

The Link

Leduc LINX Connect Centre

April 2012

"Just so you know!" ...

Open House! Come and help us celebrate our fourth birthday on April 11th, from 2:00-6:00!! Meet some of the individuals we serve, staff, board members, and enjoy our slide show and some refreshments! Please see attached poster!

RDSP and Wills/Estate Planning Presentation! Join us on April 24th from 6:00-9:00 for a crucial presentation about the Registered Disability Savings Plan, and Will and Estate planning for individuals with disabilities. Are you aware of the extraordinary benefits available through the RDSP? Do you know that even as legal guardian, if there is no will in place you have no authority after death? Please come to this session to learn what you can do to support your loved one. Please RSVP so we know how many to expect.

Executive Director Report

There has been so much going on this month, I not sure where to start. So I will start with my gratitude. Thank you to all the caregivers (otherwise lovingly know as our Support Home Providers) who have rescued us yet again. With illness, spring break, and all the other craziness going on this month, so many of you were ready to come and help in the day program, often at a moment's notice. We REALLY could not have done it without you Susan, Jacki, Mary, Cathy, Sheila, Anita, Maryann, and Teena. Also a big thank you to everyone who helped out, bought and sold tickets to the Country Blends Concert, or peddled the Purdy's brochures. We did wonderfully thanks to all of you! A special thank you also to Brad, who comes to almost every fundraising meeting, volunteers for so many things, and keeps us all in line. What would we do without you!! A final thank you to Lance Schimpf from PDD for all his juggling to get the SIS interviews done so quickly. We are looking forward to how we can utilize the results to provide better services for our individuals!

Please keep in mind the ongoing fundraisers that we have going. For our **Recycling Donation Challenge**, the Board is, well, finally "on the board"! The staff and employers are holding strong, and parents are still hanging in there. Which category are you donating to? Of course there is also our **Buy A Brick** campaign going. This is a quick way to make a charitable donation in any denomination to our new home fund. Both of these are eligible for charitable tax receipts!!

Finally, and as always, I would like to thank everyone for all of their support, and wish you a happy, healthy and safe Easter month!

- Nicole



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Dates to remember:

April 6 – Good Friday (office closed)
April 9 – Easter Monday (office closed)
April 11 – Open House
April 11 – Fundraising Committee
April 18 – Board Meeting
April 24 – RDSP, Wills/Estate Planning Presentation

Board Members

Ingrid Seiting – Chairperson
Mark Tamagi – Vice Chairperson
Bill Dolman – Treasurer
Lori Savill – Secretary
Laurie Tancowny – Member
Jennie Tomlinson – Member
Bill Carr – Member

Recycling Donation Challenge (as of March)



Staff – \$131.20
Employers – \$125.00
Parents – \$50.10
Board – \$16.50

Board Chair Report

We wish to report that we have a new member to the Board, Lori Savill. She is a businesswoman that has had her own business for years in Leduc and will be a welcome addition. She will take over the secretarial position. We are happy to report that Bill Carr is doing well, and should be returning to the Board soon.

The Board is very busy with revising policy's that still need revision. The budget for LINX is on target, and we are managing to stay in the black. If you have some question about the bylaws, policy and financial statement, they are available to view at the front desk at LINX. Of course if you have a question you would like answered and can't find it in the references, please ask. We wish to keep everyone in formed. Have a Very Happy Easter!

- Ingrid

Day Program Report

The day program is looking forward to the warm weather and getting out in the community more. We currently have another student doing her practicum with us from Grant McEwan, her name is Amry and she is spending most of her time supporting individuals in Sharon's class. On April 4th LINX is taking part in a Transitional Evening at Leduc Composite from 7-9pm. We are educating the community on how to transition students with disabilities into the adult world, there will be representatives from PDD, AISH, FCSS etc. April 20th we are scheduled to go to Crazy Kritters Farm near Winfield for a field trip, so let's hope for a nice day.

- Cindy

Residential Program Report

We have a few trainings coming up in the month of April. Restrictive procedures & Abuse protocol will be held on April 13, 27, & 28th, 2012. First aid will be on April 17th for those that just require a recertification and May 12 and 13th for those that have run out and need both days. The cost is \$90.00. Dean from Capital Health will be completing health checks for those that need them on April 12, 2012. Residential Manager will be completing day 4 of the Positive practices in behavioural support training started earlier in the year on April 30th, 2012.

Residential Manager would like to wish everyone a happy and safe Easter long weekend.

"Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush." Doug Larson

- Ronni

Residential Program Report

Dexter and I went to the Men's Retreat at L.G. Barn with Henry (staff) from February 29th to March 2nd, 2012. Upon arrival, we set up our rooms. Then, the group made their own pizzas for supper. After supper, we raced remote control cars on a track! Lights out was at 10:00.

After having an omelette for breakfast, we put on our winter gear and went ice fishing. Too bad we didn't catch a fish! When we finished fishing, we went snowmobiling. It was great! After a lunch of roasted hotdogs over a fire, we built a bird house. That was a little tricky, but we got it done! At night, we watched a movie.

On Friday, we had breakfast and chatted with a couple of the men. Each person received a T-Shirt with their picture on it as a memento.

I really enjoyed the opportunity to go on this Men's Retreat!

- Chris

If you have ideas of something you would like to see in this newsletter, or would like to submit something to add to it, please contact Nicole at 780-980-9423 or linxexec@linxconnect.ca.

Fundraising Report

It is amazing what a small hardworking group can do. We have been very busy, but it is good to see the results of our hard work. Purdy's chocolates realized a profit of \$676.35. This is for the client's outings and extra fund. The concert Country Blends was a great success, both in attendance and the enjoyment of the concert by those present. There were 214 people, thank you all for coming. We made approximately \$2,500.00 for our new home fund. We would like to thank the Leduc West Antique Society for donating their beautiful hall to us; it is much appreciated.

Spring is coming, and the BBQ's will start. It is hard work for the money, but shows the community that we are willing to work and not just looking for help. We are looking for outside community events, to make more people aware of LINX, such as Calmar Days we did last year. If you know of any upcoming events let us know. Are you promoting our "BUY A BRICK" promotion? Have you bought your Brick? Do you need posters? We need you to help build the foundation for our new home.

I sometimes feel like a broken record, repeating the same thing over and over again. The fact of the matter is if we are going to continue to raise much needed money for LINX, we need more help. The few people we have that can be counted on and make themselves available, are going to burn out.

PLEASE! WE NEED YOUR HELP. IT IS TIME TO STEP UP.

I have to thank Laurie for the fantastic job she did on organizing the Concert and making it happen. Laurie did not leave a stone unturned to get people to come to the concert. Brad our client representative on the Fundraising committee did a fantastic job. Brad helped to sell tickets; he helped to find stores where we could sell tickets. Thank you Canadian Tire and Sobey's. Brad helped to set up the venue all day. He worked in the concession. Thank you Brad you are special.

- Ingrid

Leduc Self Advocacy Group

On Friday, March 16th, we celebrated Tara Bogath and Don Loucks' graduation from LINX. The classes prepared an excellent lunch with chicken cacciatore, garlic toast and a cupcake for dessert. Cindy, our program manager, presented Don and Tara with a graduation certificate, cards, and a gift plaque from LINX. Don and Tara both gave speeches. We are glad that they are still members of LINX and that we will still see them at the office from time to time. Best of luck to you, Don and Tara, in this new phase of your new lives.

The clients have been busy selling Purdy's chocolates and tickets to the 'Legends of Country Music', a fund raiser which was held on March 20th at the Leduc West Antique Society. The proceeds from the Purdy's fundraiser will be going to the class funds to help offset the costs for fieldtrips, activities, etc.

The morning classes took in the 'Man in Motion Relay' marking the 25th anniversary of Rick Hansen's around the world journey for spinal cord injury research. Rick Hansen reminds us that we can all be a Difference Maker.

The Self Advocacy Group is scheduled to have its first meeting on April 17th at 12:30 in the office at LINX. Hope you can come!

-Marcy

Our "... of the month" club!

There are so many people who make our world a better place. So, we have decided they needed individual recognition. Please help us celebrate our Citizen of the Month, our Support Home Provider/Residential Staff of the month, our Staff of the Month, and now our Employer of the month. If you see someone in any of these categories that you would like to see recognized, let us know!

Citizen of the Month

Bradley Newton! Thanks for all of your volunteer work Brad, you are always a good representative for LINX.

Staff of the Month

Erin Bond! Erin is great at multitasking and is transitioning some of our new citizens into the work force.

Residential Staff of the Month

Karla Nash! This month the Residential program has decided to show appreciation to another area that is covered in this office. This month, outreach worker Karla Nash is the Residential staff of the month. She has shown creativity in providing outreach services in Devon. She has created a visual calendar to support her client in being ready for the activities she had chosen to participate in. She has demonstrated excellent communication skills when she has difficulty or needs someone to brainstorm with. She is willing to learn new skills and try new techniques. She has worked to assist her client to be accepted in her community.

Employer of the Month

Smitty's! They are supportive with employment as well as helping us attain inclusion with excellent service when we have our coffee outings.

Coming Next month...

New LINX Brochures! We have some templates ready to be voted on. If you want a say in what will become our new handout, stop by the office no later than Wednesday, April 4th to cast your vote. Then see which brochure won at our Open House!

Thank you!!!