

MARY CENTRE NEWSLETTER



THE ONTARIO ASSOCIATION ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES CONFERENCE



*Fathima Nisar, Respite Coordinator
and Tracey Berman, Respite and Intake Manager, Mary
Centre*

The Ontario Association on Developmental Disabilities exists to support professionals and students working and pursuing careers in the field of developmental disabilities. OADD is a member-run organization that publishes the Journal on Developmental Disabilities twice a year, and hosts an annual conference in the spring. This year the conference was held April 6 to 8, 2005 at the Kempenfelt Centre in Barrie.

This three day conference was attended by more than 200 professionals from all across Canada and also from the United States. The OADD was delighted to have the Honorable Sandra Pupatello, Minister of Community and Social Services speaking to its members.

Tracey and I had an opportunity to do a presentation on "Respite transitions". Respite refers to short term, temporary care provided to people with disabilities in order that their families can take a break. The Respite program provides support, guidance, care and supervision for individuals moving into a group home or supported independent living setting. The program offers short term relief to the family or caregivers through one to one Respite Family Relief Providers, out of home Residential Respite Options and supported Host Family environments.

The Respite Family Relief Provider provides one on one support based on individual's and families' needs, both in home and in the community. There are two Residential Respite options; 2 residential beds in Toronto supporting individuals with cognitive decline and St. Bernard's which has 5 beds to provide short term 24 hour, out of home respite relief. We also spoke about the purpose and benefit the Respite program offers to the families. Mary Centre's top 10 areas of Respite was a hit. We also discussed different case scenarios and there was definitely a positive feedback from the audience.



*Carol Chung
Parish Outreach/Volunteer Coordinator*

Carol Chung presented on Multi Faith Inclusion Strategies and how Multi Faith Inclusion Network (MFIN) advocates for the inclusion of individuals with differing abilities and their families in faith communities.

6TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT A HIT!



Presentation by Nora Wiczorek to Paul, Dean, Stephen & Eammon, winners of this year's Tournament

Anyone who has ever played golf knows about hitting the sweet spot. That's when the ball and the club meet right in the heart of the club face. You hear a satisfying click and watch the ball fly straight and true and far. Hitting the sweet spot -- even if only one or twice a round -- is what brings golfers back for the next game.

The 6th annual Mary Centre Golf Tournament hit the sweet spot once again this year. The result was a most enjoyable tournament that is sure to bring everyone back for another round next season. Everything clicked to create a memorable day on the golf course and that feeling that comes from knowing that the dollars raised **will fly straight**

and true into the hands of deserving recipients. The team that hit the sweet spot most consistently on May 17th at the Glencairn Golf Course in Milton was the fearsome foursome of Stephen McConnell, Eamonn McConnell, Paul Shugart and Dean Jackson. They were the proud winners of "Stanley's Mug" which is awarded annually to the low scoring team. Since the other similarly named trophy was not awarded this year, it is fair to say that our Stanley will be the most famous Stanley to be awarded in sports this year. Congratulations to the Stanley Mug winners of 2005!

One golfer who was very hot at Glencairn was Cheryl Preston. Among the select group of female golfers, Cheryl won for both accuracy (Closest to the Pin) and distance (Longest Drive). That's an amazing achievement. Congratulations Cheryl!

Another double winner was Dean Jackson. In addition to his performance on the Stanley Mug winning team, Dean also won the prize for Men's Closest to the Pin. The power hitting champion of the day was Bob Thiessen who pounded out the Men's Longest Drive. You can bet that drive connected on the sweet spot. But the most fiercely



Glencairn Golf Club, Milton Ontario

contested competition of the day actually took place in the dining room. Eleven players had tied for the lead in the putting contest. So a Putt Off was convened on the dining room floor with the full crowd of 144 golfers cheering on their favourites. Talk about putting under pressure! In the end, the only player to sink the twenty-footer was Norm Pandachuk. He showed both coolness and class by donating back half of the winning pot to the Mary Centre. Way to go Norm!

Following dinner, a spirited live auction was conducted with a week at Hilton Head up for grabs as the major auction draw. This prize was generously donated by Al Dilworth, past Board member and strong supporter of Mary Centre. The winning bid of \$1000 came from the upraised arm of Roy Gordon. Roy and his family will be enjoying the sunshine and golf at Hilton Head this coming October. ***Of course the biggest winners of the day were the people we strive to serve at Mary Centre. The event raised a record-setting \$18,500 (net) that will go a long way towards helping our clients and their caregivers lead richer lives. Now that's really hitting the ball on the sweet spot*** Thank you to all participants and sponsors and the volunteers who shivered in the chilly weather without complaint. Early positive results on post event survey ***indicate that we will be back at Glencairn next season. Hopefully in warmer weather!***

Mike Enjoys His Community Support!!

Charmaine began working with Michael in the Community Support Program on October 19, 2004. That day, they discussed working on laundry skills, basic house cleaning skills, community safety skills, hand washing, use of a digital clock, healthy eating, household safety rules and memorizing of his family's cell phone numbers. Since that day they added exercise, communication and social skills to the list.

By the first week of December, Michael knew his mom's cell phone number, improved his reading of a digital clock, learned to dial 911, had knowledge of traffic signs, upgraded his home safety skills and basic literacy.

Charmaine and Michael have a great rapport, which plays a large factor in Michael's success thus far. Charmaine uses praise, giving Michael high fives when correct. She also ensures that they take a break from any activity when needed making sure that Michael does not lose interest. They have worked together coming up with the best ways to learn.

Michael taught Charmaine a card game and in turn, Charmaine makes learning fun, by working on a variety of skills and coming back to that which must be memorized.

Michael and Charmaine go for walks with his dog, chatting along the way, addressing Michael's responsibilities in a fun setting.

Michael is a friendly, energetic, co-operative and neat person and has a great sense of humour. He looks forward to his time with Charmaine each week and has been a great addition to not only our Community Support Program, but to Mary Centre as a whole.

Rick Tastes Independence!!

Hi, my name is Rick and I live at Our Lady of Victory Place. I have been here since 2003.

Before coming to Mary Centre, I was with my Dad, my brothers, Paul and Stephen and sister, Christine. We moved by getting the truck and buying stuff.

This is the first time I have been on my own and I am 41 years old.

After moving into my new apartment, I got my first job through Project Work. I work at Dominion as a Courtesy Clerk. I work lots of hours, doing carry-outs, returning items back to their shelves, cleaning up spills trying to help out my coworkers and stuff like that. I even got a certificate saying that I am a good worker.

For fun, I like to play pool, cycle, when it's warm outside and join in all the special activities here at the building. I even have gone to the Famous PEOPLE Players theatre to see the shows.

I am learning to live on my own by following the rules, how to write cheques to pay for my telephone and cable TV as well as how to cook different dishes. I get help from Shawn Michael.

It is a nice building to live in and I will probably stay here for a long time.

Written by Rick

Mark Your Calendar!

Saturday, July 9th, 2005

***Annual Loblaw's BBQ
Loblaw's Victoria Park and Gerrard***

October 27 & 28, 2005

***8th Annual Gala
Famous PEOPLE Players Dinner Theatre***

May 16th, 2006

***7th Annual Golf Tournament
Glencairn Golf Club, Milton***

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ALHAMBRA



On May 12, 2005, Mary Centre was fortunate to have Peter, Hugh and Al, members of the International Order of Alhambra Ibiza Caravan 193 visit our offices and present Dominic Conforti, Executive Director of Mary Centre with a donation of \$7,000 to aid in the operating of our programs. The Order of Alhambra has had a history of providing support to individuals with a developmental disability. In addition to donations they provide assistance to the organization through volunteering and Peter has offered his skills as a handy person for our Scarborough homes.

The Order, through the efforts of the Sultanas make beautiful afghans and they visited Redcastle residence and presented them to Keith and Honey.

Mary Centre Newsletter

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