



## Welcome to the June 2021 edition of the newsletter!

### Executive Director Report:

We are now only days away from being in our new home! All clients, staff, and family have been amazing at making things work this past year.

Please rest assured that we will be spending the first few days in the building getting everything ready to have it be a safe environment.

We can't wait to be able to have everyone starting in the building June 7th. Please remember that there will not be any classes May 31st to June 4th, and any existing job coaching that meet at the office will still meet at the old LINX building for that week.

If clients have not signed up for the new office tours for June 3rd and 4th, they can still do so at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0448adad2ca3fa7-onsite>.

Our AGM is being held on June 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 7:00 pm. Please contact me at [linxexec@linxconnect.ca](mailto:linxexec@linxconnect.ca) if you are interested in attending, so I can ensure that you have all the information you will need.



Nicole Fuhsel



**Executive Director:** Nicole Fuhsel  
Email: [linxexec@linxconnect.ca](mailto:linxexec@linxconnect.ca),  
Emergency cell 587-989-5691

**Residential Manager:**  
Ronni DeLeavey  
Email: [linxres@linxconnect.ca](mailto:linxres@linxconnect.ca)  
Emergency cell 780-298-9423

**Day Program Manager:**  
Katie Presse  
Email: [linxday@linxconnect.ca](mailto:linxday@linxconnect.ca)

**Business Manager:** Laurie Savill  
Email: [linxadmin@linxconnect.ca](mailto:linxadmin@linxconnect.ca)

**Office Assistant:** David Tuff  
Email: [linxinfo@linxconnect.ca](mailto:linxinfo@linxconnect.ca)

**Dates to Remember:**  
May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 –  
No Classes  
June 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – New  
Building Tours  
June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – New  
Building Open  
June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 – AGM Meeting  
June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Hearts and  
Heroes Reverse 50/50 Final  
Draw!

**Board Members**  
Daniel Roberts – Chairperson  
Brandon Sonnenberg – Vice  
Chairperson  
Ann Kurlovich – Treasurer  
Maria Semrau – Director  
Annis Mattiussi – Director  
Don Loucks – Client Rep

**LINX Bottle Pick-Up**  
Give us a call, and we  
will pick up your  
Bottles and give you a  
charitable tax receipt!  
for your donation!



## Day Program Manager Report:

### What to bring with you to LINX:

By the time you are reading this, we will be less than a week away from the new LINX building opening up! The rules and expectations in the new building are going to look a little bit different to start. Every client coming to the Day Program will be required to bring a small bag or backpack daily. This backpack will stay with you all day and should contain only the items that you will need to be safe.

Here is a list of what to bring in your backpack every single day you come to LINX...

- **At least three clean masks and an individual bottle of hand sanitizer.** Clean masks and sanitizer are the minimum PPE expectations. If you want to also bring gloves, and bleach wipes, you can. Please ensure the sanitizer is kept in a Ziploc bag to avoid spills/leaks. You will also need an extra Ziploc/enclosed pouch for used masks.

- **Your lunch.** We will not have access to the refrigerators or microwaves at this time. Please ensure that if there are items packed in your lunch that need to stay cold, you also pack an ice pack. Anything being brought for lunch must be something you can open on your own, as we want to prevent staff from touching your food.

- **A filled water bottle.** Please make sure the bottle is filled with enough water to last most of the day, as we want to limit trips back and forth to fill it. If you don't think one bottle is enough, bring two filled bottles.

- **Something to keep you entertained over the lunch hour.** We need to limit the urge to get up and walk around the building as much as possible, for this reason we will be temporarily allowing clients to bring a device (tablet, phone, handheld video game etc.), book, colouring book & pencil crayons, deck of cards (for solitaire or individual game) and such. Please note, these items cannot be shared with your peers and will only be permitted during lunch hour, after eating. Any material being viewed or played on devices will need to be appropriate. This will be monitored by staff.

What **NOT** to bring with you in your backpack...

- **Toothbrush/Hairbrush or any personal hygiene items.** We will not be brushing our teeth or hair at LINX.

- **Toys**

- **An excess of clothing.** Going to the bathroom to change your clothes will not be permitted.

- **Indoor shoes.** Unless you are required to bring additional shoes for work, we will not be changing footwear at LINX. This will be revisited in the fall.

- **Additional items that make your backpack too heavy to carry comfortably.** Nobody will be touching your backpack but you. For this reason, it needs to be light enough to carry around.

If you have any questions about what you can or cannot bring with you to the Day Program, please don't hesitate to contact me. If you are in doubt, and the item is not required, please err on the side of caution and do not bring it with you.

I also want to remind everyone to be doing your due diligence by checking temperatures and going over the COVID screening checklist at home before coming to the Day Program. The current checklist can be found online by searching 'COVID-19 Alberta Health Daily Checklist (For Adults 18 Years & Older)'. If your answer to any of the screening questions is yes, please stay home.



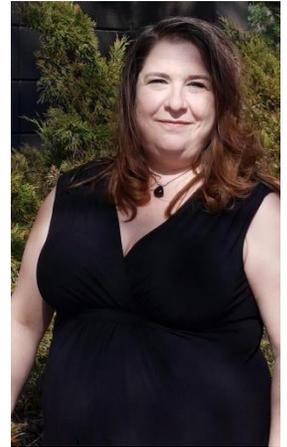
Katie Presse

## Residential Program Manager Report:

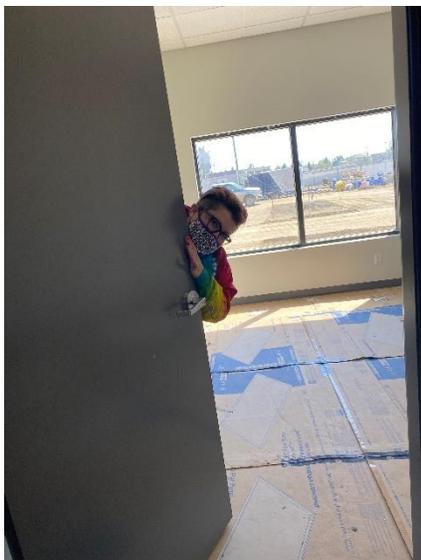
### Why does the Residential program ask clients their top three choices for respite?

This question has been asked many times. The answer is because it decreases behaviour issues when the clients feel like they have control over where they go. They usually do not get a choice of when they are going on respite. Respite is designed for the Support Home or family to have a much needed break. The clients do not get to pick when their family or Support Home needs this. Imagine that you had to go somewhere for respite and you did not get to choose where or when. We can not make it so they get to choose when. But we can do something about where. Do we really need to control everything about where they go? No, we do not. If there are factors that we need to control such as the client is allergic to cats, the client does not get the choice of respite workers who have cats.

Overall there are many factors that go into the actual options the client is choosing from. The Residential program is not always able to share them with everyone. Some of them are: staff burn out, client mental health, staff schedules, mental health of staff, another client is staying there for respite, and many more.



Ronni DeLeavey



## 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 Client of the Month, Residential Staff of the month, Day Staff of the Month, and Admin staff of the month. If you see someone in any of these categories that you would like to see recognized, please let us know!

### *Client of the Month: Cory Albert*

Cory has remained committed to self-improvement and his goals at LINX in his classes, even though he has only been able to access them over the phone. Cory uses his tools and is a positive role model to his peers. LINX is so proud of all your hard work in the last year Cory!

#### **What drew you to LINX originally?**

Staff and service I got from LINX, getting help when I need it.

#### **What is your favourite LINX memory?**

My first day at LINX I was shy.

#### **What are three words to describe LINX?**

Awesome, fun, and helpful.

#### **What is your favourite part about working with LINX?**

Use my tools when working with my peers.

#### **If you had to eat one meal, every day for the rest of your life, what would it be?**

Pizza & corn on the cob.

#### **If you were stuck on an island, what three things would you bring?**

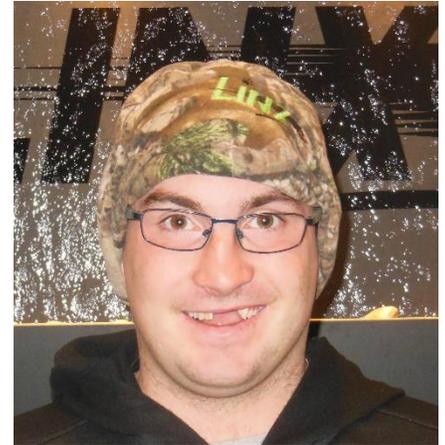
Sand, water, and seashells.

#### **What did you want to be when growing up?**

Teacher or Doctor.

#### **What is the one thing you can't live without?**

My friends and my parent.



## Day Staff of the Month: Andrew Giebelhaus

Andrew has made a full circle transition back into a Job Coach role, and is a valued member of the Day Program team! Andrew has played a key part in coordinating two new work experience placements at Connectivity Dance Studio & The Jireh Centre! Thank you for your adaptability and positive attitude Andrew!

### What drew you to LINX originally?

After years of working in industry, my perspective changed and I discovered that I wanted to engage in a line of work that allowed me to help others. I knew about LINX from two of my good friends who were working there at the time and I thought it sounded like a place where I could apply my interests and skills. I was right.

### Before working at LINX, what was the most interesting job you've ever had?

Machining. I worked through my apprenticeship as a machinist during and after high school. Obviously it was a much different line of work than supporting individuals in their lives, however, the work ethic, knowledge of business and industry, hands-on skills, and the ability to work in stressful situations all came with me to LINX. I am forever grateful for the experiences I had as a machinist.

### What are three words to describe LINX?

Dedicated. Practical. Incredible.

### What is the favourite part about working for LINX?

The "Aha!" moments. Those moments in my day where one of my clients learns something new about his or her world. Big or small, all of these moments add up to help our clients to further understand and develop who they are as a person; to me, there is nothing more exciting than that.

### If you had to eat one meal, every day for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Green Thai chicken curry with coconut rice from the restaurant "Modern Rice". Seriously, give it a try. They know what's up.

### If you were stuck on an island, what three things would you bring?

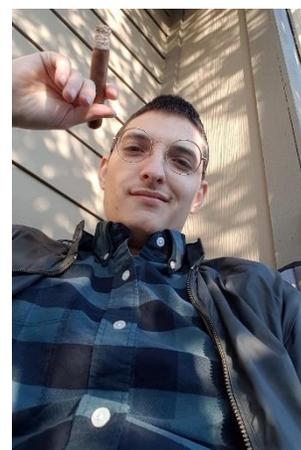
A lifetime supply of cigars, a lighter, and a satellite phone. Once I've enjoyed my vacation, I'd use the phone to request a pick-up. =P

### What did you want to be when growing up?

Brave. I wanted to be a risk-taker. A motivator. A source of courage and security for people when they felt they lacked it. In a way, I've been able to be that, which is pretty darn cool.

### What is the one thing you can't live without?

Oxygen. It's a pretty big deal.



## Residential Staff of the Month: Mike Phillips

Mike has helped a client go from Support Home to living independently. He has helped out with things that needed fixing around the building. He agreed to pose for a photo for a Support Home poster. He fixed my office chair. Thank you for being a part of the team. You are appreciated.

### What drew you to LINX originally?

I loved the friendliness of the clients!

### Before working at LINX, what was the most interesting job you've ever had?

I worked for the sheriff repossessing vehicles 🤔

### What are three words to describe LINX?

Team, caring, compassionate.

### What is the favourite part about working for LINX?

Seeing my client function well in society and how proud he is of accomplishments big and small.

### If you had to eat one meal, every day for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Mmmilkshakes 🥤

### If you were stuck on an island, what three things would you bring?

Gun, fishing rod and my gf.

### What did you want to be when growing up?

Stuntman....still thinking about it.

### What is the one thing you can't live without?

Fast cars.



## Admin Staff of the Month: Nicole Fuhsel

### What drew you to LINX originally?

I started at Leduc Works in 1997 as a job coach and classroom instructor. As the agency grew, I became the first Day Program Manager and eventually the Executive Director. When I was very pregnant with baby #2, the Board announced they were closing Leduc Works. I did all I could to help the LINX get ready to open, and then decided to decline their offer for a maternity leave position in order to give them a better chance of stability and success as they started as a new agency. After a short time away, I was asked if I would be willing to come back to LINX as Executive Director and I couldn't say no!



### Before working at LINX, what was the most interesting job you've ever had?

I have a tie for this one. I worked at a women's shelter when I was getting my first degree. This was a life changing job that actually made me change my career focus from law to something more hands on to help people. On the other end of the spectrum, I had a summer job at a video store. I am a sucker for movies so it was the perfect teenage job!

### What are three words to describe LINX?

Inspiring, life changing, my heart.

### What is the favourite part about working for LINX?

I know it's cliché, but the top of the list is our fantastic clients. A super close second is the amazing staff. I am REALLY not a morning person, but in the 24 years I have worked with our guys, I have never had a day I didn't want to go to work.

### If you had to eat one meal, every day for the rest of your life, what would it be?

I actually don't eat it a lot, but if it had to only be one, cereal.

### If you were stuck on an island, what three things would you bring?

My family, my pets, and LINX!

### What did you want to be when growing up?

Lots of things came and went, but always a lawyer.

### What is the one thing you can't live without?

My family. They are my life.





***Looking for a fun & rewarding new career where you will make a positive change in someone's life for the better?!?***



***To become our new Support Home Provider!***

**You may be asking yourself, what is that?**



They are just regular people who would be interested in having someone with a developmental disability live with them. The level of independence varies from client to client (some need regular supervision; some are fairly independent and transitioning into their own homes one day). **The money earned for a support home is tax exempt. You would also receive tax exempt room and board from the client.** We currently have multiple clients requiring a new support home provider. Most clients attend a day program from 9 to 4 Monday to Friday at LINX. Clients come with different amounts of respite available. Training is provided.

The individuals that are currently looking have a preference of living within Leduc City limits.

**For more information about our amazing team, please contact:**

**Residential Manager - Ronni DeLeavey**

**Phone: 780-980-9423 ext 225**

**Fax: 780-980-9429**

**Email: [linxres@linxconnect.ca](mailto:linxres@linxconnect.ca)**