

Teaming Up With United Way's Speaker's Bureau

By: Mia McGowan



Buu and Simone, United Way Representatives, join Jenna and Mia at Crocodile Rock.

Jenna Martinuzzi and Mia McGowan recently had an opportunity to speak to over 350 Scotiabank employees as part of the United Way Speaker's Bureau. The event, held at Crocodile Rock, was designed to encourage Scotiabank staff who are between the ages of 25-35 to learn about, support and donate to the United Way.

Mia gave a brief overview of Community Living Toronto's programs and services that are directly supported by United Way funding: including Pilot Parents, the Self Advocates Council, Shadow Lake camp, and Spinclusion. Jenna then spoke about how United Way had helped her through Community Living Toronto.

Here is an excerpt from Jenna's speech: "How Did Community Living Toronto help me? After I finished a Humber College program called Community Integration through Cooperative Education, I needed a job. Community Living Toronto's Youth 2 Work program helped me. First they found me a job at Blockbuster and then they found me a job at the Toronto Centre for the Performing Arts. I am an usher there. I help people to their seats and hand out programs. My Mom is also a

Volunteer at Community Living Toronto.

I also work for Community Living Toronto's Public Relations and Fundraising department. I am Community Living Toronto's Ambassador and help with event planning. In Public Relations, I get to update the donor database. I also update Facebook and Twitter by writing a blog. I also help with Community Rocks, which is a big fundraiser. I also work at different events like the day on the farm and the picnic.

I am a new Spinclusion Facilitator. Spinclusion is a game that Community Living Toronto facilitators take to different schools and get children talking about inclusion, being welcoming and accepting people with differences.

I go to different schools with Mia and we play the game with children from Grade 2 up to high school. I help set up the game, get all the papers together and ask the questions about inclusion. An example of a question is "How can a person in a wheelchair play basketball?", "How can you make sure the person is included?" Last year over 3,000 children and youth had a chance to play Spinclusion. Thank you United Way."

Jenna received great applause and many people made a point of speaking to her throughout the evening. It was an excellent opportunity to highlight the 50 year relationship between Community Living Toronto and the United Way.

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Winter 2012-2013

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Take Our Kids To Work Day

By: Sarah Winter



Anika Simmonds, Troy Williams, Daniel Wilson, Janet Dunne, Brad Dunne & Petra Asfaw

On November 7, Community Living Toronto teamed up with the Learning Partnership to take part in their annual "Take Our Kids to Work Day".

The day was a great success throughout the Association. Not only did the day aid in helping to prepare tomorrow's work force, but also gave staff a chance to learn from the fresh ideas of the students.

In Scarborough Region, a group of grade 9 students took part in a Life Plan facilitated by Community Living Toronto staff member Petra Asfaw. After the plan the students gave feedback on how useful the planning process was. Some described the process as very helpful in seeing what has to be done to reach people's goals,

while others enjoyed how visual it was.

The staff also benefited from the day. Petra Asfaw remarked, "It was great to see the enthusiasm and excitement about the process in the students and it reaffirms how important the planning process is to the people we support".

As noted, the partnership with students and staff gave an invaluable opportunity to share and learn for everyone!

Over 250,000 grade 9 students take part in The Learning Partnership's "Take Our Kids to Work Day" and it is supported by 75,000 businesses and organizations across Canada annually.

We are looking forward to making the 2013 day just as successful!

Submission to Ministry of Community & Social Services - Changes to the Passport Program

Community Living Toronto recently provided feedback to MCSS on proposed changes to the Passport Program. Sector partners, families and individuals were all invited to comment on how these changes would impact the lives of people with an intellectual disability. A summary of our submission is below; you can find the full document on our website.

Community Living Toronto has a great history of partnership with the Ontario government, and a reputation for creating innovative solutions to address urgent needs that increase our capacity and outreach to those without services. These include:

- partnering with private philanthropists and corporate partners to create LIGHTS, an innovative housing alternative with some fiscal funding support from the Ministry of Community and Social Services;
- providing person-directed plans to people on the community needs list;
- developing ConnectABILITY.ca, an online resource tool for parents and staff.

We also want to acknowledge investments government has made, including over 55 million in new funding for Toronto since 2006 and a plan for the transformation of services. The current reality however is that waitlists continue to be oppressively long especially for Adult Services. This is particularly acute for families with children transitioning from Children's Services where support is more readily available. The net effect is that young adults leaving school often do not experience the opportunity to be part of their community and maximize their participation.

While the proposed changes to the Passport program will reduce duplication, clarify processes and eligibility, it is hoped that careful consideration will be made regarding the impact this will have on the quality of life of a person with an intellectual disability. We must be sure that any changes do not impact a person's ability to participate in the community as full citizens. Below is a summary of our feedback on the proposed changes.

Key Change 1 – Expenditures:

- While increased clarification of admissible and inadmissible expenses will be appreciated, hopefully this won't detract from listening to an individual's circumstances, and considering times when individual situations blur this line. For example, Passport funding accessed by someone who was considered eligible for ODSP Employment Supports, but who was not able to secure paid employment and was not engaged in community activities. Another example includes personal circumstances when technology will enable community participation.
- Removing transportation expenses from eligible expenditures may reduce the ability to participate in community-based activities. This will result in increased isolation and reduce skill-building and social opportunities.
- It is important to clarify whether these changes extend to individuals living independently, as many of these new restrictions could have significant impact on their quality of life. For example, for those individuals whose only income is from ODSP, generic community resources are financially inaccessible and the purchase of these services creates undue hardship and may in fact be a disincentive to using these resources. Passport should continue to fund some of these expenses for individuals living independently.
- The rationale for excluding expenses that families could be reasonably expected to pay for any member of the family is understood, the reality is that families of people who have an intellectual disability are often economically disadvantaged. This is often due to the need for flexibility on the job which may present obstacles to maintaining full-time work or attaining further advancement. In addition, medical or therapeutic expenses can be costly.

Continued on page 4

Proposed Passport Changes, Cont'd

- The impact of these additional expenditures could include a restriction of community activities, as no allowable generic fees may prohibit participation. Funded programs also experience the cost of fees for community based programs, and find that passing on these costs is a significant barrier to access. Support Workers may instead be directed towards free activities like window shopping which may not be meaningful for the person. In the end, this may slow the growing movement towards community-based activities and social inclusion which was the intent of Passport funding.

Key Change 2 – Respite:

- Focusing respite on the growth and development of the person rather than simply just giving family members a break is a very positive direction, and helps ensure that a person's interests and goals are considered when choosing respite opportunities. This will be extremely beneficial for people who have an intellectual disability and is a very positive direction for respite.
- Allowing family members (assuming the primary caregivers refer to parents) to be paid to work with an individual could further enable a person's community inclusion. This change may alleviate pressure situations in which parents are very over-protective, are having challenges finding a support worker or experiencing obstacles related to language or cultural issues. It is important that the different backgrounds and cultural norms of families be considered.
- Offering families the flexibility of in-home and/or out-of-home respite is also a very positive step towards meeting different support needs and addressing skill development. However, it must be considered carefully and needs to be balanced. Too much in-home respite may detract from focusing on inclusion in community, as Passport funding was intended to increase community involvement. This will be especially true given the restrictions on expenses as outlined in Key Change 1.

Key Change 3 – Modernizing Accountability:

- Increasing and modernizing accountability, particularly simplification of reporting process and reduction of paperwork for individuals and families, will make direct funding more accessible for families as it should ease their workload. Should families seek a third party to help track and report expenditures, would these bookkeeping services be considered an admissible expense?
- It may be beneficial to provide a basic guide of the new reporting process which may include (for example) the standardized reporting forms, tips for storing records and mandatory timelines for storage.
- Training should be provided for families with new funding on their responsibilities related to accountability. The risk of not providing training, feedback or clarifying expenses that are admissible or inadmissible could be setting families up to reimbursing funds, or being cut off from funding.

Other Issues for Consideration:

The transition from school to life after school is one of the most stressful milestones for families. This will be especially true if people with an intellectual disability no longer receive SSAH funding at age 18 years until they leave school at age 21 and then have to wait for Passport funding. It is our understanding that the Passport waiting list now exceeds 4500 people who are considered eligible. This would mean 3 and potentially many more years without funding. This may create undue hardship for a significant number of families who rely on this funding in the absence of government funded services and programs.

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Council Listings

Central Regional Council

Chairperson
Peter Wakayama

Vice Chair
Lee Tarshis

Board Representative
Susan McCloy

Alternate Board Representative
Peter Wakayama

Treasurer
Susan McCloy

Chair of Fundraising Committee
Judy Dawson

Members at Large
Paul Cochrane
Nelson Raposo
Sandra Ricci
David Danyluk
Alda Zimbalatti
Katherine Gilhooly

Regional Executive Director
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Central Region Meeting:
January 16, 6 pm
20 Spadina Road
Room 2B

In the “United Way”!

By Judy Endacott

ETS Manson hosted their Manson’s Got Talent event on October 24. It was designed to allow the participants to showcase their talents and it provided an incentive for the site activities from week to week!

The serving of High Tea challenged the weekly Sandwich Arts and Baking groups to create attractive and delicious platters. They developed skills in the cleanup that went along with those Activities.

The weekly drumming circle, Karaoke Fridays and Wii Dance activities, provided practice time for Talent Show participants.

Paper crafting and photography activities provided the material for the flashy decorations. Everyone was pressed into service to help move furnishings to create the café and theatre, decorate the spaces or set up the rooms.

While all of these activities develop social skills, the greeting, seating and serving of guests works on these skills at a whole new level. This truly was a “site” production. Every staff and participant had a role that made a difference. Special thanks to Common Ground for the support they provided.

Manson’s Got Talent was a huge success! We served over 65 guests, who included family, friends and community partners. Performers were delighted to see co-workers from some of their community work places and those guests—the ones not obligated to come—may have not realized the impact their presence had.

While I would like to say “Best of all,



Preparing ‘High Tea’



Manson’s Got Talent

we raised \$425.00 for the United Way”, I cannot!

“Best of all” was watching the engagement of the standing room only audience. They were often on their feet, cheering and moving with the performers. Their actions chased stage fright away.

“Best of all” was seeing the expressions of pride and sheer joy in the faces of all our participants, as they successfully completed their tasks despite the enormous pressure such events generate.

“Best of all” was the completion of a successful, feel-good event...and, we raised \$425.00 for the United Way!

Council Listings

Etobicoke/ York
Regional Council

Chairperson
Ann Marie Fierro

Board Representative
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Alternate Board Representative
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Gaston Karout
Christine LeClair
Peter Marrese
Mary Pawson
Stefica Skof
Sharon Totafurno

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Next Council Meeting:
Tuesday Jan. 8th.
6:30 pm
295 The West Mall
Suite 204
Boardroom

An Actor's Dream Comes True

By Eric Laimer



Shannon & Suzanne at Creative Village Studio.

Suzanne Love is a natural actor and Performer, and one of many talented actors who have been fine tuning their skills at Creative Village Studio's (CVS) Expressive Arts program. Her acting dream has always been to perform in a professional production.

In addition to working and supporting Suzanne at Etobicoke Employment Training Services (ETS), Shannon Groom Bannen co-facilitates the CVS Expressive Arts Program along with Derek Feltz. When Shannon received a casting call email from Diverse Creations Theatre Company for an upcoming production, she immediately thought of Suzanne. Together, they made the necessary phone calls and paper work to secure an audition.

Amid a lot of competition from actors across Toronto, Suzanne aced her audition and took one of only nine parts in the play RARE. Shannon remembers the next day at ETS after Suzanne's successful audition, "I was so proud of her. We both cried and shared a big hug."

Directed and co-created by renowned Canadian playwright Judith Thompson, RARE is a unique ensemble play based on

the actual life experiences of the actors all whom have Down Syndrome.

Suzanne's lines included a monologue that focused on the death of her brother and the impact that it had on her life. The script also challenged the actors' skills by incorporating text from Shakespeare, Emily Dickinson and William Blake. Suzanne and Shannon dedicated time everyday at 3:00 pm to practice and perfect her lines.

RARE was featured at the Toronto Fringe Festival last summer and outsold more than 150 productions during it's twelve day run. The show was so successful that it received the Ed Mirvish Award For Entrepreneurship and is scheduled to run again early in the new year at the Young Centre for the Performing Arts in the Distillery District.

Suzanne can't wait to perform in the second run of RARE. Who knows what other opportunities will come her way?

For more information about the second running of the play RARE, be sure to check the Young Centre website at : <http://www.youngcentre.ca>.



Suzanne and the RARE cast in rehearsal.

North York News

Council Listings

North York Regional Council

Chairperson
Nancy Ceci

Board Representative
Colleen Broadhurst

Alternate Board Representative
Morris Jesion

Treasurer
TBD

Self Advocate Representative
Sam McKhail

Members at Large
Teresa Bhandal
Shirley Germuska
Eva Lipa
Dr. Norbert Kerenyi

Regional Executive Director
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**Next
Council Meeting:**

To be determined.

**North York Office
Boardroom
1:00 - 3:00 pm**

ETS Celebrates Participant's Golden Anniversary and Four Others Honoured

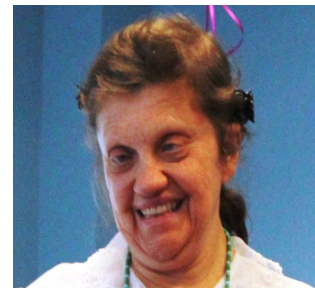
By Dianne Doan, Al Marics and Georgia Kurlinas



2012 North York Employment Training Services Honourees:

Top, from left: Arnold and Jonathan

Bottom, from left: Helen, Stephen and Donna



On Thursday November 15, 2012 North York Employment Training Services (ETS) celebrated Arnold Freidman's 50 years of participation in the program.

The festivities started with a ballroom dance performed by Egor Belashov, Manager/Instructor at Shall We Dance, and Christiane Mansour, an individual in our Passport program. Christiane has been taking private lessons in Waltz, Merengue, Salsa, and Rumba with Egor since 2009. Following the dancing, there was a performance by the North York Choir, which included solos sung by Marie Davids and Rachel Baxter.

Arnold Freidman was presented with a certificate and gifts by Program Manager Teresa Streczek and Support Worker Georgia Kurlinas. The afternoon also honoured four others who have been in service for a number of years: Donna Crisp since 1972, Helen Koziebrocki since 1973, Jonathan Gutenberg since 1982, and Stephen Callaghan since 1990. They each received autographed portrait canvases and gifts to mark their commitment of hard work. The afternoon concluded with a reception for the honourees, family guests, staff and fellow participants.

North York Social Rec Committee Pulls Off a Full Roster of Great Events

By Wendy Dyke



Victoria Park Hub Fall Walk Participants Gathered at Sloane Public School

Early in September, the North York Social Recreation committee started planning for a number of events for the fall and the coming new year. During the months of October and November, they pulled together three separate social events.

Partnering with Victoria Park Hub anchor partners, Working Woman and the East Toronto Chinese Baptist Church, the Hub Fall Walk was held on October 13th. The morning was clear, sunny but a little on the chilly side temperature wise as the walk participants gathered at Sloan Public School in the Victoria Park Village. They quickly warmed up as they started their walk through Wigmore Park's ravines and stopped along the

way to do stretches and breathing exercises.

The organizers provided intermittent stops along the way to talk about the history of the village which is comprised of park lands, residential streets and industrial sections. The final stop at the East Toronto Chinese Baptist Church provided time for participants, staff and volunteers to mix and mingle while they munched on hot dogs, snacks and warmed themselves with hot chocolate.

Many of the participants expressed thanks for a wonderful outing and said they appreciated learning about their neighbourhood. They also wanted to know when the next walk would be.

At the end of October, the committee teamed up with North York Residential Services to hold a Halloween Dance in support of the United Way. The dance was very well attended, with music supplied by DJ Marc Ceci and raised \$175.00 for Community Living Toronto's United Way campaign.

The final fall event was a fabulous Pizza/Bingo night at the Hub. There were over forty people in attendance! It was a great turn out and the event was a huge success due to the support of two wonderful volunteers. Many of those in attendance were asking when we would be hosting this event again.

Planning is now in the works for a dance in February, another Pizza/Bingo night in early spring and another walk later in the spring. Look for information about these events and more in 2013 editions of Connections!



Scary Dance Participant has a Good Time



Nada Clowns Around to the Music of DJ Marc

Scarborough News

Council Listings

Scarborough Regional Council

Co-Chairpersons
Judith Andrenacci
Alison Thomas

Board Representative
Bonnie Heath

Alternate Board Representative
Donna Britten

Treasurer
Alison Thomas

Membership Chair
Pat Sparks

Self Advocate Representative
Robert Shaddock

Members at Large
Donna Britten
Donald Hale
Deborah White
Kathy Lisle
Ellen Armstrong

Regional Executive Director
Sue Lynch

Membership Coordinator
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Next Council Meeting :
Monday, January 7th, 2013
6:30 pm
1712 Ellesmere Rd
Conference Room

Best Buddies University of Toronto Scarborough

By Sarah Winter



Best Buddies is a national charitable organization with chapters operating in 50 different countries. Our University of Toronto, Scarborough Campus chapter matches students with individuals with intellectual disabilities in hopes of creating meaningful and lasting friendships.

Our buddy pairs begin building their friendships when they first get to know each other at a group meet & greet event. They then attend exciting monthly events hosted throughout the year by our chapter. The friendships truly establish themselves as the new friends maintain regular contact (at least once every two weeks by phone or email) and meet one-to-one as they wish.

Community Living Toronto's Scarborough Region celebrated the kick off to the Best Buddies season in partnership with the University of Toronto- Scarborough with a Buddy

"Meet and Greet". The event was a huge success with over 20 people in attendance. All of the participants enjoyed an evening of interactive games, songs and crafts. There was a chance for all of the students to connect and have some one and one time so that a natural Buddy relationship could form. We are looking forward to the year ahead!

For more information and to like us on Facebook:
<http://www.facebook.com/#!/BestBuddiesUTSC>



Bridging Diversity

Supporting Diverse Families: A Monthly Support Group for Chinese Families

As a Resource Teacher in Scarborough, it did not take long for Winny Ho to understand the unique needs of Chinese families who have children with intellectual disabilities. Three years ago, Winny started to look into what types of support services were available to Chinese families with a family member with a disability. What she found was that there were no such supports in Toronto. As Winny states, “There was nothing south of Steeles.” She knew that this was a gap in service that needed to be filled because many in the Chinese community have numerous misconceptions and taboos relating to disability in general, and intellectual disability specifically. She also knew from working with Chinese families, that language was a big barrier when accessing services and supports and contributed to the community’s isolation.

This gap motivated Winny to start her own group with the support of Early Childhood Service Manager, Nancy Hendy. Three years later, the group has up to 20 parents attending each month. According to Winny, the main objective of the group is to build the families’ understanding, resources and networks so that they are better equipped to support their child.

After surveying the parents who first joined the group, she found that what was important to the families was understanding more about the school system in Toronto, how to appropriately communicate with their children and manage behaviour and the benefits of specific therapies. In order to meet these needs, Winny invited guests to deliver workshops and information sessions. To date, the group has heard information from a Toronto District School Board Speech Pathologist, an Occupational Therapist from Surrey Place, a Music Therapist and a retired school Principal who talked about the rights of children with disabilities in the school system — all resources that these families may not access otherwise. Although it is challenging at times, Winny has tried to make

certain that the guests that she invites speak Chinese so that language does not become a barrier within this group.

Winny’s commitment and vision to expand the group further, led her to partner with two agencies that advocate for Chinese families with children with Disabilities: Spirit of Life and the Heep Chi Association. Both agencies were eager to partner and contributed a team of volunteers to run a children’s program at the same time as the parent support group. Winny is thrilled that this has encouraged more parents to join as it has removed the additional barrier of childcare. In 2012, the monthly meetings have had 20 or more parents (some coming as far as Newmarket and Mississauga) and seven children enrolled. For Winny, the biggest reward is seeing parents connecting with each other.

For more information: Call Winny Ho at 416-438-1165 Ext. 224.

Upcoming meeting dates: Dec 13, Jan 10, Feb 14, Mar 14, Apr 11, May 9 and June 13. Meetings are held from 6:30-8:30pm at 1645 Warden Avenue.



Support group participants listening to a presentation from a special guest.

Self-Advocates Council Update

Self-Advocates Council Listings

Chairperson
Robert Shaddock

Vice-Chair
Sam McKhail

Board Representative
Paul Cochrane

Community Living Ontario
Representative
Peter Marrese

Treasurer/Secretary
Robbie Cowdrey

Members At Large

Caseen Johnson
Candice Doherty
Lorraine Bradley
Margherita Cappiello
Mark Miller
Mike Murray
Nelson Raposo
Nick Lappas

Community Support
Coordinator
Sue Hutton
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shutton@cltoronto.ca

Next Council Meetings:

December 17, 12-3pm
Foster's Club House

January 21, 11am- 1pm
20 Spadina.

Advocating For Our Future

By: Sue Hutton



Shineeca makes a call to the Premier's office as Jose waits to call as well.

The Self Advocates Council knows times are tough, especially for those living on the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) in Toronto.

In talking to Jose Escobar, a regular at Self-Advocate Council meetings, he had this to say about planning for the future:

"What is the future? It is something we have to create. It is something we have to fight for. For people to believe that those of us with an intellectual disability have something valuable to offer, we have to all work together. We have to be proud of

who we are."

Jose, Shineeca, and about 100 others got together in October to talk about the future for those with disabilities. They gathered at St. Stephen's Community Centre with people from Council Fire, Houselink and Parkdale Legal Community Services.

They were particularly concerned about the Ontario Government announcement to eliminate the Community Start up And Maintenance Benefit. Recipients of Ontario Works and ODSP can apply for the benefit when they are moving to a new home, facing eviction or other urgent circumstances related to their living situation.

They all put their voice together to talk about how they want to see ODSP support them better in the future. It was true group advocacy.

To ensure that their message was heard, Shineeca and Jose made telephone calls to the Premier's office to let the government know how they feel about the cuts.

This was the St. Stephen's advocacy day.

Do you receive ODSP? Want to come advocate for your future?
Please RSVP to shutton@cltoronto.ca 647-729-1205
Space is limited

TUESDAY JANUARY 22
1-3 PM @ FOSTER'S CLUBHOUSE
ODSP ACTION COALITION WORKSHOP

This will be a fully accessible event for people with an intellectual disability including role-plays to help with understanding.

Resources, Networking And You

The First Job and Beyond

Gaining work experience is a great way for someone to explore occupations that might interest them in the future. (Working is also a great way for someone to figure out what they do not want to do!)

For people just beginning to think about life after school, after school or weekend jobs are the most likely place they will start. They might be limited in their choices by the opportunities available, but remember, even if a job does not sound like exactly what a person wants to do, it might be useful in learning some skills that will give them more qualifications in the future.

To begin, a person should have a resume to give to employers. A school guidance counselor should be able to help with this. If a person is not in school, there are many community resources that can help. Start by checking on the internet or at your local library for advice.

In every resume, it is important to include all work experience. An individual may not have had a “regular job” before, but things like grass cutting, snow shoveling, dog walking and errands for neighbours can demonstrate independence and motivation! Don’t forget to include the skills gained through extra-curricular activities. That talent and an employer’s need just might overlap!

Remember to always update a resume when contact information changes, as well as each time a new job is started.

Consider qualifications that could increase employment chances, such as baby sitting certificates, first aid training, or awards.

When looking for a job, there are several places that will have postings. Checking the classified section of a local newspaper for listings (or even contacting the paper about obtaining a paper route) could help someone on the way to obtaining a job. Checking bulletin boards at local recreation centres, supermarkets and libraries could lead to cleaning, baby sitting, lawn care, or other employment



Emily gained valuable experience while volunteering at an Animal Shelter.

opportunities close to home.

Government employment centres will have job postings too. In Canada, HRSDC even offers access to their job bank online.

(See: <http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/lifeevents/jobs.html>)

The internet offers a lot of other opportunities to find work. Consider checking websites of government departments such as Parks and Recreation or a local municipality website. Both the Government of Canada and Ontario websites have a job opportunities section and even a “youth jobs” category. Take a look for websites of local businesses as well as Chambers of Commerce. They might post opportunities, usually listed under categories such as “job opportunities” or “human resources”.

If a person is enjoying their current volunteer or co-op placement, check with the people who set up the placement to learn about opportunities there. Sometimes employers are more than happy to begin paying people for their work.

Continued on page 16.

To support families through this transition, we would recommend that one or more of the following options be considered:

- Applications for Passport funding be accepted and processed as part of the transition planning that starts in grade 9 when they first enter high school at age 14 years;
- SSAH be extended as long as the person is in school (up to age 21) to increase their chances of a smooth transition to Passport funding when they leave school; or
- Passport funding is mandatory for anyone 18+ years who is not in school or in funded community participation support activities.

Summary

It is important that changes to Passport funding not jeopardize an individual's personal development, community involvement or the ability to achieve their personal goals. When moving forward with Passport, it is important that the following recommendations be considered:

- Respite opportunities focus on an individual's personal development
- Clarifying the assumption that "primary caregivers" are parents and that other family members could be paid as support staff when there are social or cultural sensitivities
- Consider funding some expenses, such as program fees, for individuals not living in the family home whose only source of income is ODSP.
- In-home and out-of-home respite needs to be balanced to ensure a person's community inclusion.
- Simplifying and modernizing reporting mechanisms will enable families to spend more time together as a family. As well, consideration for expenses to hire a third party, such as an Accountant or Bookkeeper, to help with tracking and management.
- A basic guidebook outlining new procedures, templates and forms, along with training for new families will reduce errors, uncertainties or families needing to reimburse funds.

The Volunteer Recognition Dinner is Coming!

Wednesday April 17th, 2013
Montecassino Hotel and Event Venue
3710 Chesswood Drive, North York

To nominate someone for Association Volunteer of the Year,
contact your Regional Coordinator of Volunteer Services by January 31, 2013.

North York and Etobicoke/York
Matthew Poirier
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Central
Karla Galvez-Del Rio
647-729-1209
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Scarborough
Sarah Winter
647-729-1633
swinter@cltoronto.ca

Events / Workshops

SAVE THE DATE!

Connecting Families—Full Day Forum

Saturday, March 23, 2013

Join the conversation with Connecting Families a full day forum that provides information and tools – from financial and legal planning to funding & supports – for individuals and families as they journey through all stages of life.

This is a ticketed event - \$25/person or \$40/couple

Full registration details will be available December, 2012

For further information contact Sylvie Labrosse at 647.729.1180 or Sylvie.labrosse@cltoronto.ca

This forum is presented in partnership with Connect**ABILITY**.ca and the Fundraising and Public Relations department of Community Living Toronto. Connect**ABILITY**.ca is a website and virtual community dedicated to lifelong learning and support for people who have an intellectual disability, their families and support networks.

Continue the conversation on Connected Families

This is a place for YOU to talk and connect about everything from the little stuff to the really big stuff, how you solved problems, found resources and found ways to make your dreams happen.



Tell your stories, your ideas, your successes and even your frustrations. Share your tips to help others succeed and find tips that could help you.

www.connectability.ca/connected-families

Connect**ABILITY**.ca



Wednesday, December 12

North York Employment Training Services
1122 Finch Avenue West, Unit 16
10:00 am to 3:00 pm
Cash Sales only

Fashion Show: From 1:00 pm to 1:30 pm

Central Region Council Dinner Club
Wednesday Evenings
4 pm to 7:30 pm
30 Birch Avenue

Holiday Dinner on Dec. 12 then closed
until Jan. 9, 2013
\$5 for a great meal and friendship

Please call Felicita Zanatta at 647-729-1210 for information

Spring Fling

Do you have lovely Holiday Gifts that you will not be using? Donate them to Spring Fling for the Wonderful Auction Table and Raffle Prizes.

The Central Region Council will be very happy to accept Donations of Auction or Raffle Items for their Annual Dinner Dance. Do not fill your closets with items that you may never use, donate it as Auction and Raffle Prizes so the Council can raise funds to support terrific Activities.

Please contact Felicita Zanatta at 647-729-1210 or fzanatta@cltoronto to donate prizes or purchase tickets.



Spring Fling Dinner and Dance

Saturday April 13, 2013
5:00 pm reception
6:00 pm dinner

Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre
6 Garamond Court

Tickets \$45

Calendar of Events

December 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Central Region: Felicita Zanatta 647-729-1210	Etobicoke/ York Region: Eric Laimer 647-729-0445	North York Region: Wendy Dyke 647-729-3627	Scarborough Region: Ann-Marie Binetti 647-729-1635			1 Tri Hards Bowling Central Youth Group
2	3 Scarborough Wine and Cheese NY Council Meeting	4 Scarborough Residential Alternatives	5 Central Dinner Club	6	7 Lawson Dance	8
9	10	11 Etobicoke Council Holiday Party	12 NY Holiday Hampers Donations Central Council / Dinner Club Holiday Party	13	14	15 Tri Hards Holiday Party
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 /	24 /	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

January 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 Lawson Dance	5
6	7 Scarborough Council Meeting	8 Etobicoke Council Meeting	9 Central Dinner Club	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Central Council Meeting Central Dinner Club	17	18 Scarborough Bingo	19
20	21	22	23 Central Dinner Club	24	25 Connections Dance	26
27	28	29	30 Central Dinner Club	31		

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Employers do expect to get a return for their money, and working comes with the expectation of independence on the job, as well as the higher level of responsibilities common to all paid employees that might not be expected in co-op and volunteer placements.

Sometimes finding a new employment opportunity is as simple as taking a walk. Look for “Position Available”, “Help Wanted” or “Now Hiring” signs, posted at local businesses. If a person is interested in working for a specific company, they can often pick up an application at the Customer Service desk (take two if you can, just in case you make a mistake!). Even if the company does not have a position at the moment, many stores keep applications on file for a while.

Finally, never be afraid to network. Ask everyone you know (friends, family members, teachers, support staff, co-workers) about what they do for a living, and if there are opportunities available in their workplace.

Sometimes jobs aren't obvious, but every work place has needs to be filled. Let people know that you are looking to develop an employment opportunity and ask them to keep you in mind the next time they go to work.

As you can see, job opportunities are readily available however it is also important to remember that a person's first job is likely not where they will spend the rest of their lives. The experiences and skills they learn will carry over into future job opportunities. Being flexible early on may lead to the ideal job down the road, so keep an open mind when trying to obtain employment.

To view this and similar articles on-line visit <http://connectABILITY.ca/>. There are also workshops, podcasts, interactive web tools, the Connected Families discussion group and more!

ConnectABILITY.ca



A United Way member agency

