



YMCA CENTRE FOR LIFE

COMMUNITY BUILDING CAMPAIGN



NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2022

Partnering for Change

Working with our community partner organizations, the YMCA Centre for Life will provide meaningful programs and positive relationships for the people that we serve.

Our values and missions align and, together, we will partner to create an inclusive centre. The **Community Building Campaign** is opening the door for more people in the community to become involved in one safe, accessible, centrally located facility.



QVSS clients

Partner Profile: Quinte Vitality & Social Support (QVSS)

QVSS Mission:

To enhance the lives of adults with developmental challenges by providing a safe environment, meaningful programs and positive relationships, which promote social inclusion in society.

As its name describes, Quinte Vitality and Social Support enriches the lives of the people they serve with a rich menu of programs and services. One look at their Facebook page shows the vibrant, supportive community they provide.

Formerly known as ARC Industries (founded in 1958), their current location in the industrial park of Belleville made sense because 50% of their programs and services were work related. Approximately five years ago, QVSS moved from a work program to a program focused primarily on recreation and leisure due to the provincial move away from sheltered workshops towards inclusive employment and other meaningful community participation. With the change in mandate, their current location no longer suits their needs.

The partnership between the YMCA and QVSS is timely and makes sense. QVSS has availed themselves of programming at the YMCA for their clients in the past, however, the current location of the YMCA provides accessibility challenges for many of their clients. The new fully accessible Centre for Life will allow QVSS to expand their programming and serve a greater number of clients and continue its drive towards inclusiveness.

"After four moves since we began, this will be the final transition in our journey. It is the most inclusive move we have made. This will be our final step to be part of the community" Mike Vajda

Mike Vajda, Executive Director at QVSS, is excited about the partnership and the synergies it will provide for both QVSS clients and the YMCA. The move to the YMCA Centre for Life will allow QVSS clients to be fully integrated into the community in a safe, welcoming environment. All QVSS clients will be members of the YMCA and will be afforded the opportunity to participate in all programs.

"Part of our mandate is to educate the public, so the people we provide supports for can be included in everyone's community," Mike shares his excitement and gratitude for the integration of their clients into the YMCA community as members to help to achieve this mandate.

Visit QVSS on [Facebook](#) to learn more.

Did You Know

QVSS...

- Supports 135 people living in Group homes/family homes/with families, Supported Independent living and living on their own
- Employs 14 Staff, including 7 Full-time Direct Care
- Provides a place for High School students & Loyalist College students to learn
- Covers an area from Trenton/Picton/Belleville/Madoc/Stirling
- Received a 95% client satisfaction rate



Cassandra Bonn with her family

“Along with my family, I strongly support this campaign and we encourage anyone in the community who wants to make a difference with a legacy project of this magnitude, this is a great opportunity to do that.”

Cabinet Profile: Cassandra Bonn

When Cassandra was approached by Dave Allen and Kristin Crowe to join the Cabinet for the **Building Community Campaign**, she was fully prepared to say ‘no.’ An active volunteer in the Quinte community since she and her husband moved here 20 years ago, her plate was already quite full. She is on the Board for the Children’s Foundation and an active member of the Rotary Club where one of her roles is Co-Chair for their annual Golf Tournament.

Her volunteer resume is impressive, having supported many local organizations, including Belleville General Hospital Foundation, Trenton Memorial Hospital Foundation, Pathways Foundation, Canadian Cancer Society and the YMCA Strong Kids Campaign. It is no wonder she was tapped to provide her passion and leadership to support the YMCA Centre for Life.

Cassandra is a Marketing Specialist with Quinte Broadcasting and brings almost 30 years of experience as a Marketing Professional to the Campaign Cabinet. When she returned to work 13 years ago, she looked to the Y for child care for her daughter and was impressed with the exceptional care she received. Appreciating how the YMCA focuses on supporting an active community where no one is turned away, she and her husband joined as family members, taking advantage of all the Y has to offer.

When asked what inspired her to join the Campaign Cabinet, Cassandra shared, “It is about being a part of this incredible legacy project in our community – creating an inclusive place for people of all ages and abilities...I was honoured to be asked.” She is excited about the community organizations that are partnering in the building, “There is so much opportunity to work together to provide support for the community.”

Our Supporting Team

We are grateful to our **Community Building Campaign** Cabinet members for their passion to the YMCA Centre for Life:

Wolf & Elaine Tausendfreund,
Campaign Honourary Chairs

Kristin Crowe, Co-Chair

Ed Lehtinen, Co-Chair

Ruth Ferguson Aulthouse

Cassandra Bonn

Bruce Mackay

John Mastorakos

Kelly McKinney

Sue O’Brien

Bernie Ouellet

Doug Peterson

Mark Phillips

Boyd Sullivan

Heather Williams

The YMCA of Central East Ontario is building a new YMCA Centre for Life in Belleville. It will be an inclusive space for people of all abilities, socio-economic status, ethnic and sexual orientation, while providing more community services closer to home in a safe and welcoming environment.

To learn more about how you can get involved, contact us at campaign@ceo.ymca.ca.



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