

NSS



NIAGARA
SUPPORT
SERVICES



NTEC

NIAGARA TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT AGENCY INC.

GRAPEVINE

June 2012

Disability Pride Luncheon



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On April 10 several members of the Circle of Friends self advocacy group attended a special luncheon at Club Roma in St. Catharines. Disability Pride was the theme of the luncheon. It was organized by Mainstream for people with disabilities, their families, their support staff, and the community.

David Hingsburger was the speaker. David is a disability rights activist, speaker and author. He has provided education and counselling for people

with disabilities and specialized training for Developmental Services workers for more than 30 years. David is the Director of Clinical and Educational Services for Vita Community Living Services in Toronto.

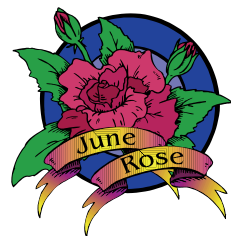
Nicole Carey, the Circle of Friends Chairperson, attended the event. She has kindly agreed to share her thoughts about Mr. Hingsburger's speech and disability pride.

I thought the luncheon was absolutely excellent. There were a lot of people there. Club Roma staff were friendly and helpful. Thank you to them.

I really learned a lot, like people with disabilities have just as many rights as those who do not. NEVER BE ASHAMED that you have a disability. Don't be afraid to try things that you want to do just because of a disability. If it doesn't work at first, don't give up. Keep trying, it won't mean you failed, it just means it might take a little bit longer. But if you believe in yourself and your friends, it can happen. Stick up for each other just like you would your family.

I will admit that I have a disability and I won't let it stop me anymore. We all belong. Thank you so much Dave Hingsburger for showing me and all my friends that we are disabled and PROUD OF IT.

Sincerely,
Nicole Jeanine Carey



Circle of Friends Chairperson,
Nicole Carey

Sharon de Prinse Receives Commissioner's Award

Niagara Support Services' Family Support Coordinator, Sharon de Prinse, received an award recently from Katherine Chislett, Commissioner, Niagara Region Community Services. Sharon was honoured along with colleagues at Meadows of Dorchester and Niagara Regional Police for showing extraordinary interest and compassion while supporting a vulnerable adult.

This is the first time the Community Services Commissioner's Award for Customer Service Excellence has been presented to someone outside of Region staff.

When presenting the award, Ms. Chislett said, *"I am inspired by the work that Sharon and her colleagues have done and very proud of the successful outcome they achieved for the person being supported. It's partnerships between the Niagara Region and community organizations like Niagara Support Services that make Niagara so great."*

CEO Andrew Lewis later commented that, *"Sharon rose up to meet a challenge that went beyond a normal day's work, and she did it in an inspired way. She is a great example of what can happen when partners come together with the common goal of helping people."*

The award nomination noted Sharon's **"commitment and creativity in assessing a complex situation and leveraging existing resources to devise an extraordinary solution."** The nominees showed great leadership that was a perfect example of the Region's values to provide excellent service through partnership, while offering client choice and showing honesty and respect for everyone involved.

The nominees collaborated successfully to arrange local services and to navigate through complex legal and care issues. In the end, the team found shelter and income in another province for the person they were supporting.

Congratulations Sharon!



NSS Family Support Coordinator Sharon de Prinse (left) receives an award from Community Services Commissioner Katherine Chislett.

New Raised Garden for Stokes Community Village

NTEC’s Landscaping program participants have been hard at work in the spring heat. They constructed a series of raised garden beds at the Stokes Community Village in central St. Catharines.

A wonderful example of urban renewal, this 50,000-square-foot building was home to Stokes Seeds’ vegetable and flower seed operation until 2002. Led by Goodwill Niagara, a \$5-million makeover was funded by all levels of government and included significant community investment. The 1895-era building now has more than 30 affordable apartments for seniors on the upper levels with offices, meeting spaces and recreation facilities on the main floor.

The addition of a community garden adds to the facility. The layout of the raised beds means people that use assistive mobility devices can enjoy gardening at a comfortable height. With support from Climate Action Niagara, the residents plan to grow a variety of vegetables this summer and hope to enjoy the harvest together at the end of the season!



Lee (left) and Ken try out a new bench they built for the garden area



L-R: Dane, Curtis, Kerry, Lloyd, Steven, and Lee work on a new garden bed at Stokes Community Village in St. Catharines





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5 TREBLAIRES CONCERT 7:00 p.m. Stamford United Church 3855 St. Peter Avenue Niagara Falls <i>A fun evening with a Ladies Show Choir! Tickets are \$7 at the door. Proceeds will support the Circle of Friends.</i>	6	7	8 NPCC MOVIE "SPY KIDS" Movie playing at NPCC. See below for details.	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 NPCC CLUB JUMP Try yoga, movement and games at NPCC. See below for details.	16
17 FATHER'S DAY 	18	19 NPCC HORTICULTURAL THERAPY Plant, mix and work in the dirt at NPCC. See below for details.	20 First Day of Summer 	21	22 Breakfast BINGO 9:45 a.m. Delta Monte Carlo 4735 Drummond	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 Breakfast BINGO 9:45 a.m. Delta Monte Carlo 4735 Drummond	30

Summer Fun at the Niagara Peninsula Children's Centre

Spy Kids—Friday June 8

Meet at 1:15 at NPCC reception. Movie shown in Shaver auditorium. Siblings welcome.

Eye-Opener Club Jump—Friday June 15

Come to the Main Gym from 4:30-5:30 to try kids yoga, movement skills, songs and games. Ages 2-10 years.

Eye-Opener Horticultural Therapy—Tuesday June 19

Join Karin Vermeer from 4:00-5:30 in the main gym of NPCC to plant, mix and work with dirt.

Registration is required for all sessions.

Contact Karen Natho to register at:

905-688-1890 ext 127 or karen.natho@npcc.on.ca