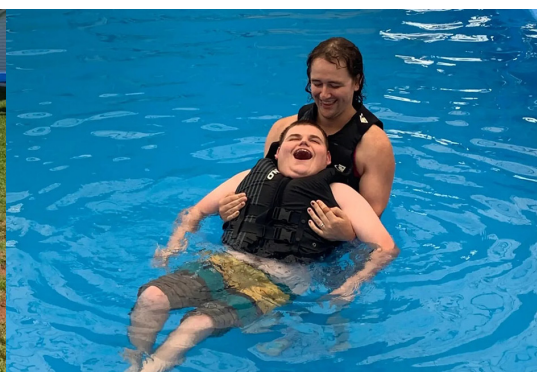




# Easter Seals Nova Scotia Spring Newsletter

**Did you know that March is Easter Seals Month?** Each year, we dedicate the month of March to increasing awareness of the experiences, challenges, and contributions of children, youth and adults with disabilities.

For over 90 years we have provided programs and services that help our clients develop greater independence and confidence so they can take on the world in their own unique way.



## Camp Tidnish

Who is excited for Summer?! WE ARE!

Our Camp Tidnish team is excited for the summer to get here and thrilled to introduce our new Camp Director, Justin Dubreuil. A true bluenoser hailing from Truro. Justin is an avid outdoorsperson, with a love of hiking, kayaking and canoeing. Justin has worked in the outdoor industry for over a decade and most recently with Scouts Canada and Tim Hortons' Foundation Camps.

*"Every person deserves a chance to be part of the magic of camp! Cozy campfires, silly songs and toasted marshmallows are only the start. We are a unique Camp, so our programming is also unique. Our campers continue to choose Camp Tidnish because we have created a strong community where you can be your unique self, accepted and celebrated for who you are. At Easter Seals Nova Scotia, we believe that our volunteers, staff and campers are #MoreThanAble if given the opportunity and support to thrive."*

**For more information on Camp Tidnish visit our website at [www.camptidnish.org](http://www.camptidnish.org)**

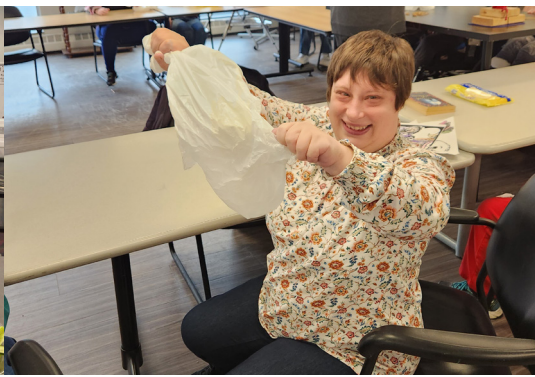




**Easter  
Seals**

Nova Scotia

**new LEAF**



## New Leaf Enterprises

After a busy December filled with Christmas Baking, our 5th Annual Ability Makers Christmas Market, and celebrating the holiday season with a party, we jumped right back into programming for 2024!

In January we kicked off the new year with a two-part puppetry workshop with Logan Robins of Unnatural Disaster Theatre. New Leaf participants created puppets using found materials and let their imaginations run wild creating characters and stories.

In February, Scotian Shores spent a morning with us sharing the importance of minimizing the negative impact plastics have on our oceans. Using reclaimed fishing rope participants made knotted wreaths. This presentation sparked a lot of interest, and we look forward to creating more crafts using reclaimed fishing rope while learning more about our oceans.

### New Leaf Café and Catering

New Leaf's Food Service Program offers a robust catering service and operates two café locations, one at our centre in Burnside, and one in Halifax at the Nova Scotia Rehabilitation Centre.

We currently have 27 adults that live with disabilities employed in our food service program. The program is designed to hire and support adults living with disabilities gain the skills and confidence to work in a commercial kitchen and feel part of a community. Participants employed by the program are trained in: food preparation, cooking, baking, customer service, communication, and money skills which are all transferable to areas outside of food service. This training also helps participants to pursue other areas of employment, depending on their interests. We have had participants find employment at Delectable Desserts, Chicken Little Café, and the NSLC, just to name a few.

**We would love to see you at one of our café locations or hear from you regarding your catering needs. Please contact Gretchen at [catering@easterseals.ns.ca](mailto:catering@easterseals.ns.ca) or 902-455-9044 ext. 236 for more information.**



*Tiffany & Charles participating in the rope weaving activity during Scotian Shores' presentation.*



*Sonya working at our New Leaf Café in Burnside.*



*Cole holding up a puppet they made during a workshop with the Unnatural Disaster Theatre.*



[www.facebook.com/NewLeafSocialEnterprise](https://www.facebook.com/NewLeafSocialEnterprise)



[@newleafenterprises](https://www.instagram.com/newleafenterprises)



## Supported Employment Programs

In November our Supported Employment Team had the opportunity to travel to Ottawa and present at the Disability and Work in Canada 2023 Conference. Christine, Darren, and Matt, who have all participated in The Next Step Employment Program that supports persons with disabilities ages 17 to 30, along with the team's job coaches, all had the pleasure to attend this event. During their panel titled **"Moving Forward: The Future of Supported Employment,"** they discussed their employment experiences, how current employment practices are outdated, and innovative ways to connect job seekers like the New Leaf Reverse Job Fair.



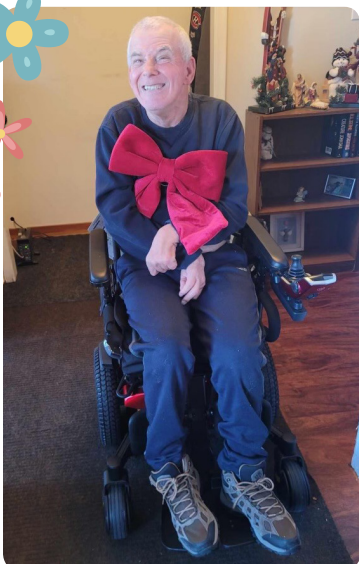
## Thank you Co-operators Community Funds!



Easter Seals Nova Scotia is delighted to announce a \$20,000 donation from Co-operators Community Funds (CCF) in support of The Next Step Youth Employment Program, which assists young adults with disabilities to find paid work experience in the community.

CCF is committed to supporting programs and services that empower underserved youth to progress along their path to employability. Thank you, CCF, for ensuring young adults with disabilities are included and independent, and for sharing our vision of seeing a world where everyone is included.

## Kevin's New Wheels



The smiles could not have been any wider as New Leaf Enterprises' client, Kevin Mason, received his new power wheelchair through our Wheelchair Recycling Program in partnership with the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services.

Kevin works each day at our New Leaf Enterprises program and attends the Learn to Kick program which is Power Wheelchair Soccer. Kevin is also very active in his community of Cole Harbour and can often be seen travelling around in his wheelchair. A reliable and safe power wheelchair is a must for Kevin, and we are so pleased to see him with this vital piece of mobility equipment.





**Easter Seals**

Nova Scotia

**assisted  
MOBILITY**



## Assisted Mobility

Our Assisted Mobility program will be re-opening the Adaptive Support Fund grant program on **April 1, 2024**. Clients can apply for funding of custom assistive devices that are typically not covered under any programs in Nova Scotia. The ability to fund these devices, which range from communication devices to custom orthotics allow clients to improve their independence and reach their goals. Access to appropriate equipment must be the first step in an inclusive community.

The Adaptive Support Fund in 2023, helped us take down barriers and provide funding for 22 individuals in our community. They were able to access the adaptive support they required to increase their independence!

To view the application visit [www.easterseals.ns.ca/adaptive-support-fund](http://www.easterseals.ns.ca/adaptive-support-fund)

## Adaptive Support Fund Testimonial



Excerpt from application testimonial:

"Erlis is a five-year-old boy with a diagnosis of Global Developmental Delay and Autism Spectrum Disorder. Erlis is currently unable to use verbal speech to express his wants and needs, and requires an augmentative and/or alternative communication (AAC) system. Erlis' family has expressed a strong interest in teaching him to use a speech generating device (SGD) to communicate, but unfortunately, their personal health insurance does not cover communication aids. When this family heard of Easter Seal's Adaptive Support Fund, they knew right away they wanted to apply.

Speech generating technology offers children who require AAC, and their families, many benefits. These include voice output, ease to grow vocabulary, increased speed to communicate, and a means to enhance and support language and communication growth."

**- Lauren Legere, Erlis' Speech-Language Pathologist**

Easter Seals Nova Scotia was able to fund a communication aid for Erlis that provided him with a life-changing opportunity to communicate and connect with the world around him.



## Take PART (Physically Accessible Recreation Today)

At the start of the year, Take PART began the winter sessions of our Learn to Dance, Wheel and Sledge with a new group of participants and our Dalhousie volunteers from Dr. Sarah Moore's Kinesiology class.

Two of our participants from Learn to Sledge, Ella and Brooklyn are 12 years old and best friends outside of the program. Ella attends the sledge program to hang out with her friend Brooklyn who lives with cerebral palsy and hydrocephalus. The importance of such a friendship in inclusive sports programs extends beyond the individual participants. Ella's dedication to being there for her friend not only enhances Brooklyn's experience in the Learn to Sledge program but also contributes to a supportive and welcoming environment for all participants.



*Ella and Brooklyn at a session of Learn to Sledge.*



## Legacy Giving

Considering a legacy gift, also known as a planned gift, to a charity can have a tremendous impact. Your gift can range from a bequest made in a will, a charitable gift annuity or a charitable remainder trust that provides a major gift to a non-profit and at the same time returns 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

## Bunnyland

Bunnyland is an eggciting annual fundraising event to bring your family, friends, and neighbours for a photo with the Easter Bunny at Mic Mac Mall!

**WHEN:** March 20th - 30th, 2024. (Closed Friday, March 29th for Good Friday)

**TIME:** 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Monday to Saturday and 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. on Sunday

**WHERE:** Mic Mac Mall, Level 2, Bay Court

**COST:** Suggested donation of \$5 to visit the Bunny and take as many pictures as you'd like!



## #UnstoppABLE Paper Egg Campaign

From March 4th to 31st, retail locations across Nova Scotia encourage customers to purchase and write their names on a Paper Egg for a donation of \$2. Funds raised through this campaign directly benefit Nova Scotians living with disabilities.

**Find Paper Eggs at:** Lawtons Drugs, Booster Juice, Payzant Home Hardware, Select Home Hardware locations, select Giant Tiger locations, select Smitty's locations and Nine Locks Brewing Co.



## Easter Baking Campaign

New Leaf Café & Catering is here to help you welcome Spring with another wonderful baking campaign, just in time for Easter!

Help support New Leaf Enterprises and our food skills training program for Nova Scotians living with disabilities by getting treats that not only taste good but do good! Our products are made with love in our industrial kitchen by program employees, assisted by instructors.

For more information and to order online visit [www.easterseals.ns.ca/order](http://www.easterseals.ns.ca/order), or contact Gretchen at [baking@easterseals.ns.ca](mailto:baking@easterseals.ns.ca) or 902-455-9044 ext. 236.



## Drop Zone Halifax Registration is Now Open!

Save the date, Drop Zone Halifax is Tuesday, August 13th this year! Challenge yourself and change lives this August by rappelling from the top of Halifax's tallest office tower, 1801 Hollis Street, in support of Nova Scotians living with disabilities!

Register online today at [www.easterseals.ns.ca/drop-zone](http://www.easterseals.ns.ca/drop-zone)

