



# Easter Seals Nova Scotia Fall Newsletter

The Holidays are quickly approaching, and we've been busy at Easter Seals Nova Scotia as we get ready for our end-of-the-year events! Camp Tidnish wrapped up operations in September, the Assisted Mobility program continues to provide grants and equipment to families in need, the fall sessions of our Take PART inclusive sports programs are in full swing and New Leaf Enterprises is preparing for the 5th Annual Ability Makers Christmas Market and Christmas Baking Campaign!



## Camp Tidnish

Another successful summer was had at Camp Tidnish. This year we were super excited to have even more campers join us as we increased capacity from 50 to 70 per cent for the first time since 2020.

**This summer we utilized even more of the camp property as we began to structure more sports and storytelling activities into our daily camp-wide programming.** A few of our new activities included: Big ball soccer, gaga ball, Kick Polo, Kick Golf, Shadow Puppet Theatre, Clay Play and the Barber Shoppe.

We hope that all of our campers had a fantastic time and we are looking forward to seeing everyone next year!



***campers participating in a Clay Creations Workshop using locally sourced Tidnish River Clay.***





## Take PART

### Austin's New Ride

Last Spring the Shine Foundation reached out to Annette Hill, our Multi-Program Coordinator to see if we would be interested in partnering with them to match one of our Take PART kids to their Shine Experience Program. We immediately thought of Austin Cleveland, a 15-year-old boy living with Cerebral Palsy who loves to play sledge hockey. The match was successful and on September 26th, 2023, Easter Seals Nova Scotia CEO Joanne Bernard and our Multi-Program Coordinators Annette Hill and Greg MacKay travelled to Austin's home in Shubenacadie to witness Austin's unveiling of **The Rig**; a fully electric and accessible four-wheeled bike used for off-roading, one of Austin's passions.

Family, neighbours and Austin's School Principal witnessed a smile as big as the outdoors as Austin quickly learned the controls and capabilities of his new mode of independent transportation and fun. **Thank you to the Shine Foundation for partnering with us to provide this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Austin and his family!**



We had an amazing two weeks of making new friends and learning new skills at Learn to Ride in July! Our Learn to Ride program for children and youth is run in partnership with Serenity Acres Family Ranch. This program promotes the development of healthy life skills for educational, professional and personal development through equine-assisted activities.



Newcomers to Canada, Yousef's father reached out to us through other community resources to enroll his son into an inclusive sport. Yousef quickly found a safe place to play with our Learn to Wheel program at St. Andrew's Centre. Yousef has made many new friends and learned new skills. Having the programs offered free of charge has been a tremendous benefit to Yousef's family as they begin their new lives in Nova Scotia.







**Easter Seals**<sup>TM</sup>

Nova Scotia

**new LEAF**



# New Leaf Enterprises

Over the last couple of months, New Leaf Enterprises has had many fantastic opportunities to invite guest speakers in to share information about Sun Safety, Truth & Reconciliation, and Vermicomposting. Clients have been participating in Learn to Dance, Art Classes, Music Therapy and have just started an eight-week Improv for Anxiety program.

New Leaf has done two pop-up markets at Alderney Landing selling our candles, bath bombs, beeswax wraps and baked goods. These products are also available for purchase at New Leaf Cafe at 22 Fielding Avenue in Burnside. With the Holiday season approaching we are also busy preparing products for our 5th Annual Ability Makers Christmas Market taking place on December 1st and 2nd this year.



**New Leaf Clients taking part in an Art Class hosted by Artsy Blossom**



**Our fourth New Leaf Reverse Job Fair was held on October 6th!**



**New Leaf clients taking part in an 8-week Improv for Anxiety program.**

## Supported Employment Programs

On Friday, October 6th New Leaf Enterprises held our fourth Reverse Job Fair, supporting 40 clients who were seeking labour market employment opportunities. We would like to thank all the inclusive employers who came out to meet with our clients. It was a great event and we received excellent feedback from the employers who attended.

Our Employment team has also started a Supported Employment Collective with other organizations. This is a way for everyone to share resources and provide the best support to our clients.

There is a tremendous movement within the business sector to develop and implement Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility policies to enrich workplace culture and have the workforce better reflect the community a business operates within. Let us help your company become more inclusive! **For more information on how to become an inclusive employer contact Carlton McDonald, Manager of Employment Support Programs at 902-455-9044 ext. 240 or [c.mcdonald@easterseals.ns.ca](mailto:c.mcdonald@easterseals.ns.ca).**



As we said goodbye to summer we dove straight into Fall and Winter in the New Leaf Café kitchen! Pots of soup are on the stove, sweets are baking, and we've already planned our annual Christmas Baking Campaign.

***Did you know that each year clients, staff and volunteers come together to bake over 20,000 sweet treats to support this popular campaign!***

We'd love to see you at New Leaf Café at 22 Fielding Avenue in Dartmouth where we offer a variety of breakfast and lunch options. Come try our ever-popular cinnamon bun or have a club sandwich on our homemade focaccia bread! We can also take the stress and worry out of any catering requirements that you may have, no matter the occasion, we offer a great selection of hot and cold food. **To discuss your catering needs contact Gretchen at [catering@easterseals.ns.ca](mailto:catering@easterseals.ns.ca).**

We look forward to seeing you soon and thank you for supporting our Social Enterprise where we celebrate job skills and training for persons with disabilities!



## ***Hello from New Leaf Cafe & Catering!***



**Easter  
Seals**

Nova Scotia

**assisted  
MOBILITY**



## **Assisted Mobility**

Over the past few months, the Assisted Mobility program has continued to provide grants and equipment for Nova Scotian families in need. **We were able to provide 21 grants to Nova Scotians through our Adaptive Support Fund.** Items ranged from communication devices to AFOs (Ankle Foot Orthosis), adaptive tricycles, and mobility aids. We are looking forward to re-opening applications in April 2024 with more opportunities to alleviate the cost of adaptive supports for Nova Scotian individuals and families.

**Funds for the Adaptive Support Fund are provided by private and/or corporate donations. If you wish to donate to this program, please visit [www.easterseals.ns.ca/donate](http://www.easterseals.ns.ca/donate).**

Through our partners at Easter Seals Canada and CIBC, we also completed the **AccessABILITY grant** that provides grants for children ages 14 and under. This grant went out to five recipients throughout Nova Scotia and provided communication aides, adaptive car seats and bath aides. Connor, a non-verbal four-year-old with Autism received an iPad with Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) software. This device will allow Connor to better express his wants, ask questions, interact with other children at school and more easily engage with family members.



***Connor, one of our recipients of the AccessABILITY grant***



## Drop Zone Halifax

On Friday, September 22nd, 45 brave participants rappelled 23 storeys from the top of Halifax's tallest office building 1801 Hollis Street, all in support of Nova Scotians living with disabilities! Drop Zone is Easter Seals Nova Scotia's signature fundraising event that supports our programs and services. **This year we raised over \$90,000 in support of Nova Scotians living with disabilities!**

Thank you to our Presenting Sponsor Harding Medical, our Signature Sponsor and Event Host Groupe Mach, Signature Sponsor Cintas, all of our volunteers, donors, participants, and the team from Tacten who ran the ropes for a successful Drop Zone this year!

Interested in participating in our Drop Zone next Summer? Contact our Special Events Coordinator, Shauna at [events@easterseals.ns.ca](mailto:events@easterseals.ns.ca) or 902-453-6000 ext. 228.



*Caden, who grew up with our Learn to Sledge Program took the Drop Zone Challenge this year and raised over \$3,000 for Nova Scotians living with disabilities!*

## Legacy Giving

Considering a legacy gift, also known as a planned gift, to a charity can have a tremendous impact. These gifts can range from the relatively simple bequests made in a will, to gifts like charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts that provide major gifts to a non-profit while at the same time returning income to the donor. Legacy or planned giving helps provide you with a unique tax advantage that eases the tax burden on your loved ones. With effective planning, they will not lose your hard-earned income or assets to fees and taxes.

**Have you considered leaving a legacy gift to Easter Seals Nova Scotia?**

Each year, Easter Seals Nova Scotia helps thousands of Nova Scotians living with disabilities. Remembering us in your Last Will and Testament ensures that you leave a legacy that will make a life-changing impact on the lives of people with disabilities long beyond your lifetime.

For more information, please contact Wanda Sinclair at 902-453-6000 ext. 224 or by email at [wanda.sinclair@easterseals.ns.ca](mailto:wanda.sinclair@easterseals.ns.ca).



# Upcoming Events

## The 5th Annual Ability Makers Christmas Market

The 5th Annual Ability Makers Christmas Market featuring makers with disabilities and Social Enterprises that employ individuals with disabilities is the first weekend of December!

**COST:** Free admission!

**WHERE:** 22 Fielding Avenue, Dartmouth

**WHEN:** Friday, December 1st from 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 2nd from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Not all vendors are set up to accept debit and credit card payments and we do not have an ATM on-site.



## New Leaf Enterprises - Christmas Baking

No matter how you celebrate, let New Leaf Enterprises help you this holiday season! Our Annual Christmas Baking Campaign is underway. Let New Leaf Enterprises help you with your holiday baking so you can relax this season knowing family and friends will have delicious treats to enjoy!

Order online today at [www.easterseals.ns.ca/order](http://www.easterseals.ns.ca/order)



## This #Giving Tuesday, Donate to Decorate

Save the Date, #Giving Tuesday is on November 28th! Starting this Giving Tuesday to December 22nd, every donation we receive puts an ornament (with the donor's name) on our holiday tree!

This holiday season give the gift of inclusion, independence and mobility to Nova Scotian children, youth, adults and seniors living with disabilities.

To donate online today visit [give.unityvalues.com/eastersealsNS2023](http://give.unityvalues.com/eastersealsNS2023)



## Shoot for Inclusion

Shoot for Inclusion is Easter Seals Nova Scotia's fun-filled corporate pool tournament in support of Nova Scotians living with disabilities. Players get to challenge their colleagues and other teams in this friendly competition!

**WHEN:** Saturday, February 24th, 2024 from 10:30 am - 7:00 pm

**WHERE:** Dooley's Burnside - 121 Ilsley Avenue, Dartmouth, NS

To register your team today contact Shauna at [events@easterseals.ns.ca](mailto:events@easterseals.ns.ca) or 902-453-6000 ext.228.

Interested in Sponsorship opportunities for this event? For more information contact Wanda at 902-453-6000 ext. 224 or by email at [wanda.sinclair@easterseals.ns.ca](mailto:wanda.sinclair@easterseals.ns.ca).

