



## Media Release

### FOCUS Accreditation Announces Four Year Accreditation for Community Living Essex County

#### For Immediate Release

**Date:** June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**Essex, ON** –FOCUS Accreditation is pleased to announce that Community Living Essex County has been successful in its bid to be accredited by FOCUS Accreditation for four years.

Community Living Essex County is a charitable not-for-profit organization that provides services to over 650 children and adults with intellectual disabilities throughout Essex County and surrounding areas.

FOCUS Accreditation looks at all aspects of how an organization provides services – from how people are supported to the effectiveness of the operations. FOCUS Accreditation sent a team of four people to review Community Living Essex County’s services on-site, for three days. The team, observed how services were provided, reviewed data, and collected input from various people who have a stake in the services being provided.

Many strengths were identified at Community Living Essex County, including:

- Strong Leadership
- Culture of continuous learning and improvement
- Flexible person-centered services
- Highly regarded community partner

“FOCUS congratulates Community Living Essex County on their successful accreditation. Community Living Essex County clearly demonstrated that it is an organization committed to fulfilling its mission - to support people to achieve their goals and realize their value as full citizens in their community. People from within and external to the organization attributed much of the organization's success to effective leadership and management, and caring and capable staff. This organization has a history of setting the bar high, and in meeting most of FOCUS' standards, Community Living Essex County cleared the bar and then some," states Janeen Halliwell, Executive Director of FOCUS Accreditation.

“Accreditation is a way to express to people who know very little about Community Living Essex County, that as an organization we are committed to excellence. The decision to participate in a thorough review of our services and operations and the exceptional result provides assurance and proof to everyone that we are committed to providing the very best services and supports to people with an intellectual disability in Essex County. As an organization, from our entire staff, to our volunteers, members and those we support, we are very proud of this accomplishment” states Karen Charette, Director, Community Living Operations.



Since 1961 Community Living Essex County, a not-for-profit charitable organization has been committed to assisting people of all ages who have an intellectual disability and their families throughout Essex County. We are committed to support people in achieving their goals and dreams and to realize their value as full citizens in their community. Over 600 employees and many dedicated volunteers join together at Community Living Essex County to ensure that quality supports and opportunities are provided to people with intellectual disabilities in Essex County.

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### **About FOCUS Accreditation**

FOCUS is a non-profit accreditation agency for community service organizations. Created in Ontario, Canada, by the very people who use and work in these services, FOCUS reflects the culture and expectations of community service organizations in Ontario.

FOCUS accredits the whole organization, not just select programs within. The standards reflect best practice in the way services are provided as well as the effectiveness of how the organization operates. An organization that meets FOCUS' standards can be viewed as an organization that focuses on the people it serves, and on high quality service delivery. FOCUS has accredited over 20 organizations and works with over 60 groups. A full list of accredited organizations is on our website [www.focusaccreditation.ca](http://www.focusaccreditation.ca)

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