

FEATURED STORY

April marked National Volunteer Month and Community Living Toronto celebrated our many dedicated volunteers with a dinner honouring our Volunteer of the Year recipients. You can read all about them in the following pages of Connections.

Jim Turner Award for Outstanding Voluntarism - Peter Wakayama

Peter has been a long-time supporter of Community Living Toronto as a dedicated member, donor, volunteer, advocate and parent.

Peter, who has been the Central Region Council’s Chair since 2002 has sat on Council for over fifteen years.

On the fundraising side, Peter attended and supported Night of Stars for many years. He was on the Community Rocks sponsorship committee twice and continues to sponsor the event to this day. Peter has also been vital in securing funding for a variety of programs and events, including Spring Fling, Central Region’s main fundraiser which helps fund numerous programs and initiatives including the Komodo Dragon Boat team, Holiday Hampers as well as a social group for young adults. He is a huge supporter of Shadow Lake Centre and was on

In this Issue

- Pg 1 | Featured Story
- Pg 2 | Central Region
- Pg 3 | Etobicoke Region
- Pg 4 | North York Region
- Pg 5 | Scarborough Region
- Pg 6 | Youth Volunteer of the Year
- Pg 7 | Public Relations & Fundraising Volunteer of the Year
- Pg 8 | SAC Volunteer of the Year
- Pg 8 | News



L to r: Diane Turner, Peter Wakayama and David Layton

the review committee for helping to set its strategic direction.

As a parent, Peter has been very supportive of Manson Employment Training Services since his son began attending in 1992.

He is a reliable attendee at Life Plan meetings and special events held at the program.

Since 2007, Peter has also been an invaluable member of the Real Estate Committee where he is instrumental in helping with complex real estate issues.

Congratulations Peter!

CENTRAL REGION

Volunteer of the Year- Michael Challes

Originally from Winnipeg, Mike moved to Toronto several years ago with experience volunteering with young individuals with an intellectual disability. As a volunteer at Community Living Toronto, Mike collaborated with staff and created the “One Direction Social Group” for young adults with a disability. Mike plans monthly events for the group, which consists of anywhere from 6 to 10 individuals, and chooses activities based on what the participants want to do. Whether it’s playing board games at Snakes and Lattes on a Saturday afternoon, bowling or going to the movies, Mike is open to all ideas and always fosters a fun, accepting and inclusive environment.

“Michael is an outgoing, funny and understanding guy.” says Erica, one of the participants of the social group. “He is so deserving of this award because he takes time to plan the One Direction group events.”

Aside from planning and facilitating the social group’s activity, Michael has also spent time doing corporate volunteering at Community Living Toronto. He, along with his then colleagues from Deloitte, volunteered at multiple group homes in the North York Region for their annual Impact Day. When he’s not

busy planning outings for One Direction, Mike also finds time to sit on the Finance and Audit Committee for the Board of Community Living Toronto.

When told he was receiving the award, Mike said, “You know, I didn’t need an award. I have really enjoyed organizing the group. It is always a high point of my week. I’m a lucky guy to be involved with such a great organization. I really feel like I found a home at Community Living Toronto.”

Congratulations Michael!



L to r: Peter Wakayama and Michael Challes

Upcoming Central Events

Central Annual Regional Meeting

Tuesday, June 9th at 6 pm

20 Spadina, Boardroom.

To RSVP please call Matt Poirier at

647-729-1210 or matthew.poirier@cltoronto.ca

ETOBICOKE REGION

Volunteer of the Year- Elizabeth Callaghan



L to r: Harold Tomlinson, Elizabeth Callaghan and Ann Marie Fierro

Elizabeth has been volunteering with Community Living Toronto for over ten years and at Creative Village Studio for over four years. She exemplifies the excellence of Community Living Toronto in all she does.

A talented young woman, Elizabeth was inspired to go to Neilson Park for art and is currently learning to be an artist. At Creative Village Studio, she sets everyone up individually and supports their needs for the projects they are working on. She keeps the facilitator organized and performs as an assistant aiding the process of art making. At the end of the day when she cleans up, Elizabeth will always ask staff to make sure nothing else is needed to be done before she starts preparing her schedule for the following week.

Elizabeth also helps with administration duties, including file organizing, scanning and filing of artwork on the computer, as well as organizing office supplies and storage space.

Elizabeth is an integral team member of our art program at Creative Village Studio.

As Elizabeth says, “We are all family here and support each other not just in art, but in life.”

Congratulations Elizabeth!

Lunch To Go Raises Over \$500!

By: Eric Laimer

Hungry patrons came from all floors of the offices at 295 The West Mall to enjoy the lunch delights cooked up by members of Etobicoke/York Region Council. The “Lunch to Go” fundraiser featured a variety of entrees including chili, samosas, perogies, sandwiches and lasagna. For those with a sweet tooth, there was a wide selection of home baked treats including butter tarts, lemon meringue pie, apple pie, cookies and tasty squares. For all their efforts, Etobicoke/ York Region Council members raised \$555 to help support the programs and initiatives that they sponsor.



Master Chefs Janina Coulthard and Ruth Nagy.

Etobicoke/York Annual Regional Meeting

Take a tour and learn about the renovation plans for Etobicoke Employment Training Services (ETS). At the Annual Regional Meeting, hear about developments with Community Living Toronto and elect next year's Council.

Thursday, June 18th.
Etobicoke ETS - 288 Judson Street, Unit 17

3:00 to 5:00 pm - ETS Tours
5:00 to 6:30 pm - Light dinner and presentations
6:30 to 8:00 pm - Annual Regional Meeting

RSVP to: Eric Laimer elaimer@cltoronto.ca or 647-729-0445

NORTH YORK REGION

Volunteer of the Year – Nancy Ceci

Nancy has been a dedicated volunteer for Community Living Toronto for over twenty years. She first became involved with the Association shortly after her son Marc was born in 1991. Since then Nancy has made advocacy for an inclusive society her life's work.

Nancy was a member of our Board of Directors for six years. She is a current member of the Quality Assurance Committee. She joined North York Council in the spring of 2007 and was elected Council chair in the fall, a position she continues to hold. Nancy is a past member of the Education Committee and participated on the membership committee. She was also involved with the Post-Secondary Education work group in 2013-2014.

In addition to her committee work, Nancy has initiated and participated in a number of projects that focus on building independent living skills for youth living with an intellectual disability. Nancy was a parent representative for the STEPS to Independence guidebook pilot. She also helped to facilitate a youth group to identify independent living skills they have and areas that they need to improve. The work resulted in the development of a game called 'Life's Like That'. The group has evolved into a social group called One Direction that meets on a regular basis and through social events, continues to develop their independent living skills.

Those who know Nancy describe her as a leader who paves the way for positive change and initiates important programs which help individuals with intellectual disabilities live their dreams. Nancy truly exemplifies the true meaning of volunteerism.

Congratulations Nancy!



Nancy Ceci

Upcoming North York Events

Pizza/Bingo Night at the Hub

1527 Victoria Park Avenue, 2nd floor

Wednesday May 20, 2015

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Must pre-register to attend:

Wendy Dyke

647-729-3627 or wdyke@cltoronto.ca

Or

Flora Nichols

647-729-3645 or fnichols@cltoronto.ca

North York Annual Regional Meeting

Monday June 8, 2015

North York Employment Training Services

1122 Finch Avenue West, Unit 16

6:30 pm – Registration

7:00 pm – Meeting & Family Consultation Session

Please RSVP attendance to:

Wendy Dyke

647-729-3627 or wdyke@cltoronto.ca

Summer Cooking Classes

Session one: July 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21

9:30 am to 3:00 pm

Victoria Park Hub

1527 Victoria Park Avenue, 2nd floor

Cost: \$90.00 non-members

\$60.00 members

Session two: July 27 to 31, 2015

9:30 am to 3:00 pm

1122 Finch Avenue West, Unit 8

Cost: \$75.00 non-members

\$50.00 members

Please contact Wendy Dyke for full details and application package

647-729-3627 or wdyke@cltoronto.ca

SCARBOROUGH REGION

Volunteer of the Year – Penny Kuhne



Penny Kuhne

Penny has volunteered at the Lawson Connection Dance since its inception. The dance was started by three moms, who wanted their young teens with intellectual disabilities to have a place to go where they could dance, listen to music and socialize. Penny's niece was one of the original attendees and when Penny heard the dance was looking for volunteers, she thought she would give it a try. This was over sixteen years ago!

In the sixteen years of volunteering, Penny has rarely missed a dance, which is held the last Friday of the month from September to June.

She arrives early to help set up and during the dance, Penny ensures everyone is having a good time. The dancers all know her well and can go to her with any help or issues, but for the most part, they just like to dance with her.

Penny stays at the dance until every dancer is safely on their way home. She creates a new flyer every year with the dance dates and details to distribute to participants and families. She also keeps an updated dancer list.

On behalf of Scarborough Council and the Connection Dance, a big thank you to Penny for being such a faithful volunteer for all these years.

Congratulations, Penny!

Upcoming Scarborough Events

Scarborough Annual Regional Meeting

1712 Ellesmere Road
Monday June 1, 2015 at 6:15pm

Bingo at Lawson

Friday May 22, 2015
1712 Ellesmere Road, 7-8:30pm
\$5 for a snack and prizes

Summer Day Respite

Two weeks of 1:1 support for children to 21 at a camp or in the community

Summer Literacy

Program from July 2-31, 2015
Cost is \$220

For more information on all of these events and to register contact Felicita Zanatta at 647-729-1635 or fzanatta@cltoronto.ca

Youth Volunteer of the Year

Youth Volunteer of the Year – Charles Wu

Charles came to Community Living Toronto in 2011 because he wanted to make a difference in the lives of individuals with an intellectual disability. As a child, Charles had a sister with Down Syndrome, who unfortunately passed away at a young age. Having lost out on supporting his sister and watching her grow, Charles wanted to put that energy into helping others.

Charles has volunteered for the past three years at Scarborough Region's Summer Literacy program, helping individuals learn spelling, reading and grammar to the best of their abilities. When summer literacy is not in session, Charles assumes the role of chairperson for Community Living Toronto's Youth Advisory Council which consists of high school youth from across the city who organize and plan projects designed to promote inclusion of individuals with a disability.

This summer, Charles will support an individual to volunteer at the 2015 Pan and Para Pan Am Games. Aside from providing front line support to individuals, Charles also volunteers behind the scenes. Last summer, he accompanied CEO Garry Pruden to Community Living Ontario's Annual General Meeting to expand his knowledge of the Developmental Services Sector, and most currently he has been lending his skills in graphic design to help with Central Region Council's Annual Spring Fling Dinner and Dance.

About his time with Community Living Toronto, Charles said: "I love volunteering with Community Living because it's comprised of people who are all extremely eager and passionate to improve the lives of individuals with an intellectual disability. Being part of this group, I can share with others my own passion for this cause and I can make a real difference in the lives of people who need it."

Congratulations, Charles!



Charles Wu

Public Relations and Fundraising Volunteer of the Year – Mark G. Johnson

For over eight years now, Mark has played an integral role in providing leadership and support to Community Living Toronto. Mark, whose nephew has an intellectual disability, has channeled that inspiration in his incredible efforts as a volunteer at Community Living Toronto.

With a strong background in finance, Mark has guided the financial governance of the Association as the Treasurer of the Board of Directors from 2007 - 2014. In this role, he chaired the Finance and Audit committee. Drawing upon his expertise in banking and investment, he has guided us on policies and strong decision making. Mark has been an invaluable leader for Community Living Toronto as we have navigated many financial challenges over the years.

Finding real and meaningful work for individuals with intellectual disabilities is also important to Mark. He is known for always “pitching” his friends on the benefits of adding someone to their business. Taking that commitment to a whole new level, Mark has championed a relationship with Dream Unlimited, one of the largest real estate asset

management companies in Canada. They have now committed to providing more than 20 full-time, competitive salary jobs across Toronto.

And if that’s not enough, Mark also pitches people for money on our behalf, whether that’s through chairing an event, championing a proposal or opening doors. Most recently, he chaired our most successful Community Rocks, raising over \$500,000!

Through his strong leadership, Mark has played a crucial role in raising the profile of Community Living Toronto. His devotion to our Association is nothing short of truly inspiring.

Congratulations Mark!



Mark G. Johnson

SELF ADVOCATES COUNCIL

SAC Volunteer of the Year – Shineeca Mcleod

Shineeca McLeod is the recipient of the 2015 Sam Samler Award. Shineeca is committed to helping others. With her caring smile and her warm attitude, Shineeca brings positive change wherever she goes.

This past year, Shineeca has worked non-stop helping to make change for people with intellectual disabilities. She helped the Self Advocates lead the rights and diversity game at the Annual Meeting. She always brings people together with her laugh and positive attitude at the Self Advocates meetings.

Shineeca presented to families along with lawyer Brendon Pooran at the Connected Families Forum. She talked about her rights, and how important it is to love everyone.

Shineeca did a presentation on bullying in the schools – and all the kids were talking about her. She was even featured on the Toronto District School Board website afterwards.

Shineeca talks about love and spirituality in her advocacy. She is a true example of how we all want to be.

Congratulations, Shineeca!



Shineeca Mcleod

NEWS

Community Living Toronto's Autism Camp at Shadow Lake August 10-15, 2015

This is a funded overnight camp for children between the ages of 12-17 who have a diagnosis of autism. The camp is ideal for children who would like to try an overnight camp for the first time but may be experiencing some barriers. The children will be able to participate in a number of outdoor activities including swimming, splash pad, paddle boats, canoes and kayaks. The ratio will be 2:1 with behavioural supports if necessary.

For more information please contact Shelly Greenberg 647-729-1627 or sgreenberg@cltoronto.ca or Linda Boyd 647-729-1630 or lboyd@cltoronto.ca
Please note: This camp is for families who have not received respite funding since April 2015.

Nominate an Outstanding Inclusive Educator!

Seventeenth Annual Award for Inclusive Education

Community Living Toronto is proud to sponsor the Seventeenth Annual Award for Inclusive Education. This award is given to recognize outstanding practices in inclusion within the classroom. Awards will be given to a teacher, principal or educational assistant in the Toronto Catholic District School Board and the Toronto District School Board.

The award is given to educators who demonstrate a belief in inclusive education by:

- Providing and modelling a welcoming, accepting environment in an age-appropriate, regular class in the neighbourhood school
- Supporting, encouraging and facilitating the inclusion of children with an intellectual disability within a full time appropriate grade classroom in their neighbourhood school
- Assisting the student to achieve their full potential by ensuring necessary classroom accommodations and curriculum modifications occur.

Use our online nomination form or download a form at

<http://connectability.ca/2015/04/02/seventeen-annual-award-for-inclusive-education-call-for-nominations/>

Nominations due by Friday May 22, 2015



May is Community Living Month!

We are celebrating the successes of individuals with an intellectual disability while continually working towards a more inclusive society where everyone belongs!

From Community Living Day at the Legislature to picking out a new logo for our Diversity initiatives, there are a number of ways Community Living Toronto will be commemorating the month.

For updated information, visit our website: <http://cltoronto.ca/may-is-community-living-month/>

Save the Date for the Annual Picnic!



Lawson Site
SATURDAY
JUNE 13th, 2015
11AM - 3PM

Community Living Toronto
annual picnic



15th Annual

COMMUNITY LIVING
Ontario

Day at the Legislature

May 11, 2015

Community Living is holding its annual Community Living Day at the Legislature on Monday, May 11, 2015. Since 2000, this annual event has provided an opportunity for members and friends of community living to meet with members of the provincial legislature to celebrate the work we have done collectively to create a more inclusive society and to look ahead at the work that still lays before us. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

Who is invited?

Community Living welcomes all of its members, community partners and friends to join us.

What events are planned?

- The main event of the day is a lunch reception being held from 11:30 to 12:30 in room 230 of the main legislature building. All members and friends of Community Living are welcome to attend the luncheon and meet with members of the legislature.
- Take a Break – once again we will be providing a package of Kit Kat bars to be delivered to each MPP office which will include a message about the work of community living and an invitation for the MPP and his/her staff to "take a break" on us.
- At 1:00 PM participants are invited to attend the afternoon legislative session in the House where the work of Community Living will be recognized by MPPs.

What else should I plan to do while at the Legislature?

You are encouraged to seek a meeting with your local MPP during your visit to the Legislature to deliver the package of Kit Kat bars and discuss what is happening in your community with regard to the inclusion of people who have an intellectual disability.

Is there a cost?

There is no charge for attending this event, the luncheon is provided courtesy of Community Living Ontario and Community Living Toronto.

Registration

For security reasons, visitors' names must be submitted in advance. To register, please email: Terri Meshwork at

teri@communitylivingontario.ca

or call Terri at
(416) 447-4348, Ext. 228
by May 4, 2015 (Include attendee name and local association)

Space is limited.

Please indicate if wheelchair access to the legislature is required.

This event is Co-Sponsored by Community Living Ontario and Community Living Toronto.