

FEATURED STORY

Help Brighten Someone's Holidays!



Holiday Helpers putting together Holiday Hampers!

The Holidays are just around the corner and here at Community Living Toronto, we are already getting ready to assist those less fortunate with our annual Holiday Hamper program. The program – which has been running for over 20 years – helps alleviate some of the stress and extra costs associated with the Holidays, and brings joy to many individuals supported by Community Living Toronto.

In the past few years, the initiative has provided hundreds of families and children with toys, clothing, food, household items, gift cards and so much more!

All this is made possible by the generous support of our donors and the Chum/City Christmas Wish, who has been a long time

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donor of the Holiday Hamper program, providing financial support and toys.

Please consider donating if you are in the position to do so! A donation to the program goes towards the purchase of gift cards so that each family is able to buy items they need most. We are also looking for new clothing, unwrapped toys, books, personal hygiene products, hats, mitts, and scarves.

For more information about where to drop off your donations, please contact the following individuals:

Central: Matthew Poirier, 647-729-1210
matthew.poirier@cltoronto.ca

Etobicoke: Georgina Stergiotis, 647-729-0445
georgina.stergiotis@cltoronto.ca

North York: Wendy Dyke, 647-729-3627
wdyke@cltoronto.ca

Scarborough: Shelly Greenberg 647-729-1627
or sgreenberg@cltoronto.ca

CENTRAL REGION

Spinclusion Heads to Germany

By: *Matthew Poirier*



In early September, David Jahr, a faculty member at the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg in

Germany, reached out to Community Living Toronto after doing some research on schools and organizations that are active in inclusive education here in the city of Toronto. David, along with four other colleagues at the University, was planning a visit to Canada later that month with 15 of their students. They wanted to pay Community Living Toronto a visit to hear more about the work we do to promote and foster inclusion in schools and communities.

All members of the group either study or work in the field of education and the aim of their visit was to gain a fresh perspective on what is happening in their field in other cities around the globe, with a focus on inclusive and democratic education. To many, Canada is often seen as a role model and a leader when it comes to equality and inclusion.

David and the group visited 20 Spadina Road on September 21st to hear more about the work we do to support individuals with an intellectual disability and their families. They were excited to learn about Spinclusion and how we use it as a resource to actively engage children, youth and adults in conversations about inclusion and accepting differences.

Community Living Toronto staff facilitated a game of Spinclusion which spawned enthusiastic discussions, information sharing and lots of questions about the development and evolution of the game.

When the session was over, the group was excited to be presented with a Spinclusion game of their own to take back to Germany with them. Despite some language barriers during the game, the overall experience was one of mutual understanding, respect and camaraderie. We may come from different countries, but our desire to learn from one another and to better foster inclusive spaces is a language we could both speak and understand.

Currently, David is sharing his Canadian experience with students back in Germany, and was so kind to share a photo (pictured above) of them enjoying a game of Spinclusion. Community Living Toronto has also reached out to David and we are helping him to translate questions so the game can be more easily played in German. Meaningful experiences and partnerships such as this are so important to the success and sustainability of the work that we do each and every day.

Upcoming Central Events

Central Region Council Meeting

Tuesday November 8, 2016

6:00 pm, 20 Spadina Rd.

All are welcome

For information regarding Central Events contact: Matthew Poirier at 647-727-1210 or matthew.poirier@cltoronto.ca

ETOBICOKE/YORK REGION

Friendship Club in Etobicoke

By: *Sehrish Zehra*



Halloween party time at Friendship Club!

At Community Living Toronto, we are all about encouraging friendships — between the people we support, our wonderful team and our wonderful community too. The Friendship Club in Etobicoke offers a unique opportunity for individuals to engage with others, socialize and truly create lasting friendships. In fact, many of the participants of this group have become long-term friends, who are always happy to see each other every month!

At the Friendship Club, participants engage in activities, games and socialize while enjoying refreshments and snacks. Each month, the group has a different theme, depending on the season and time of the year. Last month, the group hosted a Halloween party in which they played spooky games and wore costumes for fun! Each month's friendship club is packed with something fun and exciting to do.

The Friendship Club is open to all interested participants who have an intellectual disability and has no cost! The program is also supported with superb volunteers who are

dedicated to providing an evening of fun to the participants. Friendship Club takes place on the last Wednesday of every month at the Etobicoke Regional Office. For more information about joining the club, please contact LauraLee at (647) 729-0440 or ledmiston@cltoronto.ca.

Upcoming Etobicoke/York Events

Etobicoke/York Region Council Meeting

Tuesday November 8, 2016

6:30 pm

4895 Dundas St. W (Creative Village Studio)

Everyone welcome

Henson Trusts: A Workshop for Parents of Children with Disabilities and Trustees

Tuesday November 15 at 6:30-9:30 pm

288 Judson St. unit 17

Limited seating available

Registration required

For information and to register for Henson Trust Workshop contact:

Georgina Stergiotis at 647-729-0445 or

georgina.stergiotis@cltoronto.ca

Friendship Club

Last Wednesday of each month

6pm-8pm

Etobicoke Region Office

295 The West Mall, suite 204

For more information and Registration

Contact: LauraLee Edmiston 647-729-0440 or

ledmiston@cltoronto.ca

NORTH YORK REGION

North York SWACA Annual Picnic

By Georgia Kurlinas, Support Worker II



A beautiful late summer's day provided the perfect backdrop to the North York Supported Work and Community Activities (NY SWACA) Annual Summer Picnic, held for the first time at Earl Bales Park. Individuals enjoyed a day that started with Tim Horton's coffee and cookies and ended with games and prizes. Seated under a canopy of beautiful trees, one of the highlights of the BBQ were the "good big burgers" that were served by the great NY SWACA staff and volunteers, Mrs. Vera Salopek and Mrs. Maria D'Andrea. The support of our volunteers really enhanced the success of our picnic. A special thank you goes to Peter Waters from Earl Bales who assisted in setting up the tables in our picnic area.

Ball playing, parachute shaking, music, art and bingo served as activities to enjoy the day, as did swatting the wasps that tried to crash our picnic. At the end of day, many happy individuals were already asking when the next picnic will be held. A change of venue was warmly received, but the overwhelming consensus was that the BBQ hamburgers were the best! Thanks to Felipe, Rod and Natalia who were the chefs at the grill. Thank you very

much to all the staff members who made this day such a great success and have raised the bar once more for the next picnic. Warm memories and photos will serve as filler until we picnic again.

Upcoming North York Events

North York Council Meeting

Monday November 14, 2016

1:00 - 3:00 pm

North York Office

1122 Finch Avenue West, Unit 18

Everyone Welcome!

Pizza/Bingo

Wednesday November 16th

6 pm to 8 pm

Victoria Park Hub

1527 Victoria Park Avenue

Sibshops

10:30 am to 2:30 pm

Victoria Park Hub

1527 Victoria Park Avenue

Saturday November 19, 2016

Saturday January 21, 2017

Saturday March 25, 2017

Saturday May 6, 2017

RSVP for above events to: Wendy Dyke

wdyke@cltoronto.ca or 647-729-3627

Jumpstart Literacy

Every Saturday

9:30 am to 11:30 am

1122 Finch Avenue West, Unit 16

Registration fee: \$20.00 per person

Weekly fee: \$5.00 per person

To learn more and to register,

please contact: Sehrish Zehra at 647-729-1162

Sehris.zehra@cltoronto.ca

SCARBOROUGH REGION

Bingo at Lawson is Ten!

By: *Stuart McCormack*



Lorraine and Doug host Bingo night enjoyed by all.

In September 2006, a bingo machine was donated from Kiwanis to the Community Living Toronto's Scarborough Region. Kiwanis Aktion Club members began hosting the Bingo Night and members Doug Crellin and Lorraine Bradley were trained to host the monthly event.

Ten years later, and Bingo Night at Lawson is still going strong! Lorraine and Doug continue to volunteer at the Bingo Night alongside Aktion Club of Toronto members, who provide over ten thousand hours of valuable volunteer service to Community Living Toronto!

Bingo Night is a lot of fun, enjoyed by many!. It is usually held on the third Friday night of the month from 7:00-8:30 pm at 1712 Ellesmere Road in the Dining room. The cost is \$5 for a treat and prizes.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Felicity Zanatta at 647-729-1635 or fzanatta@cltoronto.ca for information.

Upcoming Scarborough Events

Council Meeting

Monday, November 7, 2016 6:15pm
1712 Ellesmere Road Boardroom
All Welcome!

Council Holiday Party

Monday, December 5, 2016 6:30pm
1712 Ellesmere Road Dining Room
All Welcome!

Bingo at Lawson

Friday, November 18, 2016
1712 Ellesmere Road, 7-8:30pm
\$5 for a snack and prizes

Winter Literacy

Saturday mornings, 9-11:45 am
1710 Ellesmere Rd.
\$20 registration and \$5 per class
Eligibility determined by interview

For more information on any of these events, contact Felicity Zanatta at 647-729-1635 or fzanatta@cltoronto.ca

Tuesday Morning Drop In

10 am to noon, \$4 each week
1712 Ellesmere Rd
RSVP to Sarah at 647-729-1633 or swinter@cltoronto.ca

Fall Family Yoga

October 19 – November 23, 2016
Every Wednesday
5:00-6:15 pm
Fee: \$10.00 per family
1712 Ellesmere Ave.
For more information or to register contact:
Sarah Winter at 647-729-1633 or swinter@cltoronto.ca

Self-Advocates Learn About the Ombudsman's Report

By: Sue Hutton

Self-advocates from across Toronto came to learn about the Ombudsman's report. It's called, **Nowhere to Turn**, and came out August 2016. It's about how the Ministry of Community and Social Services responds to crisis in Developmental Services.

The report talks about over 1430 complaints that the Ombudsman got over a 4 year period. These complaints were about people with intellectual disabilities who ended up in long term care facilities when they were too young - and deserved to be receiving services to help them be in the community. They were about people who ended up staying in hospitals and psychiatric units when there was nowhere else for them to go. It was about people being on waitlists and everyone around them not being able to keep providing support. The whole system is in need of help, according to the Ombudsman.

Self-advocates were very keen to learn about the system, and what they can do.

To learn more and to get involved, contact Sue Hutton shutton@cltoronto.ca

The Self-Advocates Council at Community Living Toronto is branching out to form an evening discussion group. This group for people labelled with intellectual disabilities will be held at Foster's Club House. Films will be

shown and discussed. Thursday November 10, is the first one. The film Rain Man will be shown, and a discussion will follow. The group will talk about how they feel about disability issues in the film in a supported environment.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact: Josh Kolic, who will be facilitating these evening sessions
joshua.kolic@cltoronto.ca



Laura Pettigrew, from the Ombudsman's office presenting to self-advocates from across Toronto at the ARCH Disability Law Centre.

Upcoming SAC Event

Self-Advocates Council
Film and Discussion Group
7-9pm
Fosters Club House
40 Birch Ave.



FamilyLink Launches Successful Parent Shares Agency Wide!

By: Sehrish Zehra

This year, the volunteer services department at Community Living Toronto has launched successful Parent Shares in all four regions. These Parent Shares are provided through a partnership between Community Living Toronto, FamilyLink and Woodgreen, and serve as an opportunity for parents who have children with an intellectual disability to come together to share their stories and learn from one another.

Parents who have attended these sessions have been able to share information about services available in different regions, upcoming programs and events, and learn from our guest speakers. During October, our guest speaker was Adrineh Bennett from the Tre_ADD Respite Program who told parents more about this service. In November, guest speakers from LIGHTS and Friendly Housemates will tell parents more about these great initiatives.

Each Parent Share takes place once a month in each of the 4 regions. A full schedule of upcoming Parent Shares taking place agency wide can be found on this page. Parents are welcome to attend any of the Parent Shares in any region. For more information about Parent Shares, please contact Sarah Winter at (647) 729-1633, swinter@cltoronto.ca or Bonnie Heath 416-645-6000, ext. 1311 bheath@woodgreen.org.

Scheduled Dates for Parent Share

| Dates | Region & Address |
|--|---|
| Thursday, November 3 rd 10:00 am – 12:00 pm | North York Region: 1122 Finch Ave. W. Unit 18 |
| Thursday, November 10 th 9:30 am - 11:30 am | Scarborough Region: 91 Eastpark Blvd. |
| Monday November 14 th 10:00 am – 12:00 pm | Downtown: Regent Park Community Centre, 402 Shuter St., 2 nd floor meeting room |
| Thursday, November 17 th 10:00 am – 12:00 pm | Etobicoke Region: 295 The West Mall, Unit 204 |
| Thursday, December 1 st 10:00 am – 12:00 pm | North York Region: 1122 Finch Ave. W., Unit 18 |
| Monday, December 5 th 10:00 am – 12:00 pm | Downtown: Regent Park Community Centre, 402 Shuter St. 2 nd floor meeting room |
| Thursday, December 8 th 9:30 am – 11:30 am | Scarborough Region: 91 Eastpark Blvd. |
| Thursday, December 15 th 10:00 am – 12:00 pm | Etobicoke Region: 295 The West Mall, Unit 204 |

Volunteers Needed

To find out more about volunteer opportunities, please visit the Volunteer section of our website: <http://cltoronto.ca/volunteers/>