

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

A message from our Board Chair and Executive Director

2020-2021 was the fiscal year we learned to be flexible, adapt to change and live day to day! Working through the lockdowns was very difficult for the employees, our families and most of all the participants. Like usual, our EFL community pulled together to embrace the pandemic and do what we do best..stay positive, hopeful and celebrate the small things in life.

July 2020 started in a lockdown with the EFL Centre remaining closed to in person learning until February. Thankfully all the participants adapted to the on-line programs, so the staff were able to continue facilitating social, recreation and life skills – virtually. The program was so successful, we even attracted new participants from the Georgian Triangle and GTA.

In person special events and fundraisers kept getting postponed or cancelled but the support from our community and partners continued. A large donation helped support a new Forest School Program at the Centre that permitted the participants to learn outside from February through April.

Hashtag # “you’re on mute!” became the slogan for 2021. Zoom was the new meeting room for cooking hub, yoga, dancing, guitar sing-alongs, story telling and even Board meetings.

We could not be prouder of our participants and our staff for never giving up. We know now that we can weather any storm, together!



Catherine Butler, Chair, Board of Director



Barb Weeden, Executive Director

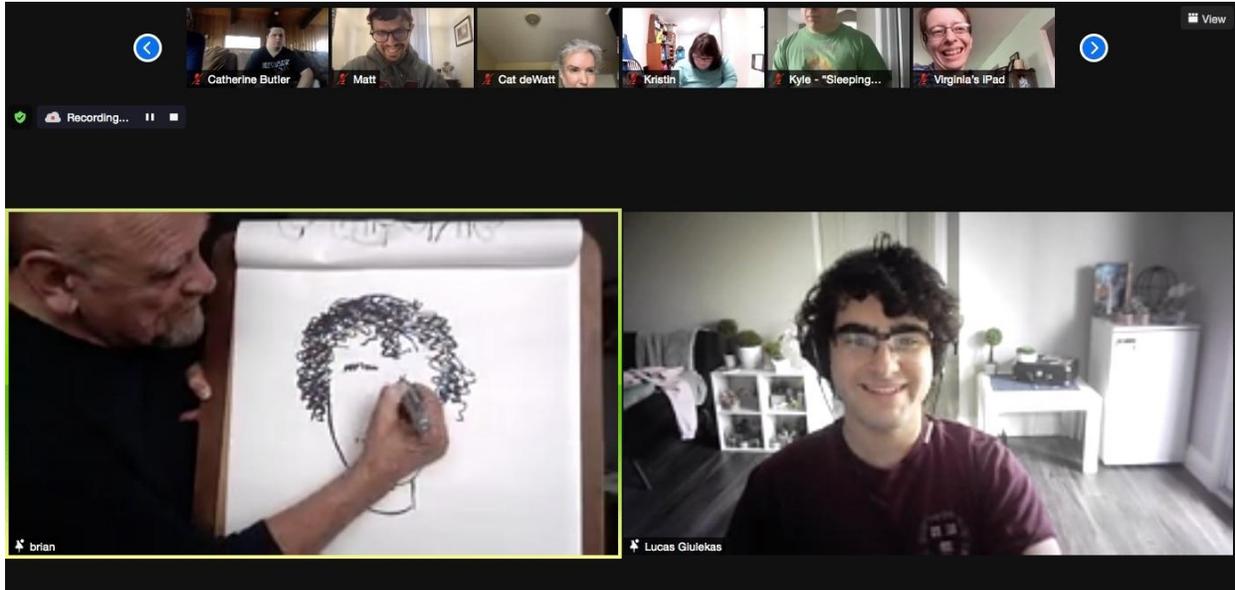
A YEAR IN REVIEW

"THE ZOOM ROOM!"



Super Socials continued once a month so the participants could meet up with their friends and socialize. Bingo, game nights, dance parties, lip sync and musical guests provided hours of entertainment! We even gathered for a Christmas dinner enjoying turkey pot pies from Bluebird Café and homemade Tiramisu from Frans in Meaford.

ONLINE LEARNING AND SPECIAL GUESTS



We are so thankful for the volunteers that signed into our zoom room every week to entertain us, chat during coffee hub or be there for encouragement. We had many special guests join us to sing, dance, sketch and tell stories. A big shout out to "Chef Tim" who kept coming up with creative ideas for our cooking hubs each week!



GETTING OUT, GETTING ACTIVE DURING 'LOCKDOWN!'
LOCAL POD GROUPS MEET UP WITH THEIR FRIENDS TO WALK EACH DAY

#EFLSPOTLIGHT



Owen Sound pod group enjoyed artistic walk in the cool crisp air yesterday



Evie enjoys "social skills and music"



NATURE HIKES

TIM HORTON SMILE COOKIE

21 DAY CHALLENGE



It was important to keep our participants active, engaged and socializing with their friends from EFL. During the summer, four "pod groups" were formed to accomplish this; one in Owen Sound, Meaford, Thornbury and Collingwood. One staff member would meet a small group along with a volunteer in each of the communities to provide a social distance outdoor learning experience for 3 half days each week. The other half of the day was spent at home learning in their virtual "zoom room!" This format continued into the spring of 2021.

NEW OUTDOOR FOREST SCHOOL PROGRAM

EFL formed a partnership with a local company, Free Spirit Tours, who operates an Outdoor Forest School. Two teachers came to the EFL Centre three mornings per week to provide outdoor programs for each of the four pod groups in February through to April. Thanks, to a very generous donation from the D.H. Gordon Foundation, each participant was able to receive a 3 in 1 jacket, a hat, gloves, and neck warmer. Winter pants and boots were also provided for those in need. This donation enabled all the participants to be comfortable and dry while learning outside as well as have them feel like equals with no judgement. Thanks to Canadian Tire Collingwood, JDP Promotions and CCE Promotions for providing our clothing and programs supplies at discounted prices. The participants cooked over an open fire, hiked with walking poles, made snow shelters, and learned a lot about nature in the winter. Only ice and extreme cold weather kept the participants from participating fully!! It was a wonderful winter!





We are so grateful to our community of supporters!

Events for Life is so grateful for the support of local businesses, donations from families, friends, Foundations, and our community for helping us to achieve our financial goals.

We are thankful to these companies and Charitable Foundations for their on-going support!

- D. H. Gordon Foundation
- The George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation
- G. Paterson Foundation
- Lora Bay Foundation
- McFarlane Family Foundation
- McLeod Family Fund
- Rupert & Timothy Smith Charitable Foundation
- Wood Family Foundation
- Waugh Family Foundation
- CN Railroaders
- IBM Employee Fund
- Tim Horton Franchise Owners, Meaford
- Rotary Thornbury-Clarksburg
- The Town of Blue Mountains
- Community Foundation Grey Bruce
- Thornbury Home Hardware
- Ashton Blinds
- Canadian Tire Collingwood
- CCE Promotions
- JDP Promotions
- Good Grief Coffee Roasters



Thank You!!

