

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **New Alliance Board Chair Sees Benefits of Collaboration**

Jean Knowles has been volunteering with developmental services agencies for more than 30 years, ever since she served on the first Board of Directors with Lanark Community Programs (now ConnectWell Community Health). Her son Stewart, who has a development disability, is now 33 and Jean says she continues to look for new opportunities to improve care and support for her community.

As the inaugural chair of the new Alliance Board of Community Living Association Lanark (CLA) and Carebridge Community Support (CCS), Jean is doing just that.

CLA and CCS are working together to find ways to improve services and enhance each person's overall experience. The goal is to create a new and stronger voice for the people served.

"It started when the Community Living Lanark CEO retired and we looked at shared leadership with Carebridge with Rob Eves as co-CEO. The benefits of working together, sharing resources, and filling gaps that exist within each organization just made sense," Jean explains. "It became very evident that we could expand that collaboration to the governance level."

Jean has served on the CLA Board for the past six years. In her new role as Alliance Chair, she says it's important for the team to take the time to get to know one another better: "It's early days but our guiding principle throughout this journey has focused on dialogue and ensuring what we do is the most beneficial for the people we serve and support. The first step will be an orientation for board members to ensure we all have a clearer understanding of programs and initiatives offered by each organization. We will also be launching a strategic planning process to guide our work."

Recruitment is now underway to find additional community volunteers to join the newly created Alliance Board. As a governance Board, these committed volunteers will be responsible for key areas such as strategic planning, quality, CEO oversight and financial stewardship. Board members bring a variety of skills to the table. More importantly, they bring a passion for improving care in our region. On average, the time requirement is approximately 5 to 10 hours per month.

For more details about the Board of Directors, please visit [www.carebridge.ca](http://www.carebridge.ca) or [www.clalanark.com](http://www.clalanark.com). Applications are being accepted until September 9, 2022.

***Community Living Association (Lanark County)*** is a charity supporting individuals with intellectual disabilities to enable and assist them to live a quality life in their community with dignity and respect.

***Carebridge Community Support*** connects and is a catalyst for fostering stronger, caring, person-centred communities across Lanark County by working together to meet the needs of seniors, adults with developmental disabilities and those who need affordable housing.



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