healthy, and active lives. Our mission is to engage, inspire, and maximize opportunities by providing meaningful programs and services, some of which are highlighted in this report.

By giving to Easter Seals NL, you are creating a lasting impact in our community. To date, we serve over 1,000 participants and that number continues to grow as we extend our capacity.

With your gift, we can continue to break down barriers.

To give, please visit our website at

www.eastersealsnl.ca/donate

or mail in the slip below to:

Fund Development Department

Easter Seals Newfoundland and Labrador

206 Mount Scio Road

St. John's, NL

A1B 4L5



MONTHLY DONATION

YES! I would like to become a Partner in Caring **Monthly Donation Member** and make donations to support programs and services for persons with disabilities all year round.

☐ \$10/month ☐ \$15/month ☐ \$20/month **Other \$** _____

☐ I authorize Easter Seals Newfoundland and Labrador to automatically deduct the amount indicated above each month until I state otherwise.

☐ From my chequing account (see attached voided cheque).

☐ From my credit card: ☐ **VISA** ☐ **MASTERCARD**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Credit Card #: _____

Name On Card: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Signature: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ (help us save on postage)



Easter Seals Newfoundland & Labrador:
206 Mount Scio Road, St. John's, NL A1B 4L5

P: 709.754.1399 | F: 709.754.1398
TF: 1.888.601.6767 | info@eastersealsnl.ca
www.eastersealsnl.ca

Charitable Registration No. 11905 5085 RR0001

You can change or cancel your contribution at any time, simply by contacting us at **1.709.754.1399**.



Luxury Cabin Lottery

2022 was another incredible year for Easter Seals NL's Luxury Cabin Lottery, selling a record number of tickets and awarding our largest 50/50 prize fund. We want to sincerely thank all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians who purchased a ticket!

This lottery is changing the lives of people with disabilities by allowing us to continue to break down barriers and provide programs and services in an accessible and inclusive building, park, and playground.

And thank you to our sponsors for your continued support:

Blue Water Marine, www.bluewatermarine.ca
BONSHAW, www.bonshawgroup.com
Can-Am, can-am.brp.com
Cohen's Home Furnishings, www.cohens.ca
Core Contracting, www.corecontracting.ca
North Atlantic, www.northatlantic.ca
NTV, www.ntv.ca
Outdoor Pros, www.outdoorpros.ca
Steele Honda, www.steelehonda.com
Stingray, www.stingray.com
Saltwire, www.saltwire.com/newfoundland-labrador
Universal Travel, www.universaltravelgroup.com
Your Style Design Studio, www.yourstyledesignstudio.com
Your Style Kitchens, www.yourstylekitchens.com

We would also like to acknowledge our partners:
Canadian Hard of Hearing Association, Wayne
Wheeler Consulting, Telelink, and Breton.

Our Cabin Lottery will be launching in **May 2023!** To stay up-to-date about announcements, please visit www.cabinlottery.ca and subscribe to our newsletter.

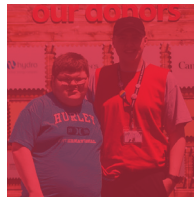
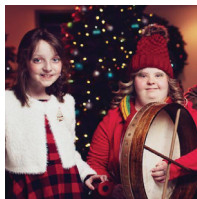


With **gratitude**

You have made a lasting impact on our community. Easter Seals Newfoundland and Labrador brightens the souls of so many, and with your help, we will continue to do so for years to come. Our achievements are as much yours as they are ours, and we are very grateful for your continued support.

Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts.

Gratefully yours,
Easter Seals Newfoundland and Labrador



If you would like to tell your story about how Easter Seals NL has impacted you, share a fundraising idea, or provide feedback on the report, we encourage you to reach out.

Please contact our Fund Development and Communications Coordinator,
Laura Douglas, at laura@eastersealsnl.ca.

We encourage you to follow us on social media (@EasterSealsNL) to keep up-to-date on events, campaigns, programs, and more, or subscribe to our monthly newsletter by visiting www.eastersealsnl.ca/planner.



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