



INSIGHT

Executive Director's Comments

Over the past 2½ months, we have been blessed with much snow and cold weather for the ski, snowmobile, ice fishermen and snow shoe enthusiasts. Some may have had the opportunity to travel to warmer temperatures already or are planning a winter get-away. Others, like me, will “just put up with our Canadian winters.” Let’s hope Warton Willie brings a welcome prediction this year and Spring temperatures will soon be upon us.

In the September issue of Insight, I focused on the Team Building sessions that occurred last Spring with Staff and spoke of an Information Survey to involve people supported and their families/care-givers.

In December, Julie Moore and Joanne Shand-Kernighan contacted individuals, families and/or caregivers who are involved with Adult Services, either by phone or in person, to discuss with them their thoughts on the supports they or their family member was receiving, whether all levels

of Staff were doing their job, their level of satisfaction and other information they wished to share. There was an overwhelming response to the initial memo that went out asking who wanted to be contacted with respect to participating. In the end, 25 individuals, family members and/or caregivers participated in the survey; 13 were interviewed in person and 12 by telephone, per their requests. Responses were primarily from individuals involved with the Supported Independent Living Program, Employment Support and the Activity Centre; I was disappointed with the lack of response from individuals involved with our Residential Services.

It was interesting to review the comments received as to what respondents thought the jobs of various levels of Staff were and as well, other information people wished to share. From the comments received regarding Staff’s role and responsibility, I believe all comments were pertinent, accurate and helpful. Comments ranged from providing support, guidance and assistance whether in areas of employment, daily activities, budgeting or transportation. Examples and suggestions were provided for the Employment Support, Supported Independent Living and Activity Centre Programs. Seventy-six percent (76%) of the respondents indicated they believed front-line Staff were doing their job and they were happy with the support they or their family member was receiving. I think it is important to note that all individuals the Agency supports who participated in the survey indicated they were pleased with their support.

The area that individuals, families and/or caregivers appeared less certain about was, what was the role of Supervisors. However, when asked

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what they thought the job of Supervisor would be, specific answers were very appropriate. Two items to focus on are, communication (as in who to contact for various situations/questions) and education for “aging parents,” as to the services and supports for their sons and daughters for long term planning, such as when families are no longer able to provide care for them in their home.

Thank you to all who took the time to participate in the survey and provide us with valuable information. As a way to gather further information and to address your questions and concerns, the Agency will host a “Meet and Greet” information session for parents and caregivers; this will occur on Wednesday, May 13th, 2009; 3:00 pm – 5:30 pm at the Activity Centre, 267 Suncoast Dr. E., Goderich. During these winter months and to avoid cancellations due to inclement weather, the session has been scheduled for May. I hope families/caregivers will reserve this date and time on your calendar. Further information will be provided to families and caregivers regarding this event, as the date gets closer.

Heartwarming Lunch

Friday, February 13th, 2009, marks the 21st Anniversary of the Heartwarming Luncheon, and annual fundraiser of the Board of Directors. Lunch includes beef or chicken on a Kaiser bun, carrot sticks, pickles and a delicious brownie – all for \$6.00. Many extra hands are needed to sell, package, serve and deliver hundreds of lunches to our supporters within the community and surrounding area. If you can spare an hour or two of your time, please contact Mary Donnelly at 519-524-9546. Tickets are available at Central Admin. or from any Board Member.

Thank you for your continuing support!

Last Light Photo Show & Sale

Event coordinator, Jenna Ujiye, has been busy planning for the 3rd Annual Last Light Photo Show & Sale in memory of Sarah Mann. We are pleased to again partner with the Huron Camera Club, the Goderich Library and the Mann Family to host this wonderful tribute to Sarah, a founding member of the Huron Camera Club and supporter of CL-CH.

This event calls for submissions of photos which are then displayed at the Goderich Library and open to bids from the community. Funds raised from the sale of photos are directed to CL-CH to enhance the lives of individuals receiving support.

A panel of judges review the photos and prizes are awarded. We are grateful to the Goderich Signal-Star, Carmen’s Foto Source, Volvo, Huron Tourism and Lighthouse Money Management for past sponsorships.

To mark the closing of the exhibit, a reception is held at the Library and prizes are presented; the reception has been tentatively booked for Saturday, May 2nd.

Browse through your photos and consider entering the Show. More details to follow at a later date.

3rd Annual Goderich & District Golf Classic

Plans are underway for the 3rd Annual Goderich & District Golf Classic to be held Friday, June 19th (practice round on Thursday, June 18th) at the Sunset Golf Course. In the past two years, this tournament has raised an approximate total of \$30,000, with proceeds directed towards the purchase of a new wheelchair van. For more information, please contact Tom Morris at 519-524-2810 or the Central Admin. Office at 519-524-7362.

Thank You

~ Than you to the volunteers who assisted with the wreath making workshops held Saturday, November 15th and Saturday, November 29th. \$2,012 was raised. Your dedication to this event is very much appreciated.

~ The support for the Christmas Craft & Bake Sale was tremendous this year. Activity Centre Staff and people supported worked very hard preparing a large variety of "gifts in a jar." The Friendship Soup and Hot Chocolate Mix were extremely popular. As a special treat, a Chili Lunch, using the "Chili in a jar" recipe was held January 27th. Approximately \$2,500 was raised with funds being used to purchase new items for the Snoezelen Room.



~ Many thanks to those who donated to our annual Christmas Collection in support of Blessings Unlimited. Your kindness helped to brighten the holiday season for those less fortunate.

Congratulations:

Girls, Girls, Girls

~ Chris & Krista Wraith-Humphrey, along with big brother Kolson, are thrilled to announce the arrival of Kortnie Reagann on November 11th.

~ Loni & Trevor Vanderburgh are the proud first-time parents of this area's New Year's baby - Taylor Grace, arrived on January 1st, 2009, weighting 7 lbs 12 oz.



Thinking of You

Get well wishes are extended to:

~ Judy Shelton
~ Sheila Courtney
~ Sharon Munro

Also, we are glad to hear that Elizabeth and Michaela Alcock are feeling much better.

Heartfelt sympathy is extended to:

~ Loretta and Denis Boucher and family
~ Sharon and Tony Martens and family

May treasured memories bring you comfort during this difficult time.

Comings & Goings

Welcome to:

Team A – Laura Warwick

Team B – Diane Jewell and Sokha Pearson

Team C – Jon Meyer

Team D – Andrea Turcotte and Sally Knox

Welcome one and all!

Comings Events:

~ **21st Annual Heartwarming Luncheon**

Friday, February 13th, 2009, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm at the Goderich Legion. \$6.00.

To place an order call 519-524-7362.

~ **Last Light Photo Show & Sale**

Plans are underway for this event.

Submission date and categories for photos not yet determined; reception tentatively scheduled for May 2nd at the Goderich Library. More details will be available soon.

~ **3rd Annual Goderich & District Golf Classic**

Thursday, June 18th and Friday, June 19th, Sunset Golf Course, Goderich.

Registration packages to be available the end of March, first of April. Enter as a single or a team! More information at a later date.

Remember to mark your calendar!

