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Durham Family Resources

FAMILY *focus*

SO THAT ALL PEOPLE ENJOY A FULL AND MEANINGFUL LIFE
WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

An Evening of Customized Employment with Milton Tyree

Thinking about employment, actively exploring employment, or imagining a future that includes meaningful employment for your family member? Join us for an evening with Milton Tyree as he explores the benefits of considering the path leading to Customized Employment.

Milton is a highly respected leader in the area of Customized Employment, with 40 years of experience in the design, development and provision of support and offerings centered around people with disabilities having access to valued aspects of everyday life, including good employment.

We often see people with disability struggle to find employment. When they do, it tends to be fewer hours, lower pay and lacking the security that we all seek from our work. Often they are jobs that do not utilize the person's strengths and interests and do not provide meaningful opportunity to stretch one's skills, to grow or advance. Understandably, you may be left wondering if employment is possible for your family member...

What makes the Customized Employment approach different from other services you may have tried, is that it *begins with the person* and not the job. It starts with a discovery process that focuses on getting to know a person through time spent together, learning about their interests related to work, the contributions they have to offer a business and the conditions that need to be in place for them to be at their best.

One of the frustrations job seekers face today is that current online hiring systems are often set up with AI gatekeepers to screen out resumes that don't match very particular criteria. This limits opportunities for hiring teams to consider other traits, contributions and skill sets that prove to be extremely valuable to employers. Customized Employment takes a personalized approach by focusing on developing reciprocal relationships with potential employers, emphasizing what the job seeker has to uniquely offer and in return the opportunity the employer has to give.



Our evening with Milton will touch on the importance of:

- Holding onto an expectation of work for your family member, it is never too early or too late to do so;
- How to draw in personal networks;
- What satisfying work can look like;
- Mutual benefit approach for the employer and person, finding the right fit;
- Avoiding common pitfalls when it comes to looking for and sustaining employment.

Join us on February 26, from 6:30-8:30pm at the Gathering Place. [Register Here.](#)

Your Vote Your Voice - Exercising Our Civil Responsibility in the Upcoming Provincial Election!

Ontarians are headed to the Voter's Booth on Feb 27, 2025, to cast their ballot for the party that best represents their priorities. Some facts you may find interesting: the 2022 election recorded the lowest voter turnout in the history of the province, and some area seats were won by a difference of less than 620 votes.

As Canadians and Ontarians, our Vote is our Voice. Families with family members who have a disability understand the importance of every voice counting and being heard. When so few people show up at the voter booth to cast their ballot it means, unfortunately, so many voices are not heard. Our Provincial government has a direct impact on the quality of life we all experience, especially for those who depend on the services and supports the province has to offer.

As a voter, you have the ability to influence candidates and parties to support and prioritize issues that affect your family and others who have a disability. Imagine if you vote, and your eligible family members vote, an impact has been made. Even if someone doesn't understand all of the issues and requirements around the election, everyone has a preference and a will about those things in life that are most important to them and their happiness, with the assistance of those who know them well, someone can be assisted to cast their vote, to voice those preferences and their will about what is important to them.

The role of a citizen is an important role that we hold, don't miss the opportunity to exercise your right to have a say in choosing a party that best represents those priorities that are good for you and your community. Here is more information about voting in the [2025 Ontario Election](#) and [accessible voting information in Provincial Elections](#)



Save The Date! Come And Learn About The Unique Ways That DFR Partners With Families

Turn your calendars to March 20th and save the date for our What's at Our Table event!

What's at Our Table is a time for families and members of our community to come and learn more about the unique resources and learning opportunities here at Durham Family Resources. It is a chance for our team to share with you more about the various aspects of our work and organization, as well as the numerous ways we support families throughout Durham Region. This interactive and informative event, created and shared together with families here at DFR, promises good conversation and interesting insights that will help you get the most out of what we have to offer.

Keep a look out in the Newsletter for more details to follow.





DURHAM ASSOCIATION FOR
FAMILY RESOURCES AND SUPPORT
• One Person at a Time • Together With Families •

Making the Most

**Weekend
* Retreat ***

**April 25 - 27,
2025**



Families throughout the Region of Durham are invited to participate in an innovative and interactive workshop that will support in re-imagining opportunities and real options for their family member. The heart of the series is to move beyond traditional uses for funding, to plan for a life that reflects interests, hopes and dreams.

The workshop is co-led by mentoring parents who engage in useful conversations and share their experiences in planning and creating opportunities. These conversations highlight simple choices that families can make to discover ordinary, yet significant ways for family members to be involved in their neighbourhood and community.

**Making the most of your time, energy and money to
achieve a good life for your family member**

This workshop will take place
at Elmhirst 's Resort,
Keene, Ontario

Beginning early Friday evening on
April 25, running through until
Sunday afternoon on April 27.

Accommodation is included for
Friday and Saturday night along
with all meals and refreshments

Course fee \$100 per person
(subsidies available if needed)

For more information contact
Laura, lpowell@dafrrs.com or
at 905 436 2500 ext. 2312

An Opportunity to Learn, Connect & Share Our Knowledge in Halifax, Nova Scotia - May 2025

Two Events Back-to-Back: International SRV Conference & Making The Most Retreat

We have an opportunity to send a small group of families and team members to Halifax for the 8th **International Social Role Valorization (SRV) Conference**. The ISRVA Conference is a fantastic opportunity for us to share what we have learned through the work we do together, and to learn from people from other communities around the world. We have offered three presentations to the conference, with a focus on Recognizing Capacity, Home and Housing, and Young Families. While in Halifax, we will also deliver our **Making the Most Retreat** to local families.

In the spirit of seizing opportunities, we are excited to share that we will be **offering five families the opportunity to travel to Nova Scotia** to participate in one or both of these two events. For each, we're hoping to have a few families assist by sharing aspects of their family story as part of any of our three DFR presentations or as a mentor parent for the MTM Retreat.

The Details:

8th International Social Role Valorization (SRV) Conference
May 7-9th, 2025, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Making The Most Retreat
May 9-12th (dates TBC), Halifax, Nova Scotia

**All flight, accommodation and event meals included*

The logo for the International Social Role Valorization Association (ISRVA) features the letters 'I', 'S', 'R', and 'V' in a dark blue font, with a red circle containing a white 'A' positioned between the 'R' and 'V'.

If you have been involved with us around any of the topics above and are interested in putting your name forward for this amazing opportunity to share and learn, please [REGISTER YOUR INTEREST HERE!](#)

Why Consider Attending?

We have heard from families often that when they read the values and principles held by our organization, it articulates for them the life they hope for, imagine, and want to assist their family member in creating. Our guiding principles are more than just ideas, they also speak of the steps to take for these ideas to come to fruition. Social Role Valorization (SRV) underpins those values and principles and is the foundation of our work here at Durham Family Resources; guiding us and families, who are often drawn to us because of this principled approach.

Over the years, we've heard from parents/families how much attending an event anchored in SRV has meant to them and ultimately to their family member. They've walked away with:

- A new or renewed focus on thinking about what the Good Things of Life are that we all want;
- A language and way of explaining the experiences of their family and family member, and the impact of those experiences over the years;
- An understanding that valued roles will open doors to new possibilities, opportunities, and relationships - along with gaining the tools and strategies to help develop those roles;
- New ideas for better ways to utilize support to assist their family member in achieving their goals.

Imagining Home Will Meet On Zoom For The Month of February

Since February is the month of love, we can't wait to put our love of action and step-taking into practice when we meet for Imagining Home. We'll pick up from a conversation we didn't get to last month around taking next steps and what's within your control to move forward on. What resources do you already have to draw on and what do you still need in order to take your next housing step? How might this group of families support you in your progress? Wherever you are on your journey, come share your insights, ideas, questions and curiosities so that we may start the year off in a good, proactive way!

Let's also take a look at our year ahead for Imagining Home. What are the practical topics and conversations you would find most helpful in moving you along in your housing visioning and planning?

Come join the conversation! Long time and new families alike, everyone has something to gain and something to offer. Each month at Imagining Home, we engage with anything "housing, home and community" and enjoy critical discussion, sharing stories, learning and often having a good laugh among respectful and supportive people! Families bring a wealth of experience and knowledge and are ready to share and support others along their journey. All are welcome to attend and participate in Imagining Home when we meet on the second Wednesday of each month.

If you are new to the group and would like to attend Imagining Home for the first time, we'd ask that you first contact Erin at ereilly@dafrs.com to arrange an introductory call.

IMAGINING HOME MEETING • WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2025

• 6:30PM • ZOOM

CONTACT ERIN FOR DETAILS ([EREILLY@DAFRS.COM](mailto:ereilly@dafrs.com))



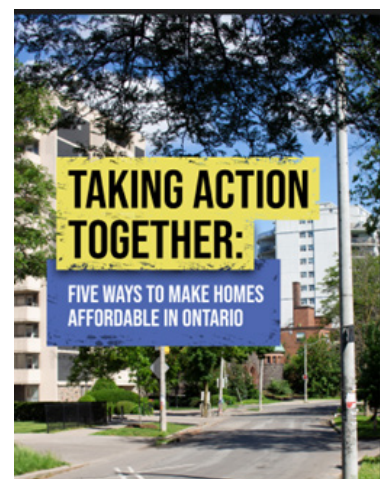
Five Ways Home - A Report & Action Plan From The Alliance For A Livable Ontario

The Alliance for a Livable Ontario has put together a report and action plan for governments and citizens, about what they assert needs to happen in order to resolve the housing crisis. Through their research, they've landed on Five Action Areas that would ensure homes become and remain affordable in Ontario. Many of these areas resonate with the kinds of ideas we talk about regularly with families and at our regular monthly meetings.

The Action Plan offers tangible information including:

- An explanation for each Action Area and why it's important
- Actions governments can take
- Actions you can take so that together with government we can solve the housing crisis

Check out [The Five Ways Home](#) Report.



New Date For February's BioMedical Approaches Study Group



This month at Biomedical, we are planning to get our hands messy and our tastebuds tingling while sensitive tummies remain calm! For this month, we have a local family who will host us in their home and teach us how to make gluten-free paratha bread. We hope you can join us for this fun and hands-on event! Please note, our February date has changed to **Friday February 21, from 10-11:30/12:00pm.**

Paratha is a flatbread native to the Indian Subcontinent. The base of this flatbread is cooked lentils with added flour. The flour used in this recipe is called Farali flour and the ingredients are: barnyard millet, amaranth, buckwheat, water nut, and cassava potato starch. If there is a need to use a different gluten-free flour because of allergies or sensitivity we can arrange this. We will all make our own paratha at a workstation that we will have set up. The only supplies needed would be a rolling pin of your own and a container to take your bread home!

We look forward to gathering and learning something new as well as engaging in conversation (as always).

Please register with Sue and direct any questions you have to smclellan@dafers.com. Once you have registered, we will confirm your participation and send you the address of the family home. It will be great to see each other cooking together!

Save The Date! Mark this on your calendar - the Bio-Medical Approaches Study Group welcomes Peter Marks from the Centre for Conscious Care and Support to its April 11, 2025, meeting. Keep an eye out for more details in our Newsletter.

**BIOMEDICAL
STUDY GROUP**

**FRIDAY,
FEB 21, 2025**

10 AM - 11:30 AM



ONLINE VIA ZOOM

Next Generation Meetup

A casual get together of those who identify as the "next generation" in the support of a loved one with a developmental disability. Coming together to connect, share, and learn from one another.

Contact Rosanne for details!
rpurnwasie@dafers.com
(905) 436-2500 ext. 2289

Join us!
Thursday March 6 @ 7-8pm, Thursday April 3rd @ 7-8pm
Email Rosanne at: rpurnwasie@dafers.com

SRV 4-Day Workshop in Brockville

This 4-day SRV workshop provides an introduction to Social Role Valorization (SRV) using the 10 core themes, developed by Dr. W. Wolfensberger, considered one of the most influential thinkers in the field of disability in the world. Dr. Wolfensberger's work helped lay the foundation for many current human service trends, including integration, safeguarding of rights, and the de-institutionalization movement.

SRV 4-Day Workshop

Feb 25-28, 2025 8:30am - 5:30pm each day
Brockville, ON

For more information and to registers, click [HERE](#)

Monthly Making the Most Study Group

The Making the Most Study Group is a fantastic opportunity for those who have completed the series to continue their learning and take some next steps in developing valued roles and relationships with a loved one.

Each month graduates of past Making the Most learning series are invited to come together and think more deeply about crafting and sharing a vision, designing and planning days full of contributions and possibilities, focusing on roles rather than activities, seeking and developing good support, making positive introductions, and finding strength, comfort, and energy through building personal networks, and connecting with other families.

The meeting is open to anyone who has attended the 6-part Making the Most learning series or a MTM Weekend Retreat and wishes to join the conversation. Contact Laura.Ipowell@dafsr.com for more information.

This month as we have Customized Employment Specialist Milton Tyree joining us for the evening on Wednesday February 26, we would like to encourage all Making the Most Graduates to seize this wonderful opportunity and come out to this in person event instead of our usual study group meeting on the 24th. We will regroup in March.

For more info contact Laura at
lpowell@dafsr.com

MAKING THE MOST STUDY GROUP

For more information, please visit our website, www.dafsr.com, and see the "Upcoming Events" tab.

Important Dates At-A-Glance!

Imagining Home

Feb 12 @ 6:30pm

Bio Medical Study Group

Feb 21 @ 10am

SRV 4-Day Workshop

Feb 25-28

Milton Tyree - Customized Employment Workshop

Feb 26 @ 6:30pm

Next Gen Meetup

Mar 6 @ 7pm

Making the Most Weekend Retreat

Apr 25-27

For more information,
please visit our website at
www.dafsr.com

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