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Goodwill Industries Essex Kent Lambton

June 2017

## **Ministry of Community and Social Services Highlights**

### **Ministry Launches New Web Page on DS Transformation**

The Ministry of Community and Social Services has been hard at work on their transformation agenda and their commitment to ongoing change and improvement of the developmental services sector to improve outcomes for adults with developmental disabilities.

In order to capture all their work on these initiatives, they've launched the Transforming Developmental Services in Ontario web page that lists the supports they provide and the work they have underway to support the 42,000 adults with developmental disabilities living in Ontario. The new page lists everything from the launch of their new ReportON phone line and email service for reporting witnessed or suspected abuse of adults with developmental disabilities; to their new LifeShare pilot campaign to promote the expansion of family-centred housing supports—and much more. Bookmark the new page and check back occasionally as they update content with their latest developments in the DS sector.

### **Ontario Eliminates the 2014 Passport Waitlist One Year Ahead of Schedule**

In February 2017 the province announced the elimination of the 2014 Passport waitlist. This move will provide new direct funding for 13,000 adults with developmental disabilities by the end of March. One of the government's top priorities is to help those we serve to live, work and participate in a range of community-based settings. Eliminating the 2014 Passport waitlist contributes to that goal by supporting as many people as possible to benefit from this program. When the program was first launched in 2006, it served only 1,700 people. Today, the program supports approximately 19,000 individuals and will support approximately 24,000 recipients by the end of March. Elimination of the waitlist was originally scheduled to be completed by the end of 2017/18. Ontario will reach this goal by the end of 2016/17, one year ahead of schedule.

If you are interested in learning more about the Passport program or to read about developmental services, please visit <http://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/en/mcsc/publications/spotlight.aspx>



## **Success Story**

Stacy has been a participant with Goodwill since August of 2004.

Stacy has many talents and skills and has proven to be a great peer mentor and support to others in the Goodwill Community Participation Program.

Stacy has recently expressed her desire to work with seniors and began volunteering at Rosewood Manor in January 2017. This is a great achievement for Stacy as she has had to overcome her shyness with meeting and interacting with new people.

Stacy is now volunteering three days per week within the Recreation/Activities Department. Stacy assists in setting up and assisting the seniors in participating in programs such as Bingo and Karaoke. She assists clients with shopping in the community and operates the tuck shop on the days she is there. Within a few weeks of volunteering Stacy was facilitating “the Movie Afternoon” program independently.

Stacy’s supervisor Bev has shared that “the residents love Stacy” and that “she doesn’t know what she did before Stacy started volunteering as she is such a great help to her”.



*Stacy and her Supervisor Bev*



## Program Highlights

Community Pitch In Day – Both our Chatham and Sarnia participants volunteered to clean up a park or community area in each Community. Thanks for doing your part to keep our Communities clean!



Thanks to some creative thinking by one of our Workforce Development staff one of our Participants, Wes was able to check off an item from his “Bucket List” as one of his dreams was to sit on an airplane and meet the Pilot.

His smile says it all!



One of our Participants volunteered to be part of the Goodwill/St Clair Child and Youth Fashion Show at Bayside Centre during Goodwill Week in support of Mental Health Awareness Week. She took this role very seriously practicing for a week prior to the event and it showed. She was fantastic!

Way to go Isabelle.





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The Sarnia CPP clients supported Mc Happy Day on Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017. All proceeds from McHappy Day from the Sarnia locations support the activities of the Huron House Boys' Home, by raising \$25,000.



### Upcoming Events

Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> 2017 we will be participating in the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Alhambra Fun Day in Thedford. This year we will be celebrating Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday. This is an annual event where all of the Developmental Services service providers get together from Lambton and Kent County for a fun day of events.

Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2017 we will be having a BBQ lunch at the London Road location. We will be serving vegetable kabobs that the participants will make from fresh veggies they purchase at the Market.

Thursday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017 we will be having our first "Conversation Café" at 1 p.m. at the Sarnia Career Centre featuring Stacey Johnston, a former Community Participation Program participant who will speak on her success and struggles of her new job. Participants in our program will have an opportunity to listen to Stacey's story and ask questions regarding her journey.

### Did you know?

#### **June is Brain Injury Awareness Month**

160,000 Canadians sustain brain injuries each year. Incidence (and reporting rates) are rising. Over a million Canadians live with the effects of an acquired brain injury. About 50% of all acquired brain injuries in Canada come from falls and motor vehicle accidents. Think First reports that thirty per cent of all traumatic brain injuries are sustained by children and youth, many of them while participating in sports and recreational activities. The incidence and prevalence of brain injury outnumbers breast cancer, spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis and HIV/AIDs – combined.

#### **Local services:**

Chatham – Brain Injury Association of Chatham Kent - <http://newbeginnings-cksl.com/>

Sarnia – Brain Injury Association Sarnia-Lambton – <http://sarniabiasl.ca>

#### **Follow the Latest News on Brain Injury on Social Media:**

Web: [www.braininjurycanada.ca](http://www.braininjurycanada.ca)

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/biacacclc>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/braininjurycanada>

Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/biacacclc/>



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**Ontario's Basic Income Pilot**

Finding a Better Way: A Basic Income Pilot for Ontario

Ontario is launching a pilot project to assess whether a basic income can better support vulnerable workers, improve health and education outcomes for people on low incomes, and help ensure that everyone shares in Ontario's economic growth.

Ontario's March 2016 Budget was the beginning of the process toward designing the Basic Income pilot. That Budget announced a commitment to create a Basic Income pilot project to test the model in Ontario.

In June 2016, the government asked long-time basic income advocate the Hon. Hugh Segal to provide advice on how to best design a made-in-Ontario pilot. His report, Finding a Better Way: A Basic Income Pilot for Ontario was released in November 2016. It included a number of key considerations and recommendations on how the Government of Ontario should design a basic income pilot.

The three-year OBIP, which will begin in late spring 2017, will study whether a basic income can better support vulnerable workers and give people the security and opportunity they need to achieve their potential. It will also study whether giving people a basic income can be a simpler and more economically effective way to provide income security support to people living on low incomes.

For further information on this Pilot Project visit:

<https://news.ontario.ca/mcss/en/2017/04/ontarios-basic-income-pilot.html>