

NEWSLETTER

Brant United Way
April 2009

GRANT BREAK-DOWN



RED Member Agencies 93%
GREY Other charities and United Ways as per donor requests

Your Donations At Work – Crossing All Bridges Gave Kim Confidence

Kim*, who has Down's Syndrome, has been a part-time client of the Crossing All Bridges Learning Centre Inc. (CABLC) since it opened its doors in 2003. Kim was living at home with her 90-year-old mother and was starting to lose interest in life when her family enrolled her in the CABLC program. Kim's first day at the program was difficult for her as she had a fear of other people. She could not look at anyone or even utter

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DIANNE AUSTIN

Message from the Brant United Way Executive Director

The strength of Brant United Way is thanks to the hundreds of volunteers and donors who offer their support year round. Individuals, such as you, your fellow colleagues and other local businesses rallied around the Brant United Way to raise much needed dollars for Brantford and Brant County residents. Your tireless efforts have enabled the United Way to assist more people in our community through programs and services offered by our 18 Member Agencies and for that we thank you!

All funds raised in our community stay in our community to support the Brant United Way's Member Agencies, other charitable organizations (as directed by donors) and charitable work such as governance workshops, leadership training and outcomes measurements that are working towards the goal of strengthening the capacity of the not-for-profit community. The Brant United Way is positioning itself as a community leader by offering services that will assist our Member Agencies in measuring the outcome of their work, developing strong volunteer practices throughout the entire not-for-profit community and focusing on areas of community impact.

Our Member Agencies receive the majority of the money to maintain their programs and services that are nurture children, mentor youth, support seniors to live more independently, allow people to participate in society, and assist people during a crisis.

Many thanks to Chris Farrell (Chairperson) and the Allocations Committee, with support from the Citizens Review Committee, who act as the governing body to our allocations process and play a vital role in distributing funds. Each year over 40 volunteers sit on these committees to perform due diligence in reviewing

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a greeting to them and she didn't want to be away from her mother. Five years later, Kim can now walk into the program by herself; she greets and converses with her peers, goes grocery shopping and attends various community events. She has also made some significant changes in her living arrangements and now lives in a small basement apartment that her brother renovated for her. She continues to attend the CABLC program and her self esteem continues to improve. Kim's family has noticed a significant change in her outlook on life through her excitement about getting out of the house and being with her friends. These positive changes have given her family peace of mind knowing that she is happy and healthy. Kim would like to attend the program full-time if funding were available.

“Crossing All Bridges Learning Centre Inc. is one of Brant United Way's new Member Agencies. It is providing life skills and opportunities for developmentally challenged adults to encourage them to be active members of the Brant Community. Through structured learning, these adults have increased independence, literacy, communication, physical health and improved self confidence. This program is helping to address our priority area of Independence and Well-Being by increasing the autonomy and participation in the community of those individuals with a disability.”

*Name changed to protect identity

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each Member Agency to ensure they meet a high standard of accountability. These volunteers are truly dedicated. They visited each Member Agency, reviewed every application, which included a full analysis of their budget and programs and made tough decisions about allocating the available funds accordingly. Their support ensures that vital programs and services are available to the 1 in every 3 people within our community who access our Member Agencies on a yearly basis; many of those individuals are your friends, colleagues and/or family members. Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated – Thank you!

Please find included in this newsletter a complete list of the Brant United Way's 2009 Member Agencies and the programs we are funding.



Dianne Austin
Executive Director

2009 **Member Agencies & United Way Funded Programs**

ADULT RECREATION THERAPY CENTRE

(519) 753-1882

Adult Day Program: provide various social, recreational and therapeutic activities to individuals with diminished physical abilities, frail socially isolated individuals and those with mild cognitive impairment related to early dementia. The program aims to assist individuals to maintain an optimal level of functioning that will help them remain independent in the community. Brantford program operates Mondays through Saturday.

County Adult Day Program: offer similar adult day program services in Paris for residents of the County of Brant on Monday's, Wednesday's and Friday's at the Willett site.

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS SERVING BRANT, BRANTFORD, HALDIMAND & NORFOLK

(519) 759-3222

The vision of Big Brothers Big Sisters is that every child who needs a mentor, has a mentor. They are committed to providing youth with the highest quality, volunteer based mentoring programs in order to ensure healthy development, a safe environment, and positive outcomes for the children and their families.

One to One Big/Little Match: matching a child (Little) with an adult volunteer (Big) for three to four hours per week.

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In School Mentoring: matching a child (Mentee) with a Mentor within the school setting for one hour per week.

Go Girls/Go Guys: uses a mentor (volunteer 18 – 28 years of age) approach in providing a seven week program to youth 12 -14 within a school setting that focuses on healthy lifestyles and choices.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF BRANTFORD

(519) 752-2964

Transportation Program: provide transportation to/from facilities for members/users that may not have the resources or means to travel to the Club to participate in programs. Routes are designed to accommodate children and youth living in low income and/or subsidized housing areas in the city.

BRANT FOOD FOR THOUGHT

(519) 759-6164

Student Nutrition Program: supports the healthy development of children and youth to arrive at school ready to learn by providing nutritious foods including breakfasts, lunches and/or snacks; provide 58 programs to over 8,200 children and youth throughout Brantford and Brant County; provide workshops and skills training for volunteers involved with the nutrition programs.

BRANTWOOD RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

(519) 753-2658

Brantwood provides support to individuals with both developmental and physical challenges. Their goal is to maximize each person's abilities and independence in their community.

Community Day Program: offer support and comprehensive developmental activities for individuals, who have multiple disabilities, are over the age of 21, and reside in a family home. The program enables families to maintain their family unit and have their son/daughter remain in the family home.

THE CANADIAN HEARING SOCIETY

(519) 753-3162 OR (519) 720-0251 TTY

Provide support to individuals who are deaf, deafened or hard of hearing and their families.

General Social Support Counselling: provide support and advocacy to overcome obstacles and make connections to other community services, assist with government forms, etc.

Employment Services: offer job-related career counselling, job leads and referrals, interview training, interpreters for interviews and assist employers with job accommodations and supports.

Technical Devices Program: carry the most complete range of communication devices that assist and augment communication, safety and independence, including smoke detectors, baby monitors, alarm clocks, amplified phones, TTYs (text telephones) and more.

Interpreter Service: American Sign Language services that facilitates communication between the deaf and hearing.

Sign Language Instruction: American Sign Language instruction to the public or by special contract to organizations interested in learning how to communicate with the deaf.

Hearing Care Counselling: assist seniors in carrying out daily activities independently and with reduced communication difficulties.

Information Community Outreach: provide unbiased information about deafness, hearing loss, and prevention of hearing loss, noise and its effects.

Connect Counselling: offer a range of counselling services such as: family counselling, relationship counselling, illness/ depression/stress, sexual abuse, violence, verbal and physical abuse, and legal advocacy.

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THE CANADIAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND (CNIB)

(519) 752-6831

Assistive Technology Services: Provide information about the availability, selection, use and purchase of devices best suited to individual needs, through demonstration, assessment, training and technical support.

Early Intervention Services: Provide supportive counselling, service coordination, information, advocacy and programming for children and their families. Early Intervention Services Specialists work with children from birth to school age (up to six yrs) and their families to assess developmental needs associated with vision loss, taking into consideration additional disabilities, and environmental needs to help schools accommodate students with vision loss.

Computer Training: Provide instruction on how to use current computer programs to access information and communicate independently.

Counselling: Provide support to people as they adjust to vision loss, or the combined loss of hearing and sight.

Independent Living Skills: Provide life-skills training to help manage the essentials of daily living, with an emphasis on maintaining independence – from safe and effective methods of cooking and doing household tasks such as laundry, to banking, writing and personal care.

Low Vision Services: Provide functional assessments of visual abilities, information and training in the use of low vision devices, and instruction on how to maximize residual vision.

Indoor and Outdoor Travel: Provide instruction on how to move safely around your home, or travelling outside.

Support and Self-Help Groups: Client group programs provide a venue to discuss work, home life, activities of daily living or leisure and community participation.

Volunteer Services: volunteers are trained to provide program support, such as in assistive device training. Other volunteer activities are in advocacy, advisory group support, fund raising and administrative support.

CANADIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

(519) 753-4189

Disaster Management Program: provide response to individuals who experience a physical crisis such as fire or flood who have no insurance or other supports, especially for the first 72 hours; provide emergency personal preparedness training in order to assist community members to be prepared in case of an emergency with extra focus on reaching seniors, those with special challenges and youth. Community Outreach & Support – i.e. provide bottled water during heat alert.

Meals on Wheels: provide hot and frozen well balanced meals to those who do not have access to regular nutritious meals, including seniors, recovering adults, the chronically ill and physically or mentally challenged individuals. Menus respond to a wide variety of tastes and special dietary needs such as bland, diabetic, low sodium, minced, celiac and pureed. Program also provides social interaction for isolated clients, respite for family and caregivers and a daily security check on the health, safety and well-being of clients.

Transportation: provide door-to-door rides for the physically and mentally frail, seniors and people with temporary or permanent disabilities to medical appointments and out-of-town specialist appointments; program is for ambulatory clients who are unable to access other transportation options including public transit and lack the financial resources to use profit-based services like taxis.

Widows Program: long standing social program for widows to meet and support one another in a common place.

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COMMUNITY RESOURCE SERVICE

(519) 751-4357

Food Bank: There are many life circumstances that can leave a person or family struggling financially - provide support to both individuals and families needing food, and to community-based programs that support those needing food security. Clients of the Brantford Food Bank also have an opportunity to be supported in a variety of ways by internal programs and external referrals.

CROSSING ALL BRIDGES LEARNING CENTRE INC.

(519) 751-0123

Core Program: offer continued learning opportunities including academic, life skills, physical fitness and recreation/leisure/craft skills for adults over the age of 18 with an intellectual disability.

FAMILY COUNSELLING CENTRE OF BRANT

(519) 753-4173

Individual, Couple, Family and Group Counselling: a community based, responsive, creative, compassionate and healing, professional counselling service to individuals, couples and families in distress in a confidential and ethical atmosphere.

Credit Counselling Services: designed to assist individuals and families to acquire the skills necessary for financial stability. Quick facts: less than 2% of people who finish the program get into credit trouble again, almost 70% of clients' financial situations improve as a result of credit counselling and over 98% of their programs receive creditor co-operation.

Women's Groups: Women Initiating New Growth In Self-Esteem - designed to help women who are survivors of emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse; Peaceful Pathways - a group for assaultive women committed to ending aggression in their intimate relationships; Soaring above the Turbulence; Learning to Deal with Conflict and Anger; Flying together in Healthy Relationships.

Men's Group: Men On The Move - a Men's Group that explores how behaviour impacts relationships and families and seeks to assist men in understanding why they behave the way they do and what they can do about it. This group seeks to support men striving to end the occurrence of family violence in the home.

KIDS CAN FLY

(519) 448-1713

Launch Pad: early learning and parenting centres offer a free drop in program for parents and caregivers with children to age 6; it is a "learn by doing" environment aimed to help children with school readiness.

Roots of Empathy: evidenced-based program delivered in elementary school classrooms with a goal of helping children develop emotional literacy (empathy) which will reduce bullying and aggression.

Parachute Program: a free program geared to parents with infants in the first year. Eight session program where parent and child participate in music, lap games and discussions around raising an infant.

Book Camp: summer day camp that provides mentoring to children by professional authors, illustrators, editors, etc.

Blue Boxes for Books: outreach program puts boxes of quality books into community waiting rooms to encourage parents to read to their children and to provide literacy opportunities for children while waiting.

LITERACY COUNCIL OF BRANTFORD & DISTRICT

(519) 758-1664

Provides a confidential service to adults who wish to improve their literacy and essential skills which include reading, writing, numeracy, oral communication and computer skills. Trained staff and volunteers work on a one-to-one or small group basis. Assist individuals to understand and fill out required forms. Provide a service to local businesses and organizations to assist them in making sure that their printed materials are clearly written so that people are able to read and understand them better.

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NAVY LEAGUE OF CANADA – BRANTFORD BRANCH (519) 752-8821

Royal Canadian Sea Cadets Corps Admiral Nelles: provides a safe, fun environment for local youth aged 12-18 to interact with one another while developing significant life and work skills; free program for youth.

Navy League Cadets Admiral Landymore: provides a safe, fun environment for local youth aged 9 to 12 to interact with one another while developing significant life and work skills; free program for youth.

NOVA VITA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION SERVICES (519) 752-1005

Challenge to Change - Men's Program: This 16-week program is directed at men who are, or are at risk of becoming, abusive towards their partners. Through group counselling, participants discover how the violence has impacted on their families, learn how to stop their abusive behaviours and develop new respect for their partners and their relationship. The safety of the participants' female partners is monitored through the Partner Check Program. Participants are offered ongoing therapeutic/crisis support throughout the program.

SEXUAL ASSAULT CENTRE OF BRANT (519) 751-1164

Young Women's Program: provide individual counselling sessions, advocacy, accompaniment, resources and referrals for female survivors of sexual violence aged from 14 to 19 years. Program also available for young women "at risk of sexual violence".

VICTIM SERVICES OF BRANT (519) 752-3140

Court Assistance Program: provide assistance and support to victims during the accused bail court hearing.

ALERT Program: assists victims of domestic violence with specific safety issues.

YMCA OF HAMILTON/BURLINGTON /BRANTFORD (519) 752-6568

Youth Health Fitness Recreation Leadership and Play Programs: children and youth programs that support the healthy development of children from 6 months to 15 years of age through health, fitness, and recreation and leadership programs. Y Family Program Center offered seven days a week; financial assistance ensures that these programs are available to all.

Day Camps: indoor day camp is offered at the Y Family Program Centre and Ryerson Heights Elementary School for children from J.K. to 12 years, outdoor day camp is offered at Camp Chippewa for children from 6 to 15 years.

Important Dates

GIANT WAREHOUSE SALE

May 30, 2009

575 Colborne Street East

Interested volunteers,

please e-mail:

warehouse@brantunitedway.org

CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF

September – Date TBC

Planning is underway, stay

tuned for details

WORKPLACE CAMPAIGNS

September to

November 27th, 2009

ACHIEVEMENT LUNCHEON

December 15th, 2009





NANCY TOMKINS

2009 Campaign – Message from the Chair

I am honoured to be the Campaign Chair for the 2009 Brant United Way Campaign and to be working with a wonderful group of volunteers on the Cabinet team.

I was born in Brantford and I truly believe in this community and all of its possibilities. It's where I live, where I do business and where I give back.

I didn't know that much about United Way when I was first asked for my support a few years ago. However, it quickly became clear to me that the Brant United Way and its Member Agencies do great work in our city and county - every day of the year – and I became involved as a volunteer and a donor. Now it's my turn to ask others to join me in supporting the Brant United Way and spread the word about the amazing work of this organization and its Agencies.

Planning is well underway for this year's Campaign. Beginning in April our Division Chairs will be making corporate calls to our current workplace campaigns and new prospects seeking their support. We'll also be reaching out to individuals in our community and getting their support as well.

So, when a volunteer calls or a letter arrives, please take a moment to consider what you can do as a local business owner or individual to help Brant United Way further its mission to improve the lives of people in the Brant community. I assure you that your donation will make a difference in our community by enabling the United Way's Member Agencies to continue to offer their services to the citizens of Brantford and Brant County. We know that at least 1 of every 3 people living in Brant utilize the services of one of the Member Agencies each year.

If we all do our part and contribute what we can to the Brant United Way, we will ensure a strong community for all of us. Please join me and our volunteer team in building a better Brantford and Brant County for all of us.

Be a hero everyday to citizens who really need your support!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Nancy Tomkins'.

Nancy Tomkins
2009 United Way Campaign Chair

2009 Campaign Cabinet

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Nancy Tomkins

Charing Cross Denture Clinic

LEADERSHIP GIVING CHAIR

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POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION CHAIR

Paul Armstrong

Mohawk College

MEMBER AGENCIES CHAIR

Shelley McCarthy

Family Counselling Centre of Brant

Note: as at April 2, 2009



DEAN BRAUND

Message from the Board President

As President of the Board, I am honoured to work with the Board of Directors to oversee the operations and direction of the Brant United Way. I can assure you that Brant United Way has never been stronger. From a Board, staff, volunteer and financial perspective the Brant United Way is headed for great success. Strategic decisions of our previous Board have positioned our current Board to lead Brant United Way in achieving our vision of becoming the leading agency and improving the lives of people in the Brant community.

Our goal is to increase the level of assistance to a broader number of recipients helping to satisfy the growing community needs. To meet this, our Board has developed a five year strategic plan to move us in this direction. As a group we are working with volunteers and staff to ensure we achieve our goals.

Our Board represents a cross-section of our community. We have retired individuals, representatives from business, social services, public service, and this year, we are pleased to welcome a student from Laurier Brantford to our Board. We are excited to bring a youthful perspective to the table and hope to engage more youth in our work.

My fellow Board Members and I are working hard to strategically plan for the future and ensure Brant United Way remains strong and focused.

Dean Braund
President, Board of Directors

2008/2009 Board of Directors

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Dean Braund

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2009 Campaign Chair

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Dianne M. Austin

Executive Director

Brant United Way

