



THE CLUB
INCLUSION

Annual Report 2016

Building Friendships, Building Community, Building Success



You raise me up

When members of the Club's Inclusive Choir stood on the stage at the Dartmouth Community Health Board's Award Ceremony to sing 'You Raise Me Up,' and looked out at an audience of strangers, we were suddenly gripped with a nervousness and dread. Would we be able to reach the notes? Remember the words? How do you even start this song?

Suddenly, one of our members, Anne, spoke out: "Come on guys! We can do this!!" Her spirit and bravery broke the ice and gave us all the confidence we needed. The words of the song "You raise me up to more than I can be" had a special significance that evening as we supported each other and overcame our fears to sing for our community.

Every day at The Club Inclusion we see the magical moments that happen when people come together to support each other. Whether it's holding a friend's hand to steady them, coming up with ideas for a new activity, or asking questions about your dog, everyone's contributions and strengths come together to make special moments and important bonds.



This year we have seen some remarkable achievements from such a small-scale organization. Thanks to the incredible dedication of volunteers, staff, members, families and our community partners, we have been able to do so much: perform a live play as part of Eastern Front Theatre's Stages Festival; we've had large scale dance events, with limo rides, and a haunted house created by the United Way of Halifax workplace volunteers; five weeks of Summer Camp with tours of CTV and whale watching at Peggy's Cove; drumming from All Nation Drum, a volunteer program in partnership with ISANS, competed in the Bluenose Marathon, started a new inclusive choir with Grace United Church, and hosted three large-scale cultural events organized by students from Dalhousie University.

Our regular membership has also grown for all programs in Halifax and Dartmouth, as word has spread about our activities that include everyone, are welcoming, safe, trusted, and above all, amazing fun!

"I started going to The Club because I was doing respite with an amazing young man. Little did I know what an impact it would have on my life and I was not prepared for what I would come into. I came into a family of hundreds who love and support each other at every opportunity, who will stop at nothing to help you and raise each other up, every single day."

Ewa Rudnicki, volunteer

It's been a year when we have lost some dear friends and appreciated each other keenly. When social media has continued to change the way people interact in the wider community, we have been shown the value and importance of face-to-face conversations and real life engagement. It's also been a year of transformation for The Club as we changed our name from SCRI Society to 'The Club Inclusion': reflecting our commitment to a truly inclusive community: a community in which we are all able to contribute, build on strengths, and provide each other with new perspectives, insights, and understandings.

President's Report

2016 was an important year for The Club in terms of governance and strengthening our organization as a whole. It's been a real pleasure to work with a committed and experienced Board of Directors, on behalf of the Society's membership, to ensure sustainability, quality, and excellent management.

Risk Management has been a key priority this year and we have looked at every aspect of The Club's work as we continue to ensure that the very best health and safety procedures are in place. Marketing and the name change have been a focus - we moved away from The SCRI Society (Social Cultural Recreational Inclusion for All) and formally adopted our new name 'The Club Inclusion,' and have been proud to launch our new website and logo.



The Club Inclusion is extremely grateful to those who have stood with us as we have developed as a charity. To the United Way of Halifax Region, St James Anglican Church, Grace United Church and Dalhousie University – we would not have been able to achieve our current level of success without your guidance and support. We are excited to have been joined by Halifax Men's Progress Club this year, and look forward to providing an exciting five-week summer camp with their support in 2017. Diverse cultural programs have been possible thanks to project funding from a range of health boards, charitable trusts, and the Province of Nova Scotia. Family and volunteer fundraising has meant we have been able to continue with the high quality provision that so many now depend on.

With a membership of over 200 we are very aware of the responsibility we bear to provide high quality user-led programming now, and into the future. With the help of Strategic Planning Consultant, Chris Hornberger of Halifax Global, we are now creating a plan that will help us set clear goals for the next three years.

Finally, I would like to say a word of thanks to our Staff & Volunteer team who give so much of themselves to ensure that our programs are second to none. Their commitment and dedication is highly valued by all. I look forward to continuing the conversation about strengthening our work, building the 'Club Family' and working together to ensure a bright future for persons with different abilities in Nova Scotia.

Sharon Malay
President of the Board of Directors

Changing our name

Written by Victoria Shepherd, member and volunteer of The Club Inclusion

On a Tuesday evening from 7 to 9 pm, Alice Evans and the other Board Members of the committee, arranged a Name Change Ceremony. The decision behind the new name, is to make it easier to remember, and more apparent what The Club was about. The Club Inclusion. A social place for individuals with special needs to gather and develop friendships, as well as learn life skills. A place people can feel included and valued.

Alice Evans, Sharon Malay, and Katie Isenor, who were the Board Members of The Club, gave a speech, and invited All Nations Drum to celebrate this event. A drumming ceremony was given, sung in Mi'kmaq. A passionately explained meaning behind the drum was then given by Alfred Carter, who had created it five years ago with help from Club members. The Mi'kmaq drum has travelled from person to person, and is said that it has healing and medicinal properties: the power of the drum. Tammie Reid, of the All Nations Drummers, performed a song in Mi'kmaq with the drum.

The Theatre Club, which takes place every Wednesday, then put on a short play about their feelings of what The Club should be called. The members, Graham Robertson, Heather McNamara, Tiffany Bonin, Katie Isenor, Conar Clory, each put in their own ideas, and opinions on what The Club meant to them. Katie's opinion was that it meant friends and family. Conar said it was a place to be included, since it was difficult making friends elsewhere. They gave their ideas on what SCRI Society should be called, for example, "Club Awesome," and "Club Fun". They then agreed on The Club Inclusion, and everyone in the audience applauded.

Then Marlene Companion, an All Nations Drummer, told a story about how the drum helped her, and how it would now be of good use to The Club. The handcrafted instrument was donated to The Club and its members afterward, in honour of The Club's new name.

Afterward, the members and volunteers, at the suggestion of Alice, agreed to literally take down the sign 'SCRI Society,' to reveal the new name. Every member was given a chance to try out the drum, and take photos with the drummers.

Your Club, your way!

The Club Inclusion programs are flexible and designed to suit your needs. Whether you are interested in learning skills, developing your creativity, volunteering, getting fit or just hanging out, you can choose the programs that are right for you. Have an idea for an activity? Let us know! Our Planning Committee meets three times a year and is comprised of members, volunteers, family members and staff.

This year over 200 people took part in Club Inclusion programs and events. Which activities did you choose?



You can keep up with our events and community on Facebook, Twitter, and now also on SnapChat. Join our mailing list for regular updates and visit our website at www.theclubinclusion.com to find out more about our work.

Cath's Story

By Nicole Densmore

My daughter Catherine Densmore is 25 years old and has been involved with The Club Inclusion since it opened. She is a very outgoing individual and loves to lead a very active social life. Before she joined The Club she stayed home a lot and felt isolated and lonely. There weren't any clubs that she could join that understood her needs and her need to socialize with her peers her own age. Most youth her age would just tolerate her. Catherine found herself gravitating towards adults who accepted her more readily and created many lasting friendships which she still has today.



When The Club opened, this was a tremendous opportunity for Catherine to socialize with peers her own age. They didn't judge each other but accepted each other for who they are. She would walk into The Club and greet every one with open arms, a smile and a great big hello, in turn the members would do the same. It was a place where she could be herself, relax and enjoy herself. Catherine loves going to The Club to also participate in the many activities - thanks to the volunteers and leaders who put in so much of their time, planning and commitment to The Club. Without these activities and social gatherings there wouldn't be anywhere for members to go to.

Catherine especially enjoys the dances, fashion shows and summer camps. She looks forward to these events as she is among friends and feels safe. The Summer Camp gives her the opportunity to be with friends, enjoy activities that summer brings and most of all she loves the leaders as she has developed close friendships with them. They challenge her, play reality games, go out on outings, sing, dance, talk, laugh, cry from exhaustion and most of all have a wonderful time.

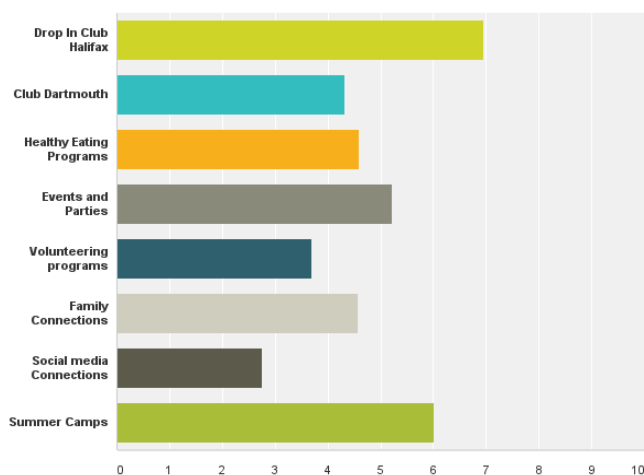
The Club has helped Catherine to grow socially by not trying to limit her abilities but helping her grow, making new friends, going out on outings, having activities to go to 6 days a week. Cath is always looking at the schedule and planning her week around the activities that she wants to attend. The Club helps to give meaning and purpose in life, a place to go out and hang with friends and be accepted for who you are.

Planning the future

As part of our Strategic Planning process, we asked Club members, families, volunteers and stakeholders, what Club Inclusion means to them. 76 people took part in our online survey. Here are some of their responses:

Q4 Of the current programs offered through The Club, which are the most important to you?

Answered: 74 Skipped: 2

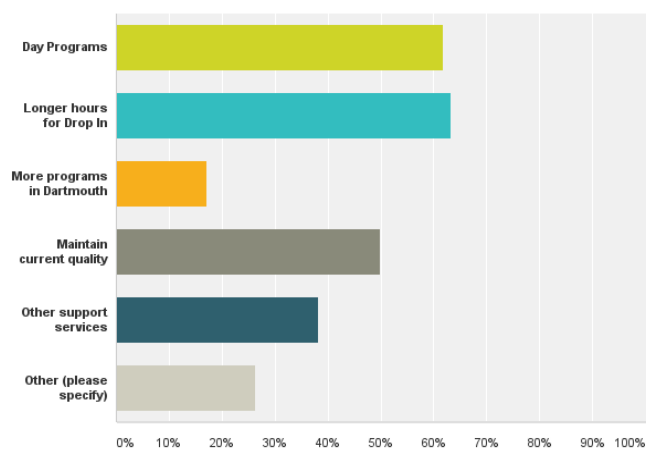


“For many of our family members it could mean isolation if not for The Club. The social aspect is immense and we as parents are extremely optimistic that the socialization leads to more interaction i.e learning and appreciating differences. Our sons and daughters are no different than others in the fact that they need the friendships and contacts of others.”

“Club does not 'cherry-pick' its members. Through patient, compassionate and thoughtful direction, staff, volunteers and programming guide Club's mandate in its effort to assure a successful place for ALL members -unique in its diversity; Club is that prime environment where we are a 'melting pot' of diversity/differing abilities - as such, Club Inclusion is a lynchpin to the sustainability of an entire family's mental, emotional, and physical health.”

Q5 If The Club were to offer more programs, which types of programs would be the most important to focus on?

Answered: 76 Skipped: 0



Financials

The Club Inclusion Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

Year ended October 31, 2016

For a plain language copy of this report please email alice@theclubinclusion.com

Income	\$	Expenses	\$
Government Grants	11,204	Amortization	9,376
United Way of Halifax & other Grants	88,350	Office	17,900
Fundraising	24,455	Fundraising	4,916
Donations	19,616	Club Dartmouth	3,963
Membership Fees		Drop In Club	37,801
Club Dartmouth	2,868	Lunch Club	2,452
Drop In Club	15,732	Summer Camp	41,851
Lunch Club	840	Supper Club	4,991
Summer Camp	26,108	Programming Salaries	60,473
Supper Club	1,885	Administrative Salaries	16,002
Total Income	191,058	Total Expenses	199,725
		Balance	-8667

The Club Inclusion Statement of Financial Position

Year ended October 31, 2016

Assets	\$
Current	
Cash	50,475
Accounts Receivable	<u>310</u>
	50,785
Equipment & Leasehold Improvements	<u>18,413</u>
	69,198
Liabilities	\$
Current	
Accounts Payable	4,976
Net Assets	
General Fund/Reserve	61,344
Internally Restricted	<u>2,878</u>
	64,222
	69,198

Treasurer's Note:

During this financial year we planned for a small deficit. This is mostly due to depreciation of the value of capital assets. 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. We want to say a special thank you to the following people and organizations for their financial support:

Anonymous Benefactors
ACFO Association of Canadian Financial Officers
Andrew & Carmel Raymond
The Beed/Kinney Family
Bluenose Marathon Team for The Club
Dartmouth Community Health Board
Dartmouth Masonic Properties
Debbie and Jamie Munro
Federal Government of Canada
Fusion Print
Mr Gerry Rivers and family
Grace United Church, Dartmouth
Halifax Regional Municipality
Investors Group Halifax Office
McInnes Cooper
Milt & Carla Isaacs
Partnership for Access Nova Scotia
Mr Paul Lepine
Province of Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage
Mr Ross Elliot
Scotiabank
United Way of Halifax
Uta Donahue
Westmount Neighbourhood Association
Westjet Airlines
The Windsor Foundation

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 2016.

All Nation Drum
Dalhousie University, School of Health and Human Performance
Dalhousie University, School of Nursing
Dr Brian Hennan
Dr Paula Hutchinson
DJ Ace
Eastern Front Theatre
The Parish of Grace United Church
HACL
ISANS Immigrant Settlement Agency of NS
Karen Bassett
Maritime African Dance
Nova Scotia Partnership for Respite
Nova Scotia Community College
NSACL
The Parish of St James Anglican Church
Zumba with Darin and Shelley



United Way
Halifax

In loving memory of Amy Drapeau, Elizabeth Varma, Linda Bonang, and Penny Kitchen – forever in our hearts

Thank you to the Volunteers, Caregivers, Members and Friends who have worked tirelessly to make The Club such a success.

2016 Staff Team:

Executive Director, Alice Evans
Programs & Summer Camp Director, Jackie Rivers
Program Leaders: Emily Flinn, Justin Eweka, Justin McGarragh, Kari Plaggenborg, Melinda Dobson, Rob Grandy, Mike Murray, Audrey Samson, Jocelyn Tingley, Adam Johnson, Stephanie Jocelyn.
Additional Summer Camp Staff: Celilidh Wright, Corey Morrison, Ewa Rudnicki, Olivia Dobson, Shawna Varner, Thomas Rivers.

Mailing Address:

2185 Quinn St, Halifax, B3L 3E5
Telephone: 902 478 1917
Email: Registrarinfotheclub@gmail.com
www.theclubinclusion.com
Registered Charity 836137422RR0001
www.facebook.com/theclubinclusion
www.twitter.com/clubinclusion

2016 Board of Directors:

Sharon Malay, President
Anne Louise Desrosiers, Vice President
James Pratley, Treasurer
James Robertson, Secretary
Anne-Marie Leger
Audrey Samson
Bud Malay
Dawn Le Blanc
Grant MacLean
Jo-Ann McNamara
Jocelyn Tingley
Kari Robertson
Paula Layton
Alice Evans (non-voting member)
Session Leader Representative: Jackie Rivers
Member Reps: Conar Clory, Katelyn Isenor.

The Club Inclusion Co-founders:

Renée Pye & Alice Evans



