



Fall 2001

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The Patchwork

From the Desk of the Executive Director

by: Greg Bechard

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I am very pleased about the rejuvenation of our newsletter. It has been renamed the Patchwork, which I believe is very representative of our community and our organization. Over the course of the year it is our hope that the Patchwork will keep our membership and families aware of all the great things that go on in the organization. Congrats to the newsletter committee Amy Bridge, Julie Martin-Jansen, Sue Lehman, and Louise Ellis.

I would also like to congratulate all the new managers and wish them luck in their new responsibilities. I know they will fulfill their duties with the same level of excellence that they displayed

in their previous responsibilities with the Elmira Association for Community Living.

Good Luck to Cheryl Heimpel the incoming Services Director. Rodger Hanna and Julie Martin-Jansen are our new Residential Managers. Donna Fulcher is now a Vocational Manager and Laurie Thomson Bartscher is our Vocational Supervisor/ Human Resources Coordinator. Last but not least a special thanks to June Martin who is filling in as interim Services Director.



**Executive Director
Greg Bechard**

Dates To Remember:

- 28th Annual Quilt Auction
Sat Nov 24th, 2001
- Staff & Committee Member Christmas Party Dec 7th, 2001
- Client Christmas Party Dec 21st, 2001

A.R.C. & Life Skills Storm Day Procedure

by: Laurie Thomson

It's that time of year again to discuss storm day procedures. If the traveling conditions are questionable listen to CHYM FM radio (96.7). Cancellations will be announced after 6:30 am. The announcement will read that rural transportation provided to pro-

grams operated by the Elmira & District Association for Community Living is cancelled. Unless it is specified as such, the transportation services will be operating as per normal. When we are unable to open ARC Industries or the Life Skills Program due to inclem-

ent weather, it will also be announced and buses will NOT be traveling to your home.

Welcome to Life Skills

by: Sue Lehman



Bonnie, Louise, Trudy, Cindy
Melissa, Rachel, and Darlene
Missing: Sue and Donna

Do you remember the old Guiding Light School? Well, come through the doors now and things are definitely different. It is now the day program for 25 people. They range in age from 22 to well into their eighties. When they arrive, they have the opportunity to take part in in-house activities such as exercises, pre-vocational training, stimulation activities and communication programs. Each day of the week time is set aside for outings into the community.

Sometimes this means swimming at Sunbeam Centre, music therapy at Wilfred Laurier University, or therapeutic horseback riding at Pride Stables. Along with the in-house and community activities, Life Skills also hosts theme days. We have had a Hawaiian luau, crazy hair day, a baby day, pjamas party and my personal favourite, "Always a Bridesmaid, Never a Bride" day. A good time is had by the staff as well as the participants. So if you drive past our program

and notice someone dressed a little oddly, chances are its another theme day. Under the supervision of the manager, Donna Fulcher there are seven staff plus a Seniors Program Instructor at Life Skills. Some of our staff begin their workday at a group home and others start their days at Life Skills receiving clients. The common thread of Life Skills is that we provide an active program where caring staff enrich the lives of the participants.

1st Annual Scavenger Hunt & Car Rally

by: Louise Ellis

"The victors will have the most correct answers with the TARDIEST time":

Life Skills and Seniors combined to participate in the 1st Annual Scavenger Hunt and Car Rally on July 23rd. The Staff and clients were divided into three teams and handed their instructions. The perimeter for the hunt was Elmira to the outskirts of St.Jacobs. With 9 clues, requirements and requests, each team was expected to read between the lines, trust their instincts and follow their noses. Many accomplices were on hand to foil

the groups. Thanks to Charlene at Raphael's Pizzeria, "Al" at Bristow's Inn and of course our newly appointed Executive Director Greg Bechard for taking the time to be involved and help cause confusion and chaos to the hunters. The day was a huge success with the teams falling off course, phone calls back to Life Skills for assistance and the misinterpretation of clues. Most question were answered correctly and all the evidence was returned. As

with most car rallies, the teams were timed BUT none of them retained the most important clue of all: "The victors will have the most correct answers with the TARDIEST time": Our winners; the green team consisting of Bonnie Martin, Rachel Winslade, Frank Kahl, John Watts, Janet Woestenenk, Linda Gerij, Bill Lamka were presented with 1st prize: a trophy full of marbles (for using their marbles!!) A great day had by all!

2nd Annual Carnival & Fun Fair

by: Louise Ellis



The Elmira Fire Department to the Rescue!

The Elmira & District Association for Community Living held their 2nd Annual Carnival & Fun Fair on Saturday September 15th at Life Skills. The sun was shining and attendance was up as we saw the return of such greats as the dunk tank, goldfish races, face painting,

and the sucker pull. New games such as plinko, the bean bag toss, and coin toss were a big hit. Many thanks to all the group homes for their ideas, enthusiasm and volunteering. Friends, families, clients and counsellors had a super time. There was lots of candy, pop-

corn, prizes, balloons, and smiles for all. We owe a special thanks to the Elmira Fire Department for filling our dunk tank!

In Memory of Kathy Gingrich

by: Kim Detweiler

On July 4th 2001 we lost a very dear friend who always brought a smile to our faces. Kathy Gingrich passed away at her home in Elmira. Kathy had been a part of the Elmira Association for Community Living for 20 years. She lived in the S.I.L. program on Flamingo Drive with her roommate and friend Ruth Wedmen. In 1967 Kathy returned to school and graduated from

Lougheed Business College with a degree in typing. She had several jobs throughout the community before she started working at Crossroads Restaurant where she helped with kitchen duties for more than a decade.

Kathy had many interests and hobbies. Music was something Kathy enjoyed whole heartedly. She enjoyed listening to her collection of records and tapes

for hours. Just before Kathy passed away she went on a vacation with the Association to Wheels Inn in Chatham. Vacationing was something she loved to do and always loved sharing her adventures with her friends. Everyone at the Association will miss her laughter and compassion towards others. We will never forget her.



***Our Friend
Kathy Gingrich***

Recreation Update

by: Laurie Thomson

All work and no play can make life rather uninteresting. So, the recreation committee works hard to make sure that a little fun is added into your life!

Throughout the year we have offered a large variety of outings and entertainment, ranging from small gatherings to more extravagant out of town adventures. In February a large group of clients, friends and family were treated to a live stage musical production of The Lion King at the Princess of Wales theatre in Toronto. A small group of clients and staff and the opportunity to get a little rest and relaxation

by going away for a three-day excursion to Wheels Inn in Chatham. There they swam and bowled and shopped 'til they dropped. A Blue Jay game at Skydome was attended by many in August and a Fun Fair with lots of games, prizes and a dunk tank was a huge success in September.

A number of theme dances such as Valentines and Hal-lowe'en are always very popular, but nothing can compare to Elvis night! Special Olympics sports are, as always, a very popular activity for a number of athletes and we have some exceptional bowl-

ers, floor hockey and baseball players!

Our excellent fundraising this year allows us to offer full and partial subsidy to those who require some assistance.

Our final activity of the year will be the Client Christmas party, and the Legion has very generously donated their facility to us once again. The Beirido Brothers will entertain us followed by a Christmas dinner after which Santa has gifts for everyone. Thanks for all the hard work from members, staff and volunteers. You're what make us successful!

The 28th Annual Quilt Auction

by: Sue Lehman

That time of year is fast approaching. The Elmira Quilt Auction and Country Market will be taking place Sat. November 24th. There will be new and used furniture, baked goods, plants, and of course QUILTS for sale. There is a raffle for a quilt, wall hanging,

and carpet strip, so remember to pick up your tickets at the Auction. At one o'clock, the main event begins. Quilts, rugs, and other handmade items will be auctioned off. All of the proceeds go to support the work of the Association for Community Living. All articles

at the sale have been donated by members or stores in the community. If you have any new or used articles that you would like to donate or if you are interested in volunteering to help with the sale, please call Amy at 669-3205. We look forward to seeing you on the

A.R.C. will be closed on the following dates for Christmas Holidays:

Dec 24, 25, 26 and 31.



The Elmira & District Association
for Community Living

Just a Reminder

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I hope that everyone enjoyed our first volume of The Patchwork. I'm going to take this opportunity to remind everyone about Memberships. If you haven't renewed your membership this year feel free to come into the office or mail in the form at any time. If you and your family have moved please forward a new address to the office via email, regular mail, fax or phone call so that you can continue receiving our newsletter. The Association is always looking for volunteers for various activities so please give us a call if you are interested. Thanks so much for taking the time to see what is new and upcoming in the Association.

Amy Bridge

A farewell to friends and co-workers

Jeff Cressman was a Primary Counsellor at First Street group home and is now residing in Thunder Bay. Jeff is chasing down his dream of one day becoming a school teacher. Sometimes in order to accomplish your goals and dreams one has to make tremendous sacrifices. Jeff is doing just that and we all wish him the best of luck and know that he will live out his dream very soon.

Written by: Rodger Walls



Rodger Walls was also a Primary Counsellor at First Street. He was an asset in setting up the clients in this home. Rodger came to us in 1997 and has been a great co-worker, friend, and employee. Rodger will be starting his training in Kingston with Corrections Service Canada. We would like to wish Rodger and his family the best of luck.

Written by: Amy Bridge

Dan Siertsema has been missed the last couple of months. Centre Street said farewell to Dan this August. Dan had worked at Centre Street since February 2000. Dan brought to Centre Street a genuine compassion, enthusiasm and friendship to all of the residents as well as to the staff who had the opportunity to work with him. Dan has headed off to teacher's college in Kingston but has vowed to stay in touch with all of his friends at EDACL. Best wishes to Dan and his fiancé Vanessa in the future.

Written by: Louise Ellis