

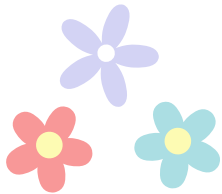


In the Company of Friends

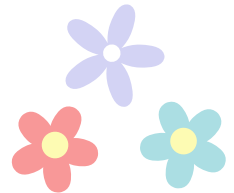
1993 TO 2023

Congrats on 30 years

For the last 30 years, **In the Company of Friends** has offered a flexible, individualized, and person-centered framework where people hire their own staff, increase independence, and foster meaningful relationships.



Let's Celebrate



All people who choose ICOF!

EVELYN - 30 YEARS!

An amazing, talented woman

Wrapped in one of her warm homemade quilts or in her warm embrace, Evelyn is sure to brighten your day with her caring heart.



Danny - 2008

Dylan - 2008

Anita - 2009

Clarence - 2013

Chris - 2002

Kim - 2013

Ryan - 2014

**RICK - 30 YEARS!***A smile that lights up a room*

A passion for working with his hands taking apart small appliances and walking - no matter what the weather! If you see Rick in the community, give him a wave and a smile is sure to come your way!

Shaun - 2000

Each person's version of a good life — or even a good day — is different. ICOF is customized to your specific needs, you have the flexibility to shape what your life looks like through ICOF, picking and choosing support that fits you and not the other way around.

Corey - 2018



Albert - 2008

In 1990, the Working Group on Community Living, established by the Minister of Family Services made a recommendation to create a pilot project to test innovative approaches to community living for people with an intellectual disability in Manitoba. As a result, **In the Company of Friends** was developed.

Evelyn - 1993

Marcel - 2010

Serge - 1999

Trevor - 2002

Willie - 2007

Robert - 1995



RON - 30 YEARS!

Good friend, Kind Heart

Hosting dinner and holiday parties for neighbours and friends, Ron loves to try new recipes he learns watching cooking shows.



Brandi - 2010

Edith - 1993

Patti Chiappetta, Executive Director - 2014 - present

Almost 10 years ago, I had one of the best days of my life! The day I was given the opportunity to start my path as the Executive Director of LIFE- which meant I was now part of the incredible ICOF journey!

Congratulations ICOF on 30 years of AWESOME!

Those connected to ICOF these past 30 years deserve a big round of applause for the innovative thinking, the hard work, the unconditional dedication and the let's make this happen attitude.

ICOF was destined to greatness from its first moment, as many visionaries gathered and began this inspiring journey, creating a way of living for individuals that was based in respect, choices, individualization, inclusion, uniqueness, and recognizing the value of relationships!

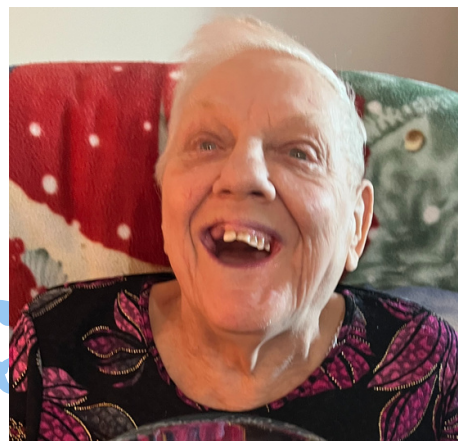
ICOF is all about living one's best life - this has been happening for 30 years- What an amazing milestone ICOF - Congratulations!

What a wonderful 30 years!

EDITH - 30 YEARS!

Amazing heart, Big Smile

A love for music, hosting friends and a gift at remembering the birthdays of everyone she cares about, Edith has a wonderful way of making you feel welcome and joyful in her presence.



Cory - 2008



CLARENCE - 30 YEARS!

A man with a big heart

Always the first to ask about your family with a smile on his face. Clarence is a skilled woodworker and loves to be with family and friends.

Kurt - 2014

Michelle, Resource Coordinator

I love that ICOF provides a framework where people can choose their supports and set things up the way it works for them. One of the parts of work that I enjoy most is having discussions with individuals and support networks to brainstorm and identify what that path looks like.

Debbie - 2009

Liz, Financial Coordinator

I really enjoy supporting people and their networks who are interested in self-directing and managing their own lives to access the necessary financial resources to be successful. I value the flexibility of a self-directed life that accommodates people's changing needs, preferences and provides them the freedom to create supports that are uniquely relevant to their own situations. It has been my honor to assist people to discover what is possible within their financial means.

*All
THINGS are
POSSIBLE
IF YOU
Believe*

Murray - 1998

Danielle - 1998

Jordan - 2011

Dana, Resource Coordinator

I remain excited about my work due to the people I support and I am honored to be invited into their lives. It is wonderful to see a home truly be that person's home, staff truly be staff the employer hired, to see each person lead their own lives and see the support and values respected from networks and staff is amazing. It is a joy to see each person live their true unique life!



MARYANN - 30 YEARS!

Kind, Caring Compassionate

Always joking around and the life of the party. When you see her, she always has a story to share.

Choose your best life!

Shannon, Resource Coordinator

I love my work because every day is different, with the ebb and flow of life. I am honored to be part of each employer's and their support network's lives. I'm privileged to watch the growth and development of people and their lives, as they learn to lead, to develop friendships, to take on roles in their communities, to live life to the fullest, whatever that means to them.



Marsha, former LIFE Executive Director

True story....Recently I visited a friend who had moved into a new apartment. As we were walking out a young woman was coming in - I recognized her as someone I knew. It took a second. That face - that smile - and then I remembered. We hugged. She lives next door to my friend. She goes to work each day - and my friend said she was a neighbourly neighbour. That's all she knew about her.

I knew more. I knew she was an employer with In The Company of Friends. Nothing out of the ordinary....just a lovely young woman living her life on her own like everyone else in the building. When I got home I read the email from LIFE inviting me to comment on why this model was successful for 30 years. The answer was easy. It's people just living each day and in the background receiving what ever support that is needed....and it played out right in front of me!

ICOF is a respectful, honorable and yes just 'ordinary way of living' model of support. I am so proud that I was part of cementing the principles and seeing first hand the day to day challenges and successes. It was a joy!



PATRICK - 30 YEARS!

A man with passion

He loves his cats, tattoos, family and collecting gangster memorabilia. Patrick also loves doing crosswords, reading and meeting friends at Tim's for coffee.

Stuart - 2011

Michael - 2004

Kari - 2000

Patrick - 1993

Kendra - 2016

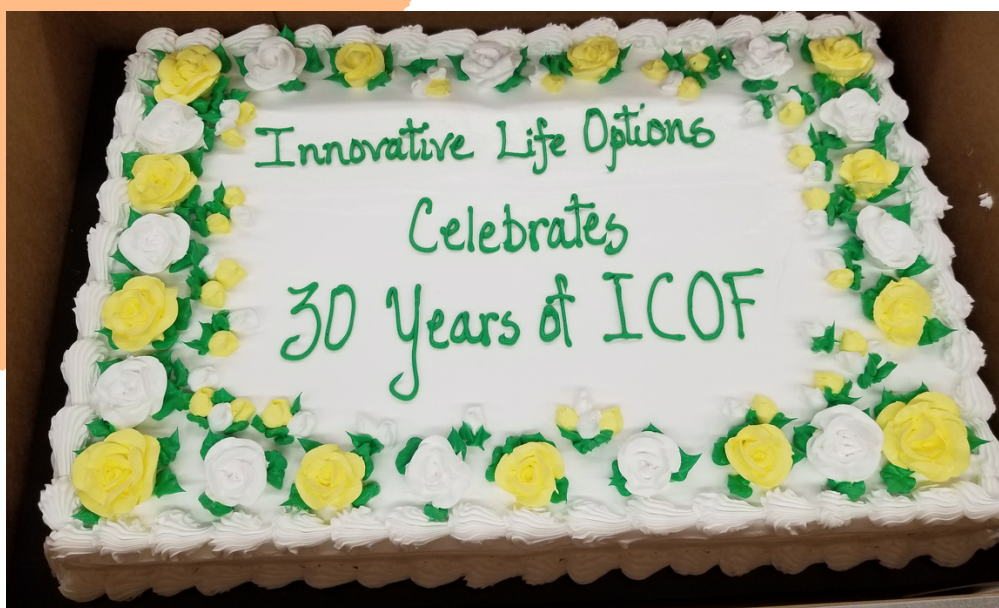
Janardana - 2007

Jonathan - 2003

Rose, Board and Support Network Member

As a family we chose this model because we feel strongly that self-administered, self-directed funding and support models empower individuals to take control of the services they require. The flexibility to choose staff, therapies, and resources that align with needs fits for us. With a personal budget and decision-making autonomy, we have crafted customized support that enhances independence and quality of life. Although there are administrative responsibilities it's a journey of empowerment that leads to a fulfilling and self-determined lifestyle. We get to live a "normalized" life which is what we value the most.

Farley - 2007



Devon - 2004

Colby - 2010

Laurie, Senior Resource Coordinator

I've been so fortunate to be a part of ICOF Employer's lives. It truly amazes me to watch people living their best lives surrounded by wonderful friends and family. This motivates me to ensure we continue to provide quality resources and support. I have met so many great people and they have enriched my life. I'm so grateful to be a part of this team!

Stephen - 2000

Rick - 1993



1993 TO 2023

Congrats on 30 years

Ben - 2003

Barb, Resource Coordinator

Working with the ICOF community is energizing and exciting. It exposes me to a variety of interesting pursuits and endeavours, provides opportunities to learn new skills, and connects me to people with diverse views and experiences with whom I have built a sense of camaraderie. It also affords me the pleasure and privilege of playing a role in empowering people to lead meaningful lives and seeing them succeed in building relationships, undertaking valued roles, and moving toward self-actualization.

Chantel - 2009

Cheers Support Network Members!

Margo Powell, Former Executive Director

Congratulations -- 30 years later and In the Company of Friends remains an innovative person-centered option. One of the many benefits of In the Company of Friends is the ability to truly direct your life and take charge of your future, surrounded by people who care about you. In fact, that is the journey we are all on. This should not be a privilege, but rather a given; an expectation rather than an innovation. In the Company of Friends will always be close to my heart. I wish you every success and the continued growth of this fantastic option.

David - 2010

Betina, Resource Coordinator

Dignity, creativity and living; that's what I love about my work the most. People have the dignity of choice, to live where and how they feel best; if there doesn't seem to be an answer to a problem, then we collaborate and brainstorm and see what we can do and people LIVE their lives (and I get to be a tiny part of that).

Sylvia - 1999



Sara - 2008

Clarence - 1993

Kathy - 2022

Carleigh, Community Navigator

At the foundation of ICOF is the respect for the freedom to make choices no matter how much support one needs. It allows the opportunity for an individual to truly be in control of their own lives and this is what we all ultimately want and deserve for ourselves. The zest of life is having the ability to enjoy one's life the way one wants and to their fullest potential- THIS is what keeps me so excited about my work!



LIFE
— IS —
GOOD

Leslie, LIFE Chairperson

It has been my privilege to experience being a part of the ICOF model for many years, first as a support network member and then as an Innovative LIFE Options staff person and board member. After many years of struggling to find ways to control her life in a positive manner, a friend of mine agreed to give the ICOF model a try and she blossomed. She created a beautiful group of people around her and the model was her lifesaver. The core of ICOF is relationships, something I see every time I am a part of gatherings such as the AGM for LIFE. I realize that being an ICOF Employer or a support network member is not always easy or a glowing success story, but the principle of self-direction is always a guiding principle. Congratulations on this important anniversary!



1993 TO 2023

Congrats on 30 years

Laureen, Office Manager

It has been a privilege hearing stories and experiencing as a support network member the value that the In the Company of Friends model brings to the people involved.



ICOF employers, their loved ones, cheerleaders, and support staff who all play a part in crafting an array of unforgettable tales and adventures.

Here's to many more to come!