

The LINK

December 2015



"Just so you know!" ...

LATS Design contest! LATS held a bus pass design contest and we had 6 artists chosen to have their art on a pass for a whole month. Congrats to all! Thank you to Mayor Kruschke for your presentation and kind words, and Maureen Hobden for your support with this great contest!



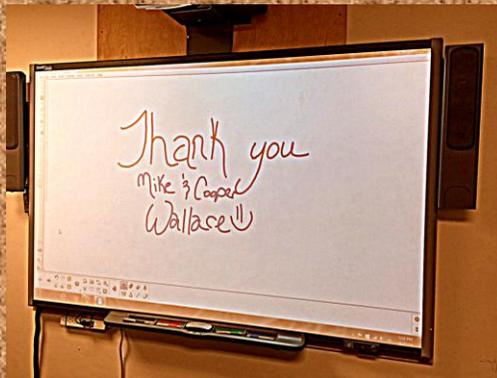
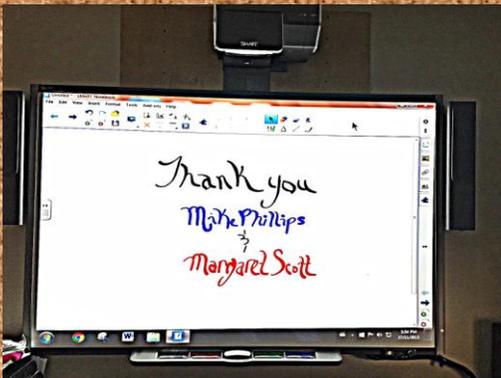
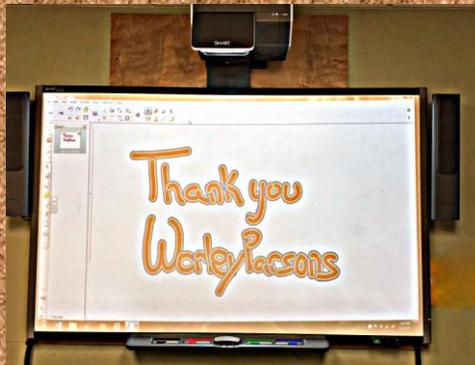
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Dates to remember:

- Dec 5 – Notes and ISP's due
- Dec 11 – Purdy's pick up
- Dec 21 – Time sheets/Invoices due
- Dec 24-27 –Office closed

Smart Board Donation!

We are very fortunate to have had three SMART boards donated to us this month. Thank you so much to WorleyParsons, Mike Phillips, and Margaret Scott for their generous donation of these three boards, Geoff Savill for being our runner multiple times to go and pick them up, and Mike and Cooper Wallace for their installation and programming them for us!



Board Members

- Ed Boender –Chairperson
- Eileen Radawetz – Vice-Chair
- Kim Dozois – Treasurer
- Susan Boyle– Secretary
- Maria Semrau – Director
- Annis Mattiussi – Director
- Ryan McKinney – Client Rep

Recycling Donation Challenge (as of the end of October)



\$ 2027.75



You can now safely donate to LINX online at www.leduclinxconnect.ca



We are very excited to have created a new program development space. It is still a work in progress, but we would love to share it with you. Thank you Second Glance and all other supporters for its creation!



Executive Director Report

Christmas is the season of giving, and we sure have been the recipients of so much generosity to benefit our individuals and staff. The SMART boards now in each class will offer so many more opportunities for learning and growth. Our program development area has given us opportunity to train our staff, and a private space to allow much need breaks.

I would like to offer a warm welcome to Heather Jones as the new Day Program Manager. We are excited to have you as part of the management team. A big thank you goes to Colleen Hawkins for all her work as Day Program Manager for the last two years. We are grateful for all the heart and soul you have put into the position. Our individuals absolutely cannot wait to have you to themselves again!

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

~ Nicole

Day Program Report

Where has the year gone, its December already!!! The Day Program has been busy getting ready for the Christmas season. Starting December 1 the Day Program will be collecting scarves, hats and mitts for the needy.

I would like to give a very warm welcome to Heather Jones who is starting her new position as Day Program Manager December 1. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this field. It was a great honor to be in this position for the last two years. I am excited to be going into the important role of job coaching again. It gives me the opportunity to once again work closely with clients on a day to day basis.

Clients get together will be on December 18 during the lunch hour. Please bring your own lunch that day. There will not be a gift exchange this year but rather LINX will have a gift for those who attend that day. Please let Heather know will be in attendance, at linxday@linxconnect.ca.

- December Lunch Snacks are:**
- Dec. 4-Tator Tot Casserole
 - Dec. 11-Pumpkin Tea Bread
 - Dec. 18-Baked Cinnamon Apple French Toast
 - Dec. 25-Closed

The best of all gifts around the Christmas Tree: the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other.

~ Colleen

-Burton Hills

Residential

Program Report

This time of year is often filled with parties, excitement, treats, and an increase in anxiety. I encourage everyone to take some time to relax when possible. There are many apps and activities for relaxation you can find on your phone or internet. Often as front line staff role modeling the skills to relax is one of the most effective ways to teach how it is done.

I wish everyone happy and safe holidays.

~ Ronni



Through our eyes...

“Extremely Reliable”

Written by: Matt T, Meagan M, Crystal I, Curtis Q, Carly M, Jessica M, Don L, Taylor M

Leduc LINX Connect Centre is nothing without the businesses and job sites that support us by hiring our participants and helping us with donations and giving us visibility in Leduc.

One such business that recently became one of our valued employers is Boston Pizza. We had a chance to ask them some questions about their experience with LINX.

Shaila Baines, manager of Boston Pizza in Leduc, graciously gave us her time to answer some questions. Shaila shared that “we get great value from hiring the LINX force. They have proven to be very hard workers, as well as very reliable”.

We have had a chance to learn new things from our LINX employees as well as had the opportunity to build our teaching skills. They also have great personalities and are very fun to work with.

Many of our participants have the support of a follow up job coach who visits the jobsites regularly, is this a help? Having follow up come “ensures that LINX employees stay comfortable in the work place, which is something we wish all our employees to feel.” Shaila said, “having clients from LINX is no different than hiring new staff and having to train them.” She also claims “the greatest reward from hiring LINX employees has been acquiring two great employees who are awesome to work with.”

How does Shaila feel about hiring from LINX? “I strongly believe that hiring LINX workforce is a great idea. They have been very valuable employees, who are extremely reliable. Their personalities are great and we have all really enjoyed getting to know them, as well as their job coach. We have learned new things from them, but also have been able to teach them new things which is a reward in itself.”



Parents! Clients! Employers! Staff! Neighbours! If you would like to be a part of or refer someone for “Through our Eyes”, please contact Nicole at 780-980-9423 ext 222 or linxexec@linxconnect.ca.

Hearts and Heroes



Just 12 short weeks until our Hearts and Heroes Event. Donations are now being accepted for our "Silent Auction" tables. Donation letters can be picked up from Laurie. Tickets can be purchased

online at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/hearts-and-heroes-2016-tickets-16148515645?aff=es2>, or take a peek at our Facebook page to click a link. Further information please contact either Laurie Savill at linxadmin@linxconnect.ca or (780) 980-9423 (ext. 223) or Susan Boyle at s.boyle@shaw.ca or (780) 986-0464.

MANDT Moment

A quote by David Pitonyak in the instructors manual that makes me think of some of our clients this time of year:
In my view, most people served by the human services industry are profoundly lonely. Loneliness is the central reason why so many are unhappy and distraught.



This has been our best sales yet, with sales of \$4690.50, with a profit of \$1231.26 going to client's programs and supplies. Thanks to all the purchasers and sellers for their great work! Our top three sellers who will be getting a prize are Shannon, Haley, and Tracy. Great work everyone!

Newsletter Class...

Christmas Joy

Written by: Don L, Michael W, Matt T, Henri J, Shawn G, Taylor M, Sharon B

As December is upon us, our thoughts turn to the holiday season. At LINX our focus is the community we live and work in. We try to put aside all the negative events that are happening around us and think of the opportunities we have to make a better day for those in our community. The newsletter class put aside the debate over cup color and design and delved into the subject of what those businesses and individuals are doing to bring some Christmas Joy.

Nisku Truck Stop has been in business for many years and for twenty of those years, they have hosted a holiday meal on December 25th. This started with the previous owner and now Simon Cook, the present owner, has continued the tradition. Donations are collected and given to a local non-profit chosen by the staff of the restaurant.



Volunteers are needed to pour coffee, visit, and other tasks to help a very busy staff. In the past, even children have helped out. Last year a single mom brought treat bags for all the costumers and Linda Dugdale, an employee of the truck stop said "there wasn't a dry eye in the house".



Doug and Yvonne Ruel have an acreage outside of Leduc to the west and to share Christmas Joy they light up their yard with one or two....thousand lights and animated figures. Doug shared with Global News Edmonton, that the reason he does this is because his dad was a part of the Royal Canadian Legion and at Christmas they would put on a party for kids and give goody bags with an orange some peanuts and candies. This fond memory has stayed with Doug his whole life. He wants to create the same memories for the children who come to see his display.

They have had an impact on the community around them and beyond as people drive from Red Deer, Camrose and more to see their display. they also provides bins to donate items to the food bank , In 2013, the attraction raised a total of 14,500 pounds of food, and \$10,500 for the food bank. That year they also handed out over 2, 000 goody bags for kids that came to enjoy the lights. Doug was presented with the 2014 Rotary Integrity Award. On weekends they have Santa there and hot chocolate and the goody bags. If you are interested in seeing their display Head south of Leduc on Grant MacEwan Boulevard about four kilometres, then go west about six kilometres to take in this amazing display of lights and music.

These are just a few ways the community of Leduc reaches out to others during the holiday season just small projects that made a big impact and have grown over the years. What will be your project to spread joy at this time of year?

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

Citizen of the Month

Cory Albert! Cory has been doing great at taking instructions well. Cory is a kind and helpful to everyone. Cory is a good team player and is great at welcoming new clients. You can always count on Cory to give a hand when needed. Keep up the great job Cory!!!

Staff of the Month

Holly Strohschein! Holly is a self starter, motivated hard working staff. Holly is a kind person who is a great listener. She has great skill and has communicates well with all. We are glad that we found you to be part of our team. Keep up the great job Holly!!!

Employer of the Month

Sobeys Beaumont! Sobeys employees two of our clients for many years now. Sobeys is a great support and we appreciate all the years of dedication working together. Thanks Sobeys for all your continuous support!!!

Residential Staff of the Month

Teena Van Boom! Teena has played multiple roles with LINX. She most recently has been a Support Home Provider and is changing things up to other roles again. She is always willing to pitch in and be a back-up, help in the day program. She is a great team player and we appreciate all she does!!!

LINX Employers

🐾 A&W	🐾 Edward Jones	🐾 McDonalds	🐾 Playing For Keeps	🐾 Sport Chek
🐾 Agapeland	🐾 Executive	🐾 Leduc	🐾 Toys and More	🐾 St. Paul's
🐾 Basintek	🐾 Alexandra	🐾 McDonalds	🐾 Ricky's All Day Grill	🐾 Anglican Church
🐾 Boston Pizza	🐾 Hotel	🐾 Nisku	🐾 Safeway	🐾 Staples
🐾 Canadian Tire	🐾 Extendicare	🐾 McDonalds	🐾 Sparrow	🐾 Subway Leduc
🐾 City of Leduc	🐾 Flaman	🐾 Sparrow	🐾 Nisku Inn	🐾 Common
🐾 Co-op	🐾 Gateway Family Church	🐾 No Frills	🐾 Petro Canada	🐾 Tim Hortons
🐾 Coffee News	🐾 Kosmos	🐾 Petro Canada	🐾 Nisku	🐾 True Touch
🐾 Days Inn	🐾 Leduc Rep	🐾 Planeview Place	🐾 Shaw Insurance	🐾 Wal-Mart
🐾 Daystar Church	🐾 Leduc Public Library		🐾 Silver Shears	🐾 Waldorf
🐾 Dollarama			🐾 Sobeys Beaumont	🐾 Zulu

Charles Dickens, Epilepsy - The author of classic books such as A Christmas Carol and Oliver Twist had epilepsy, as did several of the characters in his books. The medical accuracy of Dickens's descriptions of epilepsy has amazed the doctors who read him today. Through some characters in his novels, Charles Dickens recorded observations on the nature of epileptic seizures, their causes and provocation, and their consequences. Three of his main characters, Monks, Guster, and Bradley Headstone, had seizures which Dickens realistically described. ~ www.disabled-world.com

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| ☘ Basintek | ☘ Alexandra | ☘ McDonalds | ☘ Ricky's All Day | ☘ Anglican Church |
| ☘ Boston Pizza | ☘ Hotel | ☘ Nisku | ☘ Grill | ☘ Staples |
| ☘ Canadian Tire | ☘ Extencicare | ☘ McDonalds | ☘ Safeway | ☘ Subway Leduc |
| ☘ City of Leduc | ☘ Flaman | ☘ Sparrow | ☘ Salem Manor | ☘ Common |
| ☘ Co-op | ☘ Gateway | ☘ Nisku Inn | ☘ Salvation Army | ☘ Tim Hortons |
| ☘ Coffee News | ☘ Family Church | ☘ No Frills | ☘ Second Glance | ☘ True Touch |
| ☘ Days Inn | ☘ Kosmos | ☘ Petro Canada | ☘ Shaw Insurance | ☘ Wal-Mart |
| ☘ Daystar Church | ☘ Leduc Rep | ☘ Nisku | ☘ Silver Shears | ☘ Waldorf |
| ☘ Dollarama | ☘ Leduc Public | ☘ Planeview Place | ☘ Sobey's Beaumont | ☘ Zulu |
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