**Transcript – Newmarket CoC BEA**

00:05 My name is Susan Manahan, and I’m the Director of Development & Communications at DeafBlind Ontario Services.

00:10 For thirty years, DeafBlind Ontario Services has been enriching lives for individuals with deafblindness. Since our beginning in 1989, we have made it our mission to inspire the spirit and determination of the people we support. With services across the province, our reach extends into a wide range of communities in Ontario.

00:27 Deafblindness is a combined loss of hearing and vision to such an extent that neither the hearing nor vision can be used as a means of accessing information.

00:35 We pride ourselves on creating individualized, holistic and person-centered programs that enable each person we support to achieve as much independence as possible.

00:44 The impact of the intervenor in the life of someone who is deafblind is immeasurable. Intervenors are highly trained professionals who act as the “eyes” and “ears” of the individual with deafblindness, using the sense of touch to help them communicate and be active participants in their lives.

00:59 Our employees are our strength. We strive to be a top employer in the field by investing in our employees through extensive training, mentoring and other professional development opportunities. We’re proud to have been recognized as a Non-Profit Employer of Choice for two consecutive years and are the only Intervenor Services organization to achieve accreditation twice.

01:18 We are passionate, collaborative and resilient leaders who believe in limitless possibilities.