



DeafBlind
ONTARIO SERVICES

Guelph South Rotary Club Presentation

September 17th, 2026

Canada's Wonderland



On Sunday, September 13th, an individual we support in the West region went on an exciting trip to Canada's Wonderland!

Michael had a great time enjoying the rides with the dedicated support of our Communication Support Professionals, who assisted him with all of his communication needs.

Our History

In 1989, a group of motivated parents lobbied the provincial government as advocates for their children to secure funding for community-based supported living programs for adults who are deafblind.

On April 6, 1989, we were incorporated as a not-for-profit organization.

On April 1, 2021, we amalgamated with Array Services to enhance specialized services for people who are deafblind, as well as those living with a developmental disability who are Deaf, hard of hearing or use non-traditional forms of communication across Ontario.



DeafBlind
ONTARIO SERVICES

Who Are We?



Mission & Vision Statement

Mission:

DeafBlind Ontario Services is focused on individuals who are Deaf, hard of hearing, non-verbal and deafblind. We offer an array of services that support people to live their best lives.

Vision:

Enriching lives one *touch* and *sign* at a time.

Our Foundational Principles



This is our '*why*' – the deep purpose and inspiration behind everything we do at DeafBlind Ontario Services.

Person-Centered Dedication:

At the heart of everything we do, we place the Individual. We allow their voice, choices, and experiences to guide our actions.

Infinite Possibilities:

We are driven by an unwavering belief that every person, regardless of their abilities or challenges, possesses 'Infinite Possibilities'.

Our Core Values

This is our 'How' – the guide to our day-to-day interactions, decisions, and practices.

Pursuit of Excellence:

Relentless dedication to high standards.

Collective Success:

Collective effort aimed at achieving exceptional results.

Fearless Empowerment:

Taking bold actions that prioritize the well-being of individuals, teams, and the organization.

Accountability in Action:

Achieving success, while emphasizing responsibility for one's actions, decisions, and outcomes.



Who Do We Support?

Who Do We Support

The people we support include those who:

1. Are deafblind – both congenital and acquired.
2. Live with a developmental disability and are Deaf, hard of hearing or use non-traditional forms of communication.

Deafblindness

If 95% of what we learn comes from our eyes and ears, imagine what it must be like to be deafblind.

Deafblindness is a combination of hearing and vision loss that is unique to each person and impacts access to information, communication, and mobility.

Because every person who is deafblind experiences a varying degree of sensory loss, each person will use their own unique and individual way to communicate.

Communication

Communicating thoughts, feelings and ideas is a basic human need. For those who don't communicate with words, it can be a much more difficult path to connection, belonging and living a full life.

Our approach is individualized and holistic, led by the wishes of each person supported. We challenge people to try new things, new methods and new activities to seek out new opportunities, relationships and enriching experiences.



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Programs & Support Services

Programs • Community Services •
Partnerships

Intervenor Services

Intervenors are professionally trained to act as the “eyes” and “ears” of the individual with deafblindness through the sense of touch. Professional intervenors connect the person with deafblindness to other people and their community as a communication partner.

By facilitating the exchange of information and assisting with communication methods, intervenors empower people with deafblindness to thrive.

Intervenors assist the people we support in being active participants in the community. Participation may include recreational or fitness programs, art programs, attendance at community events, art galleries, educational courses, workshops, and more.

Community Services

Our Community Services offer customized support services to people where they currently live who are deafblind, as well as those living with a developmental disability who are Deaf, hard of hearing or use non-traditional forms of communication.

Partnerships with families, other community agencies and healthcare settings can benefit from our expertise in support services, personal plans, training, and mentorship.

Partnerships offer specialized expertise and services to people who are deafblind through their supporting agency.

Bridge



Bridge offers customized training opportunities for organizations that support individuals with a sensory loss and/or communication challenges. A flexible and adaptive approach to learning is the cornerstone to this program, which is designed to augment and strengthen an organization's services while focusing on the unique needs of the individuals they support.

Bridge can enhance the services of:

- Developmental Services Agencies
- Long Term Care Facilities
- In Home Support Services
- Other Community Organizations

Tremplin



Tremplin is the French word for "springboard" or "stepping stones". This program focuses on community involvement during the day while allowing for participants to return home every night.

Tremplin is a blend of our current supported living program, focusing on community involvement, and our Partnerships program which will allow for participants to return to their family home on a nightly basis, while still providing the family with predetermined respite support throughout the year.

Supported Independent Living

Developed for those individuals who are deafblind, as well as those living with a developmental disability who are Deaf, hard of hearing or use non-traditional forms of communication and able to live semi-independently in the community with minimal support.

Individuals supported through **Supported Independent Living (SIL)** receive support for things like attending or setting up medical and dental appointments, community programs, work/volunteer placements and more. Support is also available with technology devices (Computers, Skype, lighting systems, bed shakers, etc.) to meet their accessibility needs.



Supported Living Homes

Where are we located?

Supported Living Homes

We currently support **77** individuals in supported living homes and apartment programs across the province of Ontario.

Supported living homes provide accessible, barrier-free, affordable housing and access to support services 24/7.

Locations

We operate supported living homes province wide in the following locations:

- Georgina
- Innisfil
- Barrie
- Peterborough
- Oshawa
- Ottawa
- Embrun
- Sudbury
- Hamner
- London
- Ayr
- Kitchener-Waterloo



East Region (Ottawa & Embrun)

Supported Living Homes: 3

- Devine & Devine Apt
- Notre Dame
- Heaton

Number of Individuals Supported: 15

Number of People in Supported Living Homes: 6

Individuals in Our Tremplin Program: 5

Number of Community Partnerships: 4



North Region Services (Sudbury & Hanmer)

Supported Living Homes: 3

- Guy
- Jacqueline
- Westmount North

Number of Individuals Supported: 12

Number of People in Supported Living Homes: 6

Individuals in Our Tremplin Program: 2

Number of Community Partnerships: 4



West Region Services (London, KW, & Ayr)



Supported Living Homes: 6

- Charles & Charles Apartment
- Westmount Apartment
- Ridgeview
- Lions Martins & Lions Martins Apartment
- Lions Mercel & Lions Mercel Apartment
- Old Chicopee & Old Chicopee Apartment



Number of Individuals Supported: 25

Number of People in Supported Living Homes: 22

Number of Community Partnerships: 2

Central East Region Services (Peterborough & Oshawa)



Supported Living Homes: 5

- Earlwood & Earlwood Apartments
- Water
- Hilliard
- Crowley & Crowley Apartment
- King



Number of Individuals Supported: 34

Number of People in Supported Living Homes: 22

Individuals in Our SIL Program: 11

Central Region Services (Georgina, Innisfil & Barrie)

Supported Living Homes: 5

- Hurtick & Hurtick Apartment
- Treffry
- St. George & St. George Apartment
- Lions Graydon & Lions Graydon Apartment
- Craig Road & Craig Road Apartment



Number of Individuals Supported: 23

Number of People in Supported Living Homes: 21

Individuals in Tremplin Programs and Community Partnerships: 2



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Fundraising & Community Support



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DeafBlind Ontario Foundation

DeafBlind Ontario Foundation raises, invests and directs funds to DeafBlind Ontario Services (DBOS) to enhance programs which support the individuals they serve.

Mission: Inspiring investment in the future of individuals who are deafblind, as well as those living with a developmental disability who are Deaf, hard-of-hearing or non-verbal.

Vision: Transforming lives, one gift at a time.

Current Funding Methods



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- Grants
- Third Party Events
- Monthly Giving
- Tribute Giving
- Individual giving
- Holiday and Spring Appeal
- Charitable Gaming
- Service Clubs
- Employee Giving
- Government Funding
- Miscellaneous Fundraising



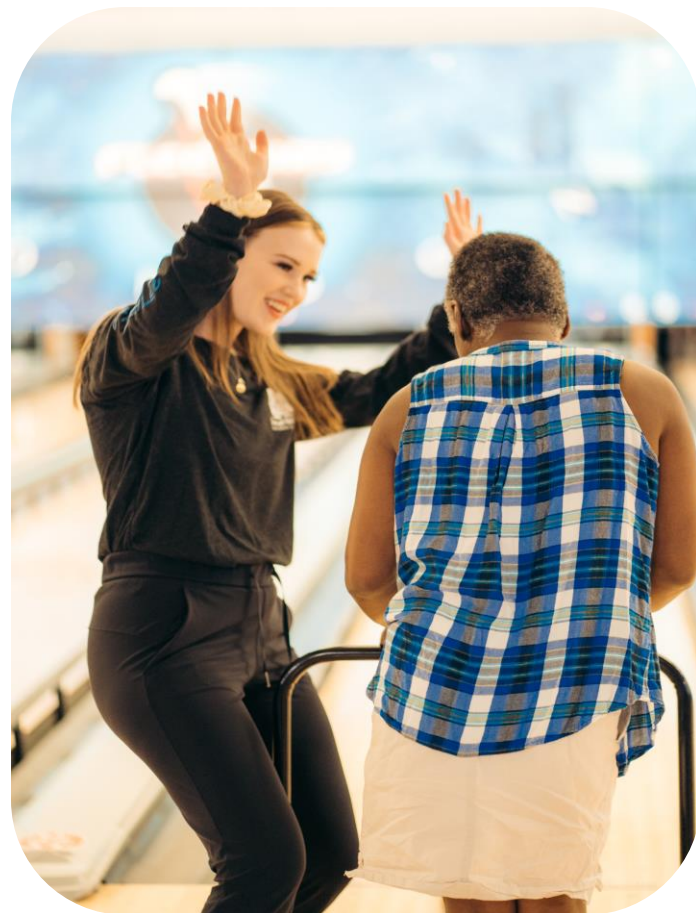


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How You Can Help

Help us keep our programs thriving and accessible to everyone who needs them.

When you support an initiative that resonates with your club's mission, you directly fund lasting change in our community.



Enriching lives one *touch* and *sign* at a time.

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Thank you!

Thank You

