

Wish it, Dream it, Do it!

In December 2015, Brantwood received an Ontario Trillium Foundation Grow Grant to expand and enhance our Work-Abilities program. With this funding, Brantwood is now able to offer this specialized employment program at no cost to anyone with a disability that is interested in learning about ways they can earn their own income. With the expansion, the participants of the program will explore new avenues such as self employment and job customization. We will help them identify their strengths, discover areas of interest and find the type of employment that is right for them.

Virginia Hess (right) is a graduate of the Work-Abilities program and has an interest in working with children. To explore this option further, Virginia volunteered with the City of Brantford, Doug Snooks March Break Camp. Virginia was thrilled with this opportunity and it helped her clarify her employment goals. She says that "volunteering is important to me as it opens up more doors to get a job and I like being more involved in my community." Virginia also commented on the support she received from Deb Thornberry, Community Connections Facilitator: "I am truly thankful for Deb and the opportunity to volunteer. Without her, I do not think I would have reached my goal."



Julia Hunter, (left) franchise partner of Topper's Pizza on King George Road reached out to Brantwood as they had a opening on their team and asked us to assist in finding a qualified candidate. Brenda Pennings a graduate of the Work-Abilities program was very interested in this opportunity. Brantwood supported Brenda through the application process and worked with the employer to lay the ground work for a successful transition. We are very happy to report she was successful in obtaining employment. "I feel like I have something to wake up to and do in the mornings," says Brenda. "Having a job is very meaningful to me. Topper's Pizza is an excellent place to work". Not only has her self confidence and bank account grown, but she can also make a great pizza. If you know of a employment opportunity for one of our graduates or would like to know more, please contact us at 519-753-2658, Ext. 139.

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

Community Connections



Richard and Rose-Anne Camus

Richard's SPCA Fundraiser

Richard Kaiser, a person supported by Brantwood, has a strong love of animals and supporting animal welfare organizations is his way of giving back to the community. One of his favorite organizations is the Brant County SPCA where he has been collecting and bringing in donations of toys for several years. Rick has also been a volunteer at K-Case Dog Training and Recreation Centre since the summer of 2013 where he helps to get dogs comfortable with people in wheelchairs.

On February 26, 2016, Richard organized a Cupcake day fundraiser to coincide with the National Cupcake Day fundraising initiative, in support of the Brant County SPCA. Richard raised a total of \$667.00 which he passed on to Rose-Anne Camus, Community Engagement Coordinator with the SPCA. In accepting the money, Rose-Anne expressed her deep gratitude for everything Richard has done for the SPCA. Richard in turn passed on his thanks to everyone who helped to make the day a great success, including the staff at Brantwood's 430 Nelson home.

A New Van for Brantwood

We were very pleased in late March to receive a new Wheelchair Accessible Van for Brantwood's Beckett home.

Purchasing the van was the result of a fundraising campaign that extended over the past year. We would like to extend a huge thank you to all the donors and funders who helped with the purchase of the van, including the J.P. Bickell Foundation, as well as all of the golfers and sponsors who supported Brantwood's golf tournament last year.

The accessible vans play a key part in keeping the people Brantwood supports active in the community. The new Beckett van will make an important difference in the lives of the people who live there.





A New Voice on Brant's Accessibility Advisory Committee

Tim Clipperton, who lives at Brantwood's Mt. Pleasant home received word in early April that his application to join the **County of Brant's Accessibility Advisory Committee** had been approved. In his application letter, Tim said that...

"as a person with a disability in Mt. Pleasant, it is important for my voice to be heard. I believe I can contribute to the committee though experience and I believe I can help other people living with disabilities in Brant County overcome barriers to accessibility."

One specific goal Tim has is to help the Mt. Pleasant community by advocating to extend the sidewalks along Mt. Pleasant Rd. He and the people he shares his home with are unable to enjoy walking in their community because the sidewalk ends five houses before their home. We look forward to hearing about the future work of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Scott's Trip to Daytona

*As reported by Jackie Syms,
Direct Support Professional*



The adventure for Scott Tweedle, Melissa and I began bright and early on February 15th when we loaded up the van and headed south for a week in Daytona. We crossed the boarder at the Peace Bridge and stopped the first night in Whytheville Virginia. We were on the road again very early the next day and arrived at our hotel in Daytona Beach by dinner time. Over the next few days we explored the town, checking out the pier, different restaurants, the boardwalk carnival and some surf shops. Scott enjoyed time at the pool and at the poolside patio for lunch. We were successful in getting to the beach after several attempts at finding a spot where we could get Scott's chair through the sand. The water was fairly calm but much too cold to swim. We put our feet in, but the water needed much more of the Daytona sun to warm it up for our liking.

The best part of the trip was race day. This was the first Daytona 500 in the new stadium which had hundreds of vendors and thousands of people. We checked out the vendors, bought some souvenirs and got some free swag. We found our seats and watched the Thunderbirds pre-race airshow. Florida Georgia Line was the opening band and Gerard Butler announced "Drivers start your engines." It was great to see the fans stand and cheer as the cars roared passed. That day was definitely something every race fan should experience. We were happy to make Scott's dream of seeing a Nascar race come true with the first and biggest race of the season.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Dawn and Mia



Dawn and Mia

Mia first met Dawn in 2013 when Mia was volunteering at Brantwood running an evening art program for the community in which Dawn participated. Mia recognized Dawn's passion for art and wanted to help foster that talent within her. She began spending time with Dawn on a weekly basis.

Mia says that she started volunteering at Brantwood because she wanted to be involved with an organization that helps to improve the lives of individuals with developmental challenges.

When asked what she most enjoys about volunteering, Mia says that "Brantwood allows me to share what I am most passionate about which includes art, music and connecting with people who have developmental challenges. The participants I have met at Brantwood fill my heart with so much joy. They inspire me to be a better person through their grace, strength, and the love they so easily share. Brantwood provides an atmosphere that makes people feel respected as well instilling a feeling of inclusion. This is very important, especially for people who have been marginalized, ostracized and isolated."

For someone considering a volunteer opportunity with Brantwood, Mia notes: "Once you become a volunteer at Brantwood, you will see how amazing it feels to be a part of something really special. You will meet some of the kindest, most wonderful, fun-loving people. You will feel like you are connected to something much bigger than yourself. You will experience a more meaningful life, and have so much more to look forward to."

Family & Friends told us:

"Tonight I met a volunteer at my daughter's group home. I had heard that someone came on Wednesday nights to visit with Dawn, to do arts and crafts. ...It is so heartwarming to know that there are wonderful people out there such as Mia who give of themselves to brighten someone's day!

- ELIZABETH CROSS, DAWN'S MOTHER

"I was thrilled to meet Dawn's mother, as I had always wondered who raised this beautiful young lady I get to spend time with. ...Her mother is such an inspiration to me. I had an opportunity to observe her interact with her daughter.... reading to her....painting Dawn's nails...and seeing how very much Dawn is loved. Dawn is such a bright spot in my life and I look forward to seeing her each week. I am so grateful to be in her life!! Thank you from the bottom of my heart."

- MIA

Another Successful United Way Campaign



Brantwood celebrated another very successful United Way campaign in 2015. Brantwood staff raised \$10,000 for the Brant United Way and its 20 member agencies through fundraising events and payroll donations.

At the United Way recognition awards ceremony in January, Brantwood received the Spirit Award in recognition of our great campaign and outstanding efforts. Thank you to all the Brantwood staff who participated in the campaign and gave so generously to support the United Way's efforts in the community.

Brantwood Approves New Strategic Plan

Brantwood has a new strategic plan. The plan, which was developed with extensive stakeholder involvement, identifies future directions and priorities for the next five years. The process over the past year included surveys and interviews with key partner agencies, funders and other key stakeholder as well as internal surveys of staff, families, friends and individuals supported. There was also a one day strategic planning retreat that involved Board members, managers, supervisors and peer mentors. The final plan was presented and approved by the Board on March 21, 2016. The plan will serve to solidify Brantwood's significant past accomplishments and guide the organization's growth and development over the coming years.

As part of this process, Brantwood's existing mission statement was reviewed and the following revised mission statement adopted: "Brantwood empowers people of all abilities to have a life of their choosing." There is also a new tag line: "Actively supporting new possibilities for people that lead to a fulfilled life." Twelve goals relating to service enhancement, community outreach and capacity development emerged from the planning process. The goals and new strategic plan are available at www.brantwood.ca/strategicplan.

New Warm Water Fitness Programs for Seniors at Brantwood's Recreation Therapy Centre

Brantwood's Recreation Therapy centre is now offering a number of fitness programs for seniors:

- **SAFE ZONE.** Healthy living, healthy aging. A drop-in every Friday morning from 9:30 to 10:30 am. This is a free exercise program to help seniors 55+ remain independent. The focus will be on Strength, Agility, Flexibility and Endurance (SAFE) with an emphasis on safety.
- **Warm Water Fitness.** Choose between two water exercise classes in our warm-water therapy pool with individualized instruction.
- **Gentle Water Fitness Classes.** Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 to 10:00 or 10:30 to 11:00 am. Modified exercise to maintain and increase your range of motion. Programs can be personalized to meet your individual needs.
- **Aerobic Water Fitness Classes.** Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:00 - 1:30 pm. High energy exercises in a fun and active environment to increase cardiovascular health, improve muscle strength. Proven benefits for arthritis, fibromyalgia and chronic pain.

For More information please call 519-753-2658 or visit www.brantwood.ca



Aberdeen Health and Community Services Foundation Grant

Brantwood was very pleased to receive a grant of \$6,500 from the Aberdeen Health and Community Services Foundation to support the purchase of a recumbent cross trainer. This equipment will provide effective exercise programming for people with mobility barriers, developmental challenges and complex health challenges through safe, adaptive, low impact exercises. The cross trainer is designed to provide a total body workout that is adapted to the person's ability level, goals and barriers that a person might face. The versatility of the machine will be ideal for all users of the Recreation Therapy Centre as it has many features that make the equipment safe for people who lack the ability to stay on traditional equipment without assistance. The cross trainer will make a very important addition to our services and benefit a large number of people in our region. Brantwood thanks Aberdeen for this tremendous support.

2016 Wheelchair Basketball Tournament

Brantwood and Participation House Brantford hosted the 26th Annual Wheelchair Basketball Tournament on January 23, 2016 at the Branlyn Community Centre. Sixteen teams competed, raising over \$6,500 to support Brantwood and Participation House.



Brantford Firefighters

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the event a great success. This includes all of the teams, sponsors, donors and everyone who came out to cheer on the teams. The event also couldn't be run without the great support of over 20 volunteers who helped out this year in a variety of roles. The Championship winners were Brantford Firefighters, and the runner up was Brant Mutual Insurance.

Scotiabank Lynden Road Branch Fundraiser

We would like to extend a HUGE thank you to our friends at the Scotiabank Lynden Rd branch. In January they presented Brantwood with a cheque for \$7,448 representing funds raised from their Deck the Halls Community Dance which includes a matching donation from Scotiabank.

Thank you to Marg Green, Katie Green and all of the great volunteers at Scotiabank who helped out and who worked so hard to make the event a great success. We greatly appreciate all of their generosity and support of Brantwood. The donation will make a big difference in the lives of the people that Brantwood supports.



L-R: Scotiabank staff: Rossana Ciotti, Cathy Robertson and Marg Green, with Brantwood staff Katie Green and Bruce Mackenzie. Missing from the picture are volunteers Karen Bell, Josie Testani, Dianne Crow, Maureen Woods.

Upcoming Events



BRANTWOOD FOUNDATION 20TH ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Registration fee of \$145 includes complimentary bucket of balls on the driving range, 18 holes of golf, cart, lunch, reception dinner and take home prize.

DATE: Thursday, May 26, 2016

LOCATION: Northridge Golf Course

TIME: Registration begins at 11:00 a.m., with a 12:00 noon shotgun start

Please join us for a fun day in support of Brantwood and help us celebrate 20 years of making a difference in our community.

For registration information please visit:
www.brantwood.ca/charity-golf-tournament

SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 22, 2016

Family Information Night - The Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP).

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	

Brantwood Community Services 2015-2016 Board of Directors

David Bailey (Past Chair)	Margot Kneale
Josie Bethune	Joanne Lewis
Cindy Chatzis	Everill Muir
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Doug Fulcher	Charlene Nicholson
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Contact Us

25 Bell Lane, Brantford, Ontario N3T 1E1
Phone: (519)753-2658 | Fax: (519)753-5639
E-mail: info@brantwood.ca
Visit us at: www.brantwood.ca



Charitable #106807324RR0001

Phone List

Phone: 519-753-2658 Fax: 519-753-5639 Website: www.brantwood.ca Email: info@brantwood.ca

EXT	NAME	POSITION	EXT	NAME	POSITION
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	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
345	CREW, Lori	Paris Road Supervisor	112	SILVERTHORN, Melissa	Human Resources Generalist
301	GORDON, Betty	St. Paul Supervisor	461	THORNBERRY, Deb	Community Connections
146	HARDMAN, Richard	Seating Technician	163	THORNTON, Alice	Human Resources Manager
119	HARRIGAN, Catherine	Kinesiologist	256	VARNES, Liz	Payroll and Benefits Administrator
110	HUMPHREY, Tracy	95 Tollgate Supervisor	303	WILLSON, Miranda	Kerr Shaver Supervisor
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 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.*