

# Deputation to Town of Blue Mountains Council

July 4, 2022



## **Events for Life Centre Inc.**

Enriching the lives of individuals with special needs

Kevin Whyte – Vice-Chair, EFL Board of Directors

# WHO WE ARE



# **OUR MISSION**

**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 Blue Mountains and surrounding area**



# WHAT WE DO



# OUR CURRENT PROGRAM SPACES

## EFL Centre





# OUR CURRENT PROGRAM SPACES

## Blue Mountain Community Church



# EFL Strategic Imperatives

- **Build Strong Foundation**
  - Increase staffing for growing demand
  - Ensure sustainability in funding and support
  - Build strong partnerships in the community
- **Facilitate Access to Housing for Participants**
  - Educate families on planning for aging & housing solutions
  - Collaborate with agencies in securing long term housing options
  - Assist with support models to ensure success
- **Expand Program Offerings**
  - Deliver growing and diverse program streams
  - Manage growing demand for spaces in program
  - Deliver work experience and employment opportunities
- **Deliver a Secured Location “Forever Program Space”**
  - Buy, Build, or partner to secure a long term space for delivering program
  - Bring awareness to community for need and support of a “forever” property

# Facilitate Access to Housing for Participants

- Housing for individuals with disabilities is a National Crisis with waitlists measured in decades
- Aging parents struggle with how to plan for their adult child after they are gone
- EFL is assisting parents in planning and accessing housing options as there are no other agencies in TOBM providing support in this area
- Ongoing and positive discussions with TOBM Attainable Housing Board & Corp is providing a real opportunity for units to be made available at Gateway location
- Eligibility to “attainable” priced units difficult with the present criteria defined to access those units so we are in discussions to access & secure market priced units
- Individuals with disabilities receive less than \$1,200 a month for all personal & living expenses making market rates unattainable even when sharing a unit
- **We are here to ask the Town and Council to assist in finding support and funding to offset the market rates and help families secure units in the Gateway and future Attainable Housing locations**



# Expand Program Offerings

- EFL has continued to expand our offering to meet the growing needs in the community both virtually during Covid and now with a much larger group being supported at our 2 locations
- One of our key strategies in expanding program offerings is to provide meaningful work experience and employment opportunities to our participants
- We are presently in discussions with the Town staff to manage the Snack Bar at the Community Centre which will provide a huge opportunity for work experience & life skills training
- **We are here to ask the Town & Council to provide support to make this happen**
- As part of the Gateway development, EFL is in discussion to secure retail space to open a Café where participants will have real employment opportunities, learn critical life skills, and to showcase the incredible diversity of this community
- **We are here to ask the Town and Council to assist in finding support and funding to offset the leasing costs of the Café to allow for the EFL team to be successful in operating for the early years and ensure ongoing success**

# Deliver a Secured Location “Forever Program Space”

- EFL has grown from supporting 8 individuals to now 30 and continues to see demand as the community grows
- We are now operating out of 2 locations (The Farm & BMCC) with neither facility providing all of the program and accessibility needs of the group
- Our goal is to have a long term “forever” property to allow us to deliver high quality support to a growing community
- We have been in discussions and have been included as an optional element in the recent submission from SHS for the Campus of Care project
- We see an incredible opportunity for community partnerships & collaboration, work experience, housing opportunities and volunteer support with our participants and seniors at this location
- **We ask that the Town and Council support EFL to become a mandatory component of the Campus of Care project or, if not possible, that we are deemed a desirable optional element for inclusion in the RFP as we believe EFL embodies all of the attributes desired in this project**

**Team EFL thanks Council and the  
staff at TOBM for your ongoing and  
outstanding support**

**<https://eventsfor.life/>**

