

### Evolution is Exciting!

*By Karen Belyea, Executive Director*

The ways in which people with developmental disabilities in Ontario receive services and supports is always evolving as organizations such as TCE strive to support each individual to have their best possible life. Large institutions across Ontario have closed because it was recognized over time that a life in the community was possible and preferred for everyone. Evolution is never stagnant and transformation continues. What was done in the past isn't necessarily wrong; as we move forward and learn, we are exposed to new ideas and experiences which informs us about what is possible. This holds as true today as it did in the past and there are exciting new learnings about ways to support people with developmental disabilities that are truly socially inclusive.

This fall, a group of 17 employees attended several days of training entitled 'Breaking the Mold'. This is a first step in our journey to a more person-centred thinking, individualized approach to supporting people in their communities. Our 'transition team' has met since the training and plan on organizing learning opportunities for all employees which will provide tools and resources to guide our transformation over the next several years. There are a number of initiatives that are happening across the Province led by the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) which continue to support the transformation of Developmental Services.

Last year, MCSS Minister, the Honourable Dr. Jaczek announced the closure of Sheltered Workshops and the transition of individuals to community-based competitive work or volunteer/recreational activities. There are various initiatives including the 'Employment and Modernization Fund' intended to assist organizations make the transition from sheltered employment to competitive employment and also to assist staff with skills training.

See **EVOLUTION** on page 3



**Making Connections for life**

## Family Support Network

**By Coreen Blackburn**

**Family Support Network Representative, Board of Directors**

The Family Support Network (FSN) is a group of family members and friends of individuals who receive support and services from TCE.

The FSN holds meetings in the spring and fall and helps to host the Douglas Joseph Fahey Annual Memorial BBQ/Picnic, which is sponsored by Fahey Electric.

The meetings provide an opportunity for family members to receive reports from the Executive Director and discuss issues. The spring meeting has evolved into an annual Pot Luck supper which is enjoyed by all and is an opportunity to get to know other families and renew friendships.

The FSN provides funds at Christmas toward the purchase of a gift from Santa for each resident at their Christmas party.



Jessica, Tom, and Andrea enjoying the picnic

For more information about the FSN and how you can join, please contact the TCE office at (613) 228-0999 or [tceadmin@tceottawa.org](mailto:tceadmin@tceottawa.org). You may also read about us on the TCE website at [www.tceottawa.org](http://www.tceottawa.org).

## Going the Extra Mile

**By Katherine Grove and Stacy Jones, Residential Counsellor**



Team Misquah competitors Katherine and Stacy

TCE is so fortunate to have amazing staff who everyday go the extra mile to support and encourage the people we support. Here is a great example!

Katherine Grove and I had the opportunity to participate in an amazing event this past Spring! Camp Misquah, a Summer Camp for individuals with developmental disabilities, was chosen as one of the official charities in the ScotiaBank Charity Challenge at Ottawa Race Weekend. The goal for Camp Misquah was to raise money for much needed upgrades to enhance the overall experience for campers. As Katherine's sponsored runner, I signed up to run the 5km race. Together Katherine and I set a goal of raising \$500 in pledges. Quickly, we surpassed this amount and ended up raising a total of \$2,230! This could not have been possible without the generous support of our TCE family and friends as well as the greater community. Race day was a really hot one but we did it! What a celebration we had afterwards, toasting our hard work and accomplishments!



Kim and Joe enjoying Bluesfest



Bruce catching a fish

### EVOLUTION From page 1

The Minister's Developmental Services Housing Task Force, of which I am a member, has been working for over two years and has funded 18 innovative demonstration housing projects which are intended to address the long waiting list of people who need residential supports & services. In addition, a Pilot Project in various regions across the Province for 'Independent Facilitation & Planning' has been funded for individuals and families without supports to plan for the future.

Other projects are ongoing in an attempt to modernize the system and create more flexibility.

These are exciting times to be supporting people with developmental disabilities in Ontario as we continue in our Mission to ensure that people are part of their communities and enjoy full citizenship. Our commitment to the individuals we support, their families and our employees has never been stronger.



Summertime adventures with Tom, Kim, and Paul

### By Kathleen Dean

I would like to share my memories of TCE after my son Robert joined this fine organization.

Robert's teacher at Crystal Bay School who was a member of the Board of Directors at that time introduced us to TCE. Through her we met Christine Wilson, one of the founders of TCE and Carol MacLauchlan-Gale, Director of the Children's Home. We were very impressed. Robert had a two-night relief stay at the Stewart Street Children's Home and he just loved it! It was there that he met Neil Bowering with whom he shared a love of music. Neil became Robert's roommate in an apartment many years later.



Robert's Party with family members and friends at Kirkwood

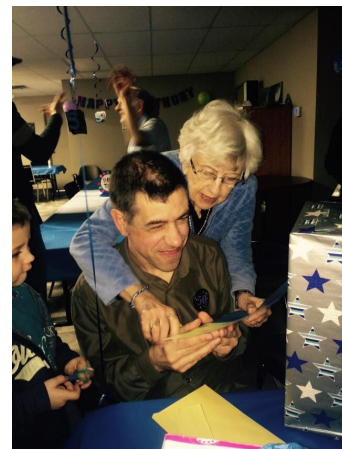
TCE opened the adult home on Eleanor Drive in 1989 and my husband Ken and I decided it might suit Robert. Soon after Robert's twenty-fifth birthday he moved into the house on Eleanor Drive and bonded with another resident, Tim Plunkett again over their shared love of music. The Lions Homes for Deaf People purchased the Kirkwood Apartment building in 1996 and Robert's staff thought this would be a good fit for him. He loved it then and still does after all these years.

Robert also spent time at Golden Avenue (now Baxter residence) and when Terry Baxter moved to TCE we met his father, Russ Baxter. Through Russ' hard work, the parents organized a Family Support Network (FSN). The FSN met regularly and raised money for TCE through bake sales. This was very successful. It also led to much needed bonding with other parents. In fact, the FSN is still together today!

Robert's move into a group home was such a help to us. The dedication and kindness of the organizing members of TCE has continued to spread to their growing staff. Thank you so very much. We feel very blessed to be part of this group.



Robert and his parents visit with Carrie and Tim at Eleanor House



Another Celebration with Mom

## Andy, Joe, and Brony's Excellent Adventure

*By Brony Shkuda, Residential Counsellor*

Andy and Joe both had goals this year of going to Toronto. Andy to visit his sister Molly and Joe to hit the T-dot! The only problem? Coming up with the funds to fuel their adventure. Enter the Special Fund and a successful proposal for a fun few days. Next step – who could they talk into going with them? Enter Brony Shkuda who's always up for an adventure! Here's their story:

The plan was to accompany Joe and Andy to Toronto by train. Andy would meet up with his sister Molly and stay with her while Joe and I would stay in a hotel and attend a Blue Jay's game, the Hockey Hall of Fame, Ripley's and finally end the trip with a dinner in Little Italy!

We set out early for the train station in Barrhaven and made it just on time! Andy and Joe had fun on the train and Andy's sister Molly was there to meet us when we arrived-Andy was very excited to see his sister. Off they went while Joe and I hit the town.



Andy and Joe aboard the train



Joe and Brony at the Hockey Hall of Fame

First things first. We had lunch just outside the train station and Joe soaked up the visuals in the bustling city. After lunch it was on to the hotel by way of subway. After checking into the hotel we relaxed for a bit and made our way to the Blue Jay's game that evening. It was crowded as the Jay's were in the thick of a Pennant race. Joe bought a Blue Jay's cap and jersey, which he wore proudly. During the game we walked around the stadium and Joe enjoyed a couple of beers and oh yes the Blue Jays won! The game is a lot more enjoyable when your team wins!

The next day we went for breakfast, to Ripley's Aquarium and the Hockey Hall of Fame. Joe was especially impressed with the sharks at the Aquarium and with the Imax movie at the Hall of Fame. It was a busy day but Joe was all for it. Of course we picked up souvenirs along the way.

That evening we went to Little Italy where Joe enjoyed the atmosphere, food and a couple of beers with the meal. I had to opt out on the alcohol. Ha! By the end of the evening we were both tired and had a good sleep.

The next afternoon we met Molly and Andy at the train station. Molly and Andy were grateful for the opportunity to spend time together. We said our goodbyes and boarded the train for Ottawa and home. It was a successful whirlwind trip! Stay tuned to see what's on the agenda for next year!

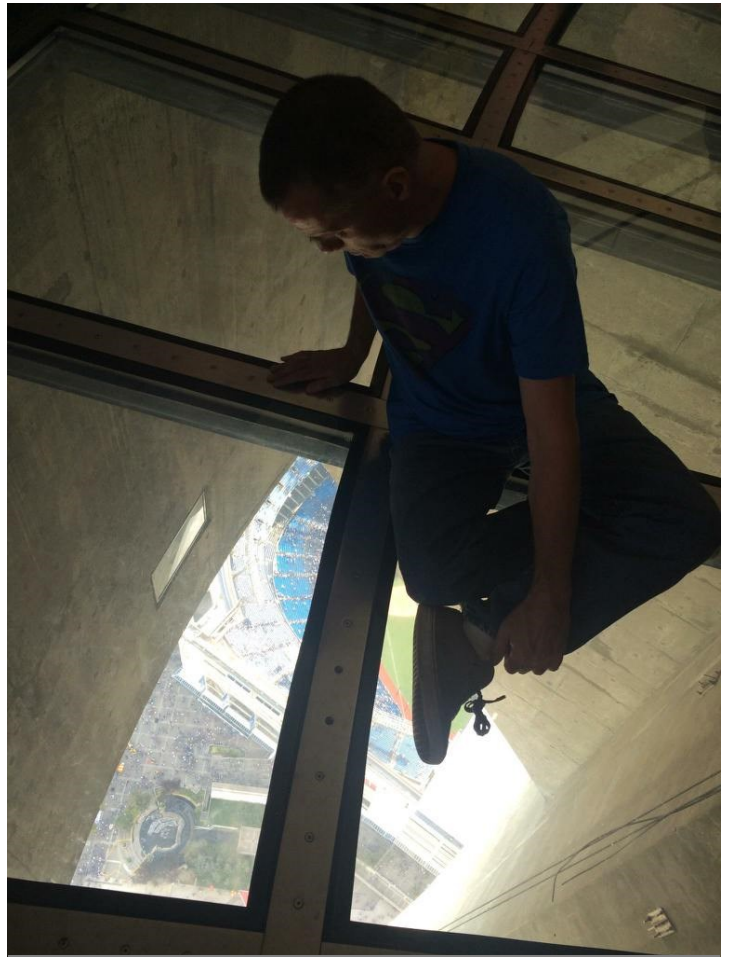
## Thanks Special Fund

*By Jill Dane, Residential Counsellor*

Toronto was a theme this year at TCE! A great cup of coffee is an absolute favourite of Dwayne's at Anderson House. The next best thing on his list is to visit Toronto and due to the generosity of the Special Fund, we were able to enjoy an awesome three day vacation! There were lots of highlights but at the top of the list was the CN Tower, a great Blue Jays game and of course, Ripley's Aquarium! Throw in some great restaurants, lounging by the pool and the luxury of a hotel-stay and we made some wonderful memories! Dwayne can strike that off his Bucket List!



Dwayne at the base of the CN Tower...



... And Dwayne looking down from the top!

## Our Backyard Bench

*By Mary Ellen McKenna, Program Supervisor*

Speaking of the Special Fund, among many of the things funded this year was a new swinging bench for the backyard at Anderson House. Richard isn't one for coffee but he loves his tea and nothing better than whiling away the hours on his bench with a good cup of tea.

## Rick Kuiack and the Annual Beau's Brewery Oktoberfest

*By Charlie McKeown, Home Share Provider*

Mix together Beau's Beer, great food, and a few Strongman/Strongwomen events and you get a weekend that TCE's Rick Kuiack looks forward to every year...the Beau's Brewery Oktoberfest. This year's festival turned out to be extra special for Rick when he was a surprise star of the Keg Barrel Throwing for Height event. This event involves competitors throwing a beer keg over a cedar log that eventually reaches heights over 20 feet.

Rick, who has been living with our family as part of TCE's Homeshare Program since 2002, has always enjoyed a chance to be in the spotlight, and a spotlight that allows him to show off his muscles is the ultimate stage. At this year's event, Rick was able to get the attention of one of the competition's organizers. The young woman asked Rick if he was enjoying the contest and he said "I Do"! Immediately realizing that Rick wanted to try tossing the Keg for himself she responded that they would absolutely give him a shot.

During the intermission between the Men's and Women's event the organizers gave Rick his chance to try the toss. Rick's performance made such an impression that they asked if he was willing to try it again before the main event to get the crowd fired up. Once he was given the real spotlight and heard the announcer introduce him as "Oktoberfest's special guest Keg Tosser, Vankleek Hill's own... "RICK" he stepped into action. Gesturing for the spotters to step aside, Rick went through his pre-toss ritual as the crowd of at least 3,000 shouted "RICK RICK RICK". As Rick confidently picked up the Keg, cleared the bar with room to spare, celebrated with a spin and fist pumps; the crowd erupted in cheers.

Rick's performance was the highlight of the event for Rick, our group of friends and entire neighborhood in attendance ....stay tuned for what surprises Rick has in store for us at next year's event!



Rick competing in keg tossing

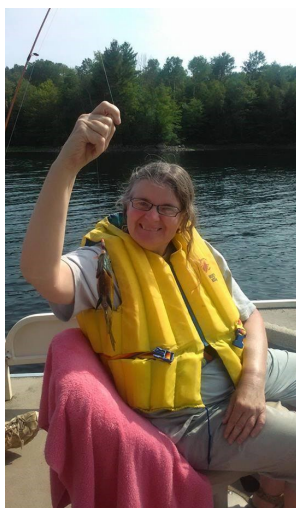


Rick and Charlie celebrating the games



Charlie and Rick entering Oktoberfest

## Ahhh... Summertime!



Jane fishing



Meaghan roasting hotdogs



Claire apple picking



Jamie swimming

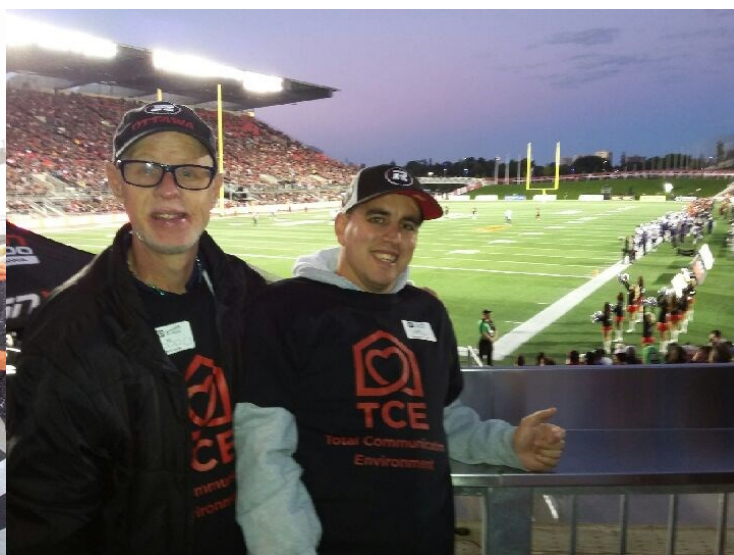
## TCE and the RedBlacks—Our Grey Cup Champions Make a Great Team!!

*By Karen Belyea*

TCE is full of amazing Redblacks football fans and this year we were able to combine our love for the hometown team with fundraising. Thanks to the leadership of Doug Watt, Community Participation Support Worker and a dedicated group of volunteers, our energetic bunch was out every game picking up empty beer cans for recycling. During the regular season alone we raised over \$3,330 to support special activities and events for individuals with multiple disabilities and special communication needs. Thank you to the Redblacks organization and the Ottawa Sports and Entertainment Group for this wonderful opportunity. You are a fantastic community partner! We hope to see you all next year for another award winning season with the RedBlacks! You won't find a more dedicated group of fans! If you are interested in volunteering with TCE please see our website for more details at [www.tceottawa.org](http://www.tceottawa.org).



Snowy volunteers Doug, Darryl, and Parker



Proud volunteers and fans Mark and Garreth

## Friendly Neighbor



My name is Ale (Allie.) I live on one of the flyer routes where the Colonnade Community participants deliver flyers. I'm lucky to say there are many things I love about my neighborhood but I can tell you that seeing the Colonnade group every week is at the very top of that list and it makes Thursday my second favorite day of the week ... Sorry guys but I just love Sundays :)

Normally we get so involved in our own routines that we don't always notice what other significant things are going on around us. I don't remember how long it took me to really see who was delivering my flyers, I'm sure they had delivered flyers to my door for many Thursdays before I noticed. Since we have met, I really look forward to my Thursdays, it makes my day when I see my flyer being delivered to

my door.

They've said they're lucky to have me on their route but I'm the lucky one. Everyone is so friendly and warm and truly appreciate the very little I do by offering a treat once a week. If you're on their route and have the opportunity to do so, I invite you to take the time to say hello, I guarantee you will be hooked like I am and hey, we all need to feel appreciated right? These workers make a huge effort by getting the flyers ready and delivering them especially now that is getting colder.

I look forward to seeing the group this week and I hope I'll soon be hearing and reading stories from more of you!

Allie

## Mandy's Dream Wedding

*By Martine Robichaud, Residential Counsellor*

Mandy is a young woman who began receiving residential services and support from TCE at the Kilbarron Apartments during the summer of 2010. Mandy, like many other young women, dreamed of one day marrying her high school sweetheart and moving into their own place. Mandy's dream came true this year on September 17th, when she married Shawn surrounded by family and friends. A lot of preparation and planning went into making their wedding day extra special.

Mandy looked lovely in her white dress and veil as she walked down the aisle toward Shawn where he was waiting for her at the altar. She couldn't be happier! The wedding was everything she had hoped for and went off without a hitch, well with the exception of the bride's bouquet, which was forgotten at home! Fortunately, with some quick thinking and a few borrowed flowers from the church, Mandy had a beautiful bouquet and a memory she will look back at fondly.



Martine, Mandy, and Shawn

A reception followed the ceremony, where the bride and groom gathered to celebrate with all the people who care about them and had supported them on their journey to this day.

Mandy and Shawn are now living independently as husband and wife, just as Mandy had always dreamed of. Best wishes to the newlyweds!

## A Warm Gift

*By Karen Belyea*

Over the years at Christmas time, residents at TCE are assured to find a brightly wrapped gift under the tree, tied up with a bow with their name on it. Wrapped inside they will find the most beautiful and unique quilt, hand-made with much care by Judith Belyea. This year will mark the 80<sup>th</sup> quilt that Judith has made and donated to TCE residents, assuring that everyone has their own 'one of a kind' quilt to keep them warm and feel special. Judith, an expert quilt maker, has honed her skills over many years and along with a partner, owned a quilting store. Her extraordinary gifts have been much appreciated and brighten the bedrooms throughout our organization. Thank you Judith for your generosity and thoughtfulness.



Judith Belyea and her beautifully handcrafted quilts



Claire is cozy in her quilt

## Festive Fundraising is in the Air at TCE

*By Karen Belyea*

It's like being at Santa's Workshop, everywhere you turn there are delicious things being made, beautiful crafts being created and gorgeous home décor just waiting for its forever home. No need to go to the Mall when you can shop at TCE. The Riverbend Residence has wonderful treat bags, snowmen and gingerbread tea and hot chocolate holders and more! The Riverbend Community Program is baking up a snow storm of mouth-watering cookie trays for all your entertaining needs and over at Baxter Community Program, their gorgeous one-of-a-kind crafts will make your table glow! Not to be left out, Colonnade Community Program has some very unique and fun Christmas home décor which you do not want to miss out on! Check out our facebook page at TCE Total Communication Environment or email/phone for more details at the contact numbers below. All of the funds go directly to the artists we support.



Gavin, Cory, and Patrick hard at work

See **FESTIVE** on page 11

## Festive Fundraising



1



2



3



4

For further information please contact:

1. *Uncorked*  
613-722-4946  
tcebaxterdp@tceottawa.org
2. *Riverbend Community Program*  
613-721-5143  
tceriverbenddp@tceottawa.org
3. *Colonnade Community Program*  
613-233-0129  
tcecolonnadedp@tceottawa.org
4. *Riverbend*  
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## TCE Newsletter

You are reading the official newsletter of Total Communication Environment (TCE), a registered charitable organization dedicated to supporting individuals with multiple disabilities and special communication needs.

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**(613) 843-7516**

**Hillmount**  
24 Hillmount Cres.  
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K2G 3E3  
**613-224-4406**

**Anderson Place**  
42 Leeming Drive  
Nepean, Ontario  
K2H 5P7  
**613-828-2578**

**Baxter Community Program**  
644 Golden Ave.  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K2A 2G2  
**613-722-4946**

**Baxter House**  
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**613-722-4946**

**Kilbarron**  
12C & 12D Kilbarron Rd.  
Nepean, Ontario  
K2J 5A8  
**613-843-8038 (12C)**  
**613-843-8039 (12D)**

**Riverbend**  
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K2H 5G9  
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**Wilson House Community Program**  
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**Eleanor**  
16 Eleanor Drive  
Nepean, Ontario  
K2E 7G1  
**613-224-5975**

**46 Clenning St.**  
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K2J 5B2  
**613-843-0593**

**Rosebella**  
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**Riverbend Community Program**  
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Nepean, Ontario  
K2H 5G9  
**613-721-5143**

**Quinn**  
2785 Quinn Rd.  
Gloucester, Ontario  
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**Burma**  
164, 166, 168 Burma Rd.  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1K 4N2  
**613-742-6521**

**Starwood**  
75 Starwood Rd.  
Nepean, Ontario  
K2G 1Z4  
**613-723-8222**

**Kirkwood**  
575 Kirkwood Ave.  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1Z 5X3  
**613-761-7468**

**Wyman**  
3554 Wyman Cres.  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1V 0Z2  
**613-247-9294**

**Colonnade Community Program**  
190 Colonnade Rd. S., Unit 100  
(east side loading dock entrance)  
Nepean, ON K2E 7J5  
**613-233-0129**

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**Giving is easy:**

1. Go to [www.tceottawa.org](http://www.tceottawa.org)
2. Click on the Donate button

**If mailing your donations, please include the following information:**

Enclosed is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(please make cheque payable to **Total Communication Environment**) or

Please charge my Visa/MasterCard: Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Making Connections for Life**