

# The Bethesda Link

ISSUE 9 • JANUARY 2018

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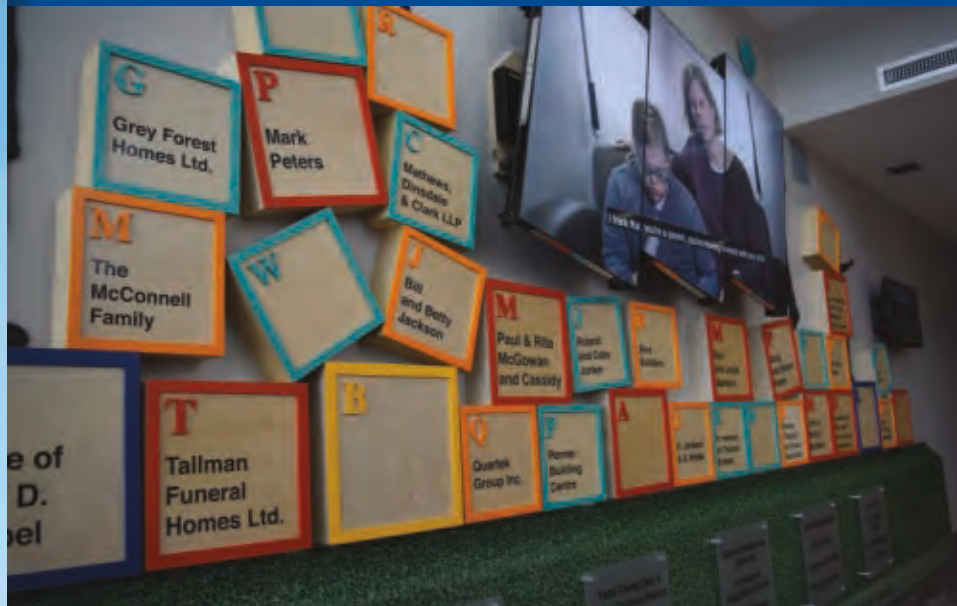
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Welcome to yet another publication of the "Link". We trust each and every one has enjoyed a wonderful holiday season and that this upcoming year is one full of blessings.

The Bethesda Niagara Family Centre Capital Campaign, "Building Families, Building Lives", is now officially complete. It is with deep appreciation to our community that we announce we surpassed our goal. When you have an opportunity, please drop by the Family Centre and view the beautiful Donor Wall and room designations.

Throughout this upcoming year, we will be establishing a new four-year Strategic Plan. This gives us an opportunity to solicit input in to the future direction of our organization. As the opportunity presents itself, I trust you will help us to define our future.

Thank you for your support this past year; we are truly grateful for our community and the privilege of supporting people. 🙏

Respectfully,

Brian Davies  
Chief Executive Officer



SAVE THE DATE

Bethesda

# ONE VOICE

NINETEENTH

## Annual Bethesda Dinner Auction

Friday, April 13, 2018 – Club Italia, Niagara Falls

MASTER OF CEREMONIES | MIKE KRAUSE  
ENTERTAINMENT BY | DUALY NOTED JAZZ DUO

AND

**MOMENTUM**  
*belong. believe. inspire.*

TICKETS: \$90 per person  
(\$45 charitable tax receipt)

For tickets contact:  
Candace Walker 905.684.6918 Ext. 271  
cwalker@bethesdaservices.com

Doors Open: 5:15 pm

Fabulous Live & Silent  
Auction Items & Packages!

All proceeds go directly to  
Bethesda Home Foundation Inc.

## BOARD SPOTLIGHT | WAYNE YOUNG



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.

### Please provide some history on your professional life.

After graduating from the University of Toronto, in 1973, I was employed for + 31 years in the Commercial and Corporate Lending operations, at CIBC. I retired in 2005. My entire working career was spent in the GTA.

**Number of years on Bethesda's Boards?** 4 years

### Why are you passionate about Bethesda?

I was not aware of Bethesda until my wife, Wilma, and I moved to St. Catharines, in 2005. We were introduced to the organization by members of our church. I became a member of the Board as the result of sponsorship by a former Director of Bethesda who attended our church. I am humbled by the opportunity to contribute to the work that is accomplished at Bethesda, by the dedicated senior management team, and the members of the staff, who largely demonstrate a 'calling' for their work at Bethesda. I am personally thankful for the nature and quality of the client service that is Bethesda.

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

I continue to study, on a part-time basis, at Brock University, where I am pursuing an undergraduate degree in Political Science. My wife and I are members in Christian reading groups. I am an avid reader of books covering a broad range of topics. My wife and I are also blessed with three (soon to be four) young grandchildren, who we try to see at every opportunity. ☺



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!

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# BETHESDA MEANS HOUSE OF COMPASSION... WHAT DOES COMPASSION MEAN?

An Approach to Care curriculum is being developed within Bethesda, for Bethesda. The training is designed to enhance Bethesda's Mission, Vision and Values through engaging resources that emphasize important aspects of care in our work with people with developmental disabilities. Approach to Care is a collaborative venture. People with lived experience are being invited to inform our work and participate in production.

The Approach to Care Team hosted two "Open House – Open Dialogue" sessions last March to capture the experiences and ideas of people who use our services.

Bethesda's identity as a House of Compassion was the starting point. We prompted participants with questions about how they like to be approached and how we can care in ways that are meaningful to them. The Open Dialogue ideas were captured by Think Link Graphics' artists Liisa Sorsa and Disa Kauk. A script was developed based on the compelling input of our participants. Subsequently, SpotLight drama actors provided the audio readings to go with the top-notch whiteboard video called "Bethesda Means House of Compassion: what does compassion mean?" The result has been brilliant, artistic renditions of what compassion means.

Think Link Graphics produced a video masterpiece depicting the vision and wise words of people with lived experience with developmental disabilities. On behalf of all contributors...enjoy!

**To experience this video, visit [bethesdaservices.com](http://bethesdaservices.com) and check out our About Us page.**



# JUNE TO DECEMBER EVENTS 2017

## Baseball Fun Day June 20

A much anticipated annual event, staff and individuals Bethesda supports gathered on June 20 for a day of Baseball fun in the sun!

## Andy Koschok Regional Memorial Golf Tournament July 12

Once again Bethesda's Niagara Family Centre Capital Campaign was the beneficiary for the Andy Koschok Regional Memorial Golf Tournament. A total of \$17,400 was raised for Bethesda, providing a three year total of nearly \$60,000.

## Family Picnic July 23

Thank you to all involved in the planning, set-up and execution of the event, along with all those who came out and enjoyed a great time of family, friends, food and fun!

## Camp Crossroads September 10-13

From Sept 10 to 13, 28 individuals, along with 26 support staff, were again blessed by the staff, volunteers and setting of Camp Crossroads. The weather was some of the best all summer (no rain!). Campers were able to experience horse rides, boat rides, campfires and other outdoor activities as well as the usual fellowship with food and chapel. Good times were had by all!

## Behind Closed Doors September 9

Bethesda was chosen to be a beneficiary of the 2017 Behind Closed Doors event at the Pen Centre. This was an exclusive event at the mall providing sales for ticket holders. The annual event helped to raise over \$1000 for Bethesda.

## Thanksgiving Service September 27

Staff, individuals Bethesda supports, friends and family members gathered at Fairview Mennonite Brethren Church to join in the Thanksgiving Service, "Some Kind of Wonderful".



BALLS FALLS FUN DAY



## Balls Falls Fun Day October 24

Crafts, pumpkin decorating and a delicious lunch were enjoyed by those who attended this year's Balls Falls Fun Day!

## Family Celebration Day October 28

For the first time, Bethesda's Children's staff hosted a Family Celebration Day to round out Autism Awareness Month. Fun, food and time with families made this day a huge success! Thank you to all involved.



## Halloween at Bethesda October 31

Children's services staff shown getting into the Halloween spirit!

## Take Our Kids to Work Day November 1

This year, there were 9 kids in attendance. In the morning they received a presentation on what Bethesda is and does and then toured the Fly Road property, visiting Sweeney, Cottage Cove, Willow Heights, Wiebe House and Respite. They spent the afternoon with their parent hard at work!

## Memorial Service November 8

Families, staff, friends and individuals Bethesda supports gathered to celebrate those we have lost. Each year we honour, remember, and celebrate the lives of those God has blessed us through.



## Respite Christmas Parties December 2 and 9

Over two weekends, children in Bethesda's respite programs came to Bethesda to celebrate the Holiday season! As a special gift this year, each child left with a stuffed animal generously donated by our local Niagara Petsmart stores!

## Christmas Service December 13

This year's Bethesda Christmas Service was called "If Jesus Had Been Born In 2017" - A fun, music filled look at an old story that challenges us to consider whether things have really changed much since Christ's birth some 2000 years ago.



# NIGHT AT THE ICE DOGS 2018

**A GROUP OUTING TO NEVER FORGET!**

*Bethesda Night at the IceDogs* 

Enjoy the game!  
Prices at **\$13.00** per ticket  
Exclusive **pre-game skate!**

**Friday March 2 at 7pm  
vs Barrie**



Buy the **WHOLE** seat,  
but only use  
the **edge!**



## CONTACT:

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905-687-3641 ext. 226 | [d.maitland@niagaraicedogs.net](mailto:d.maitland@niagaraicedogs.net)

# DAY PROGRAM MODERNIZATION UPDATE

Since the launch of the Moving Forward Pilot projects in April of 2017, staff have been collecting information about how each pilot is progressing and learning ways that the project can be adapted to improve their efforts. In September, the working committees gathered to review each pilot's progress to date. Please take a moment to review the below information that includes the goal of each pilot and some of the measures of key gains, lessons learned, and next steps.

## CREATING CHANGE

**PILOT PURPOSE:** People who attend Fly Road Day Service will be engaged in daily activities that align with their individual preferences. People who are interested in pursuing meaningful employment will be able to access an employment service/program to assist them.

- ✓ Secured \$250 000 in multi-year funding to jumpstart an employment preparedness program
- ✓ People at the Fly Road Day Service spend more than 6x as much time in the community as before the pilot
- ✓ 100% of people in the pilot now have a personal plan to guide the services they are involved in
- ✓ People who have similar goals and interests are able to spend time together
- ✓ People have tried many new things they have not been able to do before

## WE R.I.S.E- RECREATE, INSPIRE, SUCCEED, ENCOURAGE

**PILOT PURPOSE:** People who attend St. Catharines Day Services will spend more time in their community, with people that share similar interests, being involved in activities that they have identified as being purposeful and meaningful.

- ✓ 100% of the people in the pilot, and most of the others who attend the service, have personalized plans
- ✓ People are spending significantly more time with their friends in the community
- ✓ With staff assistance, the people are actively deciding on their activities
- ✓ Day service and residential staff are working together to overcome transportation challenges

## TURN-A-BOUT

**PILOT PURPOSE:** People who use Day Services in Dunnville will have services that align with their interests & preferences, offered at a number of accessible places in the community, by capitalizing on partnerships & relationships with existing community resources and agencies

- ✓ Everyone in Dunnville has a personalized plan that guides their services
- ✓ One person has secured a job in his community
- ✓ New activities are being tried in the Dunnville area
- ✓ Community partnerships are being explored
- ✓ Some favourite activities that had been discontinued, have been reintroduced

As the pilot projects wrap up, stay tuned for updates on other another pilot currently in place, *Pathways to Employment*. We have partnered with March of Dimes to develop pre-employment programming and workshops along with work and volunteer opportunities for some the individuals Bethesda supports. 🗣️

# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

by Mike Gilmore

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

**"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior". - Luke 1:46**

Interesting words from a very young lady whose world was just turned upside down after the surprising announcement from the angel Gabriel that she would be the mother of God's son (Jesus). Put yourself for a moment in Mary's shoes and try and comprehend what this announcement meant. She was engaged to be married; Joseph will most likely divorce her once he finds out she is pregnant. The law states she could possibly be stoned to death because of what the people would assume she has done. Would her own family understand and believe her that she is pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit?

Life can take some unexpected, even fear filled turns. The question is how do we react? How do we have a Happy New Year in what seems like a time of crisis? Let's take a quick walk through this old story and rediscover some key statements expressed to Mary.

1. **Highly Favoured.** This simply means loved, chosen to be used by God for His purpose. The beautiful part of God's love is that each of us are highly favoured, chosen and loved by God to accomplish His purpose in our lives.

2. **The Lord is With You.** What a beautiful promise for Mary and each of us today. Because Jesus loves us we are never alone as we journey through the challenges of life. Throughout the scriptures wherever Jesus was, the people found renewed strength and peace in His presence. Therefore we do not need to be afraid.

3. **The Holy Spirit Will Come Upon You.** Jesus is God's gift of love and salvation to each of us. The Holy Spirit is God's gift to live free from the power of sin and fear in our lives. He is the Spirit of wisdom, strength and comfort.

4. **For no Word From God Will Ever Fail.** Whatever your fear or worry is today. Write it down and then ask God to give you a scripture, a promise to overcome this fear and worry. Pray this promise and commit it to memory.

5. **May Your Word to Me be Fulfilled.** Remember what might seem like a huge surprise to us, is never a surprise to God. God is at work. Remember He loves you and has chosen you to work through this experience and season of your life. Ask God to open your eyes to what He is doing and then align yourself with His purpose and plan.

6. **My Soul Glorifies the Lord and My Spirit Rejoices in God My Savior.** Take time to worship and give praise to the one who brought you salvation through His presence. The God who purposefully chose to come in the flesh "Emmanuel". The God who continues even today to choose us as highly favored and has a wonderful plan for our lives.

May you experience God's presence in a fresh way as you enter into 2018, so that your heart may be filled with His Joy! Happy New Year! 🙏

God's Richest Blessing,  
Chaplain Mike Gilmore





# RETIREEES

Now is the time to do  
Everything you've always wanted to  
Now is the time to enjoy  
All the things which eluded you  
Now is the time to catch up  
With friends and family  
Now is the time to show the world  
That you're an amazing retiree

## Congratulations to:

**Trinda Rensen** who contributed 29 years of dedicated and excellent service to Bethesda. Trinda retired from Developmental Center on July 6, 2017

**Sharon Forgeron** who provided 13 years of devoted and professional service to Bethesda. Sharon retired from her Speech and Language Pathologist position with Twin Lakes on September 4, 2017

**Cecilia Shepherd** who gave 40 years of dedicated and outstanding service to Bethesda and retired from her position of Day Activities Manager on November 15, 2017



## MY GIFT

For your convenience, donations can now be made at [www.bethesdaservices.com](http://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.