



RESIDENTIAL EXPRESS



2026

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Board of Directors

President - Chantal Landry

Vice President - Kristen Steeves

Secretary - Margie McFee

Treasurer - Michael Miller

Marianne Mephram-Newton

Beverly Gaudet

Xavier Couture

Brijesh Dhameliya

MISSION STATEMENT

Moncton Community Residences Incorporated is a non-profit organization that provides residential options and support for individuals with developmental challenges in the various aspects of their progressing lives.



Health & Safety Committee

Nathalie Lutes

Mavis Rodriguez

Obianuju Inomah

Navneet Sehgal

Christina Hill

Taiwo Obaniyi

Jane Umutoni

Parteek Kunder

Team Building Committee

Daniel Niles, Lyne LeBlanc, Monica Penney, Johnathan Levesque, Nafisat Busari, Katelyn Crooks, Yemisi Lala, Jasmeer Subherwal, Elizabeth McLay, Pavandeep Kaur





MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



This summer marked a transition for Moncton Community Residences Inc. (MCRI). We concluded our previous three-year strategic plan, and at our June Annual General Meeting, Board President Chantal introduced our 2026–2031 Strategic Plan. Its three priorities are guiding the work described below. We look forward to sharing the full plan with employees, the people we support, and the broader community in the coming months.

Our new strategic priorities include; Increasing our housing capacity, program accessibility, and community awareness; Strengthening our continuity of care, workforce capabilities, and innovation in service delivery; Strengthening our financial resilience, infrastructure, leadership, and governance.

Our housing plans moved forward following Moncton City Council's unanimous decision to provide MCRI with a parcel of land through its Surplus Land Strategy. Over the summer, we continued due diligence and site assessments and worked with an architect on a concept plan. Each step helps us assess the site and move toward more housing for people with developmental challenges.

We also strengthened community connections. We welcomed Moncton City Councillor Kristin Cavoukian to learn more about our mission and services, and Social Development's Chief Experience Officer to highlight our community-based care services supporting children and youth with high and complex needs.

I shared lessons from our Alternative Family Living Arrangement (AFLA) and Socially Responsible Landlords programs with the Southeast Regional Service Commission as it explored a supported homesharing pilot for older adults. MCRI was subsequently featured in the Commission's newsletter. We continued participating in the Greater Moncton Homelessness Steering Committee and joined discussions with local leaders about the region's economic and community needs.

Our summer marketing student helped create new videos highlighting the Supported Independent Living Program (SILP), now available on YouTube. We also invited staff, people we support, and community partners to share their views through a rebranding survey as our Board considers whether MCRI's name continues to reflect who we are and where we are headed.

Implementation of AlayaCare in SILP continued throughout the summer, with a launch planned for October. The system will support service coordination, documentation, and the tracking of individual goals and outcomes. We also continued discussions with the Department of Social Development's Central Office as it examined our AFLA program and its potential lessons for the province.

In September, SILP staff received a wage increase retroactive to April 2026 due to being recognized by the Provincial Government for the important role they play in the health care continuum in our province.

We negotiated a new collective agreement with our bargaining unit, with constructive discussions about changes that will support employees in their day-to-day work. Through the New Brunswick



Kristin Cavoukian, City Councillor Moncton Ward 2 (left) on a visit to MCRI

Youth Care Association, we continued advocating for better working conditions across the youth care sector and advanced plans to recruit a provincial coordinator.

The New Brunswick Home Support Association also welcomed a new Executive Director. I look forward to working with them to advance home support in New Brunswick and strengthen recognition of the people who provide it.

Learning from others remains part of improving our services. I participated in a local Tech Connect event that included a discussion of how organizations are using artificial intelligence. I also joined the board of the NB Housing Hub, creating another opportunity to learn and contribute as MCRI expands its housing work.

Our leadership team also saw changes this summer. We thank Kim Seldon for her contribution and welcome Elizabeth McLay to the role of Administrative Coordinator. We also want to welcome Jessica Gouchie to her new role as acting Supervisor. These transitions are an opportunity to recognize the experience and commitment across our team as we begin implementing the new strategic plan.

MCRI ended the 2025–2026 fiscal year in a positive financial position. Our annual report, now available on our website, offers a fuller account of the year's work and results. Alongside our housing due diligence, we completed Request for Standing Offer process and continued building the partnerships and leadership capacity needed to carry out our new strategic plan.

I also joined Greater Moncton business and community leaders for a roundtable with the Honourable Karina Gould, Member of Parliament and Chair of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance. The discussion provided an opportunity to share the opportunities and challenges facing our region directly with a federal decision-maker, including the perspective of a community organization providing essential housing and support services



Andrea Best

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MONCTON COMMUNITY
RESIDENCES INC.**

Thank you to our employees, the people we support, our Board, and our community partners for the work and insight you have contributed over these four months. I hope to see many of you at our annual social on December 3, 2026.

As we head into the winter months, please take care of your health, pay attention when you need rest or support, and do your part to protect your well-being.



An inch of movement is better than a mile of intentions- unknown

MEMBER NOMINATIONS

Bonita - for all the progress she has made, extending her school days almost to full days; welcoming her new co-residents by making them welcoming cards; being consistent with completing her chores throughout the week. We're so proud of all her growth.

Ravneet Kaur - She is consistently ready to work; she is very positive with the youth and the youth love her; her work ethic is impeccable; she is constantly doing what needs to be done whether it be laundry, cooking or anything in between. She always listens to her fellow coworkers and makes them feel heard.

Other nominations...

Matthew McLeod, Felicia Willis, Christy Lewis, Nancy Donovan, Jane Umutoni, Johnathan Levesque, Mary Nwosu, Christopher Ayebe, Delna Joseph, Christina Hill, Manjeet Kaur, Nirmaljeet Kaur, Zettyline Wanyonyi

Team Meetings 2026

Railway: Sep 10, Oct 15, Nov 19
SILP: Sep 17, Oct 22, Nov 26
Dominion II: Sep 24, Oct 22, Nov 26
West Lane: Sep 17, Oct 29, Dec 3
Dominion II half: Sep 18, Oct 23, Nov 27
Dominion: Oct 1, Nov 5, Dec 10
McSweeney: Oct 8, Nov 12, Dec 17
AFLA: Sep 15, Nov 18



Happy Birthday! Dominion members

Test your smarts

- i. What did the ocean say to the beach?
- ii. Why did the ice cream truck break down?
- iii. Why did the sun go to school?
- iv. What do you call a dog on a beach?
- v. Why did the beach towel go to therapy?



La vie sans ami est comme un ciel sans soleil ~ inconnu

YEARS OF SERVICE

MCRI congratulates 🎉 🎉 🎉



*Sonja LeBreton, 40 years
with MCRI*

5years Aug Kikelomo Omijeh
10years Jul Nicholas Raworth
 Aug Jacqueline LeBlanc
15years Jul Inez White
 Jul Patricia Hanrahan
 Aug Christy Lewis
25years Jul Nicholas Guitard
 Aug Lidia Wojcik
30years Jun Dennis Hopper
40years Jun Frank Ayles
 Jun Sonja LeBreton
 Jul Claire Ayles
 Jul Omer Leger

Congrats



*Dennis Hopper, 30 years
with MCRI*



*Christy Lewis (left), 15
years with MCRI*



*Congratulations to Meghan
Robbins on winning gold in
Bocce Ball at the Special
Olympics Canada Games in
Medicine Hat, Alberta.*

The Greatest good is what we do for one another ~ Mother Teresa



EXPRESS SPOTLIGHT



Meet Nancy Donovan (Human Service Counselor)

Nancy leads with kindness, positivity, and compassion. Her warm spirit is a gift to our team and the people we support. She has a remarkable ability to find the good in every situation and believes that inner healing and a positive mindset can make all the difference.



Fast facts about Nancy

Favorite color: *Pink*

Favorite holiday: *Vacations during the holiday season*

Happy place: *Home*

3 words that describe you: *Happy, positive and giving*

Something you cannot live without: *Food and water*

Hobbies: *Reading and hiking*

Proudest moment: *My children*

Life changing moment: *When I realized that I had been mentally abused and it stopped my fight / flight response.*

Fun facts: *I can laugh at myself*

Destination of choice if all expense paid: *Visit a pyramid or talk to an elder (indigenous)*

Favorite part of your job: *The people I work with, it's the most human job I've ever had - helping others*



*An empty beach is the perfect place to both fill and empty the mind ~
Mehmet Murat Ildan*



EXPRESS SPOTLIGHT



Meet Mia Russelle (Youth Care worker)

For the past 5 years, Mia has been a vibrant part of MCRI- a valued member of the team, who is truly wonderful with the young people she works with.

Fast facts about Mia



Favorite color: *Pink*

Favorite food: *Seafood, spicy food, matcha*

Favorite holiday: *Halloween*

Happy place: *My bed*

3 words that describe you: *Bubbly, compassionate and smart presence*

Something you cannot live without: *My dogs*

Hobbies: *Video games, musicals, arts and crafts*

Proudest moment: *Hosting my art expo at the UdeM*

Destination of choice if all expense paid: *Japan, France & Nigeria mostly to enjoy all the food.*

Favorite part of your job: *The youth I support*



Have you checked out Perkopolis?

Enjoy discounts on travel, shopping, entertainment, fitness, dining, and more - just for being part of the team! Start exploring the perks, treat yourself while saving a little extra.

Not all those who wander are lost ~ unknown



EXPRESS SPOTLIGHT



Meet Lyne LeBlanc (AFLA Program Coordinator)

Lyne LeBlanc represents the very best of MCRI's values. She has been a valued part of MCRI for nearly 40 years. Her decades of service, positive outlook, steadfast commitment, and genuine compassion make her highly deserving of this recognition.

Fast facts about Lyne

Favorite color: *Blue*

Favorite food: *Pasta*

Favorite holiday: *Christmas*

Happy place: *With my family*

3 words that describe you: *Honest, caring, loyal*

Something you cannot live without: *My family*

Hobbies: *Games, comedies and crafts*

Proudest moment: *Becoming a grandmother*

Life changing moment: *My divorce*

Fun facts: *Spent some of my younger years living in a train station.*

Destination of choice if all expense paid: *Europe*

Favorite part of your job: *My work family and the members I work with*



Cassandra's Book Report

Star Darlings: Cassie Comes Through

by Cassandra L. Doucette

Cassie is a first year at Starling Academy. Cassie loves to read and her room is full of books. Cassie gets the courage to go on her mission to Wish World. Cassie finds her wisher to have more joke, then to take things seriously. Cassie is able to grant her wisher's wish

Happy Reading!

EXPRESS SPOTLIGHT

Meet Bunmi Kuye (Youth Care Worker)

Bunmi started with MCRI at the end of 2022 and she makes a huge impact on the youth's lives each day she comes to work.

Fast facts about Bunmi

Favorite color: White, Black

Favorite food: Ewa Aganyin and Agege bread (Beans with bread)

Favorite holiday: Christmas

Happy place: Home with my family

3 words that describe you: Kind, playful, good sense of humor

Something you cannot live without: God

Hobbies: Movie with my husband, dancing

Proudest moment: Most proud about being a daughter my mom can rely on; being a mom

Life changing moment: Graduating from high school with high grades; marrying my husband and moving to Canada

Fun facts: Had breakfast, lunch and dinner in three different countries in a single day, traveling to Nigeria, Germany, and England.

Destination of choice if all expense paid: Maldives, South Asia or Cancun

Favorite part of your job: Building meaningful connections with youth and helping them recognize their strengths and potentials



Ewa Aganyin & Agege bread

Be the reason someone believes in the goodness of people ~ unknown

2026 MCRI BOARD OF DIRECTORS AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Board of Director's Award is given yearly to three (3) outstanding members who consistently demonstrate MCRI's Mission Statement, which is: MCRI is a non-profit organization that provides residential options and support to individuals with developmental challenges in the various aspects of their progressing lives.

Meet Vivek Saini

Vivek truly embodies the values of MCRI. Since joining MCRI in August 2022, Vivek Saini has become an invaluable member of our team. Although he works primarily at Dominion, he is always willing to step in and support other residences whenever needed. He promotes community involvement for the youth we serve, and consistently goes above and beyond for both clients and coworkers.



Vivek (right) with Sandy Scott-Thibodeau

Vivek is someone you can always count on to lend a helping hand. He is a team player, an excellent mentor to new staff, and one of the first people to share his knowledge and experience. He approaches every challenge with a positive attitude, never complains, and is always willing to go the extra mile.

One example of his dedication involved a youth who needed to travel to Halifax for medical reasons. When it became clear that the trip required an unexpected overnight stay, Vivek did not hesitate. He stayed with the youth and family, providing support and reassurance during a difficult time.

Those who nominated Vivek describe him as an all-around good person whose kindness and commitment inspire others to become better versions of themselves. Everyone who works with him has nothing but positive things to say.

Vivek, thank you for your compassion, dedication, and unwavering willingness to support others. Your efforts make a difference every day, and MCRI is fortunate to have you on our team.

Meet Zettyline Wanyonyi

Zettyline is someone whose compassion, dedication, and positive spirit have made a lasting impact on the youth we serve and the colleagues who work alongside her.

Since joining MCRI in 2024, Zettyline has worked in several children's programs and currently supports youth at Railway. She goes above and beyond in her duties and is committed to helping young people enjoy meaningful experiences in their community. Whether taking youth for walks, shopping trips, or attending events, she understands the importance of helping them build confidence and create positive memories.



Zetty (left) with Sandy

Zettyline is known for stepping up whenever something needs to be done, even if it is not part of her assigned responsibilities. She remains calm and collected during times of crisis, ensuring that youth feel safe, supported, and protected at all times.

She values positive relationships and quickly earns the trust and respect of youth and coworkers alike. She willingly takes the lead when needed and enjoys helping new staff learn about the youth and the operation of the home.

Her colleagues describe her as genuine, trustworthy, funny, compassionate, and dependable. They also mention that she is an excellent cook, and her meals are appreciated by everyone fortunate enough to enjoy them.

Zettyline, thank you for your kindness, dedication, and the positive energy you bring to MCRI every day. We are grateful for all that you do and proud to recognize your outstanding contributions.

Meet Monica Penney

Monica is someone whose dedication, resourcefulness, and caring nature have made a tremendous difference in the lives of youth and colleagues at MCRI.

Monica Penney previously worked at Dominion II and now brings her many talents to the Railway team. She consistently goes above and beyond to ensure the home runs smoothly and that the youth in our care receive the support they deserve.



Monica (left) with Sandy

Monica is a strong advocate for community involvement and works hard to stay informed about resources and opportunities available to the youth she supports. She builds meaningful relationships with community partners, families, and coworkers and encourages young people to participate fully in their communities.

She is also known as our own "Handy Randy," capable of fixing almost anything—from appliances and plumbing to woodworking projects. She is even the only person trusted to cut the hair of two of our youth, a testament to the strong relationships she has built.

Monica is described as warm, approachable, funny, organized, resourceful, and always willing to help others learn. One nominator said she deserved this award without question, while another joked that they would need to write a book to capture everything Monica contributes.

Monica often says that the youth in our care deserve the same opportunities as every other child in the world, and she lives those words every day.

Monica, thank you for your dedication, compassion, and unwavering commitment to the youth we serve. MCRI is a better place because of you.



EXPRESS SPOTLIGHT



Meet Arshpreet Kaur (Youth Care Worker)

Arshpreet always enjoyed supporting people and being someone others could rely on, which inspired her to enter the mental health and social service work field. She finds it incredibly rewarding to provide a safe, supportive environment where young people feel heard, respected, and encouraged.



Fast facts about Arshpreet

Favorite color: *Black*

Favorite food: *Indian Food*

Favorite holiday: *Diwali - Festival of lights*

Happy place: *Spending time with my family & friends*

3 words that describe you: *Dedicated, patient, calm*

Something you cannot live without: *My family*

Hobbies: *Listening to music, spending time with loved ones and exploring new places.*

Proudest moment: *Most proud about building a career where I can support and positively impact the lives of young people.*

Life changing moment: *Moving from India to Canada to pursue my education and build a career in the Social Service Work field*

Fun facts: *Love learning about different cultures.*

Destination of choice if all expense paid: *Switzerland to experience its beautiful mountains, peaceful scenery, and breathtaking landscapes*

Favorite part of your job: *Building trusting relationships with youth, supporting them through challenges, and seeing them grow in confidence and achieve their goals*



Kindness costs nothing but means everything ~ unknown



EXPRESS SPOTLIGHT



Meet Uchenna Nwaudo (Youth Care Worker)

Uchenna Nwaudo joined MCRI in February 2025 and is a valued member of the team. He continues to foster positive, safe, and trusting relationships with both staff and members. Through his skills, dedication, and wealth of experience, Uchenna makes a meaningful contribution to our programs and helps ensure that our members receive exceptional support and service.



Fast facts about Uchenna

Favorite color: *White*

Favorite food: *Pounded Yam and Nsala Soup*

Favorite holiday/ Day: *June 10th (My son and my father's birthday)*

Happy place: *Spending time with my family*

3 words that describe you: *Dependable, determined, dedicated*

Something you cannot live without: *My peace of mind, my faith and sense of integrity, they guide how I make decisions and treat people.*

Hobbies: *Football, self-improvement.*

Life changing moment: *The moment I realized that I could achieve anything I truly set my mind and heart to.*

Destination of choice if all expense paid: *Nigeria, visiting family members.*

Favorite part of your job: *Building trust and meaningful relationships with the members and colleagues, and helping members navigate difficult situations/life choices with the purpose of ensuring they feel valued.*



Helping one person might not change the whole world but it could change the world for one person ~ unknown



EXPRESS SPOTLIGHT



Meet Amandeep Sharma (Youth Care worker)

Amandeep Sharma joined MCRI in September 2025. Since joining the program, he has made valuable contributions to the team through his dedication, professionalism, and commitment to supporting our members. He continues to build positive and respectful relationships with both staff and youth, helping to create a safe, supportive, and welcoming environment. We appreciate Amandeep's enthusiasm and look forward to his continued growth and contributions within MCRI.

Fast facts about Amandeep



Favorite color: Black

Favorite food: Butter chicken with naan

Favorite holiday: Diwali

Happy place: Sikh Temple

3 words that describe you: Compassionate, reliable, and hardworking

Something you cannot live without: My family and loved ones.

Hobbies: Going to the gym, listening to music, watching movies, and exploring new places.

Life changing moment: Moving to Canada and starting a career helping youth

Fun facts: I enjoy baking and like trying new recipes whenever I have free time

Destination of choice if all expense paid: My Village Kalyan Malka

Favorite part of your job: Making a positive difference in young people's lives and helping them achieve their goals.



Treat others with kindness and respect ~ unknown

McSWEENEY

At McSweeney, our spring season was eventful! We enjoyed the nicer weather creeping in on us by enjoying some nice walks in nature parks and around our neighborhood, along with getting our garden set up for this summer, our staff and youth enjoyed sun bathing while the spring weather let us. Some of our youths also enjoyed doing their specialties, climbing trees!

We have welcomed some new staff this season, and we are so happy to have them working for us. We welcome Eshaa, Tina and another staff! Welcome aboard and I hope you have lots of fun with us.

This summer, our youths already have some fun activities planned, which would include some beach days, enjoying our pool and/or sun bathing and also watering our garden to get some yummy fruits and veggies! (we have planted some beans, tomatoes, carrots and strawberries), our little helpers are already doing such a good job with watering it when needed. This summer, climbing trees will continue on and we might even add in some water fights! The Mcsweeney house is also known for our amazing bakers, I am sure some delicious treats are going to be brewing this season with all the delicious fruits coming into season.

Know Your Rights!

Follow MCRI's Facebook page for more.

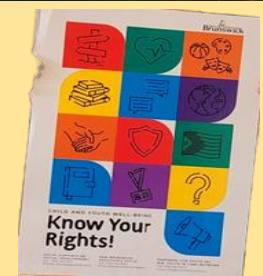
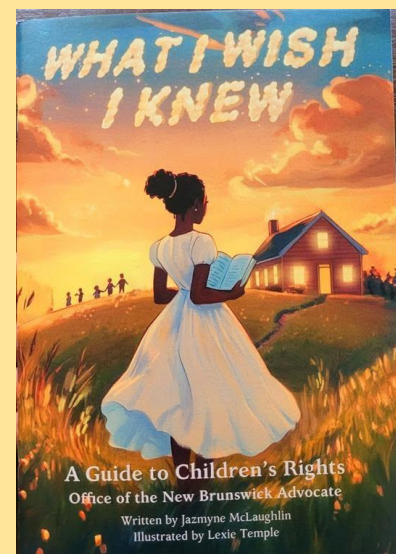
We want to thank the New Brunswick Child and Youth Advocate Office for providing youth with the powerful resource, “What I Wish I Knew: A Guide to Children’s Rights.” Written by former youth in care Jazmyne McLaughlin, this book brings lived experience to the forefront—helping young people better understand their rights, their voice, and their value. Because knowing your rights can change everything.

It means a young person understands why they are in care.

It means having a voice in decisions that shape their life.

It means access to education, recreation, and connection. And it means knowing they have the right to safe, appropriate housing as they transition into adulthood.

When staff understand these rights, they don’t just provide care—they become advocates, allies, and champions for the youth they support. At MCRI, we walk alongside youth through some of the most important transitions of their lives. We work tirelessly to ensure they step into a future filled with possibility, stability, and hope. Because every young person deserves that chance 💖💖💖



S I L P News



Zoo outing

Summer is officially here, and we're soaking it all in! We kicked off the season with one of our most anticipated events, MCRI's Annual BBQ, and it was the perfect way to start what promises to be an unforgettable summer.

With the warm weather, longer days, and so many exciting adventures ahead, we can't wait to make lasting memories, build new friendships, and enjoy all the special moments this season has to offer. From group visits to Centennial Pool, beach days and our upcoming trips to Magic Mountain and Magnetic Hill Zoo, barbecues, and so much more, we're looking forward to making the most of every opportunity together.

We want to congratulate our very own team member, Courtney on the arrival of her sweet baby girl, Maisie Jay born on May 6! Wishing your family a lifetime of love, joy and precious memories. Welcome to the world Maisie!! We are looking forward to lots of visits for baby snuggles

We're also excited to welcome our summer students, Richardson and Khine to the team! We are thrilled to have you both join us this summer and look forward to the energy, creativity, and enthusiasm you bring. We hope you will enjoy your time with us and create many wonderful memories along the way.

As we all know, summer passes by far too quickly, so we're going to soak up every sunny day, every adventure, and every opportunity to connect.

A few of our members are currently enjoying a vacation Niagara Falls with staff Jane, and we're loving all the photos they've been sharing

These trips are about so much more than sightseeing-they're opportunities to create lifelong memories, build confidence, strengthen friendships, and experience new adventures together. We are so happy to see everyone having such a wonderful time and making memories that will be cherished for years to come.

Safe travels, and keep the photos coming!!



Courtney & Maisie Jay (L); Khine & Richardson, students(m); Jane & the girls (R)

September

2026

Sunday
Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday

6	7 NO Club	1	2 Meal 4:30pm-6:00pm	3 BINGO 4PM-6PM	4 Meal & Pool 4:30pm-7:30pm	5
13	14 Line Dancing 4pm-5pm	8	9 Meal 4:30pm-6:00pm	10 CRAFTS 4PM-6PM	11 Meal & Craft 4:30pm-7:30pm	12
20	21 Line Dancing 4pm-5pm	15	16 Meal 4:30pm-6:00pm	17 TOURNAMENT 4PM-6PM	18 Meal & Bingo 4:30pm-7:30pm	19
27	28 NO Line Dancing	22	23 Meal 4:30pm-6:00pm	24 MOVIE NIGHT 4PM-6PM	25 Meal & Karaoke 4:30pm-7:30pm	26
29	30 Meal 4:30pm-6:00pm	29	30 Meal 4:30pm-6:00pm			

CLUB SHADES

WEST LANE

Summer Fun at West Lane

Summer has arrived, and there is an exciting season ahead for everyone at West Lane! Our youth are looking forward to a variety of fun, engaging, and memorable activities that will keep them active, help build friendships, and create lasting memories.

This summer, the youth will be enjoying several community outings and recreational adventures. A highlight of the season will be visits to Magic Mountain, where youth can experience thrilling waterslides, wave pools, and plenty of summer excitement. They will also have the opportunity to explore the beauty of Butterfly World, learning about nature while observing hundreds of colorful butterflies in a unique and relaxing environment.

Closer to home, the youth will be spending time swimming in the pool, enjoying the sunshine, and staying active through outdoor games and activities. We will also continue to make use of our outback area, where youth can enjoy fresh air, recreation, and time together in a safe and supportive environment.

Another special part of our summer program is caring for our garden. The youth have been helping to plant, water, and maintain the garden, learning valuable life skills, responsibility, and the rewards of watching their hard work grow. The garden has become a place of pride and accomplishment for many of our residents.

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to a new youth who has recently joined the West Lane family. Since moving in, he has settled in very well and has quickly become part of our community. His positive attitude and willingness to participate have helped him build connections with both staff and peers, and we are delighted to see how well he is fitting in.

As we continue through the summer months, we are grateful for the opportunities to support our youth through meaningful experiences, personal growth, and plenty of fun. We look forward to sharing more highlights and celebrating the wonderful memories made together at West Lane Youth Home.

Wishing everyone a safe, happy, and enjoyable summer! 🌞 🌻 🏡 🦋 🌱



AFLA

As we say goodbye to spring and welcome the warmth and energy of summer, we want to take a moment to reflect on the wonderful work happening across our AFLA team.

Our team has truly been busy bees over the past few months, staying active with home visits and continuing to provide exceptional support to the individuals and families we serve. The providers' dedication and hard work do not go unnoticed—thank you for all that you do!



We are also thrilled to welcome Kim Cormier back to MCRI as one of the newest additions to the AFLA family. It's fantastic to have you with us again, Kim!

It was such a pleasure seeing so many of you at the recent BBQ. Events like these remind us how strong and connected our community truly is. We appreciate everyone who came out and helped make it such an enjoyable gathering.

Looking ahead, we are excited to begin planning team-building events for the coming months—stay tuned, as more details will be shared soon!

We would like to extend a very special congratulations to Sonja LeBreton on reaching an incredible milestone of 40 years with MCRI. This is truly an outstanding accomplishment. We thank Sonja for her countless contributions and the many lives she has impacted through her dedication and service in a variety of roles over the years. We would also like to congratulate Denis Hopper on his 30 years with MCRI. It has been wonderful watching his growth and progress since he first joined the program.

We would also like to express our sincere appreciation to Theresa Kennedy for speaking at MCRI's Annual General Meeting. We greatly valued her insights and are grateful for the time she took to represent AFLA providers.

Thank you, Theresa, for sharing your experiences and helping to showcase the vital role AFLA providers play in the lives of those they support and within our community. Your perspective was both meaningful and impactful, and we appreciate your contribution to the meeting's success.



As we enter this new season, let's continue to support one another and build on the positive momentum we've created together.

"Summer is a time to grow, shine, and embrace new possibilities—just like the incredible work we do every day."

Wishing everyone a safe, happy, and sunny summer! 🌻 🌻

DOMINION II



@Team Building

Summer is here, and we are excited about all the fun it brings! With the warm sunshine comes the opportunity to spend more time outdoors enjoying the backyard pool, visiting the beach, flying kites in the community, relaxing in the backyard, taking a walk or treating ourselves to ice cream and popsicles to stay cool.

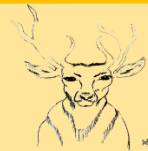
Together
Everyone
Achieves
More

Our team has been busy planning and exploring summer activities that align with our youth's interests. We recently enjoyed a trip to the beach, and Tooties absolutely

loved the experience. We are looking forward to many more memorable outings in the weeks ahead.

We are incredibly proud of our team for their ongoing dedication and creativity in supporting our youth and encouraging her to step beyond her comfort zone. Overall, we have seen significant progress as she continues to build stronger connections and develop greater trust in the support she receives from MCRI.

DOMINION II half



The warmth of summer brings a renewed sense of energy and excitement for everyone. The longer days and sunny weather create wonderful opportunities for our youth to explore their interests, spend time outdoors, and enjoy meaningful experiences within the community.

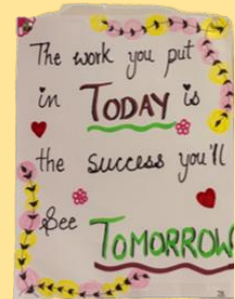
This season, we have been making the most of every opportunity to get outside and stay active. From skateboarding and riding the city bus to visiting local parks, enjoying mall visits, and attending community events, each outing offers opportunities for social connection, relaxation, recreation, and the creation of lasting memories.

The team continues to demonstrate dedication, creativity, and compassion in planning activities that align with the youth's interests and goals. Their consistent support helps foster a sense of belonging, trust, confidence, and achievement. One of the highlights of the season was a trip to Magic Mountain, which the youth thoroughly enjoyed.

As summer continues to unfold, we look forward to many more adventures, opportunities for learning, and moments of joy. We are excited to build on the progress made so far and make this season a memorable one for everyone involved.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Kasish, Stephy, and Gad as they join our team. We are excited to have them with us and look forward to their contributions.

Have a fun-filled summer! 🌻 🌿 🌻



DOMINION



While we waited for the summer sun to finally make an appearance, the kiddos kept the fun going strong! They loved exploring new spots like Bridgedale Playground in Riverview—where they rode the gravity rail zipline—and packing delicious picnics for sunny days at Lewisville Park. Back at home, our backyard became the ultimate hangout for rock painting and catch, while local trips took us everywhere from the YMCA splash pad and arcades to cuddling rescued cats at the SPCA.

Our crew wrapped up the school year with amazing school trips to the Magnetic Hill Zoo and a fun day-camping adventure to Saint John with classmates. Now that the weather is warm, the kids are zooming around on their bikes and scooters. They also attended the MCRI Annual BBQ for some delicious food and great company. The best part of the routine? Our weekly tradition of cooling off with \$1 ice cream cones at the Candy Depot!

As the summer rolls along, two of our kids are staying super active in the Field of Dreams Baseball Program and Summer Camps. For the rest of the crew, the mission is simple: stay cool and have fun by diving into every single splash pad we can find. We can't wait to see what the rest of the summer brings!

Our team has been having the best time jumping in on all the fun activities right alongside the kiddos! We want to send a giant shout-out of CONGRATULATIONS to our brilliant college and university graduates. You worked so hard and you did it!!!

We are also sending the happiest birthday wishes to our staff members who celebrated in May and June! Finally, a warm thank you to our incredible Day of Caring volunteers. From tackling the yard work and cleaning out the baby barn to assembling our new shelf, your hard work has made our space feel so much homier. We appreciate you all!

Spring was great, but we are so excited to dive headfirst into the sunny days ahead! Thanks to our incredible team, volunteers, and community for making the start of this season so special.

We wish everyone a safe, happy, and absolutely fun-filled summer. See you at the splash pads!



United Way Day of Caring

A kind gesture can reach a wound that only compassion can heal~
Steve Maraboli

RAILWAY

Hello from Railway! Everyone is looking forward to the summer. Bring on the sunshine!! All the youth are looking forward to their summer vacation, some sleeping in and relaxing days, cool treats and some adventures. Hard to believe but time is sure passing quickly.

June and July have been busy months so far, all the youth had a great time attending the MCRI BBQ, meeting some new friends. One youth has purchased a CEPS membership for the summer, another youth is taking singing lessons at Long and McQuade weekly, and another youth is taking music therapy for the summer. Youth enjoyed Canada Day celebration down town, dancing singing to the music, staff and youth waited hours to have their hair braided, and enjoyed the fireworks at the end of the day, great memories to place in their life books.



We had a great time at Centennial Park for our Team Building activity, playing Tetris and Yahtzee outside games, toilet paper game, egg and spoon relay and a potluck. It was great to spend time together, sharing laughter, good times, lots of fresh air and great food. Thanks MCRI 😊

One of our youth



celebrated her 13th Birthday in June. We want to congratulate our youth that moved back home with her family in July, we wish you the best in your future, you will be missed by all of us.

Monica has started the preparation of lining everything up to soon start our gazebo project, got a bit delayed but we will get there soon. Our green house is full of plants, garlic is doing well, added large green pepper/tomato plants over the weekend. Thanks Zetty for the extra time you're putting in the garden, having the youth help to water it and watching everything grow. The youth are enjoying their outside space.

Thanks Railway team and relief staff for all you do for our youth everyday you walk through the doors, for making everyday a new day, and for always making things work out. Thanks for the laughter, dedication, love, compassionate care, respect and dignity, in making this a wonderful place for youth to call home. I hope you all know how greatly I appreciate each and everyone of you so much.



Until next time, have a great summer. Stay hydrated and don't forget your sunscreen 😊

They may forget what you said but they will not forget how you made them feel ~ Carl W Buechner

La RECETTE

Easy Jollof Rice Recipe

This West African dish is a culinary favorite at all kinds of events. If you are new to making Jollof rice, here is a simple recipe to try.

You will need:

- 4 large tomatoes and 1 red bell pepper
- 3 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1 small habanero pepper (optional or adjust for heat)
- 1 medium red onion (chopped)
- 1/3 cup vegetable or canola oil
- 2 cups long-grain parboiled rice or basmati rice (rinsed well)
- 2 ½ cups chicken or vegetable stock
- Spices: 1 tsp curry powder, 1 tsp dried thyme, 2 bay leaves and 1 bouillon/ stock cube (of choice)
- Salt to taste
- Prepare any protein of choice along with side options of fried plantain, coleslaw, etc.

A recipe has no soul. You as the cook must bring soul to the recipe ~ Thomas Keller



Until the next issue...Enjoy Summer!

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Test your smarts

i) Nothing - it just waved ii) Because of the meltdown iii) To get a little brighter iv) A hot dog v) It felt walked all over

~Cooking Directions ~

1. Blend the base
Place the tomatoes and red bell pepper (and habanero if desired) and half of the onion into a blender. Blend until completely smooth.
2. Fry the tomato paste
Heat the oil in a heavy bottomed pot over medium heat. Add the remaining chopped onions and cook until soft. Add the tomato paste and fry for 10-15 minutes, stirring often until it turns a deep dark red and the oil starts to separate.
3. Simmer the sauce
Pour in the blended tomato-pepper mixture. Add the curry powder, thyme, bay leaves, bouillon cube and salt. Let the mixture simmer for 10-15 minutes until the raw tomato taste cooks out
4. Add the rice
Stir in the washed and rinsed rice so it toasts in the sauce for about 2 minutes. Pour in the chicken stock and give it a final gentle stir.
5. Steam to finish
Cover the pot tightly with a layer of foil paper and a lid to trap the steam. Cook on low heat for 30-40 minutes until the liquid is absorbed and the rice is tender. Remove from heat, let sit for 10 minutes, then fluff with a fork.