



# The CLAssic

A publication of Community Living Algoma



Did you see the CLA 'Inclusion' tree at the ARCH - Illuminate the Season fundraising event? It was spectacular and it took many hands to create this beautiful tree. Thank you to the people who hand-crafted ornaments;, to those who decorated the tree; and, to those community members who bid on it - the final bid was an impressive \$302 for ARCH.

The winning bidder received the tree, all of the decorations, plus \$160 in gift certificates plus a CLA Inclusion Pack (t-shirts, toques, mugs and more). All money raised goes to ARCH Hospice - a compassionate and caring resource in our community.

## ON THE JOB... with Johnathon

Johnathon is a well-known grocery clerk who has worked at Food Basics, in the Pine Plaza, for 20 years.

He can be found rounding up shopping carts in the parking lot; stocking shelves; taking out garbage; and, helping in seasonal departments, as required. He works part-time from Monday through Friday.

*(continued, page 2)*



## On the Job ... with Johnathan at Food Basics

Johnathan's favourite part of his work day is gathering up the carts. He enjoys socializing with the customers and they respond warmly to his greetings, jokes and smiles.

He is quick to offer to help a customer or extend a good morning or good afternoon greeting. People wave as soon as they see him.

Johnathan says he is often recognized when he is out in the community. He really enjoys interacting with people.



*Johnathan is shown with Carol Indraccolo, Store Manager.*

As a grocery clerk, he socializes with customers both inside and outside of the store.

Johnathan is often recognized when he is out in the community. He also enjoys joking and interacting with his co-workers.

Johnathan enjoys saving money so that he can buy the things that he'd like. A TV was one of his recent big-ticket purchases.



*Johnathan with his 20-year work anniversary pin.*



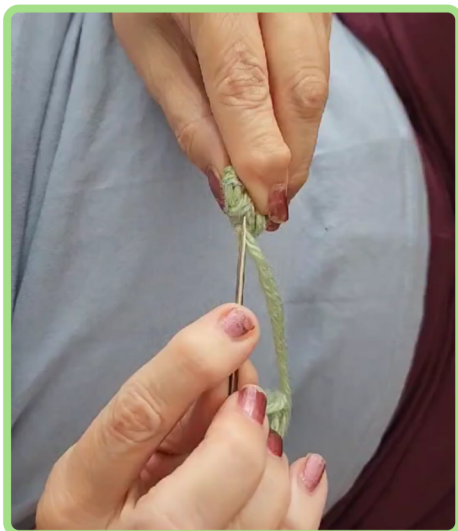
**Why is Johnathan valued as an employee?**

**His employer says it is because he is punctual, personable and reliable.**

## “Made by Me” - button pillow making with Anna

Like many people who took to making crafts during COVID, Anna took that time to expand her artistic interests. One of her host home providers, Zella, saw a button pillow and thought that it would be something that Anna might enjoy making. She did!

Originally, Anna made button pillows for friends but now she sells them, via word-of-mouth, to other people wanting one of her original creations.



It typically takes three or four hours an evening, over a period of two weeks to make enough yarn buttons to cover a pillow cover.

Anna makes the buttons as she watches her favourite shows on TV. Anna is shown creating her buttons that will be hot-glued onto the pillow cover.



*Bravo! Here is Anna with one of her recent, completed button pillows. We tried to count the total number of buttons, but we lost track! We can confirm that there are over 200 hand-made buttons glued onto that large pillow!*





*A fellow art show participant gave Rhonda a festive hat to wear.*

## Rhonda's art is now available as Christmas cards

Rhonda already has a reputation as a talented artist and she's just expanded her artwork into cards and is collaborating with artist Sonia Dube.

She has fabulous Christmas holiday themed cards and is selling them at \$10 for four cards. There are many designs in colourful and festive themes.

Contact Rhonda via email if you are interested in buying her cards or to ask what craft show she will be selling her cards and art work at, next.

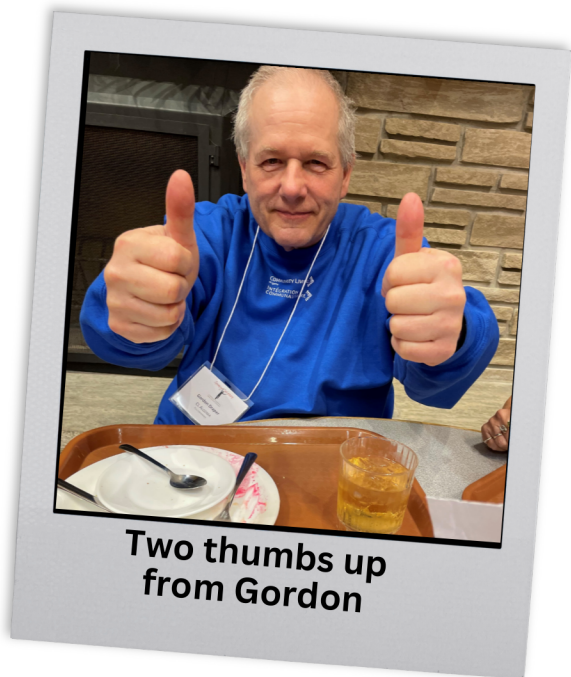
Email: [rmccaig12@gmail.com](mailto:rmccaig12@gmail.com)



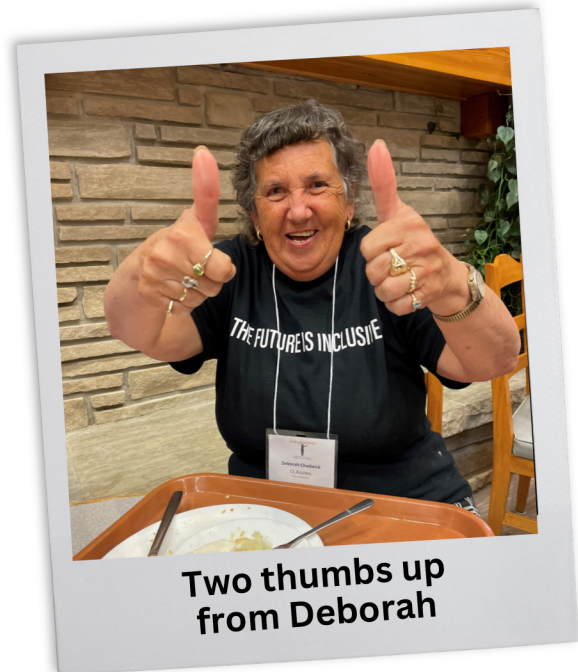
*A shout out of appreciation to Rose (left) who volunteered to make popcorn with Jennifer (right) at the Family Fun Day. Rose says she enjoys making popcorn and meeting people. We can confirm that Rose makes great popcorn!*

## Family Fun Day

Ontario Culture Days' Family Fun Day was a resounding success! Held in September, Community Living Algoma hosted a tent that featured information on our organization; where people could pick up a free bag of popcorn; engage in our community art project; and enter their name to win a prize. This event highlighted the diverse cultures, arts and heritage in Sault Ste. Marie. Many community groups had craft tables, offered dance and music lessons and games. The interactive setting enabled attendees to get to know their community neighbours - old and new!



Two thumbs up  
from Gordon



Two thumbs up  
from Deborah

## Algoma Community Vision Advocates (ACVA) Hit the Road to Attend the Speaking Out Conference

In October, Algoma Community Vision Advocates Gord and Deborah were accompanied by Brian Lachine (CLA Community Support Worker) on a road trip that took them to the Speaking Out Conference in Port Elgin, Ontario. This conference is a unique opportunity for members of self advocate groups, people with developmental/intellectual disabilities, support staff and family members to meet and network with each other.

Gord, Deborah and Brian were each asked what attending this conference meant to them:

**QUESTION: Why is it important to go to conferences like the Speaking Out Conference?**

**Deborah:** You learn a lot of things you didn't know that you can get help with. It's a great experience. I will never forget it.

**Gordon:** It is very professional, I've been to a number of [conferences] and this one stands out. All the information is very useful and important. It's very positive.

**QUESTION: What was your favourite session?**

**Gordon:** That's a hard one! They were all good. I couldn't pick just one.

**Deborah:** It was all so good, I enjoyed every bit.

*.... continued on the next page*

## ACVA on the Road ... continued

**QUESTION:** What would you tell others who are thinking of going?

**Gordon:** If you don't go, you'll miss out on a lot of information and many amazing people. And the food is amazing!

*The road-trip was a new experience for CLA new-hire, Brian Lachine (Community Support Worker) who is based out of Wawa. He accompanied Deborah and Gordon on the drive to Port Elgin and attended the conference, as well.*

**Brian:** If one word described the experience, it would be POWERFUL. From the moment you arrive through the doors, you sense a powerful unity, a powerful purpose and powerful (yet sensitive) dialogue.

The resonating theme of the weekend was Independence. From independent writing, art and music to independent living, each session left you with a feeling of POWERFUL freedom. Each session also allowed every individual to converse with the key note speakers. Comments and questions were received with applause, hugs and powerful words of encouragement.

As a Community Support Worker in a more remote town (Wawa), I was reminded that my role is exactly that: to support individuals in their journey of independence. What an honour to be a part of this journey and to be part of their powerful stories.



*ACVA are a group of concerned individuals who speak out for change, advocating for others and ourselves within CLA and the community of Algoma. They just recently welcomed two new committee members: Hannah and William. Interested in learning more about ACVA or how to get involved? Email the team at: [advocate@cla-algoma.org](mailto:advocate@cla-algoma.org)*

*You can also follow ACVA on Instagram and Facebook.*



## Recipes Wanted!

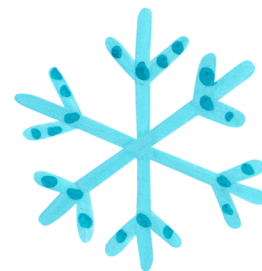
Share your favourite recipe and have it published in CLA's new cookbook!

Send your recipes to  
[William\\_Mazachowsky@cla-algoma.org](mailto:William_Mazachowsky@cla-algoma.org)



This wonderful artwork was created by Jersie, age 15. She painted it in an art class. Thank you for sharing!

If you'd like to see your photos, stories or artwork in this newsletter, check out the back page to learn how to submit it to CLA.





# VOLUNTEERS WANTED



Together the ACVA advocates for others with disabilities through the development of educational tools, networking, adapting to a changing world, and leading by example. We are happy to announce that we are accepting new members! If this sounds like you, we encourage you fill out a volunteer form.



We are actively seeking volunteers to serve on our various Committees. Being on a Committee can be a great stepping stone if you are thinking of potentially becoming a member of our Board of Directors. Help drive positive change and contribute towards building a strong, inclusive community. Share your experience and know that you are helping people live their best lives.



In 2024, CLA will be marking our 70th Anniversary and we need your help! If you are looking for a meaningful way to connect with others, and are interested in sharing your time and energy, please sign up as a volunteer. We are seeking to fill a variety of positions including: event planners, set-up, ushers, greeters, guest services, go-fers and history buffs.

Interested in an opportunity that will enrich the lives of others, and yours, as well? For the Algoma Community Vision Advocates (ACVA), please email: [Kira\\_Beall@cla-algoma.org](mailto:Kira_Beall@cla-algoma.org). For Committees or the 70th Anniversary Committee, contact: [Nicole\\_Clark@cla-algoma.org](mailto:Nicole_Clark@cla-algoma.org). Or call 705 - 253-1700.





# October: Making the News In National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Community Living Algoma was approached by the Ontario Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility in conjunction with the Ontario Disability Employment Network with a request to feature people supported who are employed in the community. The EMPLOYMENT Network team selected Jayden, Hannah and William as the featured profiles. To read all about them and their employment experience, click on the links, below.

<https://www.odenetnetwork.com/community-living-algoma-2023/>

<https://www.odenetnetwork.com/auroras-pizza-and-spaghetti-house-2023/>

The EMPLOYMENT Network also expressed their thanks to community businesses by sharing this ad in the media.



*Thank you*

As part of **National Disability Employment Awareness Month**, the EMPLOYMENT Network, a division of Community Living Algoma, would like to thank employers for their continued commitment to building a mutually respectful partnership with us.

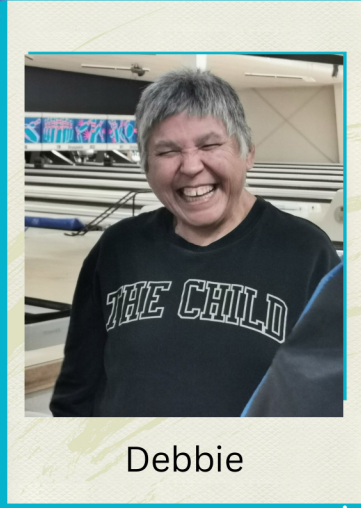
Your dedication and willingness to create a positive and inclusive work environment have improved the quality of life for people we support.

- Aurora's Hillside
- Aurora's Westside
- Canadian Tire
- Chartwells
- City of SSM - GFL Centre, Cemetery, Parks & Sports Complexes
- Community Living Algoma
- Crimson Ridge Golf Course
- Dance Core Inc.
- Food Basics
- Grocer 4 Good
- Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board
- Liberty Tax
- Microtel Inn & Suites
- Property One Management
- Sault This Week
- Service Master
- Simply Superior Contracting
- Sinclair Fields
- SSM Gymnastics Club
- Super 8 by Wyndham
- Superior Home Bakery
- Sylvan Valley Enterprises
- The Ideal Landscaper
- Walmart
- Woody's Trailers & RVs
- YMCA





Be the reason someone smiles today!



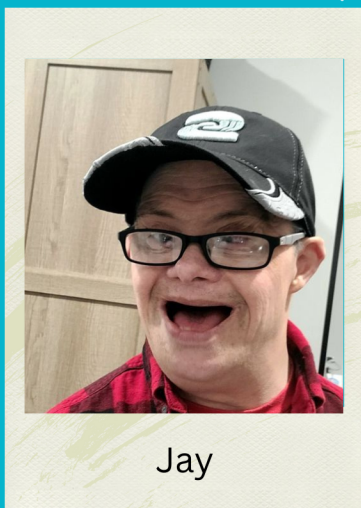
Debbie



Kevin & Jeff



Julian



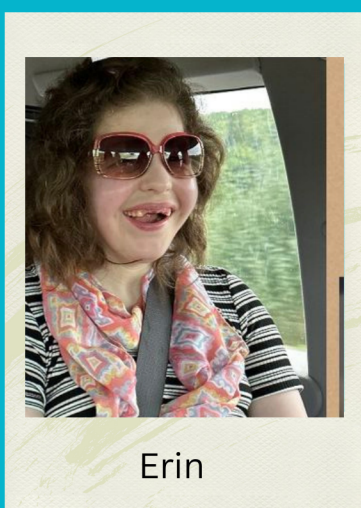
Jay



Susan



Alysha



Erin



Andy



Ryan

# Are you an aspiring writer or artist?

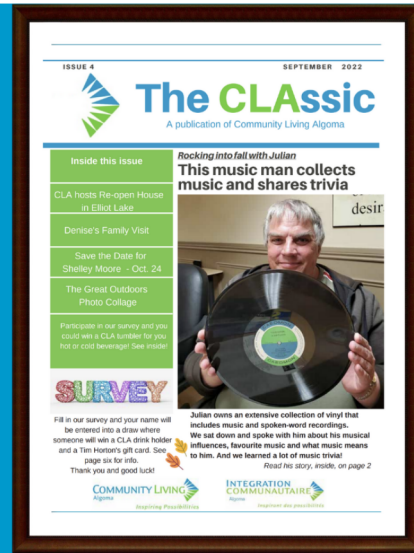
Interested in writing for The CLAssic?  
Or having your artwork featured?  
Or your photos shared?

CLA's external newsletter goes out to approx. 500 people three times a year

Have a story about a trip or adventure?

A poem that you've written?

A drawing that you're like to share?




## HOW TO SUBMIT:

The CLAssic newsletter is printed three times a year. The people who receive it are people supported, their families or caregivers and members of the public who have requested it. It is free.

We do not pay for any submissions, however, we will include your name (first name only) and two sentences about who you are or why you sent your story, poem or artwork to us. We will provide you with extra copies of the newsletter to share with your family or friends.

Consents must be signed for anyone appearing in a photo.

CALL OR EMAIL CINDY, THE EDITOR, FOR MORE INFO

 **705-255-1194**

 [cindy\\_crawford@cla-algoma.org](mailto:cindy_crawford@cla-algoma.org)



## STORIES OR POEMS

Tell us about a trip, a great day or a reunion. Share it as a story or a poem. Maximum wordcount is 250 words.



## ART

We create design based on your value, purpose, and business needs.



## PHOTOS

Have a photo of you and your pet? A photo from a trip? A picture of a flower in your garden? Maximum of two photos submitted.



T: 705- 253-1700 [newsletter@cla-algoma.org](mailto:newsletter@cla-algoma.org) 99 Northern Ave., East Sault Ste. Marie ON P6B 4H5

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# DISTRICT D'ALGOMA

*Février est le mois de l'éducation inclusive!*  
**Concours Nous sommes meilleurs ensemble!**

**Ouvert  
aux  
étudiants  
de JK à  
12e année**

Valeurs des prix : 1er, 2ème  
& 3ème prix pour les  
participations gagnantes  
en JK-3; de la 4e à la 6e  
année; 7-10 et 11-12



**Date limite: Jeudi 29 février 2024**

Transmettre à :  
[contest@cla-algoma.org](mailto:contest@cla-algoma.org) en indiquant Nous  
sommes meilleurs ensemble à la ligne d'objet.

Concours Nous sommes meilleurs  
ensemble: Un concours pour le  
"Mois de éducation inclusive"



analysez-moi



# ALGOMA DISTRICT

## *February is Inclusive Education Month!*

### Together We're Better Contest

Open to  
students from  
JK to  
Grade 12

Prize values:  
1st, 2nd & 3rd prizes for  
winning entries in grades  
JK-3; 4-6;  
7-10 and 11-12



**Deadline: Thursday, Feb. 29th, 2024**

Submit by scanning the QR code or by sending an email to:  
[contest@cla-algoma.org](mailto:contest@cla-algoma.org)  
with the subject line "Together We're Better."



"Scan" To Enter Contest

**COMMUNITY LIVING**  
Algoma  
*Inspiring Possibilities*

**INTÉGRATION  
COMMUNAUTAIRE**  
Algoma  
*Inspirant des possibilités*