

BIOGRAPHY

Alumni Applicant for Board of Directors

October 15, 2025 AGM ELECTIONS

Cheryl Chaney



My name is Cheryl Chaney.

Brentwood has long been 'home' for me and my family; I became one of the first women in the fledgling Women's Program on August 22, 1985. From the beginning the women's program anchored me - a single mom of three at the time - in what became a lifetime of recovery, service and fellowship.

In my 40 years at Brentwood I've served and led countless committees that helped raise funds, strengthen the fellowship and support the development and growth of those coming through the doors looking for a second chance or a new beginning.

Thirty-seven years ago I was able to establish a successful business – Picture This Framing – which has afforded me over the years, the opportunity to develop strong community partnerships in business and deep personal connections with people who have always been willing to step up to help Brentwood when called upon.

My commitment to Brentwood is bred deep in my heart. Over the years as I've raised three children on my own and built my own business, I've worked very hard at staying 'in the moment', one day at a time because that has always been the key to my sobriety. Brentwood has given me and my family the abundant life we enjoy today. And as we were taught by our founder Fr. Paul, in order to keep the blessing we are given – we must give it away in service to the other alcoholic seeking recovery.

I wish to serve on the Board of Directors again for this reason. The experience, skills and expertise I can bring to this position are drawn from 37 years as a small business owner, and the 25 years I have served on the Brentwood board to date: Sixteen years as Vice-Chair and 5 years as the Chair. I currently serve as a member of the Board of Directors as well as on the Lottery Committee and Fundraising Committee.

My gratitude, passion and dedication has never wavered and with your vote, I will continue to work hard to ensure there is a long future for our families and our home here at Brentwood.

With Kind Regards,

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Vanessa Lacoursiere



Hello! My name is Vanessa Lacoursiere. I am a Master Social Worker, Addictions Specialist, Trauma-Informed Professional Mental Health therapist, and Brentwood Alumni for 27 years.

A little about me, I believe, ****“you can't really know where you are going until you know where you've been!”** Nelly McClung.****** This statement speaks to my passion and experience for self-exploration that I think is very necessary to find resolve to solve for next step to achieve our wellness goals. When reflecting on my own personal and professional development process, with the support of others I've been fortunate to overcome many adverse life experiences that enables me a keen lens to help others through similar challenges.

Professionally, I worked and provided support to client systems (individuals/couples/families/ employers/communities) with a spectrum of challenges in the areas of intra/interpersonal relationships, romantic relationships, burnout (caregiver/work/parenting), Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence, involvement in the Criminal/Family Justice System, Addiction Spectrum challenges (behaviour and substances), and Indigenous Advocacy roles, and it is important to note that all of my effort is towards working to tailor and collaborate with clients on 'Evidenced Best Practice' approaches, while incorporating other philosophical approaches and treatment plans to focus on wellness outcome goals within an anti-oppressive model framework.

Medically, I have experience working medical mental health symptomology and serious mental health disorders including depression, anxiety, panic, and other physiological stress response symptoms that are also experienced in many clinical diagnoses such as BPD, MDD, ADHD, Bipolar, Concurrent (Addictions and mental health diagnosis), Schizophrenia and Schizoaffective Disorders. Moving forward, my professional goal is to support the integration and advancements of a neurobiological model's lens, with a keen focus on environmental issues, and bird's eye view effort to reduce cultural oppression.

Additionally, my qualifications/professional technical skills include: Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT), Solution Focused Behaviour Therapy (SFB), Traumatic Incident Reductions Therapy (TIR), Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), Narrative Therapy (NT), Motivational Interviewing (MI), Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI Blue Card), Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST); Assessment Models include: Transtheoretical Model of Change Assessment, Circumplex Model of Analysis of systems, with an Anti-Oppressive Practice lens; and Academic Accomplishments: Graduated with Distinction, Golden Key International Honour Society, Community Collaboration, Matrix Project and Revisions.

In alignment with the Brentwood Recovery Home's Mission, Vision, and Values, I am passionate about both Father Paul's Vision of uniting on diversity principles through the practice of "where people need people" and the Mental Health Continuum Model's researched insights. As a former Brentwood 'youth group' member, 'youth program' graduate, and 'adult women's program' graduate, I experienced recovery from substance use issues through receiving compassionate support, hope from mentorship opportunities, and community participation/engagement with service work. I believe that the key to healing/recovery is to 'share, confide, and consult' with our safe supports as needed. To support Father Paul's vision of Christ's love in the community and society at large, I believe that by providing support towards repairing/growing/building our fellowship, with honesty and accountability-based principles, we can continue to support respectful internal and external inter-organizational engagement to enhance individual and community wellness collectively

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Lise Malott

My name is Lise Malott and I have been a member of Brentwood since 1986 and a graduate of the Alcoholic Program since 1988. I am married to Glen Malott and together we have 8 children and 12 grandchildren. I was a stay home mom at the beginning part of my recovery learning how to become the best person I could be to my family. I had the privilege of working at Brentwood for 12 years with the Brentwood Lottery and in Administration. I am a constant participant in recovery and involvement with Couples meetings, fund raising committees and Program support. I continue to encourage and support the Recovery Program to the best of my ability with an interest in supporting Brentwood for its future.

I am running for the Board of Directors at this time because of my dedication to this fellowship of Alumni and Program people. I bring with me the skills and strengths of a 39 year Alumni open to new experiences to aspire by along with past experiences to rely on.

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Ryan Mills

Hello, my name is Ryan Mills. I am a grateful recovering addict and a proud alumni of Brentwood Recovery Home. I was born and raised in Windsor, Ontario and currently working as a Foreman for Bridging North America. I am also a member of the Joint Health and Safety committee representing all labourers on the Gordie Howe International Bridge Project.

I am looking forward to becoming a member of the Board of Directors because I take pride in giving back to the place that has given me so much; my life back. I believe I can be an asset to the team not only because I was an addict myself for a large portion of my life, but because I am walking proof that this program works. I understand the importance of the alumni presence, the community support and being there for my fellow alcoholic. I believe my knowledge and experiences not only within Brentwood, but with my career in Liuna as a Foreman, as a member of the Joint Health and Safety Committee and as a representative for labourers on site requires me to be a leader on a daily basis, to solve problems as they arise and to be mindful of my workers safety, capabilities and needs. I deal with issues of all types, big or small on a daily basis and collaborate ideas to solve them.

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Gloria Mousseau



I am Gloria Mousseau. I have been a part of Brentwood since the summer of 1986. I am an alumni of the program, and former employee of Brentwood as I was employed by Father Paul as a group leader. I am an alumni of McMaster University where I attended and graduated from the Addictions Studies program which consisted of courses in psychology, social work, pharmacology and addictions. and received two diplomas. I continued to educate by taking several continuing education courses all geared to working with substance use and mental health. I owned and operated my own private practice in Windsor and taught in the Addictions Studies Program at St. Clair College in Windsor as well as the Chatham campus. I am a mom and gramma. I live in Belle River with my spouse and my 2 dogs. My hobbies are hiking and mountain climbing. I am very interested in First Nations history and healing. I believe in Truth and Reconciliation efforts. I moved away for 10 years and I was able to work at 6 Nations and New Credit reservations in the field of addictions. To me, working in this field has been most rewarding.

I am interested in being a member of the Brentwood Board of Directors as I believe my life experiences, my time at Brentwood and my education and counselling experiences gives me the strength and conviction to be a part of the Board. It is time to be a part of something big, I bring my people skills and management skills and understanding of Brentwood to the table. I believe in teamwork and processes for improvement.

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Chris Renaud



I have been an alumni for 32 years. I have been married for 42 years to Joe who is also an alumni of 20 years. We have a daughter and twin grandchildren who are 8.

I worked as an Executive Assistant for a lawyer for 28 years from which I retired. My job was to assist in running his litigation practice. After retiring from my legal position i was hired by Brentwood to work in the Relay Office assisting with the running of the home lottery. I worked for a period of 4 years. During my 32 years I volunteered for many committees such as youth group, attending the jail to talk with female inmates, assist the ED with some office tasks and sitting on the Board as the Secretary for a period of 4 years. I also volunteered time to the golf committee, craft and bake sales, and selling lottery tickets.

Brentwood is my home and the program has given me so much. It is important to keep Brentwood thriving, strong and moving forward so that this program is available to all that walk through our doors. We need to have enough funds to fill all our beds and provide as many services that we can which is so needed by so many. We also need to keep valuing our alumni as they are so vital to the program. Sitting on a previous Board has given me much experience and understanding. Working in the legal environment gave me many strengths such as working as a team, able to hear opinions even if they are not my own, able to give my input and opinions in a constructive manner, good communication skills and of course my love for Brentwood.

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Nick Metivier



My name is Nick Metivier, I have lived in the Essex County area most of my life. I have worked in mental health support for much of the last 30 years. Most recently I have worked within the Indigenous community for the last 5 years as a Community Support Worker and now as Peer Support Coordinator. I am a son, brother, father, cousin, partner and community member with lived experience in addiction and bring with me an understanding and empathy towards others who are suffering and a desire to help where I can.

I believe with my personal and professional background I bring a view that is very different from the average person and along with that insight to a different point of view that can help bring maintain the integrity of Brentwood and at the same time possibly help move it to the next phase in a good way that will be appreciated by alumni and current members equally.

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Frankie Nash



My name is Frankie Nash (pronouns are she/her). I have lived in Amherstburg with my husband and cat for the past 6 years having relocated from the beautiful island of Newfoundland. I am proud to have a grown daughter, and my husband has 3 grown children and 4 wonderful grandsons. In my free time, I enjoy sewing, quilting, reading, volunteering and writing. All these things bring me joy and fulfillment.

For the last 6+ years, I have been employed with the Gordie Howe International Bridge project in the role of document control.

I chose to volunteer with Brentwood Recovery Home because I admire its mission to support individuals on their journey to recovery. A journey that is not so much a destination but a lifelong support for its clients. Having seen firsthand how addiction impacts individuals and families, I want to be part of the solution offered by Brentwood Recovery Home.

Personally, I am a tireless volunteer who believes in giving back to my community and making a positive difference in the lives of others. Volunteering gives me a profound sense of purpose and fulfillment, knowing that I am contributing to something greater than myself. It is incredibly rewarding to witness the positive changes in the lives of those we help and helping people during challenging times is something I feel deeply passionate about.

I am a loyal and dedicated person with a deep sense of community. My years of experience as a volunteer have provided me with valuable insight into board governance and the importance of collaboration, accountability, and strategic decision-making. Professionally, I bring expertise in records and information management, human resources management, labour management and organization, and project management. These skills, combined with Brentwood's mission, enable me to contribute meaningfully to the Board of Directors. I am passionate about sharing my experiences to contribute to the community and the organizations I support.

I am committed to supporting Brentwood Recovery Home in achieving its goals and ensuring it continues to provide hope and healing to those in need. I believe my strengths, skills, and dedication make me a strong candidate for the Board, and I look forward to the opportunity to serve this incredible organization.

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John Parent



I have over 30 years of demonstrated success as a corporate affairs professional, providing counsel to leadership teams within public-facing organizations and private corporations.

Serving a former Ontario Premier, I provided strategic advice on prominent issues, including government and public relations, issues management, and economic development. Since early 2000, I have provided corporate communications, government, and stakeholder relations support to Windsor Essex Community Housing Corporation, Windsor Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA), Infrastructure Ontario, OMERS, Chartwell Retirement Residences, Continental Railway Gateway, Humber River Hospital, Health Sciences North, and Coca-Cola Canada. My understanding of government and the importance of community engagement has enabled me to build purposeful relationships across Windsor-Essex and Ontario.

I hold a bachelor's degree in political science, after studying international relations and business at the University of British Columbia and the University of Windsor.

I believe in the work Brentwood is doing in our region for those recovering from addiction. Community service is a fundamental responsibility as a member of the Windsor-Essex community. My career as a corporate affairs and government relations professional will enable me to offer board governance experience to Brentwood, along with stakeholder, government, and public relations expertise.

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Nancy Whited



I was born and raised outside of Windsor. I am married with 2 sons, a stepdaughter and 3 granddaughters. I love reading Canadian fiction, I am an artist, a baker and a traveler when I can.

I have been retired for a dozen years from the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit and worked there in a number of jobs throughout my whole career of 40 years.

I was the chairperson for my union and learned the importance of communicating to a variety of persons in all walks of life from staff people, management, lawyers and board members. Respect for all is what guides me in life and work. I ended up in an HR position and always walked the line of fairness. I stand up for those who aren't in a position to speak up for themselves. I know I come across as quiet with a soft voice but that never stopped me from pushing for what is fair and people's rights.

I have thought often about applying for board positions since my retirement but Brentwood is near and dear to my heart since I have had close family members with struggles with substances. I see what families go through trying to help and feeling helpless. I know what my own son has endured with his own fight to overcome addiction; the shame, the health battles, the feeling alone. He has gone through rehab a number of times and is an alumni of Brentwood. I see addiction doesn't go away upon graduation in rehab. It is a lifelong battle but not a battle someone should walk alone but with the support and love of others.

My youngest brother ended up in hospital for 6 weeks when he finally couldn't function anymore from alcohol abuse. He had DTs and many health issues due to his abuse. He did live to come home and had another 1.5 years of sober life but it was too late and he died of throat cancer and liver failure at the age of 62. I always felt if he had gone into rehab he may have lived years longer.

I think I understand some of the issues of sobriety and I really want to contribute to Brentwood. It could be in looking at policies for running Brentwood operations or sitting on committees to help make Brentwood the best rehab facility available for help.