

CONNECTIONS

Life is good

Innovative **LIFE** Options 



A Message from our Executive Director - Patti Chiappetta

I wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Heri za Kwanzaa and an Amazing New Year!

There is a winter chill in the air, and hearts are warm with the holiday spirit. I love this time of year, especially because people are thinking of others, visiting or connecting with each other, finding that special gift to bring a smile to a friend's face, or maybe planning meals to share with family. Such is a community! At LIFE we promote a community of diversity and inclusion, where all members have the opportunity to pursue happiness, and believe anything is possible!

Communities play such an important role in every aspect of our lives. We have communities in our friends, our families, our employment, our neighborhoods, and in so many other places. We find community in the sports teams we support, or the artists we enjoy, even the food that we like. Having a sense of community unites us. I hope you all find fun and peace in your community.

As this year comes to a close, I find myself very grateful. Grateful for the LIFE team of dedicated, passionate and talented staff; the amazing creative and committed Board of Directors, so grateful for the wonderful ICOF employers and their networks, and grateful for my beautiful community. I feel blessed, happy and full of joy because of all of you!

Kindest regards,

Patti



4-120 Maryland Street
Winnipeg, MB R3G 1L1

Digital Lending Library

An initiative of Innovative Life Options

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This community innovation project was funded in part by the Interlake Community Foundation and Thomas Sill Foundation Inc.

THE
THOMAS SILL
FOUNDATION
INC



Our goal is to support those who are experiencing the digital divide by offering:

- Access to devices
- Digital training
- Asset building opportunities

If you have any questions, please contact:

info@icof-life.ca
204-772-3557

The Digital Lending Library is designed to help people overcome barriers in accessing the digital world.

It will do so by addressing three common barriers:

infrastructure, digital knowledge and financial capacities.

FREE

Open Future Learning Modules

An online learning provider 100% dedicated to the learning disability workforce

Open Future Learning offers training modules in a variety of formats

- Side by Side
- Staff Learning
- Mini Learning
- Audio Learning

Talk to your Resource Coordinator or Options for Services Coordinator to learn more about this fantastic opportunity!

There are hundreds of modules to choose from! Get started today!

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This past summer, LIFE held its second annual Summer Contest from July 1st to September 15th.

ICOF Employers and individuals contracting with LIFE's Options for Services were invited to submit pictures and stories about their summer activities for a chance to win a prize.

Approximately 15 individuals sent photos and comments about their vacations and staycations, the events and festivals that they attended and the jobs that they held.

Thank You

We'd like to thank everyone who participated in this year's contest.

We'd also like to thank the talented entrepreneurs and crafters who graciously donated their creations to the prize baskets – Chantal Lussier and her business, Chantal's Homemade Creative Crafts; Clarence, Evelyn, and Maryann Friesen; Milli Flaig-Hooper and her business, The Paper Fibrildi; and Dylan Bodnar and his business, Dylan's Dabblings and Stonewear.



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Here are the winners with some of their prizes....



Serge



Murray W.



Dylan

LIFE'S AGM

OUR AGM WILL BE HELD IN WINNIPEG ON
JUNE 3RD 2023!

We look forward to seeing you there!.

Details to follow in the spring!



We would like to welcome to our team Carleigh McKay, our new LIFE Community Navigator.

Here to assist people in finding their way by discovering new options and opportunities through exploration of resources and tools, planning for the future and developing relationships to build strong support networks.

What we do

EXPLORE

Navigation

- We work with families to understand and better navigate through the systems they utilize.

Information and Resource Sharing

- Access to information on existing services, civic organizations and social interest groups.

Peer Support and Guidance

- We bring families together to share experiences and learn from each other.

DEVELOP

Establishing Existing Relationships

- We establish what the existing relationships in your life are. These relationships range from exchange to participation, friendship and intimacy.

Building a Community Presence

- We work with you to develop new relationships and identify community spaces for you to explore.

Building a Support Network

- We work with you to establish trusting and committed relationships and support you in inviting these relationships into a support network.

PLAN

Developing a person-centered plan helps what once felt impossible seem possible again. Through guided conversation and deep listening we can develop a clear vision for the future. Where each person's unique gifts and abilities guide the way to a life that is rich in meaning and purpose.

In the Company of Friends NEW'S

Possibility Grant 2022

Open to ALL ICOF Employers in Manitoba

The Possibility Grant application is available on our website.

Apply each year for the grant from January 1st to April 30th.

ICOF Employers can apply EVERY year.

2022 Grant Recipient - Richard T.

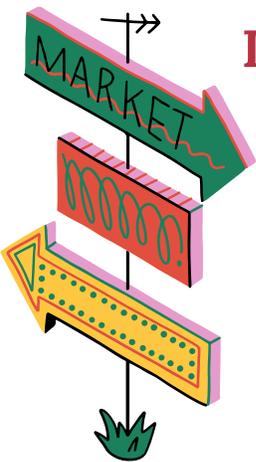
I would like to thank the Possibility Committee for the money I received. I went on a mini vacation to Clear Lake, MB. I had a great time swimming, eating out, seeing 7 bears in total and a boat cruise on the Martese. The captain let me steer the boat, honk the horn and dock the boat. This was the highlight of my trip. Thank you so much to the grant committee.



2022 Grant Recipient - Mark N.

Thank you for selecting me for the grant. I chose to take a short trip to Brandon. My parents and I went to Brandon and visited the Air Commonwealth Museum, Daly House and the Riverbank Discovery Center. It was a really nice day, so we walked some of the trails along the river. We stayed the night at the Super 8 hotel, took a ride into Grand Valley and ate at Boston Pizza. My Dad drove us home through Minnedosa, Neepawa and Portage la Prairie. I was able to recognize all the different crops and machinery. I had an excellent trip.





Dylan's Dabblings and Stoneware

Dylan's business has been running strong for 9 years now with a focus on hand-painted garden statues, a variety of crafts, jewelry, and most impressively - rocks and precious stones. Rock polishing is essential and valuable to Dylan and his business. He and his family travel all across Canada hunting for precious stones of all sorts and Dylan has now acquired an impressive assortment of stones.

Dylan is an innovative thinker always coming up with new ideas for products, learning new techniques and is a great salesman who isn't afraid to take on new opportunities or make a bold impression. He also understands that you need a supportive team and community to help support your business. Dylan's team members are an asset to him and his business with each person bringing their unique skills to his business.

Visit our website to read the full article about Dylan's business and learn about other ICOF Employer Entrepreneurs.



www.innovativelifeoptions.ca/icofMarketplace.html

Welcome

We say hello to....2 NEW ICOF Employers

Kathy from the Eastern Region

Caroline from the Western Region

Congratulations on becoming ICOF Employers!

In the Company of Friends NEWS



We offer our deepest sympathy to the family, support network and staff of Marilyn.

Marilyn Whincup was from Portage la Prairie, but moved to Brandon a decade ago, where she lived her best life before passing in July 2022. She was an ICOF Employer for 29 years.

The memories of Marilyn's infectious smile, sharp wit and love of rock music will live on in the hearts of her best friend and network member Whitney Clark and her family.



Options for Services NEWS

A program of Innovative Life Options

This year Options for Services has been focusing our contractor recruitment for specific skills and experience to enhance the service we offer. We have hired two contractors who work full time in Human Resource positions and have Human Resource Management certificates. We are very pleased to welcome Taylor and Rennais to the OFS team and look forward to the skills and best practices they will bring to the position. We have also hired a contractor who has a long history as a payroll and benefits administrator and is a certified PCP. We are very happy to have Karen as part of the OFS team to support individuals and families with payroll support. A big thank you to Naomi, Tracy, Clarence, and Wanda for their continued good work!

Over the past few months, we have started working on the OFS Outreach Project funded by the Innovation and Transformation Fund. We have been working with a multimedia designer on a tutorial video detailing "How to set up a payroll business number". We are looking forward to this being a helpful resource as people get set up to manage their own employees. We have also been working with the multimedia designer on a promotional video and hope this will enhance our capacity to provide information about OFS province wide.

We look forward to sharing our progress as we continue to work on the Outreach Project.

Wishing you all the best during this holiday season and into the New Year.

