

Spring 2026

Welcoming spring and celebrating togetherness



Marg McLean
Executive Director

Welcome spring! It's been a long winter and we're all happy to have warmer weather and more time enjoying outside activities.

After a long hiatus, we're excited to bring this newsletter to you. We understand the power of stories and will be sharing these with you through our spring and fall newsletters. We have also captured stories of people supported on video. Catch the latest videos on our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/user/AliceSaddyAssoc

Time goes quickly and we have been busy. People are on the move enjoying a variety of activities in London and area, working in new jobs, volunteering and, in general, leading a good life.

Friends of Alice Saddy

Friends of Alice Saddy has been growing and hosting events such as Hobby Swaps and Muffins and Mingle. This is a volunteer-driven community group that brings people together in support of adults with developmental disabilities.

They do this through:

- Hosting welcoming community events like Hobby Swaps
- Participating in local outreach events and volunteer fairs
- Raising awareness about the work of the Association and Foundation
- Creating relaxed, inclusive spaces where everyone feels welcome

Alice Saddy Foundation

We're also grateful to the Foundation as it continues its good work in housing. Becoming a landlord was not in their original plans but they have found a way to preserve 28 deeply affordable housing units. But they need help. Check their website for more information: www.alicesf.ca.

Alice Saddy is all about people and the relationships we have with each other and our partners. Thank you for your ongoing leadership and support. Together we are better!



“

Thank you for putting the concert event together with support. Jordan was looking forward to this event for months! Also, thank you for putting together the Super Bowl tickets. He had a spectacular time.”

– Brad, a grateful father

Passport to fun experiences

Ontario's Passport program provides funding to adults with developmental disabilities to participate in the community and gain valuable life-skills training. At Alice Saddy, we help 147 individuals manage their funds and fulfill their goals.

So, what does that look like? An aspiring author used her funding to explore hiring an editor to review a book she is writing and coach her through the editing phase. For Ted, it meant visiting his family in beautiful British Columbia with the support he needed to do so.

Other individuals have used Passport to explore their interests – such as theatre, drumming, crafting, cooking, bowling and spending time with horses. We've also helped people have fun day trips to watch the Blue Jays play in Toronto, check out a concert or cheer on the London Knights.

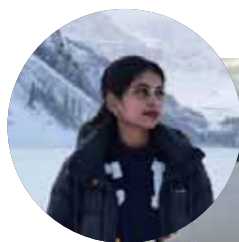
We love being a part of creating personalized experiences and memories.

A learning journey to help others

We welcomed a Social Services Fast Track student in January. We're grateful to have Dona with us for two placements – in January and May.

Dona has gotten to know Alice Saddy and has been utilizing her skills by providing direct support on teams. She's also been busy preparing resources and points of contact for community supports outside of our organization.

Starting in June, she'll be offering 1:1 meetings to help people fill out applications for the Canadian Dental Benefit, Disability Tax Credit, Play Your Way, and more. Watch for information on how to set up a time.



Planning for the future while supporting people today



Personal planning is grounded in the values of contributing, belonging, community, respect and choice. Ideally, the planning process brings a person, their family, friends and key support staff together to talk about the person's goals and dreams for the future. These important, facilitated conversations also identify concrete actions which lead to positive changes in the person's life.

We recently had a great time catching up with Rene and his team. We can't wait to hear more about your travels, time with old friends and family, with dogs, and about all the music and sports events on your calendar!

Storytelling

We hosted a storytelling event in October for people and support staff to come together to share stories about Choices - around relationships, events, activities and some common frustrations around access to choices. Many were looking forward to meeting and connecting with others. Stay tuned for our next event on May 28.

Living the Dream

In March, an afternoon of learning and community-building was held, uniquely co-designed, organization emphasized the right of all individuals to be treated as equal citizens with dignity and respect. Key highlights included:

- The Power of Language: Understanding how words and labels impact perceptions of ability.
- Active Citizenship: Strategies for engaging with municipal, provincial, and federal government levels to create systemic change.
- Belonging: Reinforcing the importance of "Nothing About Us Without Us"—ensuring those with lived experiences have a leading voice in the decisions that affect them.

Prioritizing Digital Safety

Complementing the advocacy session, Brian Ysebaert (ASA) delivered a practical workshop on Using the Internet Safely.

In an increasingly digital world, this session provided participants with essential tools to:

- Protect personal privacy while navigating online resources
- Recognize and avoid common digital risks
- Confidently use the internet as a tool for connection and information

Strengthening Our Community

Beyond the formal presentations, it also provided participants with opportunities to reconnect with old friends and forge new relationships, fostering a fun and inclusive atmosphere that celebrated professional growth and personal connection.

We're grateful for the organizing committee and our guest speakers for a truly impactful afternoon.

Strengthening community inclusion

In 2021, our Community Inclusion Fund was created as a collaborative effort between our Association and Foundation.

In the spirit of our namesake, Alice Saddy, and in support of our vision, mission and values, this fund was established to assist individuals with developmental disabilities, and their families, to live their best lives in their community. It helps them overcome barriers and address challenges in their pursuit of meaningful community inclusion, belonging and participation.

Eligibility is open to any individual with a diagnosis of developmental disability and/or their family, living in London or area, with no other means or resources to cover the cost of the request.

Over the last four years, we have granted 20+ requests which have directly and positively impacted a person and/or their family.

Want to learn more? Email Cathy Smith at cathys@alicesaddy.com



Together, We Make a Difference

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Alice Saddy Foundation and Friends of Alice Saddy for their ongoing commitment, collaboration, and belief in our mission.



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