



# KWhabilitation



## 50th Anniversary Fundraising Goal Update

This year, in honour of our 50th anniversary at KW Habilitation, we set an ambitious fundraising goal. Halfway through the year, we are well on our way to raising \$50,000 and we are so grateful for the support we have received to date.

So far this year we have raised over \$34,000!

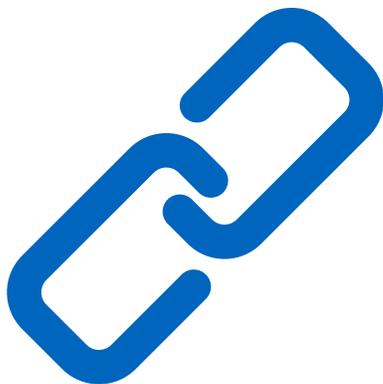
## WHAT'S INSIDE?

- Fundraising 2021
- Get the Jab at KW Hab
- Our Farm Update
- AND MORE!

## A NOTE FROM ANN

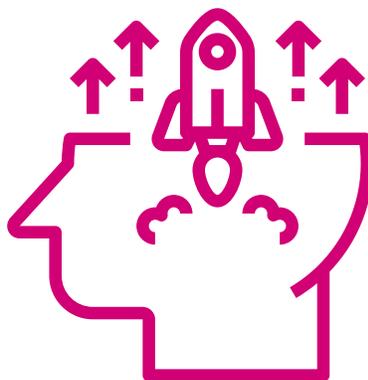
The last few months at KW Hab have been a whirlwind! From vaccinating the People we Support, family members, and our staff in partnership with Waterloo Region Public Health, and our community partners, to finding new ways to hold fundraising events, to rolling out our new strategic pathway, we can't help feeling hopeful.

Working with People Minded Business to engage with the People we Support, families, our employees, and other stakeholders, we are pleased to have had the opportunity to share our new strategic pathway in several virtual sessions this Spring. And, in case you missed it, I'm happy to share with you that moving forward, our work will be guided by three pillars: **Strengthen, Create, and Align**. I invite you to [click here](#), if you would like to read more about it.



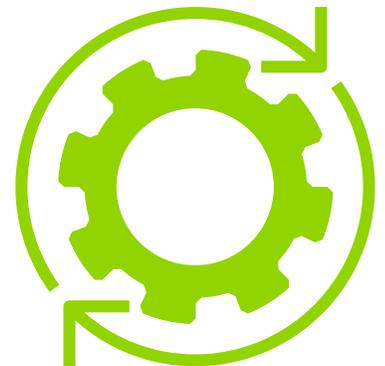
### STRENGTHEN

what helps people to explore possibilities, to belong & connect in meaningful ways.



### CREATE

and innovate next generation approaches and solutions.



### ALIGN

operations to deliver on priorities and to create systemic change.



\$33,969.61



## HELP US RAISE 50K



When you donate in celebration of our 50th Anniversary, we can do more to help people with disabilities lead fulfilling and purposeful lives as valued members of our community. All funds raised in celebration of our 50th Anniversary will go toward our next Affordable Housing project. We believe in a neighbour helping neighbour philosophy and your gift will help provide accessible housing that is financially sustainable over the long term.

## JOIN US FOR GOLF!

You're invited to join us for our Annual Golf Tournament, taking place September 10, 2021 at Brookfield Golf in Cambridge. Golfers are welcome to sign up for 18 holes of golf, cart, lunch, silent auction and prizes for \$150. For more details, including sponsorship opportunities, please visit [www.kwhab.ca/golf](http://www.kwhab.ca/golf) or email [golf@kwhab.a](mailto:golf@kwhab.a)



### DQ Week

August 23 - 29

1-330 The Boardwalk, Waterloo

AND

628 King Street North, Waterloo

A PORTION OF EVERY CAKE SOLD WILL BE DONATED TO KW HABILITATION

*September 10, 2021!*



# KW Habilitation

ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

## DQ WEEK - SAVE THE DATE!

The partnership between KW Habilitation and Rob Maxwell & Mark Parker at Dairy Queen is richer than the delicious treats enjoyed during this annual fundraiser. It is based in the foundation that every person belongs, has something to offer, and is a part of this community. We are excited to announce that Rob and Mark will be hosting the DQ Sweet Treat Fundraiser again this August!

Between August 23 -29, the Dairy Queen locations at The Boardwalk and King Street North will donate a portion of the sales from ice cream cakes to support the activities and services at KW Habilitation. As well, there will be a collaborative art piece displayed for silent auction at each location created by those who access services at KWH. Please save the date and watch for more information so you can join us for this sweet fundraiser!



**DQ WEEK 2021**

**AUGUST 23 - 29**

**THE BOARDWALK**  
330 THE BOARDWALK  
WATERLOO, ON

**KING STREET NORTH**  
628 KING ST N,  
WATERLOO, ON

## KPOPELAW Q&A WEBINAR

Back by popular demand, Ken and his team are hosting more Q&A sessions where they'll answer some of your pressing questions about:

- Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB)
- ODSP benefits, increases & income and asset tests
- Disability & caregiver tax credit recaptures
- Legal guardianship & powers of attorney
- Wills, Henson Trusts & estate planning
- Dying without a will or Henson Trust
- Using life insurance to fund Trusts
- RDSPs and anything else you'd like us to address

### Wednesday Webinar Session:

June 16, 2021 at 07:00 PM  
Eastern Time

[CLICK HERE](#) to register

### Thursday Webinar Session:

June 17, 2021 at 12:00 PM  
Eastern Time

[CLICK HERE](#) to register

## GET THE JAB AT KW HAB

With great excitement, it was announced in March 2021 that KW Habitation, along with Sunbeam Community & Developmental Services, Cambridge Community Living and Elmira District Community Living, were selected to host a pop-up COVID-19 vaccination clinic!

With the help of 37 Habbers, the vaccination pop-up clinic became a reality. The KW Hab team stepped up and worked tirelessly over 5 days to provide 820 COVID-19 vaccinations to the people we support, caregivers and essential staff working at developmental services agencies.

You could feel the relief from everyone after they were vaccinated. There were cheers, air high fives, and an overall sense of hope. People felt they had a part of their life back again and a new normal started to look like a reality. This was the first step towards a future without COVID-19.

As people came and went, we heard great feedback on how well-organized KW Habilitation was. This was thanks to efforts of Tracy Franks and the vaccination team and it was a testament to the hard work and effort of everyone involved.

Our second shot vaccination clinic started on June 15, 2021, bringing us one step closer to everything we've been missing over the last 15 months.

5 

pop-up clinics

2,720 

Vaccines were administered

between KWH, Sunbeam, Cambridge Community living and Elmira District Community Living.

 820

people got their first shots

36 

KWH staff stepped up to help



## OUR FARM AND OUR TRAILS

Fresh vegetables from Our Farm are starting to be harvested! Most of the planting has been done and crops are starting to bloom and flourish. Fresh lettuce, rhubarb, baby bok choy, herbs and tomato plants are among the first crops to be ready this month with so many more delicious vegetables to look forward to. Our Farm will continue to provide free fresh produce that helps to offset grocery costs for the People we Support.



We are also excited that the Trails at Our Farm are open again as provincial restrictions are being lifted! Our trail provides a wonderful view of Our Farm and is equipped with resting spots to allow time to enjoy the view of the gardens and exploring the many trees, flowers, insects, and small animals that make their home in Erbsville.

You may also catch a glimpse of the chickadees and bluebirds that inhabit many of our birdhouses. If you're planning a trip, make sure to stop by the gazebo which provides shade for activities such as reading, sketching or taking a lunch break.

**Visit the Our Farm walking trails at 995 Erbsville Road, Waterloo**

## GRAEME'S EMPLOYMENT JOURNEY



Graeme Johnstone's ultimate goal was to move out of his parents' house and live on his own. To do this, he knew he would have to be able to obtain and maintain a full-time job to pay for rent and living expenses. He recounts "I wanted to give my parents a bit of a break, as well as have my own independence. I wanted a place of my own but knew full well I needed a full-time job to be able to support myself".

Graeme's past jobs were all in the food industry and he had lots of experience in various roles at many restaurants but wasn't having much luck in maintaining employment for long periods of time.

"I thought it was maybe time to try something different. I didn't know exactly what that would look like, or if I would be successful, and I was very nervous about the unknown. The more I thought about trying something new, the more skeptical I became".

Mark Kniahnicki, Graeme's Job Coach at KW Career Compass (KWCC), encouraged him to try a different type of employment setting, but as Mark recalls, "Graeme was a bit hesitant because he said he didn't know anything else other than the food industry. Working in restaurants was all that he knew." Mark suggested that they tour Onward Manufacturing Plant's distribution center so Graeme could see "what else is out there" for himself, along with observing the tasks and responsibilities involved in various roles within the plant. After touring the plant, Graeme was very intrigued in the various roles at the distribution center. Graeme says "by allowing myself to step out of my comfort zone I was able to see first-hand what other opportunities were available in the labor market".

As a result of a longstanding collaboration between KWCC and Onward, Graeme was able to go back and try a variety of tasks to see whether the job was a fit for him. If Graeme had the interest and necessary skills, they would consider hiring him for a

...continued

three-month full-time contract. Graeme tried a variety of tasks in the distribution center, which he excelled at, and on March 1st, 2020 he was offered a contract position with the potential for a permanent opportunity.

With initial support from his job coach Graeme showed he could learn new tasks and responsibilities and continued to meet and exceed expectations set out by Onward. On June 1, 2020, Graeme was offered a permanent full-time position, and is a valued member of the Onward team Graeme says “It all worked out. Had I only pursued employment in what I was comfortable with (food services) I would have, at the very least, been laid off at various times throughout the pandemic. Business is booming at Onward, and I was very lucky that they gave me a chance to prove myself. As a result, I have been able to successfully maintain full-time employment in a role that I truly enjoy”.

On March 1 2021, exactly a year to the day that he was initially hired, Graeme achieved his ultimate goal and moved into his own apartment. Graeme proudly says that “working at Onward has taught me to never be afraid to try something new.... take a leap of faith and you just might achieve more than you ever thought you could”.

**KW Career Compass provides supports for people with barriers to employment while working with employers to create a diverse and inclusive workforce across Kitchener Waterloo.**



If you're looking for support finding employment, or would like to connect with us about diversifying your workplace, please contact us at: [www.kwcareercompass.org](http://www.kwcareercompass.org)

## DEMONSTRATING GOOD CITIZENSHIP – A VOLUNTEER’S STORY

During the past four years, our Early Learning Program at KW Habilitation has been fortunate to participate in Shari Foster’s Christmas Sponsorship Program. The 2020 holiday season proved to be the most successful to date, and the plans for 2021 are on Shari’s radar, with preparations ramping up for the early fall.



Late in the calendar year of 2017, KW Hab was approached by Shari after being referred by a community partner. We had the opportunity to meet with her, providing information on our Early Learning Program and the supports we give to licensed childcare and families throughout the region of Waterloo. Our meeting gave us the chance to sit down and enjoy a cup of tea and cookies, providing details to Shari of the legislative requirements that our program fulfills within the Region of Waterloo. Our mandate is to provide supports for Special Needs Resourcing, funded by the Ministry of Education, and administered through the Region of Waterloo. Our Early Learning supports are provided by our 27 Resource Consultants, and support staff, who are Registered Early Childhood Educators. Realizing our community had families who were in need, Shari decided to grow her Christmas Sponsorship Program with KW Habilitation.

**CLICK HERE TO READ ABOUT THE SUCCESS OF THIS PROGRAM AND HOW IT HAS GROWN SINCE 2017!**



## IN MEMORY

**Bernadette Lorentz** passed away on March 20, 2021. A member of the KW Habilitation staff team since 2003, Bernadette was very kind and known to have quite the sense of humor; she joked around all the time and made shifts go by quickly with her constant chatting about life. Bernadette would create relationships in minutes with anyone she came met. She will be missed by the people she supported and all of us at KW Hab.

**Engelbert Rangus** passed away suddenly on May 31, 2021. Engelbert valued time with his family and particularly enjoyed coffee visits with his Dad. Never happy to be an observer, Engelbert could always be counted on as an active participant in any activity, particularly music, art and walking the trails at Our Farm. Engelbert was supported by KW Habilitation for more than 20 years, he will be remembered as being a gentle, kind, cheerful person with a great sense of humour and will be missed by his father, friends and all those who knew him.

Bernadette and Engelbert will be greatly missed by all who knew them.

