

The Bethesda Link

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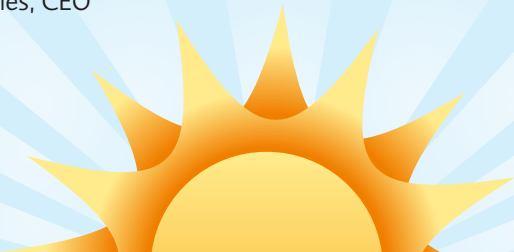
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Welcome to this version of Bethesda's Link, keeping you in touch with the Bethesda Family. The past year has been a wonderful action packed year. As I am sure you know, we opened the Niagara Family Centre last summer, providing the children we support and their families with amazing facilities. We were able to construct the building without any Government funding and without the use of much needed operating dollars. We enjoyed a highly successful Capital Campaign, anticipating that we will reach our campaign goal of 1.0 million dollars. It is not too late to participate in the campaign, just give us a call! For those who did participate, on behalf of the Board of Directors a sincere thank you.

Enjoy this edition of the Link, I trust you will find it informative. ☺

Brian Davies, CEO



BOARD SPOTLIGHT

In each upcoming edition of the Link Newsletter, we will be spotlighting one member of Bethesda's Board of Directors. We asked each Board Member the same set of questions to help you learn more about those who proudly represent this organization.



Jayne Berg, Director

Please provide some history on your professional life.

I originally worked as a Nanny and Daycare Provider before spending 15 years in Automotive and Furniture Sales. I did spend a short time working at Bethesda where I witnessed the incredible day to day interactions between clients and staff. For the past 5 years I have been operating a private daycare facility and loving it!

Number of years on Bethesda's Board?

I just joined the Board in April 2017.

Why are you passionate about Bethesda?

I truly believe this is an organization where the care and quality of life is of utmost importance. I see it on the faces of clients and their caregivers.

What are you passionate about in your spare time, outside of work and volunteer commitments? (Hobbies, interests, etc.)

I am an avid reader, gardener, travel enthusiast and grandmother to two amazing grandsons. ☺

SPOTLIGHT ON FAMILYHOME



As grade 12 high school students start to think about upcoming proms and what to wear, who to ask, and all the excitement that goes with it, we thought it was an appropriate time to share a heartwarming story from Bethesda's Familyhome Program.

Darla DeGagne is a longtime employee with Bethesda and also a Familyhome Provider. Darla, her husband, and three children share their home with Mark who has truly become just one of the family. Their daughter, Kyla Rae, graduated last year from Laura Secord High School. After deciding on a beautiful black pant suit to wear she was left deciding on a date. She chose to ask Mark if he would accompany her to prom. He said yes and the two began working on their matching accessories. The two had a fabulous night participating in all things prom including limo, photo booth, dinner, pictures, and dancing.

Mark's mother later wrote to Darla. "Darla, I have tears in my eyes. I could never ask for a better family for Mark. I'm truly blessed having you guys in our lives. I could never thank your daughter enough for letting Mark experience something that he would never have. I cried for over an hour last night, I was so happy."

After getting some positive comments for her choice in prom date Kyla Rae was surprised. She explained she took Mark because he is fun, well liked, and a good dancer. She didn't understand the fuss.

If you are interested in sharing your home with an individual with a developmental disability or in providing some occasional respite to someone, please inquire with our Familyhome team at 905-684-6918 ext. 203. ☺



Are you friends with us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn?

For recent updates, touching stories, and everything you need to stay up to date with Bethesda, be sure to follow us!

EMPLOYEE & VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



It is with great delight that we announce the recipients of the Employee and Volunteer of the Year Awards. These awards are given annually to an employee and a volunteer who demonstrated their dedication to Bethesda, practiced team work and who went the extra mile during the past year.

It is an honour to be nominated for these awards by co-workers and the nomination speaks highly to how well the recipients' work is respected within the company. The Employee of the Year and the Volunteer of the Year have made a positive contribution that deserves our recognition.

Please join us in congratulating our winners on their outstanding achievement! 🎉



Volunteers of the Year, Alcide and Lise Desveaux

Volunteer with Bethesda's Children's Services, and also known through the holiday season as "Santa and Mrs. Claus"



Employee of the Year, Janine Williams

Residential Manager for Linwell House, Crestdale house, and Ontario House.



RETIREES

Congratulations on your retirement!
For years you've worked and worked all day,
Now it's time to relax and play.
So put your feet up and take a break,
You're retired now for goodness sake!

thank you to...

Beth Forsyth for 23 years of dedicated service to Bethesda. Beth worked in the Developmental Centre at Fly Road and retired on January 31, 2017.

Darlene Proveau for 30 years of devoted service to Bethesda. Darlene provided superb health care throughout Bethesda and retired from Twin Lakes on March 31, 2017.



STORIES OF BETHESDA DINNER AUCTION



On Friday April 21, Bethesda supporters gathered at Club Italia to celebrate the 18th Annual Dinner Auction, "Stories of Bethesda".

Attendees were privileged to hear stories from Jon Michael Mollicone, Benjamin Reynolds, Dan Jones, Kate Klassen, and Shelley Mercer. Their stories helped us to understand why they love Bethesda and how it has affected their lives. To add to the evening, Momentum Choir gave an inspiring performance that brought the crowd to their feet.

Special thanks to the sponsors, donors, auctioneer, emcee, guest speakers, attendees, volunteers and staff who made the evening possible. Through the generous contributions of all involved, over \$48,000 was raised for the Capital Campaign for the Niagara Family Centre. 🔄





2017 SO FAR...

March Madness, March 21, Vineland

On March 21, 2017 an exhilarating game of basketball took place in the gym at Fly Road—Bethesda's version of March Madness.

Special thanks to coaches, refs and good sports: Mike (Chaplaincy) and Lee (CRP) and everyone else who came out to play or cheer. A good time was had by all!



Carol Gray Social Stories, April 12, St. Catharines

Bethesda was proud and honoured to host a workshop with the Founder of the Social Stories™ herself, Carol Gray. Approximately 175 people attended. Social Stories 10.2™ is an evidence-based approach to teaching everyday social skills to children and adults who have Autism Spectrum Disorders. Started in 1989, Social Stories™ is now used world-wide.

Photo: Stephen Chan, Irma Ruiter & Carol Gray

Bethesda Easter Service, April 12, St. Catharines

Through video presentations, beautiful singing, scripture reading and creative drama expressions, a message of hope and promise was declared at this year's Easter Service. As family and friends from Bethesda and other community agencies gathered together we were challenged to open up our hands to Jesus.



BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Bethesda has been chosen as a recipient of funds for this year's Behind Closed Doors event at the Pen Centre. The evening includes an opportunity to shop at Pen Centre stores, many featuring sales exclusive to this event, enjoy entertainment, enter a contest, win door prizes, and give back to your community!

Tickets will be sold by Bethesda for \$5 each or \$10 at the door on September 9.

Bethesda will receive the proceeds of all the tickets sold from our offices so be sure to pick up your tickets at Fly Road, Schmon Centre, or the Niagara Family Centre before they are gone!



REFRESHING & MODERNIZING OUR DAY SUPPORTS PROGRAM

In March 2016, we embarked on a project to review and refresh our Day Supports Program to ensure our program is in alignment with the provincial transformation initiatives within the Developmental Sector.

Through several months of planning and development we settled on testing out three unique pilot projects, one in each of our Day Support Program sites. These are actively underway now and providing us with helpful insights.

The 3 projects include:

- Developing day services based on individual need, interest and preference while offering learning streams in the areas of employment, community inclusion, recreation and leisure and life-long learning and volunteerism.
- A test in shifting the program from site-based supports to increasingly supporting individuals in the community.
- Exploring additional partnerships and accessible and inclusive community spaces for supports and resources in one of our more rural locations.

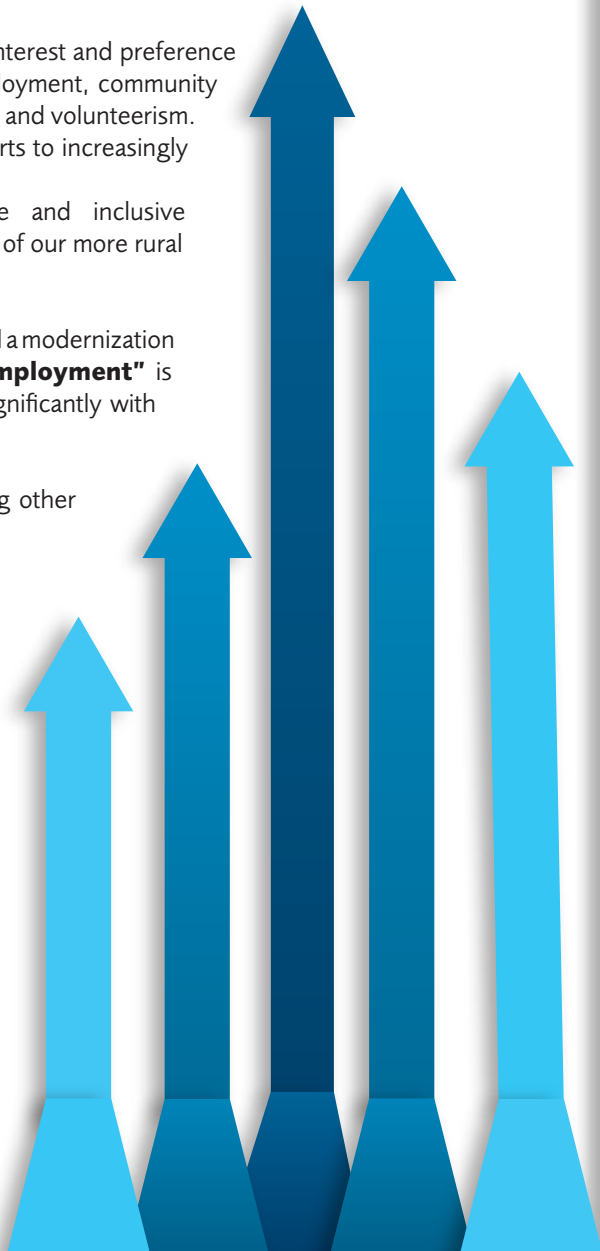
In March 2017, we were excited to find out that we received a modernization grant for \$250,000 over two years. **"Pathways to Employment"** is an initiative that will extend our modernization efforts significantly with respect to developing employment supports.

The project has several components that include, among other things:

- The development of a pre-employment curriculum.
- Building and strengthening relationships with area Employment and Support Services partners in the community.
- The development of a workshop series for individuals who are hesitant to consider employment.
- The development of a workshop for other supporters: Host Family Providers and Family Members.
- Recruiting and engaging new employer options within the local community who will partner with us to provide competitive employment opportunities.

In tandem, these two projects will notably move us forward in our goal to provide supports that are more individualized, meaningful and community centred.

These are exciting times! 





CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

by Mike Gilmore

WHAT'S THAT SMELL?

What are some of your favorite smells? Perhaps a cologne or perfume, or a favorite food? Living in Wainfleet surrounded by farms, I often take a deep breath and go Ahh! The sweet smell of country living; or cough, the not so sweet smell of country living. It's amazing how different smells can generate strong emotional reactions. The fact is we are attracted to pleasant smells! Did you know that God wants us to smell good? He wants us to smell good spiritually so others will want to know about new life in Jesus. What does it mean to smell good in the eyes (or nose, if you will) of God and the world.

But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him. For we are to God the aroma of Christ among

those who are being saved and those who are perishing. 2 Corinthians 2:14-15

To smell good we need to **live a life of victory**: "Thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ". Our lives are to be a living testimony of the victory we have found in Christ. Victory over sin, past mistakes, troubles, and victory over challenges yet to come. Galatians 2:20 reminds us that "I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me." Victory comes when we surrender our lives to Christ and live for Him. Everything changes, our purpose, attitude, hope, and joy. Does your life smell of victory so that others will see Christ in you?

To smell good we need to **live a life of service**: We are told that "through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of Him". We

know that He came to serve and not to be served. He lived a life of sacrificial love; taking the role of a servant and washing the disciples' feet. Even knowing that His disciples would betray and abandon Him, He loved them.

Over my 24 years working and serving at Bethesda I have witnessed so many wonderful stories of victory in the lives of those we have been called to serve and I continue to see and smell so many staff who serve with sacrificial love "to the end".

May I encourage you to continue to pray for Bethesda, that the fragrance and aroma of Christ would permeate all that we do so others would be drawn to know Christ's love for all of us! ☺



MY GIFT

For your convenience, donations can now be made at www.bethesdaservices.com by clicking the [Donate Now](#) button.

Please accept my gift of : \$50 \$100 OTHER _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email: _____

Select an option: General Donation Memorial

In memory of: _____

I have enclosed a cheque payable to Bethesda Home Foundation Inc.

I prefer to use my : VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER

Card Number _____ Expiry Date _____ CVS _____

Name on Card _____

Card Holder Signature _____

OR I want to be a Monthly Supporter in the amount of \$ _____ per month

*Tax receipts issued for donations over \$10. Online donations will receive receipts via email.