

Engaging Talent - Focusing on Abilities

Brantwood hosted Brantford's Second Annual Disabilities Mentoring Day on October 26th, in collaboration with Dolphin Digital Technologies. Eight people had the opportunity to show employers that it is their abilities that count, not their disability. They spent the day working at local businesses and organizations. The day helps employers see the benefits of hiring people with disabilities, and also helps to dispel some common misconceptions. Mentees have the opportunity to utilize their skills and learn about different jobs and career paths while also discovering new talents that they didn't know they possessed. Participating organizations involved this year were: The City of Brantford, Brantford Cyclepath, the Hampton Inn, ShopBrantford, Toppers Pizza, the Brantford Symphony Orchestra, and PCT Computers.

Brantwood would like to thank all of the mentors and mentees for their participation in this year's event.



Paul Ahn helping to build a computer at PCT Computers



Toppers Pizza staff with Avery Kloss of ShopBrantford



Alyssa Lamanna helping plan activities for the toddlers group at Doug Snooks Community Centre.

Raising the Bar: Reaching Goals

By Alyssa Serafin-Lamanna



Andrea and David meet Kristen their new Boss at Braemar

"We worked with two graduates of the Work-Abilities program this summer. They both had an interest in gardening and we needed help weeding our garden beds over the summer months when our Garden Club was not in school. Dave and Andrea were reliable, hard-working individuals. They followed instructions and did what was asked of them. They were very pleasant to be around and we enjoyed having them here. It was a very rewarding experience and we would recommend this to other workplaces."

- Kristin Pass, Executive Director, Braemar School



Andrew working on his book with Ashley

The Work-Abilities program aims to help individuals with a variety of challenges achieve their employment or volunteer related goals. I am currently enrolled in the Work-Abilities program and have enjoyed the opportunity to use my skills. I am a registered Early Childhood Educator with the intention of becoming an advocate for people with different challenges. I completed the ECE program offered by Mohawk College because I wanted to help children reach their full potential. I want to teach, support and empower them to believe that they can achieve any goal they imagined. In other words, teach them the importance of being advocates for themselves and others.

Being a participant in the Work-Abilities program has given me many opportunities to demonstrate my strongest employment skill - communications. I have contributed to the Work-Abilities monthly newsletter, and recently wrote an article called "Giving Back: The importance of volunteering" where I discussed my volunteer work with the YMCA as an English Language Development Tutor.

"Being a participant in the Work-Abilities program has given me many opportunities to demonstrate my strongest employment skill"

Work-Abilities also benefitted David and Andrea who were employed by Braemar House School for the summer, helping to maintain their beautiful gardens. Another graduate of the program, Andrew, has been working on accomplishing his goal of writing a memoir-style book with the help of his dad, friend Todd and volunteer Ashley. His motivation behind writing the book comes from his enjoyment of writing and his desire to be become a motivational speaker. He recently signed an editing and publishing agreement with Cavern of Dreams Publishing.

Work-Abilities has been a very beneficial program for myself, David, Andrea and Andrew as well as many others and it will definitely continue to be a great program going forward!

The Work-Abilities program is funded through a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.



Summer Memories



Henry & John rented a cottage



Paul meets Kelly Ripa



Liz volunteered with Equal Ground Community Garden



David & Chad competed in the Special Olympics qualifier



Danny volunteered with Ichthys Theatre

New experiences, new opportunities, achieving goals and realizing dreams were all part of Summer 2016 at Brantwood.

In October, Paul fulfilled a dream in meeting Kelly Ripa after attending LIVE with Kelly in New York City. Live with Kelly is his favourite show and he's been wanting to meet Kelly in person and attend the show for a long time. He also had a great time soaking in the sights and sounds of New York.

Henry and John rented a cottage at Lion's Head on the Bruce Peninsula where they enjoyed early morning fishing at the marina and late evening fishing at the cottage, as well as breathtaking sunsets.

Liz had a great experience volunteering with Equal Ground Community Garden which inspired her to start a "pay it forward" garden at her home.

Danny volunteered with the Ichthys Theatre, working front of house to greet visitors. He is currently enrolled in a dramatic arts class at Participation House where he is learning to use his communication system Proloquo2go.

David and Chad competed in the Special Olympics qualifier in Brantford. Sports are very important to both of them and they trained very hard, but in the end it was the friendships and social aspect that was just as important as the competition.

Community Connections: Seven Years Means a Lot!



For the past seven years Marcel has been volunteering with the Brant Chamber of Commerce shredding documents for the Chamber. He is always excited to get to his job and starts work right away. He is independent with his job and takes great pride in being able to help out. Charlene Nicholson, the Chamber's CEO, says that Marcel is extremely focused when he works and is very methodical and detailed.

Over time Marcel's volunteering has grown into so much more than a job. When his shredding work is finished he seeks out Charlene to have a coffee break with him before he leaves. Through this routine a meaningful connection for both of them has developed. They have come to know a lot about each other over the past seven years. Marcel's support staff, Brandi, says that he "lights up" when the two of them are in conversation. "Marcel is so relaxed and content in Charlene's company. He responds with lots of eye contact, flirty smiles, winks and laughs." Brandi says that Marcell usually tends to drink his coffee very quickly, but when he is with Charlene he drags it out as long as he possibly can.

Charlene, who is also a Board Member at Brantwood, says that she and others working at the Chamber know and appreciate the value Marcel brings to their agency - "We adore Marcel!"

To find out how you can get involved with Brantwood's Volunteer program contact Deb Thornberry at 519-753-2658 ext.461.

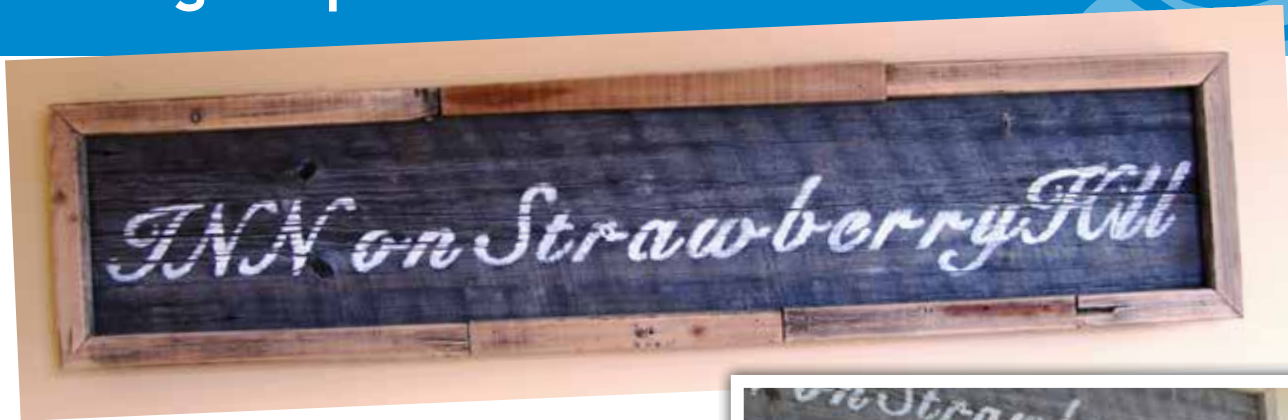
Host a Third Party Event and Support Brantwood Community Services

Each year Brantwood benefits from a number of community fundraisers. These events help to raise critical funds for equipment, recreation programs and respite services that are not covered by government funding. If you or your organization is looking for a way to give back to the community, please consider organizing a special event and help Brantwood deliver the services and supports that make such a difference in people's lives. We can provide you with the tools you need to host a successful event, and we can provide tax receipts for donations.

For more information contact Bruce Mackenzie at 519-753-2658 Ext. 114.



Relaxing Respite



At Brantwood we understand the importance of having time to relax and “recharge our batteries.” Our respite supports provide opportunities for families to enjoy worry-free relaxation, knowing that their loved one is also enjoying a supported respite experience. A new option for families is the Inn on Strawberry Hill which provides an all-inclusive, hotel-like respite that is open one weekend a month.

Guests of the Inn have access to a warm-water hydrotherapy pool in the Recreation Therapy Centre, a Snoezelen multi-sensory room, a television and lounge, kitchen and Fitness Centre, as well as a variety of opportunities to explore local community attractions.

Guests of the Inn have 24 hour supports with highly-skilled Direct Support Professionals. There is an emphasis on personal choice and we aim to accommodate everyone’s needs and wants and make it a fun and relaxing weekend.

Dates for booking a space at the Inn for 2016 are December 9-11. The next dates in 2017 are January 27-29. Contact Vicki Schwyer-Querney at 519-753-2658 x.148 for more information.



Recreation Therapy Centre Manager, Vicki Schwyer-Querney with Inn on Strawberry Hill guest Clayton Trovato

Image courtesy of Brant News



A HubScrub for Brantford



Brantwood has started a fundraising campaign to purchase a HubScrub. This is a new service that we believe will have an important impact on the community.

A HubScrub is a medical equipment washer that automatically cleans and disinfects wheelchairs, shower chairs and walkers. The goals of the project are to reduce labour time, help control infections and provide a more efficient and consistent way to clean wheelchairs.

This will be the first HubScrub for Brantford and for the region. It will be a service that Brantwood will offer to anyone in the community to use. This includes people in Brantford, and Brant, Haldimand and Norfolk Counties. This also includes other agencies in the area which are providing supports to people with mobility challenges, such as seniors homes.

The HubScrub will also provide a job to a person with a disability. Brantwood's Work-Abilities program is a pre-employment training program that assists people in finding competitive employment. Managing the HubScrub would provide a part-time position for someone who has graduated from the Work-Abilities program.

Brantwood's goal for the project is \$26,000, which includes the cost of the HubScrub, delivery and installation. To date \$13,000 has been raised towards this project. The campaign is important because equipment such as the HubScrub is not funded by the government ministry that supports Brantwood. Funds for these purchases must be raised through fundraising efforts.

We are asking for your help to bring the HubScrub to Brantford and help us provide a quick and efficient wheelchair cleaning process that we can offer to anyone in the community. You will also help provide a job and a training opportunity for someone with a disability. We hope to have the HubScrub in place by early 2017.

**Donations to the HubScrub
campaign can be made
through our Canadahelps
donation portal: go to
www.canadahelps.ca
and choose the
HubScrub Campaign**

20th Anniversary Charity Golf Tournament



The Brantwood Foundation hosted the 20th Anniversary Charity Golf tournament on May 28th at Northridge Municipal Golf Course.

One-hundred-and thirty-one golfers braved the high temperatures and came out to Northridge on May 28th to participate in the tournament. Over 40 corporate and community sponsors supported the event which raised net proceeds of \$26,000.

We would like to thank the 80 local businesses and individuals who donated silent and live auction items. Thank you, also, to Strodes BBQ & Deli for generously donating the lunch for the event. Other in-kind sponsors include Advantage Vinyl Signs and Graphics, Zehrs King George Road, Bill Dickenson of the Preferred Auction Company, Advanced Cellular/Bell and Blueprint Agencies.

The event could not have taken place without the support of over 30 volunteers, Brantwood staff and the involvement of people supported by Brantwood who both volunteered and who made gift items for golfers as well as items for the silent auction.

Funds raised at the event go towards the purchase of a wheelchair accessible vehicle for Brantwood. The accessible vehicles play a key role in keeping the people that Brantwood supports active in the community.

A NEW WAY TO SUPPORT BRANTWOOD

There is now a great new way to support Brantwood. You do this through a monthly Gift Card program that costs you nothing (other than what you already spend on groceries and gas each month) plus you get a charitable tax receipt at the end of the year. It's easy. The gift cards are sent right to your home.

To learn more and to sign up visit: www.loyaltyfunding.ca/brantwood

Leave a Legacy

Are you looking for a way to make a lasting impact on the lives of adults and transition-aged youth with developmental challenges? A bequest to the Brantwood Foundation though your will is an easy and direct way to ensure that Brantwood is able to continue delivering essential services to the people we support and their families.

Please contact the foundation office at 519-753-2658 x.114 for additional information.

This is your opportunity to build a personal legacy.

The Brantwood Foundation 2016-2017 Board of Directors

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Ron Birkett	Robb Nagy
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EXT	NAME	POSITION	EXT	NAME	POSITION
343	ATKINS, Marianne	425 Bell Lane Supervisor			
302	ATKINS, Rachel	SIL Apt 1&2 Supervisor	100	MACAULAY, Janet	Admin. Support/Reception
175	BASARKE, Anita	Seating Clinic Consultant	114	MACKENZIE, Bruce	Fundraising Development Co-ordinator
361	BLENKINSOP, Jacki	Quality Assurance Manager	147	MACKIE, Tracy	346 Nelson Supervisor
231	BROUGHTON, Lori	Support Services Director	129	MARSH, Heather	Mt. Pleasant Supervisor
111	BUCKLEY, Pat	Accountant	113	O'NEILL, Brigette	Support Services Director
140	CALDER, Chris	Facilities Supervisor	134	ORNAWKA, Brian	Information Technologist
143	CAMPER, Martyn	Kerr Shaver Supervisor	121	READ, Jaclyn	Dundas Supervisor
321	CASEY, Audrey	Nurse Manager	246	RIDDLE, Paul	Seating Technician
345	CREW, Lori	Paris Road Supervisor	136	PRITCHARD, Sarah	Outreach Employment Facilitator
115	DUARTE, Rebecca	Admin Assistant	139	SCHUIT, Kristina	RTC Supervisor
301	GORDON, Betty	Beckett Supervisor	148	SCHWEYER-QUERNEY, Vicki	Passport/Recreation Therapy Centre Manager
146	HARDMAN, Richard	Seating Technician	112	SILVERTHORN, Melissa	Human Resources Generalist
119	HARRIGAN, Catherine	Kinesiologist	461	THORNBERRY, Deb	Community Connections
124	HOFFMAN, Melissa	St. Paul Supervisor	163	THORNTON, Alice	Human Resources Manager
110	HUMPHREY, Tracy	95 Tollgate Supervisor	256	VARNES, Liz	Payroll and Benefits Administrator
224	HUNTER, Jenni	129 Tollgate Supervisor	303	WILLSON, Miranda	MacBride Supervisor
157	LINK, Jo-Anne	Executive Director	116	WOOD, Steve	Director of Finance
136	LOJZER, Sherri	Outreach Employment Facilitator			

About Brantwood

Brantwood Community Services empowers people of all abilities to have a life of their choosing. The agency operates a full range of residential supports including 13 group homes, supported independent living apartments, a variety of respite services, a Community Day Supports program, a Recreation Therapy Centre and a Seating Clinic that produces customized seating and positioning products. For more information on Brantwood Community Services visit www.brantwood.ca



*Brantwood is earth friendly! Save a tree by registering for an electronic copy of the Brantwood newsletter!
E-mail bmackenzie@brantwood.ca with your name, email address, and that you want to receive the E-Newsletter.*