

Developmental Services Ontario: Your Questions Answered

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June 2012

As you know, last June, the Ministry of Community and Social Services opened Developmental Services Ontario sites across the province. Developmental Services Ontario helps adults with an intellectual disability connect to services and supports in their communities. There are nine agencies across Ontario to serve you. Our organizations are funded by the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services. In Toronto, The Developmental Services Ontario – Toronto Region (DSOTR) is located at Surrey Place Centre. We sat down with Terri Hewitt, VP of Community Programs at Surrey Place Centre, who is responsible for the DSOTR.

1. You know how our sector loves acronyms! What is DSO?

DSO is short for Developmental Services Ontario. There are nine regional DSOs in Ontario and our office is the Toronto Region (DSO TR).

2. How do I find my local DSO office?

You can call the DSO number which is 1-855-DS-ADULTS or 1-855-372-3858, or you could look on the website at www.dsotoronto.ca

3. What is the process for applying for funding and services?

DSO TR is the single access point for Ministry funded developmental services in Toronto, so to apply for services or funding an individual should call the DSO TR. We will confirm eligibility, complete an Application Package and help link that person to the various services, as well as apply for Passport funding.

4. What should I do if I move to another region and I still need services for my family member in my new region?

Once an individual is registered at one DSO office, they do not have to start the process over again if they move regions. When they are in a new region, the DSO that they were previously registered with will transfer all of the information to the new DSO office (eligibility documentation, application package, etc).

5. I have a lead agency; do I still need to contact DSO for services?

In Toronto, lead agencies help to connect people who have received services prior to July 1, 2011 or were on a waiting list for those services. At this time you would go to your lead agency for connecting to new services. However this will change in the future. Until we know when this change happens, keep connecting with your lead agency. This does not apply for Passport funding; to do that you must come to the DSO TR.

6. My family member is on a waitlist for developmental services with my lead agency; do I still need to contact DSO?

Not at this time.

7. I'm currently receiving service from an agency and I'm not on any waitlists. In the future if I apply for additional supports will I go through my current service agency or through DSO?

You will need to connect with DSO for services in the future, but at this time your Agency that is providing services will make that referral for you or assist you in making it. You will be informed when this changes.

Continued on page 2

Volunteer Leadership

Honourary Patron

The Hon. David C. Onley
Lieutenant Governor of
Ontario

Patron's Council Chair

Duncan N. R. Jackman

Founding Chair

The Hon. Barbara McDougall

Vice-Chair

Andrea Alexander

Michael Adams

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Patsy Anderson

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Jalynn Bennett

Chief William Blair

David Crombie

The Hon. William G. Davis

Michael Enright

W. Robert Farquharson

Paul Godfrey

Pooja Handa

Bob Hepburn

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Dr. Kellie Leitch

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David Layton

Dawn Lunan

Nick Macrae

Susan G. Seller

Cay Shedden

Chief Executive Officer

Garry Pruden

DSO Questions Answered

8. Will the new application process affect my current services?

No, it will not.

9. Who do I contact for respite services?

If you have never received services, you need to go through the DSO TR to access respite. If you have a lead agency, they will assist in connecting with respite or you can contact Respite Services directly by email at info@respiteservices.com or 416-322-6317 ext 1.

10. Who do I contact if I am in crisis while waiting for services?

In a crisis, you should call 911 or go to your nearest hospital. If you have an urgent need for services or supports you can call DSO TR and we will assist you in determining how to access the appropriate support.

11. Where do I find out if there are any local programs or activities I can access while waiting for services?

You can call DSO and we will provide you with some information, or you can call 211, or look at their website www.211Toronto.ca for information on programs and services in Toronto.

12. Why do agencies need to transfer our data to DSO when the person is in service with an agency and not waiting for other resources?

The DSO database will be able to provide information on how many people are receiving services and how many are waiting for services. This will assist in planning for future service needs in the community.

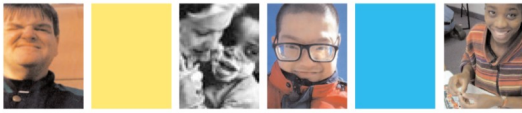
Also, everyone in the province who is receiving Ministry funded developmental services will eventually participate in the Application Package to identify their support needs. It should help to reduce the need for you to tell your story many times to different service providers.

13. How secure is the DSO database and how is confidentiality being preserved?

The DSO's electronic information system has strict and comprehensive privacy and security controls to keep individuals' information safe. Information is not shared with other agencies without your permission.

14. When will the funding entities be up and running?

We're not sure of that yet.



securing futures

Planning For Financial Security

A primer for individuals with disabilities and their families

Brendon D. Pooran, Barrister & Solicitor, PooranLaw

While estate planning is worthwhile for all Canadians, the rules concerning eligibility for government benefits make the preparation of legal documents such as wills, powers of attorney and trusts particularly important for individuals with disabilities and their families.

Eligibility for Ontario Disability Support Plan (ODSP) benefits is based in part on the individual's financial resources. With a few exceptions, ODSP recipients may not own assets in excess of \$5,000 (this amount varies depending on marital status and number of children), and therefore any inheritance has the potential of suspending their benefits (including extended medical, dental and vision coverage).

There are number of ways to structure testamentary gifts in order to ensure continued eligibility for ODSP. Family members can establish discretionary trusts (up to \$100,000) and absolute discretionary trusts (also known as Henson trusts) in a will. Testators can also ensure that any inheritance takes the form of other exempt assets (such as home to be used as a primary residence by the ODSP recipient or as contributions to a Registered Disability Savings Plan). These tools can be used together to avoid benefit suspension and to manage the financial security of an individual with a disability. Taking these simple steps today can ensure a safe, stable and secure tomorrow.

Community living Toronto is committed to bringing you more information on these subjects. Please watch for future articles on the following topics:

The Responsibilities of a Trustee
Registered Disability Savings Plans (RDSP)
Housing Options; and Microboards

Lifetime Benefits Trusts
Henson Trusts
Powers of Attorney and Supported Decision Making



Brendon is the founder of PooranLaw, a law firm dedicated to serving individuals with disabilities, their families and the community organizations who support them. Brendon teaches Critical Disability Law at York University, is a member of the Consent and Capacity Board; the President of Community Living York South and the Vice President of MukiBaum Treatment Centres.

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

ConnectABILITY.ca

This is not an endorsement or recommendation for services. Community Living Toronto can provide you with a list of lawyers and financial advisors familiar with planning for individuals with disabilities. We urge you to discuss your situation with them and then decide which one you would like to work with. Make sure that you are comfortable that the professional you have selected meets your needs, fits your budget and understands the issues of planning for a person with a disability.



securing futures

5 Things You Should Do

If you are supporting a child with a disability

Ron Malis B.A., B.Ed., M.B.A Independent Financial Concepts Group Ltd.

1. Secure the Disability Tax Credit Certificate. The Disability Tax Credit Certificate will provide you with tax credits that can save you a significant amount of money in taxes. This is not to be overlooked. If you have a child with a disability that qualifies for the certificate, the tax credit for 2011 is \$7,341. If your child is under 18, an additional credit called the Disability Tax Credit Supplement is available as well, equal to \$4,282 for 2011. If your child has had a disability for 10 years or more, you may be able to claim these tax credits going back as far as 10 years if you never claimed these credits – many people have received thousands of dollars in doing so.

2. Open up a Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) account as early as possible and maximize the government contributions every year. The RDSP was created to promote long-term savings to help support individuals with disabilities later in life. The earlier you start the earlier your child will be able to access the funds in the account without the government retracting any contributions they made. The downside of withdrawing money too early is severe. Those who maximize the contributions may realistically accumulate over \$300,000. Maximizing government contributions will cost you \$1,000 or \$1,500 a year, depending on family income.

3. Protect your income and assets if you and your family rely on it. If losing your income or significant assets (i.e. house, retirement investments, etc.) would create serious hardship, consider insuring your income and your assets. The question you can ask yourself to assess the need is, “what would happen to me and my family if I became disabled due to an accident or illness and my income disappeared or was reduced dramatically?” The other question is, if I were to die, how would my family fair financially?” If your answers describe hardships you would not be willing to endure or your family to endure, speak to an expert you trust.

4. Prepare your last will and testament. Find a lawyer who has worked with many families who have kids with disabilities because there are some very particular estate planning strategies for parents of children with disabilities, especially if your child is or will be on ODSP. Unless your child will be able to support themselves, financially through their adulthood, the absence of a properly structured estate plan that is well funded can severely affect your child’s quality of life once you pass away.

5. Get the right advice and support. Either get your current advisor to support you on these particular planning objectives or find one that will. Just bear in mind, as your child grows older, especially if they need to rely on ODSP, you will benefit a great deal more if your advisor understands the disability sector and the related financial planning issues. In addition to helping you determine the appropriate products and solutions, they should also help you implement these solutions in a thoughtful and manageable manner. Your advisor should understand your financial circumstances, including the limits of your resources and the other competing priorities you must manage.



Ron Malis is an associate broker with Independent Financial Concepts Group. In addition to his financial services expertise, Ron has held senior leadership positions in the not-for-profit sector and continues to consult with selected agencies. He has close ties to professionals in the disability sector and has participated in a number of committees and working groups, focusing on Independent Facilitation and Person Directed Planning. Ron is a financial services professional working with people with disabilities and their supporting family members.

This is not an endorsement or recommendation for services. Community Living Toronto can provide you with a list of lawyers and financial advisors familiar with planning for individuals with disabilities. We urge you to discuss your situation with them and then decide which one you would like to work with. Make sure that you are comfortable that the professional you have selected meets your needs, fits your budget and understands the issues of planning for a person with a disability.

Rick Strutt

The Jim Turner Award for Outstanding Voluntarism



Chris Stringer and Diane Turner presents award to Rick with his son

Rick is a busy father of three, who dedicates a tremendous amount of time to his community and causes he believes in. He has been involved with the Association for a number of years having been a member of the

Finance and Audit Committee and was Treasurer for two years.

Rick became President of the Association in 2007 and worked tirelessly for the betterment of the individuals in our service. As a past president of Community Living Toronto, Rick has continued to be involved with

Community Living Toronto by being a member of the Resource Development Committee and continuing his participation on the Finance & Audit Committee.

Rick is always looking for opportunities to help families plan for their child's future, and has conducted Financial Planning seminars for families of children with special needs for Community Living Toronto and Holland Bloorview Kids Rehab. He continues to be a resource for families and staff around changes to the RDSP and other financial concerns for families, and participating in opportunities to increase our awareness and partnerships in the community.

For the past two years, Rick has been a Director on the Community Living Ontario Board which has been invaluable to the Association and he was recently appointed by Community Living Toronto to serve as the Regional Representative on the CL Ontario Board of Directors.

Congratulations Rick!

Stephen Andrews - Volunteer of the Year Public Relations

Stephen has been a member of the Government Relations Committee for approximately ten years, and has provided extremely valuable insight and opportunities for staff and members of the committee. Through the Public Affairs Association of Canada, of which he is Vice-President, Steve has introduced us to many key strategists and leaders in the public affairs sector, and has also cemented our relationship with key municipal councilors and their staff.

But it's not all about government affairs. Sensitive to offensive and hurtful terminology, last spring, Stephen alerted Community Living Toronto to a column that appeared in the Ottawa Sun that used the 'R-word.' Steve encouraged us to respond, and coordinated response from the lobbyist community. CL Toronto alerted the provincial and national associations, which in the end resulted in the beginnings of a national campaign to end

the use of the R-word.

Stephen is always ready to offer his advice and help, and has contributed to the government relations success and work of the Public Relations department. Through his guidance and mentorship, his insight has helped direct provincial sector strategies and initiatives as well.

Congratulations Steve!



Steve with Diana Spacca, Chair Resource Development

Central News

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
Helene Paulyn Murray
Sandra Ricci
David Danyluk
Alda Zimbalatti
Serena De Souza

Regional Executive Director
Frances MacNeil

Membership Coordinator
Felicita Zanatta
647-729-1210
fzanatta@cltoronto.ca

Contact Information
Central Regional Office
20 Spadina Rd.
Toronto, Ontario
M5R 2S7

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F: 416.968.6463

**Central Region
Next Council Meeting:**
September 19, 2012
5:30 pm
20 Spadina Road
Room 2B

BMO, Corporate Audit - Central Region Volunteer of the Year



Peter Wakayama (centre, right) presents Central Region Volunteer of the Year to the BMO-Corporate Audit Team

The BMO - Corporate Auditors first came to Birch in the spring of 2010 to help plant the gardens. We didn't know it at the time, but that day was the start of something special. Daphne, Mark, Michael and the rest of their team are among the most caring, helpful, enthusiastic, energetic people you could hope to meet. Not only did they plan, pay for and carry out the beautification of the garden at Birch, they also brought in Linda, a gardening expert. That was our starting point which is now in its third year and developed into a real partnership.

This past year's activities included the Thanksgiving turkey lunch. John, one of our program participants from Fosters Clubhouse, was really impressed. He

made a point to comment on how moist the butterball turkey was.

There has also been ongoing clothing and household item donation and the trimming of the Christmas tree. The latest, most exciting project was the donation of 9 Christmas hampers, filled with gifts for families and individuals in need, all wrapped and ready to go.

The volunteers at BMO have made differences in the lives of people who have an intellectual disability and their families both at Birch and beyond. In the words of Ann, a single mother with 6 children, "I thank God there are people like you. God bless you!"
Congratulations BMO - Corporate Audit!

Central Region Annual Meeting
June 20, 2012 6:30 pm 20 Spadina Road
Wine and Cheese reception to follow.
RSVP at 647-729-1210
Or fzanatta@cltoronto.ca

Council Listings

Etobicoke/ York
Regional Council

Chairperson
Susan King

Board Representative
Ann Marie Fiero

Alternate Board Representative
Laura Parsonson

Treasurer
Ruth Nagy

Airi Clifford
Zdenka Bilic
Mary Byne
Janina Coulthard
Wally Richards
Joan Karout
Gaston Karout
Christine LeClair
Peter Marrese
Barbara Tuckwell
Stefica Skof
Sharon Totafurno

Regional Executive Director
Brad Saunders

Membership Coordinator
Eric Laimer
647.729.0445
elaimer@cltoronto.ca

Contact Information
Etobicoke/York
Regional Office
295 The West Mall,
Suite 204
Etobicoke, Ontario
M9C 4Z4

T: 416.236.7621
F: 416.236.7673

**Etobicoke/ York
Next Council Meeting:
September 18, 2012
6:30 pm
295 The West Mall
Suite 204
Boardroom**

Jennifer Storie - Etobicoke/ York Volunteer of the Year

By Harold Tomlinson



Harold, Jennifer and Christine

Jennifer began volunteering in 2005 with the Tuesday Night Club, which ran classes on literacy, computers, life skills, arts & crafts, and basic cooking skills.

Jennifer's devotion and warmth towards others made her an invaluable part of the program. Although she took particular interest in Expressive / Dramatic Arts, she offered her service pretty much everywhere—preparing for the dances, Halloween, Carnival parties, and whatever else was requested.

She is always positive and professional in her attitude and her bubbly

personality is infectious. Everyone is excited to see Jennifer and to spend time with her. She cares deeply for everyone and makes each individual feel special and important. She's a people's person who is very understanding, helpful and engaging.

If you were to list what participants say about Jennifer, you would probably run out of adjectives, but here are a few sentiments; *'She is a beautiful, hilarious and wonderful woman.'*

'Kind and caring.'

'She's a real sister to me; we get along well.'

'I really enjoy her company.'

'Always happy and enjoys life.'

Jennifer, we wish to thank you from the bottom of our hearts, for being a true friend within the community that devotes part of her life to the advancement of others. As a volunteer, you make a difference to each and every person that laughs with you and gains strength from your humanity.

Congratulations Jennifer!

Shifting Perspectives UK Coming to CVS

Since 2005, Shifting Perspectives photographic exhibition has brought together the work of 12 photographers who have a personal connection with Down syndrome. The exhibition presents the viewer with strong, contemporary and positive images of people with Down syndrome; examining the lives of people of all ages, their connection to the photographers and the changes throughout the course of their lives.

Shifting Perspectives photographic exhibition has run internationally for eight years and the 2012 exhibit will feature work by Richard Bailey, Fiona Yaron-Field, Emer Gillespie, Eva Snoijink and David McCormack.

Dates are yet to be confirmed but the exhibition will be on display at Creative Village Studio this summer. Call 647-351-4362 for details.

North York News

Council Listings

North York Regional Council

Chairperson
Nancy Ceci

Board Representative
Colleen Broadhurst

Alternate Board Representative
Morris Jesion

Treasurer
Mary Stewart

Self Advocate Representative
Sam McKhail

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

Regional Executive Director
Brad Saunders

Membership Coordinator
Wendy Dyke
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Contact Information
North York Regional Office
1122 Finch Ave. W.,
Unit 18
Toronto, Ontario
M3J 3J5

T: 416.225.7166
F: 416.225.8623

North York Region Next Council Meeting:

October 1, 2012
North York Office
Boardroom
1:00 - 3:00 pm

Colleen Broadhurst - North York Volunteer of the Year



Colleen with Nancy Ceci

Colleen Broadhurst first became involved with Community Living Toronto when her daughter, Jenna, was just two years old. She became a member of Community Living Toronto in 1994 and joined North York Council a few years later. She is a past Council chair and is currently the North York Regional Council Board Representative. Colleen is a past Chair of the Education Committee and current Chair of the Quality Assurance Committee.

Wanting a rich life for Jenna, Colleen quickly became a leader in advocating for inclusion and inclusive education. She was involved in developing the concept of Spinclusion and did committee work for funding applications in support of Spinclusion.

She was one of the founders of the Night of Stars fundraising events and is actively involved with Community Rocks. Colleen is known for doing her best to promote the work of Community Living Toronto.

She exemplifies what it means to be Volunteer of the Year.

Congratulations Colleen!

Upon receipt of her award, Colleen Presented. Here it is below. We hope you enjoy it:

‘Thank you for this acknowledgement. It is quite humbling to receive an award for doing something that gives you so much joy and is just a natural part of your life.

The day my daughter Jenna was born I'll never forget the moment when the nurse arrived and presented my baby to me. The first question I asked was, ‘Is it a girl or a boy’. I was so pleased to learn I had given birth to a beautiful baby girl. The second question I asked was, ‘Is everything OK?’ In a very matter of fact tone the nurse told me that my baby was born with Down syndrome. I felt blessed. My sadness came in thinking that life is tough enough as it is and wondering what additional challenges Jenna would face living with a disability. I have my parents to thank for raising me to believe that everyone belongs and every life counts. They taught me that you should dream, you should reach for the stars and you should strive to become the best you can be. This is a fundamental belief system that guides me in everything I do and led me to Community Living 23 years ago! Community Living opened my eyes to possibilities. My inspiration has been watching Jenna develop into the beautiful young woman that she is. Volunteering with Community Living Toronto has led me down a path that I hope everyone has the opportunity to experience in their lifetime.

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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
Heather McCormack
Ellen Armstrong

Regional Executive Director

Sue Lynch

Membership Coordinator

Ann-Marie Binetti
647-729-1635

abinetti@cltoronto.ca

Contact Information

Scarborough Regional Office
1712 Ellesmere Rd.
Scarborough, Ontario
M1H 2V5

T: 416.438.6099

F: 416.438.6144

Next Council Meeting:

October 1st, 2012

6:30 pm

Boardroom

1712 Ellesmere Rd

Conference Room

Patricia Sparks - Scarborough Volunteer of the Year



Pat with Judith Andrenacci

Patricia Sparks has been involved with Community Living Toronto for almost 40 years. Pat and her husband Bill had two daughters. Sherri, the first born, had Down Syndrome. Pat and Bill got involved right away. Pat's volunteering accomplishments have been numerous. She was Chair of Scarborough Region Council for several terms. She was also Scarborough's representative to the Board of Directors. As Membership Chair, Pat took it upon herself to contact new members and keep in touch with current members by signing every membership renewal letter that went out annually along with a personalized message. It is thanks to Pat that Scarborough can boast of a large

membership.

A "Drop-In" was held in her classroom after school as a respite, social recreational program. When Pat retired from teaching, she continued this excellent program on Tuesday evenings at Lawson. For Saturday mornings, Pat initiated the literacy program. We were "in the community" at a number of schools including Centennial College, and Woburn Collegiate. This program was then extended to a Summer Literacy program which continues to operate at Lawson.

Her fundraising drives took the shape of Dinner Dances, Corn Roasts, Bazaars, Flea Markets, Mall Displays, Fashion Shows and an Afternoon Tea. When Sherri suddenly passed away in January 2000, Pat and Bill set up a Travel Training Trust Fund, which has benefited many young people with disabilities through a one-on-one travel trainer.

Not only have Pat's many initiatives provided the much needed supports for individuals and their families but they have created many more volunteer opportunities for others. Scarborough region is proud to have had Pat as a volunteer leader who has touched and enriched the lives of many. Congratulations Pat!

The Kiwanis Aktion Club presents The Famous People Players

July 11th, 2012 or August 15, 2012

243 Evans Avenue

Arrival at 10:30am

\$17.50. per person, includes show and lunch

Nelly Joaquim - Volunteer of the Year, Fundraising



Diana presents award to Nelly

When Nelly joined the team at E-L Financial more than four years ago she had no idea that it meant she was also joining the Community Living Toronto team.

Duncan Jackman, Chair of our Patron's Council encouraged her to call and get to know us. Nelly

immediately took charge and made it known that helping people with an intellectual disability was important to her.

In 2008, Nelly was instrumental in securing thousands of dollars in sponsorship for our first Community Rocks event. In 2010, Nelly doubled those efforts, leveraging

many corporate and personal contacts as well as supporting foundation proposals. In addition to this she also took on organizing the catering and décor for the event which put Community Living Toronto and Community Rocks on the map for Toronto events.

Even when it's not a Community Rocks year, Nelly is always at the ready to leverage contacts for Community Living Toronto. But it isn't just about money. As a testament to being a true champion, Nelly helps Duncan organize an annual farm day at the Jackman farm North of the city. This event grows each year with close to 50 people we support attending for a day filled with creativity, swimming, sports, goats and chickens, a barbecue and a visit to the horse barns. One year Nelly decided that the best part about a picnic is ice cream!

Now, every year, we hear that familiar tune as the ice cream truck winds its way up the driveway miles away from any town for all of the attendees to enjoy a treat!

Congratulations Nelly!

Colleen - Continued from page 8

I have had the good fortune to be mentored by some amazing volunteers who also happened to be true leaders. Over the years, many Community Living staff have been influential in guiding me through challenging times. Their outreach helped my family and armed me with the tools to advocate on behalf of all persons living with a disability. I have also had the pleasure to become personal friends with other parents that share the same vision that I do and I am touched by the accomplishments among Jenna's peers.

If I had to select one significant experience that I have been involved with through my volunteerism it would be advocating for inclusive education. It has been a true blessing to have had the opportunity to witness Jenna's journey through the education system in an inclusive setting. I know that this inclusiveness directly impacted her desire and ability to be accepted in a post secondary program which led to a college certificate. A year ago I received a letter from Jenna's grade two teacher informing me that she was now a principal at a primary school. She wrote that every IPRC meeting that she attends she remembers Jenna, my advocacy and the importance of including all students despite their ability in the regular classroom.

The process of volunteering has made me a better person and a successful advocate which has also helped me grow as a human being. Growing our volunteer base is such an important mission moving forward and I encourage all the wonderful volunteers here this evening to reach out to your network of friends and family.

I would like to first thank Jenna for changing my life in a way that I never dreamed possible. My parents for instilling in me the values I carry with me today, and my husband Gary for supporting me and keeping our home in order which allows me to continue my volunteering efforts. I would like to share this award with my sisters Karen and Jennifer who have joined us here tonight.'

**Come and Join the Fun
Central Region Council
Dinner Club**

**Wednesday Evenings
4 pm to 7:30 pm
30 Birch Avenue**

**\$5 for a great meal and friendship
Please call Felicita Zanatta at
647-729-1210 for information**

Bridging Diversity

Diverse Community Supports



Toronto's increasing diversity has meant that the people Community Living Toronto supports are also increasingly diverse. There are many newcomers who are coming to the Association with unique stories and barriers to service. Many challenge service providers, like us, to collaborate across sectors in order to support community members in the most holistic manner possible. Firas' story is one example:

Firas was born in Iraq. He was the first boy in a family of 10 girls. After Firas' birth and diagnosis of an intellectual disability, his family was told that there were limited services available to him in Iraq. Despite this, Firas was able to attend a school for deaf-blind where he learned sign language. At the age of 16, he was taken in by a Deacon who protected and cared for him, and others with a disability. In hopes of a better life, Firas and his mother came to Canada in 2003 with the support of one of his sisters.

Finally in 2011, Firas and his mother received exciting news. Firas was approved for Passport Funding and chose Community Living Toronto as his service provider. Since Community Living Toronto is an anchor partner at the Victoria Park Hub and Firas was a

member of the Victoria Park community, it seemed like a natural fit to see what types of opportunities may be available to him. Today, Firas participates in a weekly community cooking group facilitated by another Hub anchor partner, Reh'Ma Community Services. Firas is now responsible for the set-up of the tables and chairs for the weekly meal and assists with cooking and clean-up.

Stories such as this one illustrate what collaborating across sectors through partnerships can do; providing opportunities to community members such as Firas, have made the community that much more welcoming and inclusive. Through the community cooking group at the Hub, Firas not only has a social gathering to look forward to, but is learning new skills and building natural supports that will extend past the cooking group and into his community on a daily basis.

The Hub is located at 1527 Victoria Park Avenue, 2nd Floor. For more information about services and supports contact 416-750-9600.

 **June 22 -
July 1, 2012**

Once again, Toronto will be filled with the colours of Pride during the month of June. Pride Week in Toronto is one of the world's largest Pride celebrations in the world.

Last year, sprOUT Toronto participants, facilitators and allies represented people with intellectual disabilities who identified as LGBTQ during the annual Pride Parade. This year sprOUT hopes to do the same with an even larger number of supporters.

Show some Pride and march alongside sprOUT Toronto. If interested, contact Terri-Lynn Langdon at 647-729-3628 or terri Lynn.langdon@cltoronto.ca. For more information about Pride Toronto, please visit: www.pridetoronto.com

Self-Advocates Council Update

Self-Advocates Council Listings

Chairperson
Robert Shaddock
Vice-Chair
Sam McKhail

Board Representative
Paul Cochrane

Treasurer/Secretary
Robbie Cowdrey

Community Living Ontario
Representative
Peter Marrese

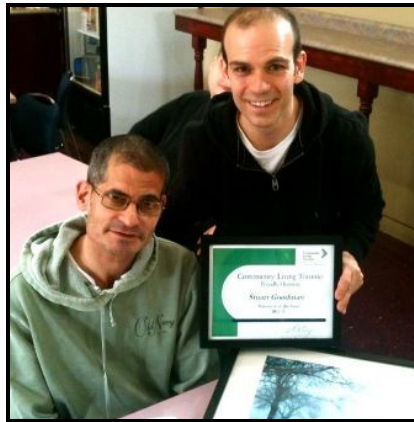
Members
Caseen Johnson
Candice Doherty
Lorraine Bradley
Margherita Cappiello
Mark Miller
Mike Murray
Nelson Raposo
Nick Lappas
Paul Cochrane
Peter Marrese
Robbie Cowdry
Robert Shaddock
Sam McKhail

Community Support
Coordinator
Sue Hutton
(647) 729-1205
shutton@cltoronto.ca

SAC Meetings are
Held the third Monday of each
month at 1PM at 20 Spadina.

**SAC Annual Meeting:
Monday June 18, 2012
20 Spadina Rd.**

Stuart Goodman - Sam Samler Award, The Self-Advocate Volunteer of the Year



Stuart is presented award by Jeff Cook

The Self-Advocates Council presents the Sam Samler Award every year to an outstanding Community Living Toronto volunteer who has an intellectual disability.

The recipient of the 2012 Sam Samler Award was Stuart Goodman.

It is a well known fact to everyone that knows him that Stuart has a huge heart. He has devoted most of his adult life to helping others. Most recently, by volunteering at Foster's Club House, a popular social hub for individuals supported by Community Living Toronto.

Always friendly, he welcomes anyone who comes into the club house. Stuart helps Jeff Cook in the daily running of the place, which includes preparing meals for the ever popular Supper Club.



Award presented by Robert Shaddock (right), Agnes Samler (centre) and accepted on behalf of Stuart by Lorraine Bradley

Stuart is very modest about his volunteer work. His heart just continues to reach out to all of those around him.

Another aspect of Stuart's dedication is his accomplished piano playing, a talent he enjoys sharing with others.

Affectionately known as "Stu-Bear" to those who frequent Foster's Clubhouse, Stuart brings joy to everyone he meets there.

As Stuart was unable to attend the Volunteer Dinner, Foster's Club House honoured his accomplishments with a special celebration and plaque presentation by Casseen from the Self-Advocates Council and Jeff Cook. Congratulations Stuart!

Self-Advocates Council Annual Meeting

Monday June 18, 2012

Noon to 3 p.m.

Foster Club House

Movie, Snacks, Discussion about Rights!

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Resources, Networking And You

Social Networking and Other ConnectABILITY.ca News

By Don Murray

We have launched Connected Families!

It's a meeting place for you to connect with others that have things they want to talk about. This is a place for **YOU** to talk and connect, deal with 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 us your stories, your ideas, your successes and even your frustrations. Share your tips to help others succeed and someone else's tips that could help you. You will need to log in or sign up (if you are not already a member).

<http://connectability.ca/connected-families>

Community Activities Survey - What activities are you looking for?

Each year another group of students who have an intellectual disability leave high school and begin to look for activities that will support their continued development and engagement in their communities.

With this growing demand, community agencies are looking for ways to expand the availability of activities beyond their government funded spaces which do not become available very often.

One way of meeting growing demand is to offer activities for a fee. Individuals and their families, including those who receive individualized funding (for example, Passport funding), can choose to purchase many different types of activities to participate more fully in our communities.

As a result, this survey was drafted by a group from community agencies who offer community participation supports and wants to find out what activities people are interested in. Please complete the survey to help us plan choices for future activities.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/community_activities

Strategies to Help Support Someone Through the Normal Aging Process

Getting older is part of life. It is important to understand more about the aging process and its possible impact on us. Here are a number of tip sheets listing the likely changes to our body systems and functioning abilities as someone ages and strategies to help support a person with a developmental disability exhibiting these changes.

<http://connectability.ca/2010/11/16/health-and-wellness>

See you soon at www.connectability.ca



Don't SAVE Your Pennies DONATE Them!!!

The Royal Canadian mint will stop distributing the one-cent coin in Canada this fall (2012)!

“Free your pennies from their prisons at home, and those jars they're in and give them to charity,”

Minister of Finance, Jim Flaherty

**For more information contact
Sylvie Labrosse
647-729-1180
Sylvie.labrosse@cltoronto.ca**

Events / Workshops

Motion Specialties BBQ

Friday July 27, 2012
12 noon - 2 pm
939 Eglinton Ave. W.

For more information

Contact:

Felicita Zanatta
647-729-1210
fzanatta@cltoronto.ca

POP CAN CLUB

When: Saturdays
Time: 6:30-9:00 pm
Location: Wallace Emerson Community Centre,
1260 Dufferin Street
Fee: Free
Age: Youth and Adults (14+ yrs)

The Pop Can Club is a drop in program that runs every Saturday evening at Wallace Emerson Community Centre. It's a free program that offers sports, fine arts, a light snack and a lot of opportunities to be social and have fun!

Come out to see old friends or to make new ones! Participate in new activities each Saturday and bring a friend or two along! The group also celebrates each season with themed dances.

For more information, call City of Toronto; Parks, Forestry and Recreation- Adapted and Integrated Services 416-397-4690.



Community Living Toronto

annual picnic

SATURDAY
JUNE 23, 2012
11 AM - 3 PM

Community
Living
Toronto



The picnic will take place at our Lawson Site at **1712 Ellesmere Rd.**, just a short walk from the McCowan subway stop. Parking is limited.

Don't forget to bring your lawn chair or blanket and sunscreen.

Admission: minimum donation of \$2 per person

Let us know you're coming!

ETOBICOKE
Eric Laimer
647-729-0445
elaimer@cltoronto.ca

NORTH YORK
Wendy Dyke
647-729-3627
wdyke@cltoronto.ca

CENTRAL
Felicita Zanatta
647-729-1210
fzanatta@cltoronto.ca

SCARBOROUGH
Ann-Marie Binetti
647-729-1635
abinetti@cltoronto.ca

For more information and directions visit
www.communitylivingtoronto.ca

Calendar of Events

July 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Central Dinner Club	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Central Dinner Club	12	13 Famous People Players	14
15	16	17	18 Central Dinner Club	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Central Dinner Club	26	27 Motion Specialties BBQ 939 Eglinton Ave.W.	28
29	30	31	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

August 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Central Dinner Club	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Central Dinner Club	9	10 Famous People Players	11
12	13	14	15 Central Dinner Club	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Central Dinner Club	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 Central Dinner Club	30	31	

Enbridge Volunteers Bring Spring to Coatsworth

By Sandee Moore



Enbridge Days of Caring Volunteers

The morning of May 9th found the balconies and patios of Coatsworth residence dull, drab, and dirty after a winter of disuse. We had been talking about gardens and flowers and sprucing things up, but time

was passing us by. Thankfully, the Days of Care crew from Enbridge came to our rescue!!

Jamie and his band of 8 volunteers arrived at Coatsworth ready to work! While seven volunteers got down to the dirty work of cleaning; Joseph, Marg and I were off to the garden centre to complete the shopping. We arrived back with a van load of impatiens, geraniums, pansies, herbs, strawberries and cherry tomatoes, and bags of soil. After hours of cleaning, we all dug in to make a big and colorful mess with planters.

By the end of the day each balcony and patio was replete with beautiful flowering planters and herb gardens for the summer, adding flash and beauty to our public spaces. Our many, many thanks to the wonderful folks at Enbridge, who are welcome back any time!!

