**BALANCE for Blind Adults**

**Annual Report**

**2018/19**

Message from the Board Chair – Bob Stark

It has been an absolute pleasure to act as Chair of the BALANCE for Blind Adults Board of Directors for the past year. We have a strong Executive Director, a strong staff team and a strong volunteer team at BALANCE who have continued to strengthen the organization through their unique skills and complete dedication. We continue to serve more clients and with more diverse services year after year.

We’ve made steady progress toward our 2016-2020 Strategic Plan. This past year we launched a new fund raising initiative with our Because of BALANCE campaign raising $15,644. Not only did we raise much needed funds but we also captured some wonderful personal stories about how BALANCE has impacted people’s lives. Thank you all for your participation.

We have a number of new Directors who joined our Board of Directors; Joeita Gupta, Anne MacPhee, Marcus Song and Keith Gordon. Sadly there were also two retirements; Anita Fineberg and Martin Courcelles and we thank them for their past dedication to BALANCE.

This past year has been unsettling for us as the Ontario government initiated a broad restructuring of healthcare in the province creating significant uncertainty. There is an expectation of greater integration of community healthcare service providers which our Executive Director continues to foster. Our Board of Directors and Executive Director are deeply engaged in a review of our strategic direction which we hope to complete this fall. Of course, foremost on our minds is to ensure that we continue to provide the services our clients need.

The Board of Directors would like to thank all the outstanding staff at BALANCE! There has been much change over the past few years and you have remained committed, thoughtful, hardworking and most of all dedicated to our clients. Thank you to our Executive Director, Deborah, for your outstanding leadership in challenging norms and your willingness to explore new avenues of service and operations.

We are also grateful to the Toronto Central Local Health Integration Network (TCLHIN) for their continued support and funding.

I would personally like to thank all the members of the 2018-19 Board of Directors for their commitment and dedication to the organization and to Emily Laevens who keeps us organized and productive.

And thank you to all our present and past clients for your patience and trust in BALANCE as we continue to evolve and explore new ways of serving you better!