



Esprit Newsletter

Spring / Summer Edition 2013

Ottawa-Carleton Association for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (OCAPDD) – Open Hands

Association d'Ottawa-Carleton pour personnes ayant une déficience intellectuelle (AOCPI) – Mains Ouvertes

We Caught YOU Being Excellent

On November 29, 2012, Open Hands held an open house to launch “**Everyone Has A Voice**”; the beginning of an incredible journey in order to enhance opportunities for choice, improve quality of life, promote and build positive self-esteem and demonstrate respect. Everyone Has A Voice redefines the way Open Hands provides support to individuals by increasing access to Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Tools such as: iPad’s, Tablets, PECS, Tech Talks and Dynavox communication devices. It has marked



Cheryl Lapointe, Anne-Marie Vivian and Joseph Geneau.

a significant change and provides a collective focus that has been very exciting. Everyone Has A Voice is however more than just using augmentative communication tools. It is about enhancing communication by becoming more in tune with recognizing and understanding body language, building individuals’ self-advocacy skills and becoming better listeners and respecting what people say. As a team, staff at Open Hands are not only working on teaching and enhancing receptive and expressive language, they are also working on building individuals’ fine motor and dexterity skills which will enable them to use augmentative and alternative communication devices.



As communication is an integrated experience, staff are also working on developing their communication skills by learning how to use AAC software and basic sign language.

Everyone Has A Voice has become a primary focus at staff meetings where successes are shared, encouraged and celebrated. Open Hands has no specific criteria outlining what success in communication should look like. Communication is a very diverse term and is individualized; words, sounds, gestures and body language are all ways we communicate. In order to capture and measure success, no matter how big or small, colorful word bubbles are posted in the office Training

Room which has been painted with the Everyone Has A Voice logo. Our annual goal is to have the room full of word bubbles and we won’t stop there!

If you would like more information on Everyone Has A Voice, please feel free to contact Open Hands at 613-933-0012, extension 331, or you can email Joseph Geneau at jgeneau@open-hands.ca.

OCAPDD'S Garlic Scapes

Garlic scapes will be available in June at the Silver Spring Farm located at 1703 Robertson Road. Garlic scapes are the flower stalk of the garlic. With mild garlic flavour and aroma, they are wonderful additions to stews, roasts, marinades, salads, sandwiches, sauces, pastas, stir-fries and pestos. They are also great roasted or steamed. The possibilities are endless!

GET 2 BAGS FOR THE PRICE OF 1 (\$5.00)



2012 CHRISTMAS GIFT WRAP PROJECT

This past Christmas Gift Wrap Project was again a huge success! Thanks to all those who volunteered their time and helped profile OCAPDD. We generated over \$16,000 between St-Laurent Shopping Centre and Carlingwood Mall. Special thanks also go to our loyal customers who come back every year to get their gifts wrapped and support OCAPDD. We could not have done this without the help of 400+ volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, OCAPDD and the community. All of your time and effort contributed greatly toward the success of this special event. We would not be able to do this without special caring people.

Swing for OCAPDD

The sun is shining and the warm weather is now upon us! Come join us for our 13th Annual Golf Tournament on Monday, June 17th at the Hautes Plaines Golf Club.

Again this year there will be a silent and live auction, as well as other prizes.

This is a great day to spend time with a few friends, cousins, Mom, Dad or even your boss! Registration in the tournament has become a well received Father's Day gift.

Remember, a bad day on a sunny golf course is better than a good day in the office (please see insert or visit our website at www.ocapdd.on.ca for more details and registration).



My Life My Plan

This year OCAPDD applied for the MCSS Innovation Fund. Our proposal, *My Life My Plan* was accepted. On March 8, 2013 Minister Bob Chiarelli came to OCAPDD to officially announce that we were one of the recipients of the Innovation Funds and announced that we would be receiving \$37,000 to support this project. The Minister had the opportunity to tour our facility and meet three of our *My Life My Plan* Trainers; Denis Vanderdyt, Louise Galloway and Christine Robertson. Unfortunately, Amanda Nadon, the trainer at Open Hands was unable to attend.



Denis Vanderdyt, Minister Chiarelli, Louise Galloway and Christine Robertson.

My Life My Plan focuses on teaching the people we support about planning. The planning process is a critical tool that is used by people to direct their lives. Individuals need to fully understand what planning is, and, they need to know they have the right to direct this process. Employees who participate in this process also need to understand these rights and have the knowledge on how to facilitate a planning meeting in a way that allows the person to maintain control over the content of the meeting.

In an effort to modernize service delivery, people receiving services need to begin to see themselves as the planner of their own future. Individuals receiving service need opportunities to take a leadership role in person-directed planning and to develop the belief that it is their right to direct the decision-making of these plans. In doing so they will be able to hold their support teams more accountable and be able to build stronger support networks.



The first aspect of this project was to train people to become Trainers of *My Life My Plan*. Four individuals we support and four staff members were all trained to give this course. The course was given to just under 60 people in Ottawa and Cornwall. What we quickly learned is that many people we support really liked being trained by their peers. What we also learned is that we now have some excellent in-house trainers. This will allow this project to continue with more courses being offered in the future.

Judy Bernstein
Director of Supports and Services

United Families of Eastern Ontario (UFEO)

"Family Groups and individuals joining together with ONE VOICE to ensure people with developmental disabilities have access to the same opportunities and choices as other Ontarians."

MISSION – ADVOCATE – INFORM – RAISE AWARENESS

VISION – CITIZENS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES HAVE ACCESS TO THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES AND CHOICES AS OTHER ONTARIANS

UFEO Advocacy: UFEO continues to participate in the different committees with the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Children and Youth to ensure that our concerns as families and the welfare of our children are always at the forefront of their discussions.

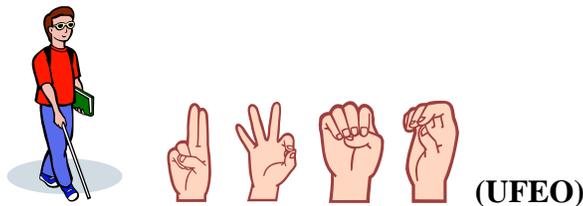
The committees UFEO participates in:

- Dual diagnosis committee
- System planning table
- Advisory committee for the Developmental Services Ontario Eastern Region (DSOER)
- Passport advisory committee
- Transition planning committee

The UFEO Steering Committee Purpose/Function:

- The Steering Committee, as the coordinating and implementing body of United Families of Eastern Ontario, meets at least six times annually.
- It is responsible for the day-to-day functioning of the coalition, such as media relations, government interaction, communication with its membership, and overseeing any staff and resources.
- A yearly work plan is developed, and working groups of the membership may be formed to undertake specific actions to achieve the strategic priorities set by the membership.
- The Steering Committee, on behalf of the coalition, may seek financial support from government and other funders for implementation of the coalition's overall work plan. Any finances of the coalition are to be administered through an incorporated non-profit member organization with registered charitable status.

SSAH News: As of April 2013, recipients of SSAH will lose their funding by age 18. It will no longer move seamlessly into Passport funding as previously thought. UFEO has sent a letter to the MCSS Minister, Mr. Milloy as well as all the MPP's in Eastern Ontario to voice the negative impact this action will have on families. Community Living Ontario as well as Family Alliance Ontario have launched a campaign to reverse this decision. All the information will be on the UFEO website. Take action!



What are we currently working on?

- Members are working within their sub-committees (transition youth, dual diagnosis etc)
- UFEO is updating its website in the hopes to promote the work it's doing and stay connected to the families in the community
- Working closely with MCSS Funded Agencies for Developmental Services

How you and your families can make contact?

“We can make a difference if we all work together”.

Pam Parent: Parent & OCAPDD Representative for Members' Families

Please send all inquiries via email to parentp@algonquincollege.com

(I will take your inquiries to the steering committee and get back to you in a timely manner)

Thank You Ace of Blades Inc.

Last fall, one of our Snow and Landscape contractors and their staff, wanted to do something to raise money to help the individuals that we serve. They decided to purchase pumpkins and then sell them door to door. It wasn't quite as successful as they had hoped as they had a few problems with the pumpkins themselves, so they contributed additional money to bring the total donation amount up to \$3,000. They had canvassed the Barrhaven area and they plan to expand their fundraising drive this year so that they can raise more for our organization. We greatly appreciate the time and effort that they put in to help us and we look forward to seeing how they do this year.



Zachary Jones, Vince Auger and Grant van den Heuvel.

2013 Employee Recognition

The following employees will receive service awards to recognize their years of service with the agency:

5 Years

*Cherie Guyader
Suzanne Ethier
Veronica Madueke
Brandi Morris
Gloria Ngoyi
Alison Free
Gaye Godard
Tracey Crawford
Nilo Osorio
Carla McConnell
Richard LeBlanc
Stephanie Johnson
Joseph Ravary
Adam Connolly
Rhea Jemmott
Terri Hall
Vincent Auger
Alicia Ladouceur
Alison Spoor
Joelle Leclair*

Cassandra Leon-Bateman

*Melissa Morris
Melanie Carrick
Normand Paquette
Emie Haldemann
Adrian Nisioiu
Sarah Dowling*

5 Years (continued)

*Laura Lee Grise
Natasha Wason
Cory Hemond
Tasha Quenneville
Sara Gebre-Giorgis
Christopher Watt
Izabela Aurelson*

10 Years

*Jodi Hall
Stephen Griffin
Erin Fillion
David Worm
Susan Hanson
Djurdjija Matijasevic
Jolene Arseneault
Stephanie Casagrande
Gloria Umutangana
Jean Martel*

15 Years

*James Mitchell
Ann Cochrane
Sylvie Moore
Jennifer Christie
David Ferguson*

20 Years

*Heather Walker
Tracy Charles
Gayle Murdie
Lisa Babineau
Wendy Doucette
Vikki Small
Nancy Berthelette
John Embree*

25 Years

*Carol Prince
Veena Stokes
Frances McMahon
Jean-Marc De Lanux
Leanne McCallum
David Cross
Janet Beath
Anne Marie Boswell
Sheila Dagenais*

30 Years

Deborah Fleury

35 years

*Ann-Marie Engelberts-Cousineau
Kelly Gordon*

∞ In Memoriam ∞

Brian Dewe (June 11, 1958 – December 27, 2012)



It is with great sadness that Nestow Residence announces the passing of Brian Dewe. Brian moved into Nestow in May 2012 from his former residence of Charette House where he resided with his housemates for two years. Prior to Charette House, Brian moved to his first home within OCAPDD at Settler's Ridge and lived there for nearly 10 years. Brian made his presence known not only by his size, but also by the clapping of his hands when he was happy, his expert knowledge of how a room was to look and his strong need for perfect order in his personal environment. He liked his room to be blue with every accessory being just that.

Brian made a positive impression on those with whom he shared his home and those of us who had the privilege of supporting him. Brian enjoyed his favorite foods like bananas and marshmallows and always kept a watchful eye on what was for dinner and where the bananas were.

Brian would enjoy van rides, short walks, playing catch and getting opportunities to go swing on the swings in the park and the occasional dance. Brian had a peaceful family service with friends, family and staff of OCAPDD and was beautifully serenaded by guitar and harmonica with an amazing rendition of Amazing Grace performed by his brothers Robin and David.

Written by Michelle Sharma and Judy Vance

President & Executive Director's Report

ONTARIO

Since our last Esprit in the fall, the Ontario Liberals elected Kathleen Wynne as their new leader, and in turn she was sworn in as Premier. Premier Wynne announced her new Cabinet on February 13th. Her appointment to Community & Social Services was Ted McMeekin, from Hamilton. Locally, Yasir Naqvi was appointed as Minister of Labour; Bob Chiarelli as Minister of Energy; and, Madeleine Meilleur remained at Community Safety & Correctional Services.

As also reported previously, Christine Elliott's Private Members Bill to create a Select Committee on Developmental Services died with the proroguing of Government last October. It was apparently re-tabled in late April.

OMBUDSMAN

Many of you will likely be aware that Ontario's Ombudsman announced in late November, that he was initiating an investigation into the province's services for adults with developmental disabilities who are in crisis situations. He has subsequently announced that he anticipates releasing his report by this summer. For your information, Bonnie Dinning & Dave Ferguson were interviewed by Investigators from the Ombudsman's Office on February 5th as part of this investigation.

The Ombudsman is asking anyone who has information relevant to the investigation to contact his office at 1-800-263-1830, [file an online complaint](#) or email info@ombudsman.on.ca.

OCAPDD SURVEY

Management began implementing a series of surveys a few years ago. This has included families, members and the individuals we support. This year, we are beginning the cycle again, with families being surveyed. We look forward to the information, and the ability to now begin comparing the results. It is anticipated that this will be able to be presented at the AGM on Wednesday, September 18, 2013.

OCAPDD BOARD

At this year's AGM Rob Kirwan and Frank Arcchi will be retiring as they reach their maximum term on the Board of 8 years. Recruitment for these positions is well underway, however as always the Board welcomes suggestions for possible candidates. The Board has requested that Bonnie Dinning remain on the Board for one additional year, in her role as Past President.

The Board has recently introduced a position "National Coordinator" to examine what is occurring in other provinces and how the Federal Government can assist in the provision of services for the Developmentally Disabled. Stimulated in part by the Australian example, where they have introduced a National Entitlement Program for the Disabled, it was given further impetus by the Drummond Report in Ontario which suggested Federal involvement in the sector. This is a timely move given the pressures currently being faced by most Provincial governments. Robert Mitchell, a recent Board member, will be assuming responsibility.

SILVER SPRING FARM SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

We would like to congratulate Cara Deszcz and Brigitte Léveill , this year's recipients of The Silver Spring Farm Scholarship Awards. The Awards were presented at the April Board meeting.

INNOVATION FUND PROJECT

While there is more information in this Esprit regarding the My Life My Plan project, we would like to acknowledge and thank both Judy Bernstein and Cheryl Lapointe for their efforts with this initiative.

OASIS CONFERENCE

OASIS will be holding its Annual Conference and General Meeting this May in the National Capital Region. OCAPDD has been very active in the coordination and preparations for this event. We are pleased that during the Awards Dinner during the Conference, the inaugural George Braithwaite Scholarship Award will be presented. This Award provides access to, and all tuition and travel costs for the selected Executive Director to participate in the National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities' week-long Leadership Institute at the University of Delaware.

GOLF

As always at this time of year, we would like to encourage you to join us at this year's golf tournament on June 17th. This year will be our 13th tournament and we look forward to selling out!

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Bill Cowie
President

David A. Ferguson
Executive Director



Bill Cowie, Brigitte L veill  and David Ferguson.

BEST BUDDIES

Best Buddies is a national charitable organization dedicated to enhancing our communities through one-on-one friendships between people with intellectual disabilities and students.

OCAPDD is proud to be Co-Host Coordinator with L'Arche Ottawa at the University of Ottawa.

In the 2012-2013 year we continued to be one of the largest chapters in Canada boasting a chapter membership of 75 matches. There were 47 matches within OCAPDD. Between January and December 2012 Best Buddy volunteers gave over 1,200 hours of their time! Bravo!

Best Buddies Chapter Co-Chairs Katie Day and Jiliane Golczyk welcomed members as the new school year got underway with a Meet and Greet get-together held at the Sandy Hill Community Centre on September 16th.

A Halloween Costume Party followed in October with a showing of *it's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown*—at the University of Ottawa. The costumes were fantastic.

In November everyone had a fun afternoon of bowling at McArthur Lanes. Some of the Buddies, who are part of a five-pin bowling league, were quite excited about trying ten-pin bowling—everyone had a great time.

Fundraising is also a major part of Best Buddies. These students are amazing. They attend class, work part time, volunteer with their buddy and then fundraise to put on all the events. Sucker runs and bake sales were held at the University of Ottawa throughout the year and in February the famous spaghetti dinner was held which raised just over \$1,300! A big thank you goes out to The Loeb Centre for all their help with the dinner. We couldn't have done it without you.

New partnerships were also formed. The Church of Latter Day Saints women and youth gathered in August of 2012 and sewed together 160 Neck warmers/Wraps for the Best Buddies to sell as a fundraiser. This raised over \$1,000 for the group.

Chapters-Indigo on Rideau Street opened its doors on March 2nd for the Indigo Read All About It event—and donated a \$25 gift card for each Buddy pair.

Kelly Wilson read a lovely poem and Mike Carroll gave a beautiful speech about his experience with Best Buddies.



Mike Carroll and Maaïke Brouwers

At the event, the Honourable Mauril Bélanger, MP for Ottawa-Vanier, presented our Best Buddies Chapter with an award recognizing the dedication of our Volunteers and Buddies to the program and each other. The award acknowledges that we have been a Chapter for 13 years and have been one of the largest Best Buddies Chapters in Canada. Below is a link to the Daily Record that was made in the House of Commons by Mauril Bélanger!

[Mauril Bélanger on Best Buddies-Vrais Copains | openparliament.ca](http://openparliament.ca)

Mr. Speaker, **Best Buddies-Vrais Copains** is an international organization that has been operating in Canada since 1993 by establishing one-to-one matches ... openparliament.ca/debates/2013/3/20/mauril-belanger.../only/

The year ended with a trip to Sugar Bush at Proulx Farms in Cumberland. 110 members attended the event which included a pancake lunch, wagon ride and taffy on snow.

The new year starts up in September.

Written by Debbie Blasutti