January 2017 marked the successful launch of our new Lifelong Learning Program for Adults age 19 plus. This life skills program provides an opportunity for young adults to connect socially, engage with their community and practice and develop new skills to support their independence. Revenue to sustain this social enterprise is generated through tuition fees with the surplus flowing into Pathways’ operational budget to support the clinical services we provide to children ages 0-19. In September 2017 our participants started a new session but there is still room! Please see our website under “Programs and Services“ or simply click this link for more information.

Next summer we will once again be hosting the iCan Bike Program where people with disabilities, 8 years +, will learn to ride a two wheeler! Registration will be opening soon and many volunteers are needed to help support this program. For more information contact Cindy at chughes@pathwayscentre.org, or to volunteer, contact Julie at jingles@pathwayscentre.org.

Please see our website under 'Programs and Services - Therapeutic Recreation’ for a touching video of iCan Bike 2016 or simply click this link.
Executive Director’s Report

The big news this fall is that we launched Coordinated Service Planning (CSP) in our community on October 23rd, following more than two years of planning. Pathways is the Coordinating Agency through which families of children and youth with multiple and/or complex special needs from birth to end of school, can access coordinated service planning for a range of services across sectors. Heather Collins, our Lead Coordinated Service Planner, has been working with the Pathways team and agency staff across the community to develop the training, forms, data collection and other supports necessary. I am also thrilled to be able to tell you that Heather will be supporting the First Nations communities on Aamjiwnaang, Walpole Island and Kettle & Stony Point to provide Coordinated Service Planning for their own families. Families can self refer by contacting Pathways directly at 519-542-3471; or families can be referred with their consent by any CSP partner agency or District School Board. Help us offer the best coordinated service planning possible! The Coordinated Service Planning Steering Committee is now seeking youth and family members. Please consider helping out on either a short or long-term basis. If this interests you, please call me at extension 237.

And what happened to Integrated Rehab? Well, our community’s proposal for Integrated Rehab is currently on hold while a provincial advisory group of clinical experts, sector partners and education stakeholders makes recommendations to the Ministries for decision-making on implementation of rehabilitation services across education and community-based sectors in a tiered service delivery model. During this time and for an interim period beginning April 1, 2018 the responsibility for the management of the Lambton contracts for the delivery of the School Health Professional Services of Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and Speech-Language Pathology will be transitioned to Pathways. Current service providers (PACE HOMECARE and VON), will continue so that service continuity is maintained for children and their families who are receiving or waiting for these services.

Concerns, comments – as always, I am very interested in hearing directly from families, whether I can be of assistance on an individual family concern, or whether you have suggestions that would be of benefit for all at Pathways. So please contact me at jgreensmith@pathwayscentre.org or by phone at 519-542-3471 ext. 237.

Parent Story — Meet the Bostons

Our family was welcomed into Pathways when our son Drew, 2 years old, was diagnosed at 9 months with Koolen DeVries Syndrome. Koolen DeVries Syndrome (KDVS) is a disorder characterized by developmental delay and mild to moderate intellectual disability.

The Staff at Pathways have always been very welcoming to our family, as we were at a loss on where to begin. From the beginning we have had nothing but support from the feeding team, Occupational Therapy, Speech and Physiotherapy. Drew is exceeding our expectations on where he is physically, mentally and socially. Drew now attends Point Edward Early Learning center where he, along with their staff receives support from Pathways on a weekly basis. Drew is starting to really communicate with words and sign language. Drew loves the water, being at the boat, sailing and swimming. He also loves to go to work with his dad and help make sails. He loves bike rides and playing outside. He loves his family and spending time with them. Drew is a very smart and loving kid.

Drew is our family’s KOOL Kid

Please see the Boston family’s full story under the “About Us, Our Video and Stories” tab on our website at www.pathwayscentre.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Secret Santa Shoppe—Nov. 17-19 and 24-26 at Pathways
- Please watch for our annual Christmas Donor Solicitation Letter
- Expressive Arts Production — Jan. 13, 2018 at the Sarnia Library
- iCan Bike — July 16-20, 2018

Follow us on Facebook for other fundraisers and upcoming events.

Want to stay connected with your child’s team? Join the new Family Portal, secure online access to your child’s records.