



CONTINUITY NEWS

Supporting families in Manitoba to plan for an enriched quality of life for their family member with an intellectual disability

DECEMBER 2014

Continuity Care's Family "FUN" Night



Continuity Care's 2nd Annual Family Fun Night was held in the gym at the Robert A. Steen Community Centre on October 25th, 2014. This fun filled event was a great success. There were 73 people in attendance, including 8 youth volunteers from Winnipeg Aboriginal Sport and Recreation Association (WASAC).

The gym was decorated with a colorful fall theme. Everyone enjoyed a meal of pizza and salad, followed by cookies and ice cream for dessert. After supper there was time for more visiting and guests circulated around the various activity centers including crafts, games, BINGO and bowling. Prizes were drawn throughout the evening. Congratulations to the winners of the fabulous rainbow auction and door prizes. A few members showed off their moves on the dance floor towards the end of the evening. Overall, a good time was had by all and the feedback we have received from those who attended was very positive. The goal of the event was to provide our members (new and existing) with an opportunity to gather and enjoy.



Continuity Care would like to thank these generous donors for prizes for the Rainbow Auction: Jeoff Chipman, Jane Schledewitz and Family, Merv & Lynda Gunter, Tricia & Al Guerts, Terry & Janet Williams, Karen Leggat, Linda Ormonde, Art & Wilma Hock and Family, Lillian Tendies and Friends, Liz Allen, Adeline Berg, South Beach Casino, Old Dutch and Superstore.

Special thanks to Pino Pisano and all youth volunteers from Winnipeg Aboriginal Sport & Recreation Association (WASAC) for donating their time and talents at the event: Daniel, Frank, Dan, Kate, Rom, Hayley, Eric and Ethan.

A big "THANK YOU" to the Committee Members: Jane Schledewitz, Linda Ormonde, Liz Allen, Lillian Tendies, Suzanne Swanton, Irma Melegrito and to our additional helpers: Chris, Sam, Brian S., Abby, Dan and Liz S., for their role in making this family-friendly event a great success.

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Holiday Greetings From The Continuity Care Office

It's amazing how quickly the Fall months went by and we are now into December with the holiday season upon us. Like the elves at the North Pole, the staff and board members have been in a flurry of activity these past few months. The Board has reviewed our strategic plan and is working on recruitment of new board members. The Family Advisory Committee has developed a planning checklist and Advisor to a Trust protocol. The HR Committee has updated job descriptions and reviewed benefits plans for staff. The Family Fun Night Committee planned another successful event.

The redesigned parent support groups meet on a monthly basis. The daytime group is growing in numbers. However, the evening group is slow to take off. The adult sibling conversation evening continues to be beneficial and is also attracting new siblings.

The workshops that we have offered this fall have also been successful in terms of attendance and providing valuable information to our members. Thanks to the guest presenters: Richard Martin and Andrea Taylor from EIA and John Poyser from Tradition Law.

This Fall we also provided agency training to the staff from L'Avenir Cooperative on the topic of "Creating Lifebooks: Telling the Individual's Story".

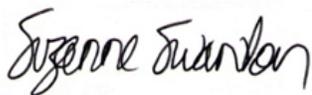
Our Sharing Circles have also been active and growing in new ways thanks to our facilitators, Tracey Needham and Tracy Klawuhn.

We also continue to respond to many inquiries from individuals, families and the community to provide information, resources, individual assistance with planning, support and advocacy. Continuity Care is actively involved with groups such as the Children's Coalition and Abilities Manitoba to stay informed and help address the issues that are facing individuals with disabilities and their families here in Manitoba. We are also considering some new projects for the coming year.

As the holiday season approaches, please take time for yourself to rest and recharge, reflect on the true meaning behind the season and think of ways that you can share your holiday spirit with others.

The warmest of holiday wishes to everyone and I look forward to seeing you in the new year and to the opportunities that await in 2015.

Cheers!



Baby Boomer Café

The Baby Boomer Café held their Pre-Holiday Pre-Grey Cup gathering on Saturday, November 29th at the Kildonan Community Church. Thirty eight brave folks including two brand new guests came out in snowy and windy conditions to a very warm and cheerful celebration - full of music, friendship and a fabulous potluck supper complete with a variety of appetizers, main courses, desserts, cold and hot drinks. There were also prizes, games and songs. Lots of fun times and laughter and the singing was extraordinary. Many Christmas and Chanukah songs were added to the regular repertoire of songs. Jocelyne Yanofsky did a special dance (Drunken Sailor) in a special tribute to Doug Hanley, which was very moving. In fact many people stayed from 4:00- 8:30pm. This was one of our best cafés, in fact it was our largest crowd at Kildonan Community Church! Thank you to Earl Barish from Salisbury House for the generous donation of gift baskets that were given out as door prizes at our event.

2015 Mike Keane Celebrity Hockey Classic



We are very pleased to announce that Continuity Care is participating in *The 5th Annual Mike Keane Celebrity Hockey Classic!* This exciting tournament is taking place on **February 18th and 19th, 2015** at the **MTS Iceplex (3969 Portage Avenue, west of the perimeter)**. This event will allow everyday hockey

enthusiasts to team up with former NHL greats to play hockey and raise funds for The Winnipeg Jets True North Foundation and Continuity Care. Continuity Care is once again the official **“volunteer provider”** for the tournament and we are looking for approximately 30 people who would be available and interested in helping out the evening of Wednesday, February 18th and throughout the day on Thursday, February 19th at the MTS Iceplex (near Assiniboia Downs) with a variety of tasks. You do not need to commit to the entire day, as we will assign you to a job and shift based on your availability. Please contact the Continuity Care office at (204) 779-1679 or by email at info@continuitycare.ca if you would like to help us out as a volunteer.

Players on each of the 18 teams that are playing in the tournament will be collecting donations to help improve their team's fundraising total, which in turn improves their rank on draft night. There are prizes for the top individual fundraisers as well as for the top teams, including the opportunity to play in the final game against the NHL alumni and bragging rights, of course! If you would like to help out by making a donation to one of the players, the easiest way is to do so online at <http://www.keanehockeyclassic.com/>

Hockey fans also have an opportunity to come out and watch the tournament on Thursday, February 19th at the MTS Iceplex. Tickets are available at the door for \$10.

WELCOME TO CONTINUITY CARE'S NEWEST BOARD MEMBER SHERRY DESILETS



Married for 29 years, I have worked alongside my husband running our family-owned business. Terraco is a locally owned independent agricultural retailer that has been serving Manitoba farmers for over 80 years. Together, we have raised our children who have grown into exceptional young adults we are very proud of. Our 22-year-old second oldest, Stephanie, was born with Down Syndrome. Stephanie attended elementary and high school in our community but when she graduated from high school and started attending the

U of M and an adult day program in St. Boniface, we decided to move to Headingley. One of the struggles we had while living in the rural parts of Manitoba was finding an agency or someone who could provide us with information about programs available to people with intellectual disabilities.

A friend introduced us to Continuity Care during the endowment fund campaign. Shortly afterward, we became members of Continuity Care, attended our first workshop and met Suzanne. Since that time, Suzanne and Continuity Care have provided our family with a wide range of information, advice on residential homes, facilitated meetings between ourselves and adult day program coordinators and hosted workshops and events that gave us the opportunity to talk to other families who are facing the same challenges we are.

I'm honored to be the newest board member of Continuity Care as a parent of a young adult with an intellectual disability. I look forward to helping Continuity Care support families across Manitoba.

Abilities Manitoba Proposes a Path Forward to Ensure the Long-Term Sustainability and Quality of Services for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities

The Executive and Members of Abilities Manitoba have been hard at work putting together our ideas for an action plan to strengthen Community Living disABILITY Services-funded services and ensure the sustainability of the overall service system. This work is based on the results of the Spring Stakeholder Engagement Report that was launched on September 25th.

The Abilities Manitoba Executive drafted the proposed action plan that sets out what Manitoba Family Services must commit to in order to:

- 1) Professionalize the wages of Direct Support Workers who support adults with intellectual disabilities;
- 2) Professionalize the community living services sector;
- 3) Improve Government resources and overall system coordination of services for adults with intellectual disabilities;
- 4) Develop and implement new quality assurance measures for services provided to adults with intellectual disabilities;
- 5) Remove barriers that prevent adults with intellectual disabilities from fully participating in society.

The proposed action plan was presented at the November 12th General Membership Meeting, where it received an overwhelming endorsement from members.

Abilities Manitoba is committed to working in partnership with the Province in the implementation of the proposed action plan. Representatives from the Executive have met with senior department officials to outline the plan and outcomes required. We met with Minister Irvin-Ross on December 9th to discuss the action plan.

For more information and to view the reports mentioned above, you can visit the Abilities Manitoba website at <http://www.abilitiesmanitoba.org/>

What is SIS - Supports Intensity Scales?

We have heard from our members, as well as from agency staff, that Community Living disABILITY Services staff have been meeting with individuals and members of their support networks to complete a new assessment tool, called Supports Intensity Scales or SIS. We thought it would be helpful to share some information with you about this tool. Thanks to CLDS for providing the following information.

The implementation of SIS will help ensure that individuals in CLDS receive the right level of support at their particular point in life with the focus on the supports needed to live as independently as possible. The SIS tool will contribute to a CLDS service delivery system that is fair, equitable, consistent and sustainable for future generations of Manitobans with intellectual disabilities.

The SIS is not the only tool or process that will be used to determine the level of support a person will receive. The person centered planning process, which identifies the individual's goals and desires, will continue to be highly valued along with other factors such as the person's, existing "natural" supports such as family and friends, resources available in the community and other relevant assessment information.

The long-term plan in CLDS is to have the SIS administered to individuals prior to services commencing so that information from the individual's profile can be shared and used to assist with goal setting and individual planning, and to ensure the supports received are appropriate to meet the individual's needs.

The goal is to have the SIS administered to all CLDS participants currently receiving funded services over the next three years.

Additional information about SIS is available at http://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/pwd/sis_fact_sheet.html