

## Brantwood Receives Major Funding to Improve Accessibility

On April 18, 2017 The Honourable Dr. Helena Jaczek, Ontario's Minister of Community and Social Services, was at Brantwood to announce \$192,000 in funding from the Social Housing Improvement Program for facility upgrades to improve accessibility for the people that we support.

The funding will provide new flooring at two of Brantwood's group homes as well as 23 X-Y ceiling lifts at four group homes. The lifts and flooring will improve accessibility by providing individuals who use wheelchairs safe access to all areas of their homes.

After a tour of the facility the Minister said that she learned a few new things through her visit and commented on how unique Brantwood was in terms of the variety of services and activities offered.

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*"I see so many services coming together," she said afterward. It's a real model for others to follow."*

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With respect to government programs she said "There is no one size fits all. It's all very individualized needs especially in those with developmental challenges. As we transform, for the better, away from institutions towards more group home situations, from shelter to employment, we need to be mindful of people."



*Insert [From left to right]: Brantwood Executive Director Jo-Anne Link with Christina Haddad from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), Brantwood Board Chair Dr. Alfred Hauk, M.P.P. Dave Levac, Minister Helena Jaczek, and Councillor Cheryl Antoski representing the City of Brantford*

The funding for Brantwood was part of a larger announcement by the governments of Canada and Ontario of more than \$4.1 million in funding to more than 160 projects in 46 community agencies across Ontario. The funding is to improve and maintain the quality of dedicated supportive housing for individuals who require support services to continue living independently in the community.

# A Tradition of Giving Back

People supported by Brantwood are active in the community and give back in many ways. Over the past year, people supported by Brantwood have volunteered at John Noble Home, Agnes Hodge Public School, the Closet Door, the YMCA children's drop in program, the Chamber of Commerce, the Brantford Christian School, the Salvation Army Food Bank, Amani Acres, Friendship House, and K9 Case Dog Training.

Continuing in this tradition of giving back, people supported by Brantwood have been actively fundraising for charities and causes that are close to their hearts. Alyssa has organized a series of paint parties to spread her love of art and raise funds for Brantwood's United Way Campaign. So far she has raised \$188.00. Rick organized a cupcake day and raised \$254 for his favorite cause, the Brant County SPCA. Finally, Cody trained very hard for the Rotary Classic 5K run on April 30 which he completed in a great time of 33 minutes.



*Rick's Cupcake Fundraiser*



*Alyssa's Paint Party*



*Cody and Tabitha*

# Work-Abilities

**Work-Abilities** is a pre-employment and skills-development program that assists people with developmental disabilities prepare for employment. The program aims to: increase the number of people with developmental challenges obtaining competitive employment; reduce social isolation; and assist in creating workplaces that are inclusive and diverse.



*Calvin and Scott at Natural Path Fitness and Nutrition*

Work-Abilities continues to adjust to meet the individual needs of participants. There is a new focus around identifying practical occupational skills, developing competencies through hands on practice and then community based work trials.

Over the past few months, Work-Abilities has developed a new partnership with the W. Ross McDonald School. The students in the graduating class have been learning the curriculum and practicing occupational skills in classes. They are now moving into the placement phase of the program and some of them are beginning their work trials at various locations within the community. Two of the students who have an interest in fitness, health and nutrition will be doing their work trial at Natural Path Fitness. A student with strong swimming skills and a love of the pool will be providing program assistance at the Hydrotherapy Pool in Brantwood's Recreational Therapy Centre.

Past Work-Abilities graduates have all found placements in the community. Paul A. has been working at the Brantford Museum. Alyssa F. has been working on a plan to create a business providing healthy home cooked meals. David C. has been volunteering at Amani Acres and is looking at building a business with Andrea providing light garden care and maintenance. Eddie V. and Kristian B. have an interest in music and will both be doing a placement with Pinks Productions which provides music event organization. And Dennis S. has a volunteer position at John Noble Home playing games and socializing with the residents. Andrew N., with the help of Ashley, is continuing work on his book and getting feedback from his editor. Andrew is also participating in the Business Planning and Strategic Planning Workshops to help with his overall business plan to sell his book and begin his tour as an inspirational public speaker.



*Ben and his PATH*

Work-Abilities has been very fortunate to have benefited from the assistance of two local college students completing placements. Their contribution through this partnership has been invaluable and they will be missed. Good luck to Georgia Tooke from Mohawk College and Cori McLean from Fanshawe in completing their Social Service Worker programs and in their careers!

One of the most important parts of the Work-Abilities program is the use of our discovery process. This specialized training includes one of three different types of facilitation exercises. GIFTS is the use of a group setting to record the skills, qualities and gifts that each person individually brings to the world of those around them and then seeks to creatively find ways that allow the person to put them to good use for themselves and others in the community. PATHS and MAPS are both graphic facilitations that help a participant envision where they want to go in life by solidifying what they want to accomplish and the steps to get there with the support of the people around them.

***Thank you to Meridian Credit Union and the Rotary Club of Brantford Sunrise for their support of the Work-Abilities program.***





# Volunteers: The Heart of Brantwood



We are pleased to report that seven of Brantwood's current volunteers have been taken off the "volunteer" list as their relationship with some of the people supported by Brantwood has transitioned into friendship. Having meaningful relationships is instrumental in enhancing quality of life, and it is important that people we support have friends in their lives. Many of our volunteers feel uncomfortable with the "V" word and see themselves simply as friends of the people we support.

At the 2017 Ontario Volunteer Service Awards ceremony on April 7th, four of Brantwood's volunteers were honoured with awards. Board Member Doug Fulcher received an award in the 5 Year category and Foundation Board Member Vyr Sisson in the 35+ Years category. Not able to attend were Foundation Board Member Rudy Florio who received a 10 Year Award and Honourary Board Member Patrice Burke who celebrated 15 years of volunteer service. We congratulate all of the volunteers on their milestones and thank them for their years of service to Brantwood and the Community.

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## Rachel Mitchell

Rachel Mitchell is a high school student at St. John's College who started out as a pool volunteer with Brantwood in the Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) program (she is also a lifeguard at Brant Park). She volunteered for a year, and in January began her high school volunteer placement with Brantwood. This includes helping with different programs, including fitness classes, the cooking program and the Foundations for Success day supports program. Rachel will be with Brantwood until June.



*Rachel and Matthew*



### BRANTWOOD'S VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

*To find out how you can get involved contact Deb Thornberry at 519-753-2658 ext.461.*

# The Brantwood Seating Clinic

Since 1980, the Brantwood Seating Clinic has designed and manufactured custom seating and positioning products to optimize safety, comfort, independence and support of people who require specialized seating products or adaptive equipment.

The Seating Department includes a team of highly qualified technicians augmented by an Occupational Therapist and Kinesiologist. Customers access our specialized seating clinic from across the province to assist in solving complex seating challenges.

This service, which includes assessment, recommendations, design, fabrication and installation of custom seating and mobility products, is available to any individual or facility that requires specialized seating or adaptive equipment. We are authorized to assess and prescribe mobility devices under the Assistive Device Program of the Ontario Ministry of Health.

**For more information contact the Seating Clinic at (519) 753-2658, Ext. 146 or Email: [seating@brantwood.ca](mailto:seating@brantwood.ca)**



*Nathan and Seating Technician Richard Hardman*

## HubScrub - Now Open for Business



*Eddie working on a wheelchair*

Earlier this year, Brantwood purchased a HubScrub, which is a medical equipment washer that cleans and disinfects wheelchairs as well as bath and shower chairs and walkers. This automated cleaning and disinfects wheelchairs, shower chairs and walkers. The HubScrub will clean and sanitize an entire chair in minutes, a process that can take several hours by hand.

Our automated wheelchair cleaning service is now available for anyone in the community to purchase. To book your appointment call 519-753-2658 ext. 100.

Brantwood has also been using the HubScrub as a training opportunity for people in the Work-Abilities program. Seating Technician Drew has been providing training to several people over the past few months. The eventual goal is to have a person supported by Brantwood manage the HubScrub on an ongoing basis.



*Scott working with Drew*

# The Brantwood Foundation



## Wheelchair Basketball Tournament

The 27th Annual Wheelchair Basketball Tournament took place on January 21, 2017. The event was a great success, with sixteen teams competing for four trophies and helping to raise funds for Brantwood Community Services and Participation House Brantford. We were pleased to see such strong community support from organizations, associations, companies, the City of Brantford, and individuals from across Brantford and the County.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped at the event including all of the referees from the Brant Norfolk Basketball Association. Thank you to the 16 teams who participated. The championship trophy went to Brant Mutual, with Investors Group as the Championship runner up. The Consolation Round winner was the Brantford Firefighters Association and the consolation runner up was Paris Party.

Thank you to the Investors Group for their sponsorship of the stationary chair challenge. Thank you, also to the North Brantford Lions Club and Canadian Pioneers for hosting the event.



## The 16 teams competing this year:

- Brantford Police Association
- St. George Applefest
- Another Round
- Brant Mutual
- Ghost Encounters
- JCI
- Spoke Benders (Participation House)
- Brantford Firefighters Association
- Investors Group
- Onondaga Fire Department
- Wellington Squares
- Paris Party
- Brantwood Community Services
- Awesome Rookies
- Brant Neighbourhood Association
- Brantford Business Networking Group

## Brantford Improv Festival

Thank you to the organizers of the first ever Brant Improv festival, held on January 21st and 22nd. It was a fun and unique event that included improv comedy, art, fashion and music. All proceeds from the event were generously donated to Brantwood. Thank you to organizers Martin Smith, Kevin Proctor, Steven B. Andrews, KiS Productions, and all of the performers who took part.

*Please contact Bruce Mackenzie at 519-753-2658 ext. 114 or [bmackenzie@brantwood.ca](mailto:bmackenzie@brantwood.ca) if you or your business is interested in hosting a 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Event or company golf tournament in support of Brantwood.*



# Happenings At Brantwood

**COMPLIANCE** The Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) Compliance Inspection was conducted at Brantwood in March 2017. Brantwood was found to be 100% compliant with all 280 Quality Assurance Measures and Policy Directives. MCSS shared some 'best practices' they witnessed at Brantwood during their inspection related to documentation and progression of people's goals, orientation of employees and the personalization of people's homes. The compliance audit ensures that agencies providing support to people with developmental disabilities are adhering to ministry standards.

**SUMMER ESCAPE** Registration is now open for Summer Escape. Each week of the program has a theme with fun activities and outings planned around that theme. Summer Escape operates for six weeks during July and August. The early registration fee discount ends June 16th. Register today to reserve your spot as space is limited and fills up quickly. For a schedule and detailed outline of the weekly themes and activities visit [www.brantwood.ca/summer-escape](http://www.brantwood.ca/summer-escape)

**FOUNDATIONS FOR SUCCESS** The Foundations for Success program runs from May until August and includes classes such as Steps to Independence, Understanding Your Emotions, and Let's Get Cooking. People can still register. For more information visit [www.brantwood.ca/foundations-success](http://www.brantwood.ca/foundations-success).

**RECREATION THERAPY CENTRE GENERAL INTEREST, RECREATION AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES - SUMMER SESSION** The Summer Session (May to August, 2017) of Brantwood's General Interest, Recreation and Leisure Activities program is now out. For information about classes, please visit [www.brantwood.ca](http://www.brantwood.ca).

**WANTED : VOLUNTEER LEADERS** We are always pleased to receive applications from people who want to join our Board of Directors (for both Brantwood and/or the Brantwood Foundation). If you are interested in joining one of our Boards please let us know. You can call our main office and ask to speak with Executive Director Jo-Anne Link. Jo-Anne will have one of our current Board members call you back. Or, if you would like, you can forward a letter of interest and your resume to [jlink@brantwood.ca](mailto:jlink@brantwood.ca)

## Leave a Legacy

Are you looking for a way to make a lasting impact on the lives of adults and transitional-aged youth with developmental challenges? A bequest to the Brantwood Foundation through 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

Peter Albano	Rudy Florio
Sherron Birkett (Chair)	John McVicar (Past Chair)
Ron Birkett	Robb Nagy
Anne Buchanan	Vyrt Sisson

### Brantwood Community Services 2016-2017 Board of Directors

David Bailey (Past Chair)	Joanne Lewis
Josie Bethune	Everill Muir
Cindy Chatzis	Cory Munro
Nora Feuten	Robb Nagy
Doug Fulcher	Charlene Nicholson
Dr. Alfred Hauk (Chair)	Alayne Sokoloski
Charlene Hofbauer	Eddy Vance
Margot Kneale	

### Contact Us

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Phone: (519)753-2658 | Fax: (519)753-5639  
E-mail: [info@brantwood.ca](mailto:info@brantwood.ca)  
Visit us at: [www.brantwood.ca](http://www.brantwood.ca)



Charitable #106807324RR0001

## New Website Launched

Brantwood has launched a new website at [www.brantwood.ca](http://www.brantwood.ca). The new website features a clean and simple design and includes more detailed information about all of Brantwood's programs and services, a new News page and events listings, a section of useful resources and links, and fillable forms for requesting more information.

We will be adding new features and continuing to enhance the site over the coming months, but we also want to hear from you. Please check out the new site and let us know what you think. Let us know if there are features or information that you would like to see added. Email comments to [info@brantwood.ca](mailto:info@brantwood.ca)

## Phone List

Phone: 519-753-2658 Fax: 519-753-5639 Website: [www.brantwood.ca](http://www.brantwood.ca) Email: [info@brantwood.ca](mailto:info@brantwood.ca)

EXT	NAME	POSITION	EXT	NAME	POSITION
302	ATKINS, Rachel	SIL Apt 1&2 Supervisor	136	LOJZER, Sherri	Outreach Employment Facilitator
175	BASARKE, Anita	Seating Clinic Consultant	100	MACAULAY, Janet	Admin. Support/Reception
361	BLENKINSOP, Jacki	Quality Assurance Manager	114	MACKENZIE, Bruce	Fundraising Development Co-ordinator
231	BROUGHTON, Lori	Support Services Director	147	MACKIE, Tracy	346 Nelson Supervisor
111	BUCKLEY, Pat	Accountant	129	ESPOSITO, Nikki	Bell Lane Supervisor
140	CALDER, Chris	Facilities Supervisor	113	O'NEILL, Brigette	Support Services & Human Resources Director
143	NEWLOVE, Tammy	Kerr Shaver Supervisor	134	ORNAWKA, Brian	Information Technologist
321	NOVAK, Sherry	Nurse Manager	121	READ, Jaclyn	Dundas Supervisor
345	CREW, Lori	Paris Road Supervisor	246	RIDDLE, Paul	Seating Technician
115	DUARTE, Rebecca	Admin Assistant	136	PRITCHARD, Sarah	Outreach Employment Facilitator
	FACETTE, Janette	14 MacBride Supervisor	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	256	VARNES, Liz	Payroll and Benefits Administrator
110	HUMPHREY, Tracy	95 Tollgate Supervisor	303	WILLSON, Miranda	Scheduler
224	HUNTER, Jenni	129 Tollgate Supervisor	116	WOOD, Steve	Director of Finance
157	LINK, Jo-Anne	Executive Director			

## 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, innovative shared care, 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](http://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](mailto:bmackenzie@brantwood.ca) with your name, email address, and that you want to receive the E-Newsletter.