



Events for Life

Making a difference in the lives of
individuals in our community.

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

Events for Life (EFL) History

Established in 2013, Events for Life is celebrating 11 years of operation! The program originally started in the summer and was based out of Shelley Higginson's house for 6 graduating students. Two years later, the program grew and moved to the basement of the Thornbury United Church. The program kept growing and with the generosity of a local family, the program moved to Beaver Creek Farms in Thornbury. In 2017, with 20 participants in the program, EFL became a registered not-for-profit charity and a Board of Directors was formed. In 2018 Barb Weeden joined the EFL team as the Executive Director. There are now 36 participants and there is a healthy wait list. Cathy Butler and Melanie Johns were instrumental in helping Shelley get EFL grounded and remain on the Board of Directors. Thank you to all the volunteers, community members and those who have served on the Board of Directors over the past 7 years! The excitement continues to build as we plan for our fully accessible forever home to accommodate more participants.

www.eventsfor.life



Events for Life Centre Inc.

To enrich the lives of individuals with special needs by providing educational, social and recreational day programs geared towards lifelong learning, in the Town of the Blue Mountains and surrounding areas.





Kevin Whyte

A message from the Chair of the Board of Directors

My first year as Chair has been so rewarding. Our team has done an incredible job in delivering a world class program to a growing group of participants. This past year we were fortunate to continue to strengthen our relationship with the Town of Blue Mountains Council and Staff resulting in the opening of the EFL Arena Cafe which has brought real work experience opportunities to our participants as well as massive public awareness. We continue to be humbled by the level of ongoing support from our community especially the generosity of the Hutchings family , as well as the Blue Mountain Community Church both of which have opened their doors and space to allow us to operate! I want to thank our Board Members, Volunteers, and Staff for their commitment and dedication in helping make Events for Life a truly awesome experience for everyone.

A message from the Executive Director

Barb Weeden
Celebrating 5 years!

The smiles, the laughter, the positive energy, the passion and determination. Getting through the pandemic and being back to in person learning has been so wonderful!! Every day is a good day!

The participants in the EFL program are so happy! They get to spend the day with their friends. They get to experience activities that they would never get to do without this program. They are filled with excitement as soon as they get dropped off in the morning.

A special thank you to the parents for trusting us with your loved ones. This program gives parents respite and time to themselves they would not otherwise have. I also have to thank our Board of Directors who provide on-going leadership and guidance.

Working with this demographic brings so much joy to all the staff and volunteers. We are the ones that are blessed to have this experience!



A message from the Program Director & Founder est. 2013



SHELLEY HIGGINSON

We have had another year of growth and new programs. As one-year roles into the next it's valuable to reflect and keeps us striving to improve.

Last year at this time we were embarking on the opening of the EFL Arena Café! Presently we have a manager, 2 assistant managers and 6 participants working at the Café. We are thrilled to have 4 amazing Café volunteers helping each week. Our first year was a great experience and we learned what works best for food, staffing and participants. This has been another wonderful way to be embedded in our community.

It seems we are attracted to amazing people at EFL who provide programming and support to our 36 participants. We are so grateful for our wonderful programming staff and the diverse programs they offer our participants; sign language, culinary, outdoor education, music and dance, work experience, healthy lifestyles, workshop, sports including pickleball and bowling, learning how to use our iPads and going out on our daily community outings.

A special thank you to our wonderful staff team!!

We did our first ever video production "Sing" Wow!! This has warmed many hearts, as well as providing a powerful message for the world to view. Our second High Tea was executed by our amazing volunteer team. Participants enjoyed serving, hosting guests, and having great conversations. We also had our first "sock hop" to celebrate National Down Syndrome Day. We hope you can join us this year.

Looking forward to the joys and challenges 2023/2024 brings as we continue to support our incredible participants!

The The EFL Centre operates four days per week and the Blue Mountain Community Church (BMCC) operates for three days per week. On Mondays there are 15 participants at the Centre. Tuesday through Thursday, there are 12 to 15 participants at each location. As the BMCC is located in town, the participants would often walk to their place of recreation or downtown to the library or for their “conversation cafes” at local coffee shops. EFL has a team of 9 staff who work year round facilitating the program, providing 1:2 support and creating fun, engaging opportunities for the participants. Lead by Program Director, Shelley Higginson, the program continues to thrive!

- **EFLCentre**

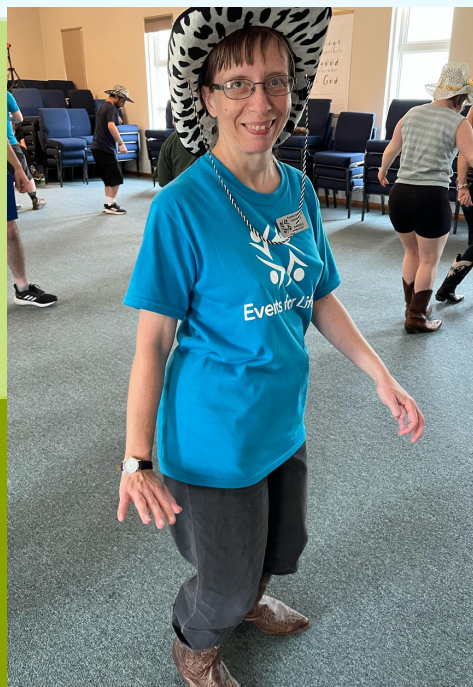
- Culinary Skills
- Healthy Lifestyles
- Outdoor Experiences
- Recreation
- Workshop
- Work Experience



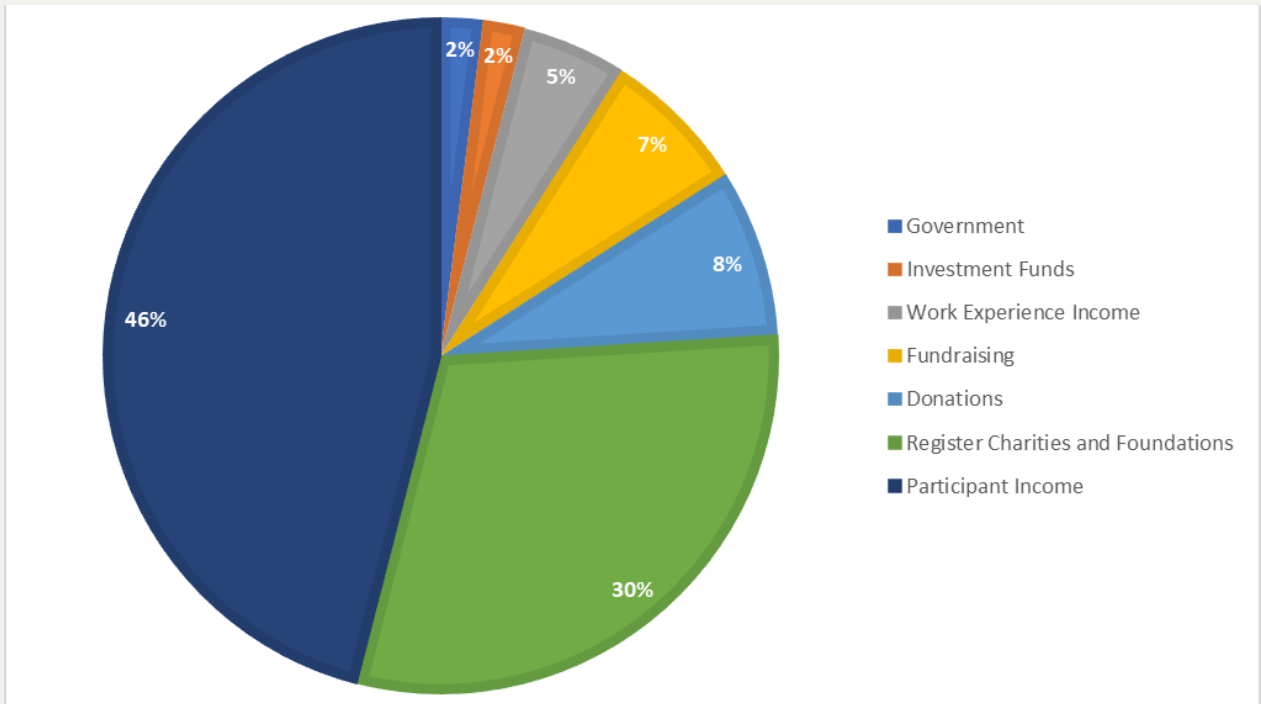
- **BMCC**

- Performing & Creative Arts
- American Sign Language
- Music
- Drama
- Library
- Conversation Cafe

The Arena Cafe is located at
The Beaver Valley Community Centre
September to March



REVENUE SOURCES



Thank You

Events for Life wishes to thank the hundreds of individuals that donated throughout the year. Every dollar counts. We appreciate your generosity and support.

GIVING TUESDAY, **November 28th**, is one of our largest fundraising campaigns. Please consider donating to help us reach our goals. www.eventsfor.life

From Community Foundations, Clubs and local businesses to generous individuals and Associations, we thank you all so much for helping Events for Life!!



ENHANCING THE LIVES OF INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

*Thank you for your
Donation!*

A Special THANK YOU to All our DONORS

G. H. Gordon Foundation

CN Railroaders

IBM Employee Fund

Audry and Donald Campbell Family Foundation

Community Foundation Grey Bruce

Foodland, Thornbury

George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation

Georgian Peaks Club

Goldsmith Family Market

Good Grief Coffee Roasters

Marc Anthony Venere Foundation

Melanie & Tim Johns - Bike 4 Life Canada

McFarlane Family Foundation

McLeod Family Fund

Rotary Thornbury-Clarksburg

Town of the Blue Mountains

**Tim Horton Franchise Owners,
Thornbury/Meaford**

Thornbury Home Hardware

Wagh Family Foundation

Yoga on the Mat

and many individual donors

THANK YOU

To all our wonderful volunteers!
We couldn't operate without YOU!

