



SHARING OUR ABILITIES

Volume 3 Issue 5

Community Living Burlington

A Member of the United Way

November December 07

From the Board of Directors

submitted by Joe Nemet

Another year is quickly coming to an end. Where does the time go?

The Christmas dinner was a huge success and many ate and danced the night away. I am always amazed at the enthusiasm and sheer joy of all the participants.

The Board of Directors has been diligently working on the strategic plan. The three groups continue to work on their identified goals. If there is an area of interest to you and would like to assist, please do not hesitate to speak to any of the Directors or contact Miranda.

The Board has constituted a new committee known as the Risk Committee. The first order of business for this committee is a thorough insurance audit and review being done by an independent Risk Management and Insurance Consultant. We want to make sure that all potential liabilities are identified and all risks properly managed.

In November, the agency hosted a Family Information Night presented by Wolfgang Rhodes, of Edward Jones Financial. The topics were The Henson Trust and the upcoming Registered Disability Savings Plan ("RDSP"). The evening was well attended by close to 50 family members. This Information night will be repeated in the spring for those who were unable to attend and more information will likely become available on RDSP's.

I encourage all members to attend these information sessions, especially those who have yet to make special provisions for their family member with a disability. The Agency was recently made aware of a situation where there was no provision for an individual following the death of their last surviving family member. This is not something we want to see happens to the folks we support. Plan. Plan. Plan!!!

As the Board Chair, I would like you to consider becoming involved. In the New Year, we will be looking for members to stand for election as Directors at our next Annual General Meeting in June. Is this something you would consider? If you are able and interested in serving in this capacity please do not hesitate to communicate this to either our Executive Director, Judy Pryde or the recording Secretary, Miranda Heersink who will forward your interest to the Nominations Committee.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season and happy and prosperous New Year.

Inside this issue:

PLEASE REMEMBER

**ARC, LifeSkills and Transitional Day will be closed from
Friday December 21st at 3:00 p.m. and re-opening on
Monday December 31st at 8:00 a.m.**

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From the Pen of the Executive Director

submitted by Judy Pryde

Where has the year gone? 2007 has flown by and with it there are many positive things to reflect upon here at Community Living Burlington.

As an agency we have grown by another two houses; one for families who had their son or daughters name on the Halton wait list and also a new home for three gentlemen who have moved from the facility closures.

Our Respite program at Mainway continues to grow as word of mouth has spread about this relief option for families. The program now supports over 20 children and adults in the after school program and Saturday program.

Along with our Respite program, our Transitional Day program has grown and because of this growth the program has had to find a new location for all of the young adults who are attending. Thanks to a partnership with Alternate Choice, the program will be moving over the holidays to 3335 North Service Road, Unit 1. This is the first time that the program will be on its own but, as the staff and participants have stated, they will miss their friends at the Salvation Army. A special thanks to the Major Fred Ash at the Salvation Army for sharing their location with Community Living for the last 2 years.

With all of the successes that we have had at CLB, there are still challenges that we face. As the City of Burlington continues to grow, so does our wait list in Halton. Resources continue to be tight, and agencies struggle with the many crisis that are faced by families on a daily basis. By being creative and accessing our many partnerships in the community, we hope to find solutions to the many problems that we see here in Burlington.

Please note that the RDSP program introduced by the Federal government will hopefully be passed in early 2008. In November, we had an information session for families to learn more about the RDSP as well as the Henson Trust. We had an overwhelming number of people attend but we are concerned that not all families are planning for their son/daughter's future. There is also the concern that without support, the introduction of the RDSP program may not get passed by the Federal Government. **Please read the letter that is in the newsletter and if you wish to support the program, please use the letter as a resource to send off to your local MP.**

As the year comes to a close, I need to say a special thanks to all of the employees at CLB. Their hard work and support to the individuals receiving service is fantastic. I'm sure that I can speak on behalf of the families and people we support that they appreciate the care that they give on a daily basis. Best wishes to you and your families over the holidays.

Employment Services

submitted by Karen Lade

Recently the Supported Employment team changed our name to Employment Services. This name is fitting as ultimately our goal is to find and maintain employment opportunities for the individuals we support. While this is the result we want to achieve there is also a process. We research the business community, market our services and educate the community about the many skills and abilities our candidates have to offer. Every now and then we meet an employer who is particularly espoused to the philosophy of supporting the community by hiring an individual with a disability and giving someone a chance to realize a dream. This month's Spotlight on KidLogic Child Care Center is one of those Employers.



Spotlight on Employment Services

submitted by Cathy Makin



“Getting hired at KidLogic is helping me achieve my dream.”

In the spring of 2007, a parent advocating for her daughter suggested Kid Logic to the Employment Services staff as a place of interest for work in the community. A phone call was made and a conversation ensued with Barbara Williams, the Director of the center. Barbara was interested and supportive and agreed to have a meeting. She provided an opportunity to discuss the services available through our Employment Services Program and to share success stories of many of the individuals we have supported in reaching their employment goals. During the meeting Barbara learned of a young woman who is a recent graduate from High School and eager to work in her center. As an employer she was very receptive to developing a relationship with Community Living Burlington. Mandy works in the kitchen preparing the bins with dishes and supplies for the rooms and helping with the lunch dishes. She helps in a variety of ways and can often be seen delivering a jug of milk to a room or in the hallway assisting a toddler to remove a pair of boots or unzip a winter coat. In March 2008, Mandy will be celebrating two successful years of working with KidLogic.



This summer Barbara agreed to offer competitive employment to another young woman who is a recent graduate of Sheridan College. For many years her dream has been to work as an Early Childhood Education Assistant. I met Debbie in June 2007 when she chose Community Living Burlington as her service provider through the ODSP Employment Supports Program. At our initial meeting she described the challenges she had faced while attending college. This involved meeting the goals academically as well as successfully completing the work placement components of the course. I was impressed with Debbie’s determination and perseverance. The motto she chose for her high school year book was, “If at first you don’t succeed, try and try again.” In August, Debbie was hired as a Supply Teacher at KidLogic and recently she told me, **“Getting hired at KidLogic is helping me achieve my dream.”** KidLogic offers a welcoming environment with professional caregivers who are willing to share their knowledge and expertise. The staff and management at Kid Logic are friendly and approachable. When I have visited the center I have witnessed a commitment to an individual’s personal growth, not just with regard to the children but to the staff as well. The Burlington center is currently participating in “Quality First”. This is an initiative lead by The Halton Resource Connection which is a non-profit community development organization. The goal is providing exceptional quality of care based on a developmental model designed to exceed Ministry licensing requirements.



There are KidLogic centers in Burlington, Oakville and London, Ontario. The Burlington location is licensed to provide care for 120 children from three months to twelve years of age. Senior and Junior Kindergarten are two of the many programs available to families. All of the children enjoy well balanced meals provided daily by a cook on-site.

What started out as simply a suggestion by a parent has developed into a valuable and collaborative partnership where two young women supported by CLB and KidLogic are working and fulfilling their employment goals.



Linda P. Retires

submitted by Debbie Turner

On December 5th, 2007 Linda worked her last day at Ultra Food and Drug. After 9 years employed with Ultra, Linda decided to begin her days of semi-retirement.

Pictured here are Linda and her colleagues celebrating not only Linda's retirement but also her 59th birthday.



Christmas 2007

On November 29, 2007, 486 people joined together to enjoy a delicious meal prepared for us by the Holiday Inn. Later they danced the night away to music provided by Jan's Disc Jockey. We would like to thank the Burlington Civitan Club who assisted us throughout the evening with their members ensuring that everyone received their beverage of choice as well as their generous financial contribution that assisted in offsetting expenses that are incurred in hosting such an evening.

Many people received the opportunity to purchase Christmas Gifts for themselves or someone special on their list, as the Transitional Day Program was selling the jewellery that was made and packaged by the participants of the Program.

Mayor Cam Jackson made his grand announcement of the Community Living Burlington night with the Burlington Cougars, to be held on Friday, February 8, 2008 at the Wave Twin Rinks. The Mayor was selected to pull the winning ticket

from the annual 50-50 draw that was held. Bob Faulhauser held the winning ticket and was able to accept his portion of \$637.00. Thanks to all that purchased tickets!

Next years dinner and dance has been scheduled, so mark Thursday December 4th on your calendar as we don't want you to miss out on this great evening.



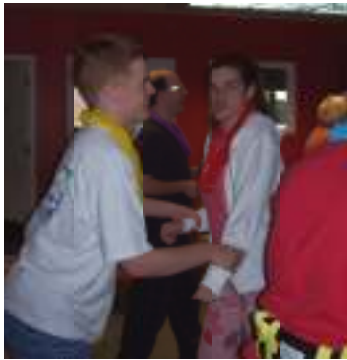


Community Living Burlington supports United Way

During the months of September, October and November Community Living works hard to raise funds for the United Way. United Way has been one of the many strong supporters of Community Living Burlington for many years

Through our fun times of hosting a Chili Lunch, the Bowl-a-Thon, a Pajama Day at LifeSkills and a Bake Sale, we are proud to have raised \$2,900.00

Throughout this time period , employees were encouraged to participate in the Employee Payroll Deduction Program. We would like to thank the employees who have signed up in support of this worthy venture.



**From Dancing
To
Listening to the
“night time story”**



Comradship shone the night of our Bowl-a-thon!





ARC Industries Recognized by Union Gas

In September, ARC Industries completed some work for Union Gas, which resulted in coverage of the diligent work that was completed by the workers of ARC. With their November statements, Union Gas published their “In Touch” flyer featuring ARC. ARC hopes that with this acknowledgement of their work, more companies will contact them for a competitive quote.

If you know of any company that we could provide quality service to, please do not hesitate to contact Deb Noonan at 905-335-6711 or by email at: noonan_deb@clburlington.ca

intouch customer information newsletter

It's More than a Job at ARC Industries

Be Ready for Cozy Times by the Fire

Payments Made Easier

IT'S MORE THAN A JOB AT ARC INDUSTRIES

'We will because we can!' is the motto at ARC (Adult Rehabilitative Centre) Industries in Burlington, Ont., where adults with developmental disabilities develop work skills in a supportive environment and experience the satisfaction of a job well done.

CHALLENGING ASSIGNMENT

Recently the team at ARC Industries helped the Union Gas marketing team by assembling packages distributed to homebuilders in our service area. The packages featured many components including specific contact information, cost comparisons, information letters, DVDs, testimonials, brochures and forms. And what made the packages really challenging – and fun – to assemble was the addition of a 'Bob the Builder' doll. With all of the elements in this project, the team at ARC was the perfect partner for the task as they were able to take all of the various pieces and put them together into a powerful marketing package.

PROUD CUSTOMER

ARC Industries is more than a source of income for its workers. It's also a social outlet where participants develop feelings of confidence and self worth by knowing they're able to deliver quality services that meet customer needs.

Union Gas is proud to be one of their satisfied customers.

uniongas.com



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LIVING
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DATES TO REMEMBER

December 20, 2007	Day Services Christmas Luncheon
December 21, 2007	Early Dismissal from ARC/LifeSkills - 2:30 p.m.
December 24, 2007	All Day Programs Closed
December 25, 2007	Christmas Day All Day Programs Closed
December 26, 2007	Boxing Day All Day Programs Closed
December 27 AND 28, 2007	All Day Programs Closed
December 31, 2007	All Day Programs Open from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
January 1, 2008	New Years Day All Day Programs Closed
January 2, 2008	All Day Programs Open at 8:00 a.m.
February 8, 2008	Community Living Night with the Burlington Cougars - 7:30 p.m. Wave Twin Rinks , 1179 Northside Road (1 block east of Guelph Line)
February 14, 2008	Valentine's Day Dance 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Senior Centre

Winter Closures

Please remember to check on the local media network in the event that we have to close due to inclement weather. You can hear about closures on:

K-Lite FM Radio (102.9)

CHCH TV Hamilton

CHML Radio (900)

As written in the report from the Executive Director, if you would like to support the introduction of the RDSP (Registered Disability Savings Plan), you can use this letter as a resource to send on to your local MP.

Mr. Mike Wallace M.P
City of Burlington
777 Guelph Line, Suite 209
Burlington, Ontario
L7R 3N2

Dear Mr. Wallace:

As a parent or family member of a person who has a developmental disability, I am writing today to urge you to support the implementation of the new Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) which is contained in Bill C-28.

The RDSP will provide my family member who has a developmental disability with the opportunity for greater financial security. It will mean that many families (like mine) will be able to contribute positively to the ongoing support needs of their family member who has a disability. In addition to financial security, it also provides parents and other family members with peace of mind, knowing that their loved one(s) will have the resources they need to lead a decent quality of life in the community. Additionally, the RDSP will not only allow people to save for future needs, the corresponding contributions that government makes to each individual's plan will provide an opportunity for some who might otherwise not be able to save for the future to do so.

Canadians who have a disability and their families are counting on your support for the implementation of the RDSP. Securing the future through financial planning is something that every person needs to do. The RDSP will make a difference in people's lives. We urge you to support the plan that will deliver hope, peace of mind, and security to thousands of families across this country.

Sincerely,