

COMMUNICATOR

Community Living Georgina

*Providing supports and services to people with a developmental disability
in the community of Georgina for forty years.*



Member Agency of the
United Way of York Region



Summer 2009

"CAMP HOPE" A NEW BEGINNING

The Summer Program has been a part of Community Living Georgina since its inception in 1968. In early years, the Summer Program was dependent on volunteers to provide recreational activities. As children aged, the Summer Program primarily encompassed adults. In 2000, Community Living enhanced its service to provide a Summer Program for children aged 12-21 for which no program currently existed. This program which initiated with one full-time staff and one part-time assistant has grown to include five full-time workers. The Association has recognized the increased need to support families living in the community. Substantial efforts have been made to raise funds to provide a more secure funding source for the Summer Program. As we continue to try to enhance supports, we are excited to announce a new partnership with Eaglewood Family Resort & Park in Pefferlaw. Located right within our own community, this resort provides 90 acres of natural woodland, a greater camp-like setting, and is fully wheelchair accessible. In honour of our founding member Hope Thompson, we have proudly renamed our Program "Camp



Participant, Tyler Stanfield, presents Hope Thompson with flowers during her visit to the camp.

Hope", representing not only one parent's dream for their child with a developmental disability, but also the "hope" for a society that acknowledges inclusion for everyone. For information regarding Camp Hope, please contact Nicole Dunphy, Family Care Program at (905) 722-8947 Ext. 306.



Zoo to You visited the Skills Program in July to kick-off our summer activities. Thomas the large, old, tortoise ambled around the room while people viewed or interacted with the other animals which included: a tarantula, baby alligator, prairie dog, rabbit, chinchilla, house hippo and a gecko. We watched as some animals snacked on fruit, vegetables, and flower petals. We even witnessed the chinchilla taking a dust bath. While everyone was sad to say “goodbye” the day proved to be fun and informative.

Submitted by Anne Joyce

Small Gestures Leave Big Impression



Mark is recognized for his leadership and efforts to promote inclusion

Mark Sloan, a student at Sutton District High School was nominated and chosen as an award recipient for both the 2009 York Region Character Community Awards and the York Region Board of Education Celebrating Student Success Awards. In the words of his teachers, “Mark has shown leadership by encouraging inclusion throughout our community”. Despite challenges with cerebral palsy, Mark’s determination and perseverance helped him develop a skill in basketball from a sitting position in his wheelchair. He shows courage in facing his challenges

every day. When interacting with people, he is inclusive, compassionate, and honest. Whenever he senses someone needs help, he offers assistance to the best of his ability. He has a special way of drawing people into his conversation and as a result has engaged other students to stop, listen and interact with him in a positive way. When asked why it is important for everyone to be included, Mark answers, “Everyone is important. Everyone needs to feel good”.

Taken from nomination letter, submitted by Barb Heyd and Debbie Kleinsteuber

The COMMUNICATOR is published by Community Living Georgina.. We are non-profit and support people with a developmental disability who live in the Town of Georgina.

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Recognizing Artistic Talents



Art

In April, three ladies supported at Community Living, were recognized formally for their artistic talents through IDEAL-WAY's Art Contest and their pictures were proudly displayed in the McKay Art Centre in Unionville. The art contest is one example of IDEAL-WAY's unique approach to positively re-educating mainstream society by publicly empowering people who have an intellectual disability.

Poetry

At our Annual General Meeting, we were honoured to have Mr. Robert Hajjar, of IDEAL-WAY as our guest speaker. Guests found his presentation both motivating and inspirational. We were extremely proud to learn that Natasha Pearson of Georgina, had placed second in their national poetry competition with her poem "Dead and Buried" Congratulations Natasha!



Dance

On October 3, 2009, Community Living Georgina's D.A.N.C.E. presented a heart-warming rendition of "Beauty and the Beast". More than 300 people attended the two performances. There were over 50 participants and a lot of help from many gracious volunteers who assisted in making the production such a success. The culmination of your efforts truly shows what can be accomplished if people are provided with an opportunity. "Learning to dance gives you the greatest freedom of all; to express your whole self, the person you are." - Melissa Hayden



Helping in Many Ways



Community Living Georgina is gearing up for its Annual United Way of York Region Employee Campaign. Team In-Sync participated in the United Way's Dragon Boat kick-off event on August 15th and were successful in winning the Agency Challenge, award for "Best Dressed" team, and more importantly contributed \$5,986 to our campaign efforts. A big thank you to everyone for all of your hard work and commitment!



Community Living Georgina was very grateful to have been selected as recipient for two United Way of York Region, Day of Caring projects. On May 13th, eight volunteers from Davis + Henderson assisted by painting and planting at the home of three individuals who we support. The supplies were graciously donated and the experience was memorable for all involved. Thank you for assisting to make a "house" a "home".



On Thursday October 1st, four volunteers from York Region Media Group, stepped up to the challenge of providing their artistic talents to our production of "Beauty and the Beast". The beautiful scenery you painted was proudly displayed and we would like to thank you for contributing to our event, where everyone lived "happily ever after"

UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CRAFT & BAKE SALE



Georgina Ice Palace
(Upper Level), Keswick
Saturday, November 7th
9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Luncheon will be available
from 10am – 1pm

6' Rectangle Tables – \$25.00 each



MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

A Family Membership is
\$15.00
(less than .05 cents a day)

In December, we will be sending out Membership applications. Membership is a great way for both families and Community Living to stay informed.

Fees are renewed on an annual basis January to December.

**Membership is one of the greatest gifts
you can give!**