

# Signs of Sharing



New Brunswick/Nouveau Brunswick



**DEAFBLIND AWARENESS MONTH**

*Make a wave from coast to coast*

**MOIS DE LA SENSIBILISATION À LA SURDICÉCITÉ**

*Créez une vague d'un océan à l'autre*

**JUNE IS NATIONAL DEAFBLIND AWARENESS MONTH**  
Organizations providing services for Canadians who are deafblind seek to raise awareness

Many of us receive information through our eyes and ears. Whether it's from television news, conversations with neighbours, headlines on a mobile device, or weather reports on an app. These seemingly minor bits of information, which most of us take for granted, can present many barriers for a person who is deafblind.

June is celebrated as National Deafblind Awareness Month, marking the birth month of Helen Keller, unquestionably the most famous person who was deafblind. Helen Keller's journey is an inspiring story, which took her from no communication with the world around her to a life of vision and advocacy. Thanks to the support of her intervenor who served as her communication partner, she engaged in a seemingly impossible battle to participate and break down barriers in a world some might consider she had lost. Through her actions and achievements, Helen Keller is recognized as one of the most powerful symbols of triumph over adversity.

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- Deafblind Awareness Month

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**Many people are familiar with the story of Helen Keller, but are unaware that her experience as an individual who is deafblind is all too real for over 1% of Canadians (460,000). In a recent report, Canadians who are deafblind identified many gaps in services across the country. These gaps included variations in services between provinces; limited funding available for Intervenor Services, limited intervenor hours and choice; and lack of diversity in services required by individuals with deafblindness.[\[1\]](#)**

**“National Deafblind Awareness Month presents an opportunity to build awareness about the distinct experience of Canadians who are deafblind. Intervenor Services help open up a world of opportunity for individuals who are deafblind so that they can thrive,” explains the Chair of the National Deafblind Awareness Month Working Group, Karen Madho.**

**With the assistance of intervenors, who act as the eyes and ears of people who are deafblind, Canadians who are deafblind are able to live more independent lives, accessing their communities in more fulfilling ways.**

**Take for instance Canadian Helen Keller Centre staff member Elio Riggillo, who is deafblind. Elio lives in Toronto with his wife of over 20 years and their three children. He is also a faculty member at George Brown College teaching American Sign Language (ASL).**

**Not satisfied with this already demanding and rewarding role, Elio was recently hired as the Community Relations Coordinator at CHKC. His new position is responsible for promoting CHKC services and programs, introducing new people who are deafblind to the community, providing peer-to-peer support to individuals who are deafblind and advocating for the needs of the deafblind community. With the help of his intervenors, Elio is able to be as independent as he wants to be.**

**Nadine Anderson has been working as the part-time Light Duty Cleaner at the Canadian Helen Keller Centre since 2017. She has been a resident of Rotary Cheshire Homes for over a decade. Nadine is also deafblind, and through Intervenor Services she is able to enjoy life to the fullest. A prolific Facebook user with a passion for photography, she can be seen enjoying Toronto’s finest attractions and events, demonstrating that there is nothing that she can’t do!**

**NOTE TO MEDIA: The experience for someone who is deafblind, which may include all types and degrees of dual hearing and vision loss, can be isolating and restrictive. Consumers are available to tell their stories to the media and explain how having the support of Intervenor Services helps people who are deafblind achieve their full potential.**

**Article came from Deafblind Network of Ontario**

# Clients Practicing Social Distancing



**These are a two clients from Bathurst Area, showing how to properly practice social distancing at Easter time. In photos are Jedd and Kevin our Clients and their Intervenor Lise.**





## Message from Executive Director Kevin Symes

It has been a challenging time for all of us over the last few months. I am writing this message as many of the Intervenors are starting to go back to work or will be going back to work shortly. We have all done our part in trying to keep the spread of Covid-19 to a minimum. This meant that the Intervenors were not permitted to work with their clients and I know that this was difficult on the Intervenors, clients and the families/guardians. I know that many Intervenors maintained contact with their clients over the period of isolation. I would like to thank you for this and all the supports that you were able to offer in supporting the CDBA-NB clients.

I would like to thank the CDBA-NB Board of Directors for their work over this time as well. We had a number of meetings by Zoom to keep updated on the events of the ever-changing environment that Covid-19 was causing. The Board of Directors have also decided to postpone the CDBA-NB Annual General Meeting to September. At this time, it looks like we will be having this meeting by Zoom. I will be sending out more information soon. I hope that you all will be able to attend.

This year will feel a little different with the Covid-19 restrictions in place, our CDBA-NB office will look a little different as well. Many of you know, Jody, has moved to the Office Manager position and Chantel has joined the CDBA-NB family as the Program Manager. I know that these ladies will be there to help you with any concerns that you may have. We also have hired a part-time person in the office. Many of you have known her for a long time. She is one of CDBA-NB clients. Sheena, and her Intervenor will be working at the office a few hours each week. So, welcome Chantel & Sheena!!

This year is not looking good to have our camp as we normally do. However, we are looking at different ideas to have us together to enjoy some time as a group. Also, I do not believe that we will be able to have our summer daytrip. We are, however, looking at different ideas that we may be able to do instead as well. If you have any suggestions or ideas, please pass them along to us.

As we move through the summer and fall months, I believe that we will still be dealing with some restrictions due to Covid-19. I would like to remind everyone to remember to social distance from each other and wear a mask when social distancing is not possible. It is only through supporting and caring for each other that we will be able to get through this difficult time. I wish you all well and be safe.

## Message from the Manager of Intervention Services, Chantel Whitman



**Hi everyone!**

**My name is Chantel and I am the Manager of Intervention Services at CDBA-NB. I am originally from Nova Scotia, but made the move to New Brunswick in 2008. I am a proud UNB Fredericton alumni - I love our vibrant community, and the incredible people that make Fredericton home.**

**Prior to joining the team at CDBA-NB, I had worked in the events and fair industry for many years. In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my fiancé, Jon and our three amazing (and very busy) children.**

**I love being a part of the team at CDBA-NB and working with all of our incredible staff and clients. I look forward to new memories and seeing all of the friendly faces that come through the CDBA-NB door.**



## Message from the Office Manager, Jody Brewer

**Hi Everyone, it is that time of the year again for another newsletter. This is my first newsletter as the new Office Manager, so I hope you all enjoy it. I know things are not the same as before and we are missing out of a lot of things we would typically do this year, but keep your chins up. We all have each other and we are all staying safe and healthy. Things are starting to open back up and we have the outside to enjoy as well, so I hope you all take advantage of the nice weather and get to take some pictures of your adventures to share for the next newsletter. Have a great summer and hope to see you all soon. Take care and Stay Safe!!**



## Message from the President— David Brown

We have all, and still are, going through a hopefully one-in-a lifetime experience. For those who were in a bubble at the start of the emergency measures, consider yourself lucky. There were many that lived by themselves that have had to endure some lonely times for the last two months. However, as things open up, we will be able to get back to some sort of normal until a vaccine is developed. Our Intervenors and Staff were very fortunate that our province continued with uninterrupted funding during this shutdown. I want to personally thank those Intervenors who were able to continue their services to some of our more dependent Clients.

Going forward, our services will be fulfilled somewhat differently, but I'm sure that we will find our way and adapt through the changes. The main goal of everyone is to make sure that we proceed with caution following the new guideline, and most of all, stay safe. I encourage everyone that has any concerns to talk with the CDBA-NB office staff. They are there for you.

**David Brown**

**CDBA-NB President**

# Winter Time Fun.....



Craig and his intervenor enjoying some holiday baking. Craig is one of our clients from Moncton.



# Winter Time Fun Cont..



A few of our Fredericton Clients enjoying the Clay Café on a cold winter's day. Good place to be on a cold day and looks like then are having fun as well.

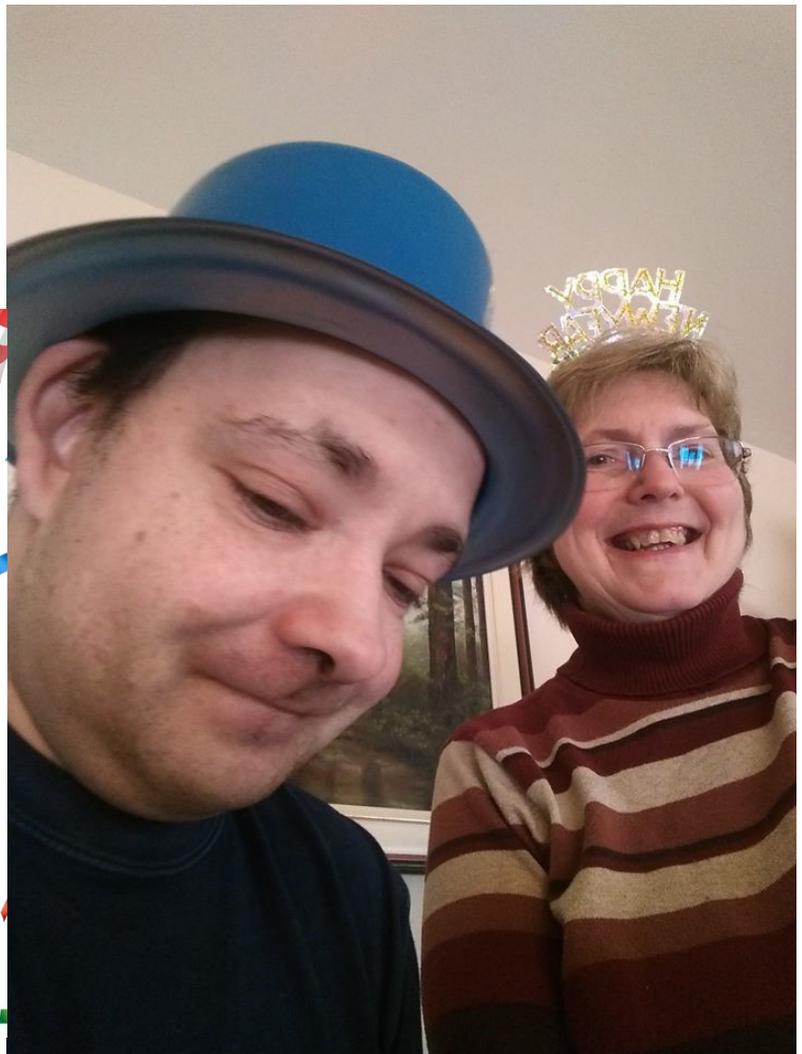
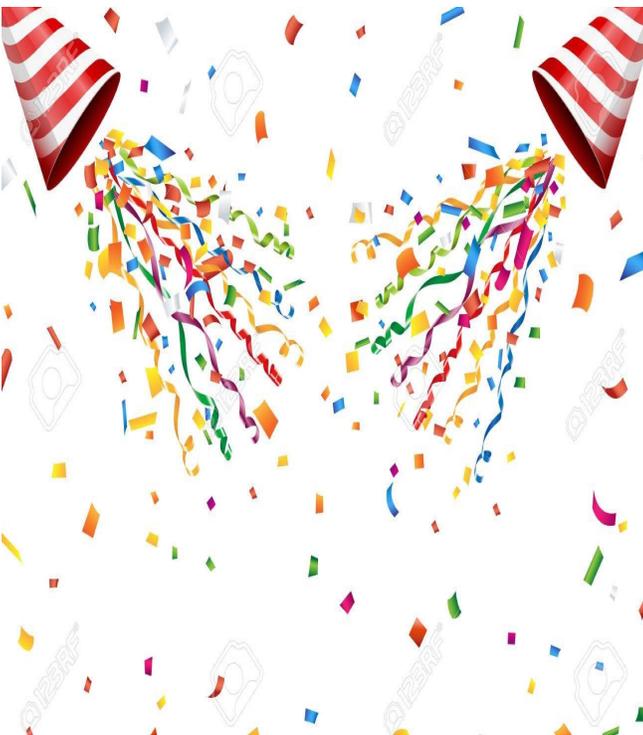
# More Winter Time



Jamie, our Fredericton client getting already for the holidays!!!



# Happy New Year!



# Craft Time

Never buy paint for kids!!  
Paint- 1 cup salt, 1 cup flour,  
1 cup water, food coloring.



# Happy Birthday



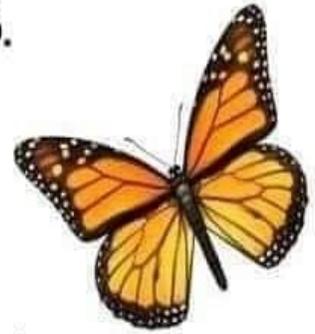
Our Fredericton Client, Eddy!!!  
Look 's like he had good company and lots of Birthday Cake on his Birthday.



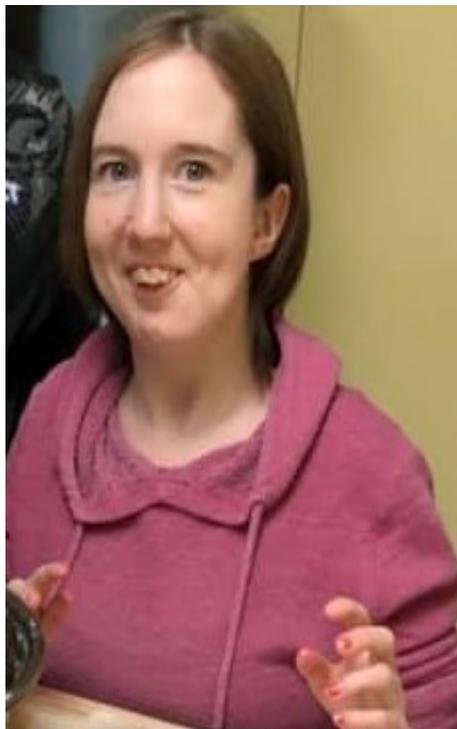
# Something Fun...

## SPRING SCAVENGER HUNT

- 🌸 Find a yellow flower. primary playground
- 🌸 Find 3 different shaped leaves.
- 🌸 Find something that is red.
- 🌸 Find a spider web.
- 🌸 Find something that flies.
- 🌸 Name 2 things you see in the sky.
- 🌸 Find something that is long.
- 🌸 Find something that grows that is green.
- 🌸 Find 2 birds.
- 🌸 Find some water.
- 🌸 Find something purple.
- 🌸 Find something that crawls.



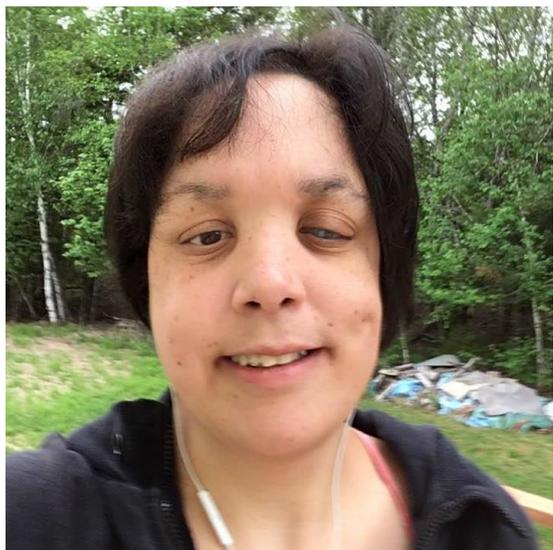
# Crafty Clients



Michelle, one of our Fredericton Clients showing off her painting skills.



# Crafty Clients Con't...



Sheena, our Fredericton client, showing off her great crocheting work.



# Recipe

## Marry Me Chicken



### Ingredients:

1 tbsp., extra-virgin olive oil

6 Bone in, fresh skin on chicken thighs (about 2 lbs)

Kosher Salt

Freshly ground pepper

2 Cloves garlic, minced

1tbsp. Fresh thyme leave

1 tsp. crushed red pepper flakes

3/4 c. low sodium chicken broth

1/2 c. Heavy cream

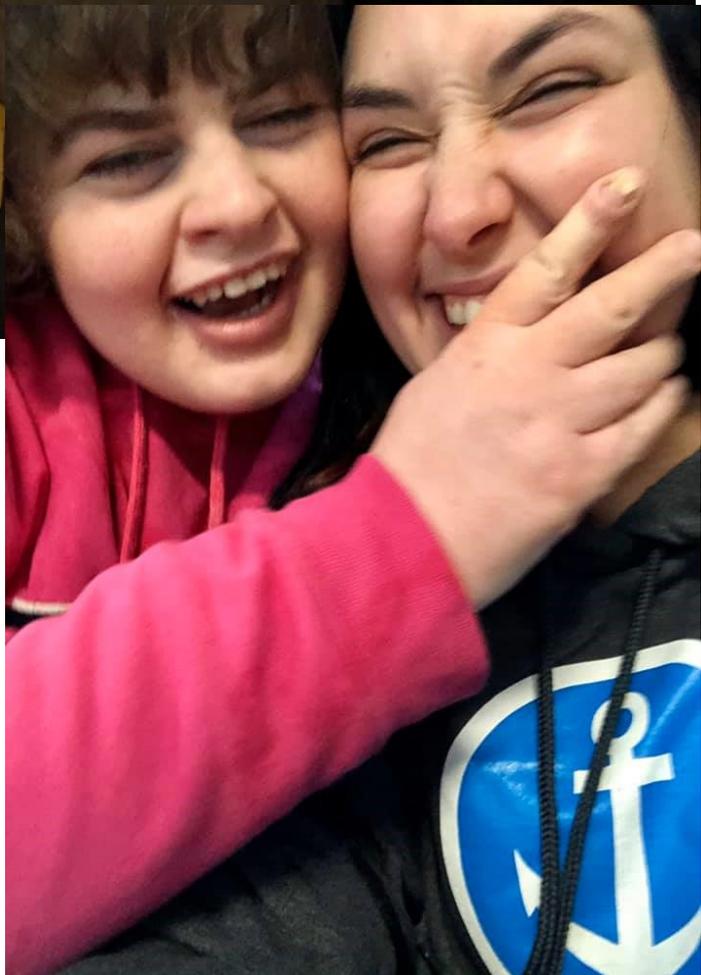
1/2 c. chopped sun-dried tomatoes

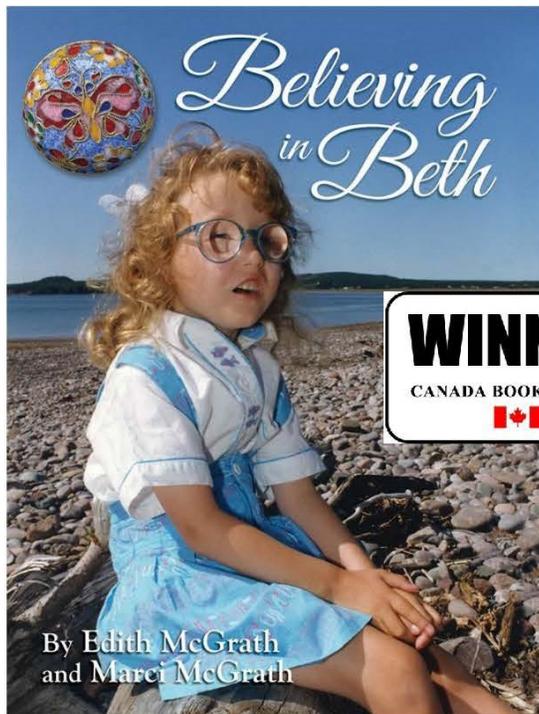
Freshly torn basil, for serving

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 375°. In a large oven safe skillet over medium-high heat, heat oil. Season chicken generously with salt and pepper and sear, skin side down until golden, 4 to 5 minutes per side. Transfer chicken to a plate and pour off half the fat from skillet.
2. Return skillet to medium heat and add garlic, thyme, and red pepper flakes. Cook until fragrant, 1 minute, then stir in broth, heavy cream, sun-dried tomatoes, and Parmesan and season with more salt. Bring to a simmer, then return chicken to skillet, skin side up.
3. Transfer skillet to oven and bake until chicken is cooked through (and juices run clean when chicken is pierced with a knife), 17 to 20 minutes.
4. Garnish with basil and serve.

# CDBA-NB Smiles





Beth was a consumer with CDBA-NB for many years. "Believing in Beth" is an amazing book written about Beth by her mother and sister.

May 29, 2016 was the book launch at the St. Martin's Community Center. In photo, Lisa Bennett, Beth's former Intervenor; Shari Ross, Office Manager; Edie McGrath, Beth's mom and author; Jody Brewer, Administrative Assistant and Jennifer Jewett, Manager of Intervention Services.



## Believing in Beth



Believing in Beth is a true story that shares how the birth of one special little girl, Beth McGrath, turns her family's life upside down. As a result of Congenital Rubella Syndrome (CRS), Beth continually struggles to escape into a world of her own. For the love of her daughter, Beth's mother Edie, is determined to make Beth live in her family's world.



We were so pleased that Beth, Edie and Earl once again joined us for Camp.



If you are interested in purchasing a copy of this book for \$15.95, plus applicable shipping, please contact CDBA-NB Inc. at 452-1544 or [office@cdba-nb.ca](mailto:office@cdba-nb.ca)

A percentage of the proceeds from the sale of this book will be donated to the special care home where Beth resides. A donation will also be made to the New Brunswick Chapter of the Canadian Deafblind Association.



## June is Deafblind Awareness Month

### June is Deafblind Awareness Month

Deafblind Awareness Month was started in 2015 as a way to help Canadians develop an understanding of, and a comfort with, the people in our communities who live with Deafblindness..

We encourage you to spread the word about Deafblindness and make a wave from coast to coast. Follow CDBA on Facebook and share stories to raise awareness about Deafblindness and the abilities of individuals who are living with a combined loss of hearing and vision.



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