

West Toronto

KEYS

to INclusion

VISIBLE

VALUED

VIBRANT

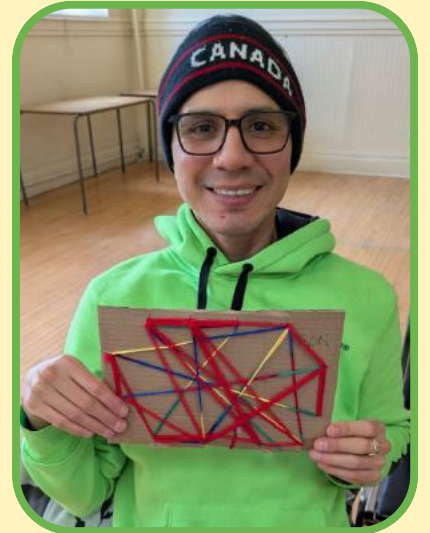


Creating Community

2025/2026

ANNUAL REPORT

Charitable Registration # 80687 5894 RR0001



KEYS artists love to express their many creative talents!





MISSION

To empower adults with intellectual disabilities to pursue personal wellbeing through community INclusion and engagement in learning, social, fitness, volunteer and work opportunities.

VISION

Full, meaningful INclusion of persons with intellectual disabilities who are visible and valued in our communities.

VALUES

Safety, **I**Nclusion, **R**espect & **R**esilience (SIRR)

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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Visible, Valued & Vibrant - Creating Community

We all hunger for human connections of acceptance and trust. KEYS created such a community for 27 adults this year - all of whom thrived in the three program pillars – Learning & the Arts; Social, Fitness & Recreation; Community Engagement - empowering them to pursue personal wellbeing and creating a vibrant community around them.

We are so proud of KEYS Chefs in the kitchen, developing their skills while preparing and serving almost 3,000 meals. KEYS Master classes showcased the many talents our adults love to share with each other. Their leadership made everyone shine! New community partnerships opened more volunteer positions, and those already established celebrated the success of KEYS at their businesses. Green Apple Kids Daycare even donated proceeds from their ART Sale to KEYS!

Our biggest challenge was change. Change is the only constant and this year at KEYS has been one of many farewells, including the sad loss of sweet Erin Layton. Our values of Safety, Inclusion, Respect and Resilience have always guided us, and this year Resilience was especially evident. KEYS adults were able to accept numerous departures and welcome with open arms and big hearts new staff and new friends with genuine warmth.

In late 2025 after a strategic planning session, the Board struck 4 committees: Governance & Succession; Program & Operations; Finances & Fundraising and Marketing & Communications. These committees will work over the next 12 months to identify opportunities to optimize and to lay an even stronger foundation for KEYS future.

Our deepest gratitude to all of our volunteers, supporters and friends who believe in our abilities and are integral to creating our KEYS community! As we look forward to starting our 15th year this September, your loyalty encourages us to dream bigger and brighter to ensure KEYS adults are Visible, Valued & Vibrant. Thank you!

Warmly,
Hélène Paulyn Murray, Board President

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Assistant Coordinator



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Program Administrator & Liason



LEAH HLADKY
Job Coach

SUPPLY STAFF



JULIA SCARINGI



BRONWYN PAJO



ABBEY MCCREERY

**THANK YOU FOR THE MANY JOYFUL TIMES TOGETHER
HAPPY TRAILS!**



KEVIN MCCAMBRIDGE



KATE HAUSER



RYAN DIGNARD

KEYS COORDINATORS



Laura Danowski

In my five years at KEYS, I felt that this one was the most visible as people saw us at High Park being Park Rangers, leaf raking for neighbours, on the subway to and from excursions, volunteering in the community, selling lemonade and reading about us in the community paper – KEYS was all over the city! And so inspiring, that a number of folks joined us as new volunteers!

In the kitchen, we included everyone in a fun and meaningful way. KEYS adults have a variety of skill sets, so a whiteboard with laminated pictures of all allowed participants to see their daily kitchen duties. Chef Jess came monthly to teach quarterly themes. We introduced “Master Chefs” as a fun incentive. Who wouldn’t want to create and cook a three-course fine dining meal for all of their friends? All of the participants thrived during lunch time - whether it was cooking, cleaning up, or setting tables. Keep a close eye on us, because KEYS could soon become a Michelin star restaurant!

Many Community Experts added to our rich and vibrant program. Fitness, yoga, singing, art and movement instructors all brought variety and fun. KEYS Master Classes, where KEYS taught KEYS to zumba, speak some Spanish, sign language, learn watercolour painting and much more were hugely successful in showcasing KEYS many leaders.

Until I return from maternity leave - Onwards and upwards to our magnificent team being led by Emlyn Sword at West Toronto KEYS to Inclusion!

Mrs. Laura Danowski

In April, I had the privilege of officially stepping into the role of KEYS Program Coordinator. In a short time, I have witnessed firsthand the incredible spirit, resilience, and sense of community that make KEYS such a special place. Although my journey is just beginning, there have already been many memorable highlights. Together, we completed two sessions of the High Park Ranger Program, where participants enthusiastically explored nature, learned about local wildlife and even how to start a fire!



Emlyn Sword

At KEYS, our days continue to be filled with moments for learning, creativity, and connection. We have welcomed our talented experts, enjoyed engaging activities, and continued with many of the fantastic programs implemented prior to my arrival. These programs include KEYS of the Month and Meaningful Meals “Master Chefs” which are titles awarded to individuals monthly, giving them the opportunity to showcase their independence and creativity. These programs do a wonderful job of celebrating achievement, participation, and personal growth.

What has impressed me most is the way our participants have embraced change. Over the past few months, they have experienced new routines, new faces and new opportunities, yet they have met each transition with openness, flexibility, and positivity.

The overall highlight of my time at KEYS thus far has been building relationships with the participants themselves. Every person brings unique strengths, talents, humour, and kindness to our community. Watching their confidence grow, seeing friendships flourish, and sharing in their accomplishments has been both inspiring and rewarding.

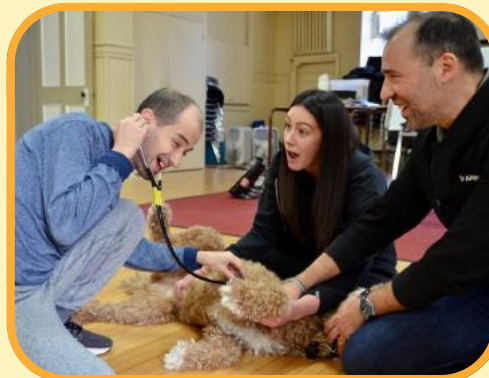
Thank you for welcoming me into the KEYS family. I am grateful for the opportunity to learn alongside our participants and look forward to supporting many more adventures, achievements, and moments of growth in the year ahead.

Ms. Emlyn Sword

LEARNING & THE ARTS

Led by KEYS terrific staff and experts, there are so many daily learning opportunities at KEYS: cooking, grocery shopping, photography, science, finance, gardening, pet care and many more workshops to provide ongoing learning and discovery.

“T loves going every day! Everyone treats her with respect and she is included in everything! Best program out there.” -Parent



MEANINGFUL MEALS

KEYS Meaningful Meals program this year introduced Master Chefs. They were rewarded for their improved kitchen skills by getting to choose a 3 course menu to enjoy with friends.



MEANINGFUL MEALS



KEYS lunches are famous for being nutritious and delicious - all made by KEYS chefs who hone their culinary skills then enjoy eating with friends and special guests.

Thanks to the Harry E. Foster Foundation for helping fund Meaningful Meals at KEYS.



MASTER CLASSES

Each month two different adults pick a passion of theirs that they would like to teach their friends...anything from a Zumba class, to sign language, to making art using fruit and vegetables! So inspiring to see this leadership among friends!

"My adult enjoys going to KEYS so much that at times she does not want to leave." -Parent



FITNESS & RECREATION

KEYS keeps moving - whether it's indoors or getting out and about to experience our city. So many wonderful moments with our friends.

"M is extremely happy attending KEYS and when she is happy I am happy." -Parent



COMMUNITY WORK



Program Administrator & Liaison

KEYS adults continue to make great contributions at local businesses including Darren's No Frills on Pacific Avenue. Our wonderful Job Coaches enable KEYS adults to do their best. These partnerships are vital for building strong, vibrant communities.

Green Apple Kids is a new partnership for a KEYS adult and their Job Coach. They support classroom activities, engaging with children and assisting with circle time. Green Apple Kids chose KEYS to be the recipient of their annual art show fundraiser.

"We love to build relationships with local organizations. It is imperative that we expose our students to the big, bright world around us. This wonderful partnership with KEYS to Inclusion allows us to meet such incredible adults and their Job Coaches. We look forward to a continued partnership in the years to come." Linda Martin, General Manager. KEYS is grateful for GAK support - Such a win / win for all!



KEYS Friday gang launched a new initiative "**Feel Good Fridays**", led by Laura Landauer. The goal was to expand our community involvement by focusing locally on more meaningful and participant-driven activities. Helping with leaf raking in the local community, KEYS enjoyed spending time outdoors, staying active and meeting friendly neighbours.

We are looking forward to the Annette Farmers Market this summer for KEYS to shine some more.



Food Bank Volunteers on Tuesday and Thursday made valuable contributions at The Sharing Place and Bloor West Food Bank. KEYS favourite volunteer responsibilities included sorting donations, checking expiry dates, preparing Christmas baskets and delivering food from the Humbercrest Church food drive. In 2025, the Bloor West Food Bank relocated to Jane and Annette, very close and convenient for KEYS.

Looking ahead, we hope to expand our partnership with an additional Friday volunteer position.

MVP at Queen Margherita Pizza

A meaningful restaurant experience for a KEYS adult supported by her Job Coach, our KEYS Chef takes pride in her responsibilities - preparing basil, making tomato sauce, and cutting mozzarella for the restaurant each Tuesday.

Her dedication and enthusiasm have made her an important member of the Queen Margherita Pizza team! In recognition of her contributions, she was celebrated as their Most Valuable Team Player. We were so proud of her and grateful to Queen Margherita Pizza for their ongoing commitment to community inclusion, helping KEYS be Visible, Valued & Vibrant in their community!



KEYS VOLUNTEERS

Over 2,000 hours were gifted by our cherished Volunteers who gave their time, talents and hearts to KEYS - with gratitude we thank each one of you!

Celebrating 10 years - Kathryn Farbridge

“Despite so many ideas swirling around my head to explain my longtime friendship with KEYS, the one I keep landing on is thoughtfulness. It really is the lodestone, the (not-so-secret) ingredient and the DNA of the KEYS organization. Thoughtfulness happens every time I come to KEYS, and I feel lucky to work with people who nurture it, remind us of it and value it. Thank you KEYS” Thank YOU Kathryn!



“What started as volunteering 11 years ago, has turned into something bigger—a joyful, inclusive family where everyone belongs and shines. Differences become strengths, talents are celebrated and friendships cherished!” - Sue

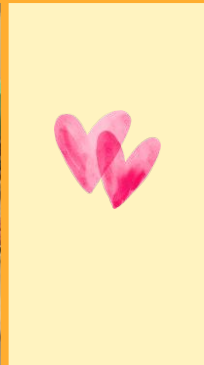
“I have learned a lot about making human connections, joyful interactions, and resilience. When I leave the group after a photography session, I do so with a smile on my face and a warmer heart.” - Theresa



“Volunteering at KEYS reminds me how powerful community and inclusion can be. It’s an experience that is both inspiring and deeply rewarding.” - Abbey

KEYS VOLUNTEERS

From students to Celebrity Chefs, to community friends, KEYS volunteers are valued and appreciated for adding joy to our days.

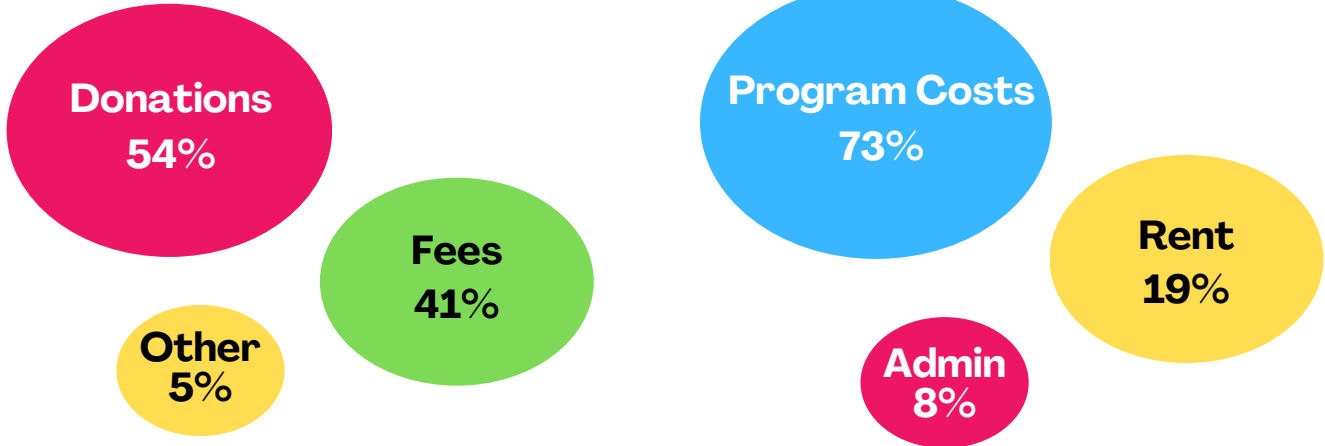


FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

We are very pleased to report a year of sustained financial stability, reflecting prudent fiscal management and the generous support from the KEYS community. Our strong financial position allows us to advance our mission, including eventually paying market rental rates in order to secure a dedicated KEYS operating space and to provide long term program continuity.

Total 2025 Revenue: \$364,000

Total 2025 Expenditures: \$237,300



Net Assets, beginning of year \$589,137

Net Assets, end of year \$715,859

Donors' Dollars Make A DIFFERENCE!

KEYS receives no government funding and to keep fees reasonable for families we are very grateful to generous donors like you who believe in our abilities. Every dollar donated makes a difference! "It's just a joy to be able to support such a vibrant, exemplary organization."

P.E.A.R.L. Trustee

Together donations this year gave us:

Grocery money for **3,000 healthy lunches**

3,500+ staff hours paid above a Toronto Living Wage to show how KEYS values **Safety, INclusion, Respect & Resilience**

25+ Community Outings to explore our city and learn street safety and navigation

600 Job Coaching Hours for KEYS to be **Visible, Valued and Vibrant** in our Community

15+ Experts who brought **150+** workshops on art, clowning & theatre, healthy cooking, fitness, music, movement, science, yoga, zumba and more

STEP UP FOR KEYS 2025



An afternoon of being Visible, Valued & Vibrant walking to honour Rita and Erin!

Thanks to Carol Layton's leadership and ALL of YOU: our families, friends, volunteers and donors, we were able to:

1. FUNDRAISE: As KEYS fees alone do not cover our operating expenses we fundraise to keep fees affordable for families while providing high quality experiences.

success: \$25,000 was raised from past and many new individual donors!

2. BRING TO LIFE OUR VISION of full, meaningful inclusion of persons with intellectual disabilities who are visible and valued in our communities.

success: 100+ people (and some dogs :-)) walked 3km

3. HAVE FUN: The KEYS spirit is contagious - we promised a great time for a worthy cause.

success: "KEYS Sunshine" brought happiness & joy to all!

Thank you for believing in our abilities – we are very grateful!





IN LOVING MEMORY OF ERIN LAYTON August 8, 1988 - July 11, 2025

Erin brought her joy and spunk to KEYS for 12 years. Her fun personality and caring friendship were always welcome...as was her love of cooking and dancing; her signature “wiggle” move was always a big hit! Erin was not shy and loved the microphone for spontaneous speeches or singing. We love you and miss you sweet Erin.

Every Donor Dollar Delivers a Delightful Day at KEYS :-)

KEYS works hard to keep program fees affordable, recognizing that many families supporting a dependent adult face significant financial pressures. As a result, participant fees do not cover all of our operating costs. The generosity of donors helps bridge this gap and makes it possible for KEYS participants to enjoy enriching, meaningful experiences every day, including:

- A Safe, INclusive, Respectful, and welcoming environment where everyone belongs
- Caring, skilled, and dedicated staff who support personal growth and success
- Specialized workshops led by experts in music, art therapy, fitness, theatre and more
- Meaningful Meals, with participants planning, preparing, and enjoying healthy lunches
- Master Classes, where KEYS share their talents and grow leadership skills by teaching others
- Master Chefs, a chef-inspired dining experience for those who develop their culinary skills
- Weekly job coaching that supports employment readiness and workplace success
- Community partnerships that create opportunities for inclusion and visibility
- Nature-based learning and stewardship experiences at the High Park Nature Centre
- Birthday celebrations that ensure every participant feels valued and celebrated
- Outings and transportation, including admissions and travel costs

Every donor dollar helps create opportunities for learning, connection, independence, and joy while keeping programs accessible to the families who need them most.



COMMUNITY FRIENDS

Recreation & Fitness

Movement

- Movement with Morgan
- Fitness with Aziza

Yoga

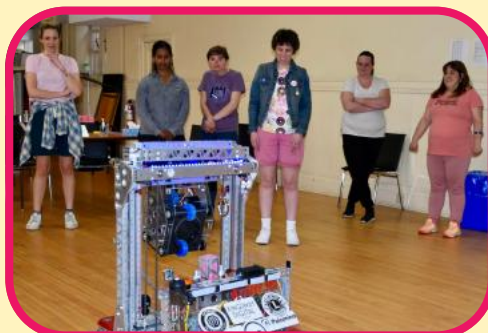
- Yoga with Allie

Recreation

- Community Outings
- High Park Nature Centre Rangers

Theatre Arts

- Clowning & Performance Arts with Leo



Learning & The Arts

Cooking

- Kitchen skills
- Healthy meal planning
- New Recipes
- Celebrity Chefs

Creative Arts

- Photography with Theresa & Scott

Literacy & Finances

- Banking
- Creative Writing

Music

- Strummin with Stella
- Caitlin's Music Mania

Science

- Nature and experiments



Community Friends & Partners

- Bloor West Food Bank
- Darren's No Frills
- Dundas West Animal Hospital
- Green Apple Kids
- Humbercrest United Church
- Oxford College Dental Hygienists
- Queen Margherita Pizza
- Rotary Club of Parkdale High Park Humber
- Runnymede CI Robotics
- Toronto Art Therapy Institute
- The Sharing Place
- Toronto & Parkdale Horticultural Society
- U of T Medical Students



GET INVOLVED

There are many ways to get involved either personally or with a financial donation. Your commitment and support help KEYS adults be Visible, Valued & Vibrant in their community!

Donate

Donations can be made easily with tax receipts issued :

1. E-Transfer to: payments.keystoinclusion@gmail.com
2. Cheque to: West Toronto KEYS to INclusion
c/o Kate Manson - Program Administrator
4 Olympus Ave, Toronto, ON M6S 1K9
3. Canada Helps: <https://westtorontokeys.com/donate/>



Share Your Time / Your Talents

At KEYS we count on our volunteers to provide highly valued support to participants and staff. The Volunteer Board of Directors welcomes new members to serve on the Board or its committees.

We so appreciate the technical expertise volunteered by Jen and Jeff Zakrzewski and Seth Barrett to manage our website; and Michaela Ferraro to design this Annual Report as well as the KEYS Yearbook “Our Turn To Teach”!

If you are interested in bringing your skill, passion or talent to KEYS, please contact Kate Manson, Program Administrator & Liaison at kate.keystoinclusion@gmail.com

Become a Community Partner

At KEYS we are committed to contributing to local businesses and the community! We welcome all opportunities for our participants, as individuals or as a group, to be of service in the local neighbourhood.

Help us Find a New Home

We are looking for our own space to rent in the Junction/Bloor West area so that we can have “keys” to our own front door and be part of an inclusive community.

Please contact Hélène Paulyn Murray with any leads: keystoinclusion@gmail.com



westtorontokeys.com

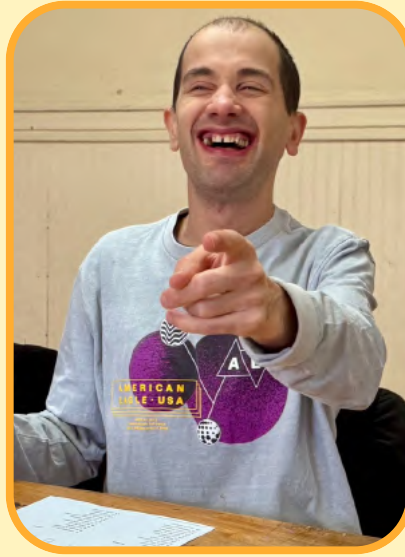


(647) 777-3371



West Toronto KEYS

GOOD TIMES



GOOD TIMES



OUR HEARTFELT THANKS!

