



ALTERNATIVES
COMMUNITY PROGRAM SERVICES

EST. 1986



SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

www.alternativescommunityprogramservices.ca



All Staff Appreciation Day



Our All Staff Appreciation Day provided staff with an opportunity to learn, connect, and celebrate together. Facilitated by CL&F, the day included engaging activities focused on personal and professional growth, including the creation of vision boards and a team-building exercise highlighting the ripple effect each individual has within our organization and community. The event also featured interactive icebreakers, music and dancing, and a spirited fashion show highlighting our 40th anniversary apparel. The day served as a meaningful reminder of the value, dedication, and influence of every team member.





All Staff Appreciation Day



Fire Extinguisher Training



Staff recently participated in hands-on Fire Extinguisher Training with Peterborough Fire Services, gaining valuable knowledge and practical experience in fire safety and emergency response. Thank you to Peterborough Fire Services for helping our team strengthen their skills and commitment to maintaining a safe environment for all.



Ruby Sue Ice Cream Cart Day!



Participants enjoyed a refreshing afternoon treat as the Ruby Sue Ice Cream Cart rolled into the agency. With a variety of delicious flavours to choose from, the event gave everyone a chance to take a well-deserved break, connect with one another, and enjoy a little summer sweetness. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the day such a fun success!



CONGRATS Graduates!



This season, we were proud to celebrate the achievements of several participants at a number of graduation ceremonies, including the Project SEARCH Internship Program, Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School, and Fleming College. These milestones reflect hard work, dedication, and personal growth, and we were honoured to share in these special moments. Congratulations to all of our graduates on their accomplishments and best wishes as they begin their next chapters!

On June 15, we came together to celebrate an incredible milestone: our agency's 40th Anniversary! The event was filled with energy, laughter, and meaningful moments as we reflected on our journey and looked ahead to the future. Guests enjoyed delicious food, festive balloons, a photo booth and a talented caricature artist, while powerful client speeches reminded us of the impact we've made along the way. Highlights included an energetic dance performance by the DROP group, choreographed by Chelsey, and wonderful live music from harpist Anne and the band Awntari. It was a joyful celebration of how far we've come, the lives we've touched, and the exciting work still ahead.

Here's to the next 40 years!



Anniversary Event



Anniversary Event



Candace



Emma



Frank

Shoutout to our Speakers!

One of the most meaningful parts of our 40th Anniversary celebration was hearing from members of the Alternatives community whose stories truly reflect the impact of inclusion, support, and connection over the past four decades.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Sue Lunn, who shared her perspective as a proud parent whose son has been involved with Alternatives for 13 years.

A special thank you to Candace, who has been part of Alternatives for approximately 15 years and shared her journey with the agency.

We were also delighted to hear from Emma, who joined the Advanced Skills program in 2021. Emma spoke about the independence and friendships she has built through the program,

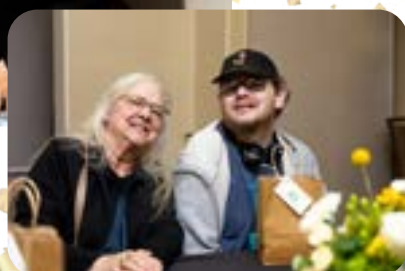
Finally, we thank Frank, whose inspiring journey reflects determination and achievement since joining Alternatives in 2016.



Sue



Anniversary Event





Anniversary Event Button Contest Winner!



As part of our 40th Anniversary celebrations, participants were invited to take part in a special button design contest. We are excited to congratulate Kyle, whose creative design was selected as the winning entry!

With support from Abhi, Kyle brought his vision to life and created a button that captured the spirit of our milestone anniversary. We are proud to celebrate Kyle's creativity and thank everyone who participated in making this contest a success.

Congratulations, Kyle!







Anniversary Event



Our 40th Anniversary celebration would not have been possible without the talent, creativity, and generosity of so many wonderful local vendors and community partners. Their contributions helped make the event truly memorable.

To each of our vendors and partners, thank you for sharing your talents and helping us celebrate 40 years of inclusion, connection, and community. Your support played an important role in making this milestone event such a tremendous success.

Thanks to our Vendors!



Kayla
Le Franc
PHOTO



Anniversary Event



Cheers to another 40 Years!

DROP



The DROP program enjoyed a busy summer filled with fun, friendship, and community exploration. A highlight of the season was a trip to Cobourg Beach, where participants spent a beautiful day enjoying the sunshine and waterfront. The group also visited The Big Apple, explored the Downtown Farmers' Market, enjoyed dinner and movie outings, practiced yoga, went bowling, and took part in many other summer adventures. Each outing offered opportunities to build connections, try new experiences, and create lasting memories together.

It was a summer full of laughter, discovery, and great times shared with friends!



Shimmer & Sea Prom Event



This spring, in partnership with Canopy Support Services, our agency was transformed into an underwater wonderland for "A Night of Shimmer and Sea," an unforgettable adult prom that brought together friends, laughter, and a true sense of community.

Guests arrived dressed to impress and were welcomed into an evening filled with music, dancing, and fun. From socializing with friends to adding a touch of sparkle at the glitter bar, the night offered countless opportunities to celebrate connection, self-expression, and belonging. The dance floor was full all evening as attendees danced the night away and created memories that will last for years to come.



Shimmer & Sea Prom Event



SIL

Virtual Reality

Participants in the SIL Program have been enjoying Virtual Reality (VR) group sessions, exploring new environments and interactive experiences from around the world. From immersive adventures to engaging learning opportunities, VR has provided a fun and accessible way to build confidence, develop skills, and connect with others.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★
MUSEUM
TICKET
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Car Museum

Clients in the SIL program recently enjoyed a visit to the car museum, where they had the opportunity to explore a fascinating collection of classic and vintage vehicles. From beautifully restored automobiles to unique exhibits showcasing the evolution of transportation, there was plenty to discover and enjoy.





SIL Tank Museum



Participants from the SIL Program recently enjoyed a visit to the Canadian Tank Museum, where they had the opportunity to explore military vehicles, learn about Canadian history, and view a unique collection of tanks and artifacts. The outing sparked curiosity, encouraged learning, and provided a fun opportunity to connect with one another while experiencing something new. It was a memorable day filled with discovery, conversation, and plenty of interesting sights!



The SIL Program has had a busy and exciting season, welcoming many new faces and expanding opportunities for participants to connect, learn, and grow. Popular groups such as Men's Group have continued to thrive. Community outings have included visits to the Car Museum, Canadian Tank Museum, Cedar Park, and Warsaw Caves, giving participants the chance to explore new places and enjoy shared experiences. Ongoing activities like Taco Tuesdays and the Virtual Reality Group have also been a tremendous success, bringing people together for fun, friendship, and skill-building.



Advanced Skills Summer BBQ

The Advanced Skills program came together for a fun-filled summer BBQ, enjoying delicious hot dogs fresh off the grill while soaking up the sunshine. The event provided a wonderful opportunity for clients to connect, relax, and celebrate the season in a welcoming and inclusive environment. The afternoon was filled with laughter and friendly competition as participants enjoyed games such as Giant Kerplunk and Guess Who. From sharing a meal together to making new memories outdoors, the BBQ was a great way to celebrate summer!



IT'S
SUMMER
TIME !!



Advanced Skills: Mama Mia



Clients in the Advanced Skills program recently enjoyed a special outing to see Mamma Mia! at Toronto's Princess of Wales Theatre. Filled with energetic performances, colourful costumes, and beloved ABBA hits, the show had everyone singing along and enjoying the excitement of live theatre.



Day Program Activities

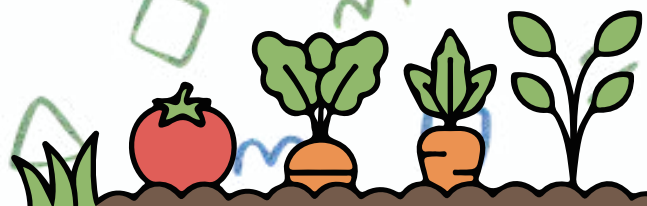
Yoga with Gavin

Our yoga group continues to thrive under the guidance of Gavin, who has been leading sessions both outdoors and indoors. Participants enjoy the opportunity to build strength, improve flexibility, and practice mindfulness in a welcoming and supportive environment. Thank you, Gavin, for helping everyone stay active, relaxed, and connected throughout the season!



Gardening

Our Day Program participants have been busy tending the agency gardens, planting flowers, weeding beds, and helping our outdoor spaces thrive. Their hard work and teamwork have added beauty to our grounds and created a welcoming environment for everyone to enjoy. Thank you to all who have helped make the gardens blossom!



Day Program Activities

Painted Pine Sign Making Workshop

Participants recently enjoyed a creative sign-making workshop with Heather from Painted Pine. Everyone had the opportunity to design, paint, and decorate their own wooden sign, expressing their creativity and personal style. The workshop was filled with fun, laughter, and artistic talent, and participants were proud to take their unique creations home to display and enjoy.



Inclusion in Action

A special moment took place during our sidewalk art activity when Day Program staff created an accessible paintbrush for Kyle using a small paintbrush attached to a broomstick. This simple but innovative adaptation allowed Kyle to fully participate in the fun and express his creativity alongside his peers.

Moments like these highlight the dedication and creativity of our staff, who go above and beyond to ensure everyone feels included, supported, and able to take part in meaningful experiences.



Day Program Activities

Board Game Cafe

Participants enjoyed a fun outing to a local Board Game Café, where they spent time playing a variety of games, sharing laughs, and connecting with friends. The visit encouraged teamwork, problem-solving, and social interaction while providing an enjoyable opportunity to try something new. It was a wonderful day filled with friendly competition, great conversations, and plenty of smiles!



Staff Survey Feedback



Staff feedback is helping shape the future of ACPS. Earlier this year, employees participated in a survey to share their experiences, perspectives, and ideas as part of the organization's 2025–2028 Strategic Planning process. The highlights below reflect some of the key themes that emerged and will help inform future priorities, decision-making, and organizational growth.

Staff feedback reflects a highly engaged workforce with a strong sense of belonging, pride, and commitment to Alternatives Community Program Services. Notably:
100% of respondents would recommend Alternatives as a great place to work!



Survey results highlighted teamwork as one of the organization's greatest strengths. Employees expressed high levels of confidence in leadership and supervisors. Staff generally feel they have opportunities to grow and develop professionally.



The survey confirms that Alternatives continues to foster a supportive, collaborative, and purpose-driven workplace. Employees value the organization's strong culture, leadership support, meaningful work, and commitment to both staff well-being and quality client service.





Good News Stories!

Congratulations to Kurtis on getting his G2 license! Your hard work has paid off! This is your time to take on the open road, and enjoy this achievement. We are so proud!



A very, very, B I G congratulations to Damien on achieving getting his full G2 license! Your hard work and dedication to learning has showed ALL of us that when you work hard, you can achieve anything!



Our FS cooking group has been working hard at growing their skills and confidence in the kitchen - and eating yummy food while at it!



Emma learned to navigate The City of Peterborough bus system over a year ago, and it has become an important part of her independence! She says the bus gets her where she needs to go and that she finds it reliable. Emma LOVES being independent and is grateful to the staff who supported and encouraged her while she learned how to use the bus system.

She is very proud of the skills she has gained, and the confidence it has given her!



Thanks for reading!



Our next quarterly issue will arrive in
December —see you then!



Charitable Gaming aims to provide stable, consistent, and direct fundraising opportunities for organizations that support programs and services in communities across the province.

