

Brantwood Coordinates Brantford's First Ever Disabilities Mentoring Day

Brantwood Community Services was very proud to coordinate Brantford's first ever Disability Mentoring Day on Wednesday October 28, 2015, helping participants demonstrate to local employers that it is their ability that counts, not their disability.

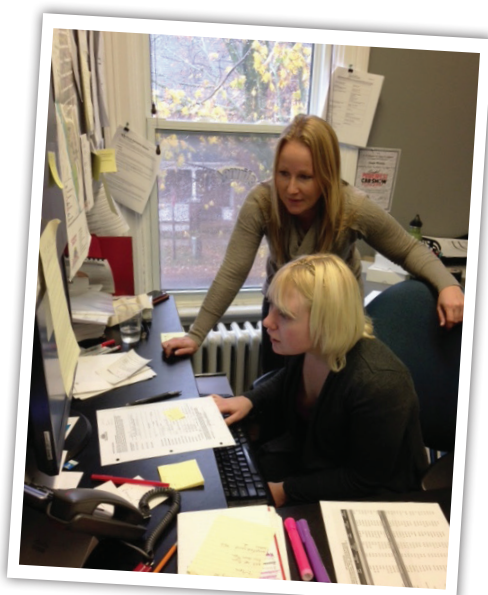
Disabilities Mentoring Day started in 2011 in Waterloo. The Making Cent\$ of Abilities Coalition (MCAC), with its partner Dolphin Digital Technologies, organized the day at local businesses and organizations with participants from a variety of backgrounds and career paths. The event has since spread to other communities and Brantwood has been chosen as the local partner to help deliver Disabilities Mentoring Day in Brantford.

The day provided opportunities for people with disabilities who are looking for careers a chance to meet with companies that utilize the skills they have or are developing through training. The mentees were able to discuss and gain insight from practicing professionals around the requirements for particular jobs, what those jobs entail and whether their skill sets are best suited for those positions. For the Mentoring organizations, the time spent with the mentees offers an opportunity to experience examples of the breadth and depth of skills that are available to a business from persons with disabilities and to ensure that their policies and facilities are welcoming to persons of all abilities.

Five organizations hosted mentees this year: Brantwood Community Services, the City of Brantford, Brantford Cyclepath, the Personal Computer Terminal, and the Brant United Way.

Stuart Querney of Brantford Cyclepath commented that "This is a fantastic opportunity for employers to tap into this under-utilized pool of talent. We feel it is important to be a part of something that opens doors and builds connections to the workforce for people with disabilities, which makes total economic sense as an employer. We are pleased and impressed that Brantwood has brought Disability Mentoring Day to Brantford and are proud to be a part of its success."

Janice Munn with Jennifer Middleton, City of Brantford's Special Events co-ordinator.



Brenda Pennings, along with Sherry Haines, Executive Director of Brant United Way.



Stuart Querney and Brent Cromwell from Brantford Cyclepath with Michael Learn.

PASSPORT: New Services for Individuals and Families



Did you know that Brantwood Community Services has several service opportunities that are available for individuals and families to purchase?

These services include:

Day Support Services • Hydrotherapy Pool • Life Skills Training and Social Programs • Pre-Employment and Job Readiness • Respite Support Services (Day, Evening, Weekend and Overnight) • Snoezelen Multi-Sensory Room • March Break and Summer Programs

Forty-eight people have used passport funding this year, purchasing 1,062 services. The 24-hour respite services, in particular, has grown significantly and we are now welcoming guests from the Hamilton area. The expansion of the Foundations for Success day program has also provided flexibility for families to purchase the days and times of services they want.

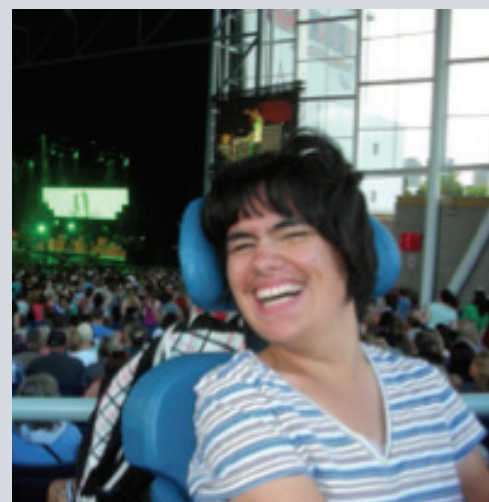
To find out how to use your Passport funding to purchase services and for more information visit: <http://www.brantwood.ca/purchase-service-passport-options>.

A Country Concert with Virginia

This summer Virginia used some of her Passport funding to experience a country concert in Toronto at the Molson Canadian Amphitheatre which featured the country artists Sam Hunt, Hunter Hayes and Lady Antebellum.

About her experience, Virginia says:

"It was awesome! I enjoyed everything, but I really liked when Lady Antebellum came really close-up behind us. It was really fantastic to see Hunter Hayes up close, and I wish I could have gotten his autograph—he's my favourite country artist! Even though I wasn't able to get his autograph, I did purchase a really amazing Hunter Hayes t-shirt. With that t-shirt I will always remember the fantastic experience. If it hadn't have been for the Passport funding, there's no way I would have been able to experience a Hunter Hayes concert. I'm really ecstatic and grateful for the Passport funding, as it allows me to experience things that I've always wanted to do. Some of my next adventures that I plan to experience using my Passport funding include, going to a Toronto Maple Leaf's hockey game, going to Ripley's Aquarium in Toronto and going up the CN Tower!"



Summer Escape



Brantwood's Summer Escape program provides a summer camp experience for transitional aged youth and adults with developmental disabilities. Participants have the opportunity to socialize with friends, develop new relationships, try new experiences and enhance personal and social skills such as team building. The program also provides families with respite support. This year's Summer Escape ran for six weeks in July and August with about 60 people participating.

Each week of the program was focused around a different theme. During the science theme week campers took a trip to the Earth and Science Museum at the University of Waterloo. They learned about things such as fossils, minerals and soils.

The group also saw the world's biggest rock, as well as walked through a simulated coal mine. Another week included a trip to the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum in Hamilton where everyone enjoyed exploring the inside of a number of different planes and using the flight simulator. The "Discover Your Community" week included trips to the Travel and Tourism Centre and Wayne Gretzky Sports Centre, the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead and Bell Homestead, and the Brant Museum and Archives and Digital Collections of the Brant Public Library.

Thank you to the City of Brantford's grant program for providing funding to help supplement the cost for those people who needed higher staffing levels.

Using Person Centred Thinking to Provide Quality Support

Person Centred Thinking is a set of values, skills and tools used in getting to know someone, what they find important and what they want out of life (their dreams, goals, aspirations). Brantwood staff use these tools to listen to people supported in partnership with families, friends and support staff.

Person-Centred Thinking tools are used in all sorts of situations; helping us plan, organize, to understand each person and to connect with communities. They are the foundation of how we work at Brantwood. Being a person-centred organization is our priority and at the heart of how we personalize supports.

When we use a person centred approach, it can enhance people's lives to:

- Have customized supports to direct their care how they want
- Have choice and control in their lives
- Keep the focus on the person, their gifts and skills, what is important to them, and how best to support them
- Assist the person to problem solve to work towards what they want
- Look at the relationships in their lives and think about opportunities to develop and enhance relationships
- Focus on what others like and admire about them
- Problem solve with others when something isn't working for them

All employees at Brantwood have received training in Person Centred Thinking. Brantwood also has three certified internal trainers who deliver training to new employees.

Family, Friends & People Using Services Survey

Every two years, Brantwood asks families and friends that are connected to people supported to give their feedback about the supports we provide. This year we also asked people supported to give us feedback.

Brantwood was extremely pleased with the results of the survey and the positive comments that people shared with us. We are also mindful of a few concerns and will use this information for future directions. Some areas for future planning include thinking about how we communicate with families and friends, how we continue to make annual planning meetings person centred, how people supported view the values and attitudes of staff and volunteers and the changes of staff.

Thanks to everyone who took the time to complete this survey and share their perspective and ideas. For inquiries about this survey or to see the full report of this survey, please contact Jacki Blenkinsop at: jblenkinsop@brantwood.ca

Family and Friends told us:

"I would say the services at Brantwood are the finest and best in Ontario. We feel that we won 'The Lottery' when our daughter was accepted to live in Brantford."

"Good strong support for individuals. Well cared for. A person with a life, not just a resident to be looked after."

"Their loved one would have a real life at Brantwood. They get such wonderful care and lots of love. The staff would bring out all the potential you do not know your loved one had."

"Brantwood is an excellent organization that continues to think outside the box in planning for my child."

"I would tell anyone that I feel the residents receive excellent care. Their individual likes and dislikes are always considered and they are treated accordingly."

"Brantwood is the very best service provider. Go and visit and see for yourself."



People using services told us:

"Of all the places I have lived, I like my home at Brantwood the best."

"The staff are awesome! I think others would enjoy it at Brantwood."

"They teach you lots of useful things at Brantwood that I can use every day."

"I like the connections I'm being supported to make."

"I love coming to Brantwood!"

Community Connections



CINDY - An Eye for Fashion

Cindy Lankin, a person supported by Brantwood, has been volunteering at the Closet Door for the past two years. The store sells gently used clothing and accessories for men, women and children. Closet Door owner Tammy Eechaute says that Cindy has an eye for fashion, and really enjoys helping shoppers, including “giving some great styling advice and taking some great customer selfies.” She says that Cindy “brings a bright spot to the Closet.” Cindy also helped out with the The Catwalk for Cancer Care “Closet Chic Fashion Show” in September. The ripple effect in the community continues as a portion of proceeds from sales at the store are donated directly back to Cancer Care at the Brant Community Healthcare System.

LUKE - A League of His Own

Luke’s Lucky Pucks, an inclusive Ball Hockey League started by Luke Turner, continued again this fall after a successful run in the Spring. Luke, who is supported by Brantwood, started the League by himself because he wanted to be part of a sports team but was unable to find one that would include him because of his disability. He researched venues, recruited volunteers and promoted his plan. The League ran in the Spring for seven weeks at the Woodman Community Centre and then again in September and October. Players of all ages and all abilities are welcome to join. As Luke’s poster slogan says “Ability is Limitless.”

Luke says, “The Ball Hockey League was an idea that I came up with to involve people from the community and my peers. I was looking for a way to aspire to a bigger dream in my life. I enjoy sporting events and getting people together and having lots of fun. ...I wanted to give back to the community and get involved.”

Players can participate by having their ball hockey sticks fastened to their wheelchairs. Those needing assistance to move about on the playing field have others assist. “This was a very rewarding and gratifying adventure,” Luke says, “as well as a personal goal that I have achieved. But stay tuned, I’m not stopping there. I hope to grow this into a bigger league. The puck will never stop here.”





New Ways of supporting Brantwood

Sign up for purchasing gift cards through Community Charity Services, with a portion of your purchase amount going back to Brantwood. Visit the website for more information and to sign up: <http://charityservices.ca/>.



Sign up to donate through www.Changelt.com. Changelt allows users to round up their daily debit, credit and mobile purchases and digitally donate the difference to Brantwood. You can also now donate Air Miles through Changelt. The service is available to clients of BMO and Royal Bank as well as a number of credit unions. For more information or to sign up visit: www.Changelt.com.

19th Annual Charity Golf Tournament



On May 28, 2015, one-hundred and fifteen golfers enjoyed a fun, sunny day at Northridge Golf Course and helped to raise funds for Brantwood. Thanks to overwhelming community support from golfers, sponsors and auction prize donors, the Golf Tournament was a great success and raised over \$40,000.

Funds generated through the Golf Tournament will assist with the purchase of capital equipment that is not covered by government funding. This includes wheelchair accessible vehicles which are key to keeping people supported participating in the community.



Community Support

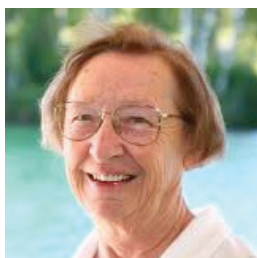
Brantwood continued to receive strong support from the community for our programs and services. Two grants were received to support the upgrade of the Multi-Sensory Room. The Multi-Sensory Room provides an environment for relaxation and learning through gentle stimulation for people who have developmental challenges, perceptual challenges and autism by stimulating their visual, auditory and tactile experiences. RBC Royal Bank Foundation provided a \$5,000 grant and the Aberdeen Health and Community Services Foundation contributed \$5,000 to support the upgrade.



Snoezelen Multi-Sensory Room

Brantwood Welcome New Board Members

Brantwood Community Services welcomed four new Board members for 2015-2016. **Margot Kneale** is retired educator from the Grand Erie Board of Education where she spent 35 years teaching elementary students. She started out her career working with children with special needs at Jane Laycock school and wanted to “pay it forward” to the community in her retirement. **Nora Fueten** was active in the opera world, and also worked as a farmer and as a minister in the United Church of Canada. **Everill Muir** is a retired social worker who worked for the C.A.S. of Brant for 31 years and has been involved with the Big Sisters of Brant. She is also a member of the band Pleasant Ridge. **Joanne Lewis** is a parent of a person supported by Brantwood and is a retired Manager from ScotiaBank. The Brantwood Foundation Board also welcomes two new members this year. **Anne Buchanan** is a Realtor with Peak Alliance Realty and was Executive Vice President of the Brantford Chamber of Commerce where she managed the Chamber staff and volunteers for over 20 years. **Angee Turnbull** is CEO of Angee T. Consulting, a Public Relations company and is a Board member of the Brant County SPCA.



Margot Kneale, Nora Fueten, Everill Muir, Anne Buchanan, Joanne Lewis and Angee Turnbull.

Upcoming Events

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

The 25th Annual Wheelchair Basketball Tournament in collaboration with Participation House Brantford will take place on **January 23, 2016** at the Branlyn Community Centre. To register a team or for more information contact: Bruce Mackenzie bmackenzie@brantwood.ca 519-753-26548 Ext. 114

CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Brantwood's 20th Annual Charity Golf Tournament will take place on May 26, 2016 at the Northridge Golf Course.

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 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 2015-2016 Board of Directors

David Bailey	John McVicar (Past Chair)
Sherron Birkett (Chair)	Rob Nagy
Anne Buchanan	Vyrt Sisson
Rudy Florio	Angee Turnbull

Brantwood Community Services 2015-2016 Board of Directors

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

Contact Us

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Phone List

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EXT	NAME	POSITION	EXT	NAME	POSITION
302	ATKINS, Rachel	SIL Apt 1&2 Supervisor	157	LINK, Jo-Anne	Executive Director
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
113	BROCKLEBANK, Ellen	Support Services Director	147	MACKIE, Tracy	Beckett Supervisor
231	BROUGHTON, Lori	Support Services Director	129	MARSH, Heather	Mt. Pleasant Supervisor
111	BUCKLEY, Pat	Accountant	134	ORNAWKA, Brian	Information Technologist
140	CALDER, Chris	Facilities Supervisor	121	READ, Jaclyn	Dundas Supervisor
143	CAMPER, Martyn	MacBride Supervisor	246	RIDDLE, Paul	Seating Technician
321	CASEY, Audrey	Nurse Manager	125	ROPPEL, Kathleen	Bell Lane Supervisor
343	DAWSON, Katherine	430 Nelson Supervisor	139	SCHUIT, Kristina	RTC Supervisor
115	DUARTE, Rebecca	Admin Assistant	148	SCHWEYER-QUERNEY, Vicki	Passport/Recreation Therapy Centre Manager
124	FACETTE, Janette	129 Tollgate Supervisor	112	SILVERTHORN, Melissa	Human Resources Generalist
345	FERRELL, Lindsay	Paris Road Supervisor	461	THORNBERRY, Deb	Community Connections
301	GORDON, Betty	St. Paul Supervisor	163	THORNTON, Alice	Human Resources Manager
146	HARDMAN, Richard	Seating Technician	256	VARNES, Liz	Payroll and Benefits Administrator
119	HARRIGAN, Catherine	Kinesiologist	303	WILSON, Miranda	Kerr Shaver Supervisor
110	HUMPHREY, Tracy	95 Tollgate Supervisor	116	WOOD, Steve	Director of Finance
224	HUNTER, Jenni	346 Nelson Supervisor			

About Brantwood

Brantwood Community Services empowers people with developmental challenges in their pursuit of a full life. 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, 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.