

The COMMUNICATOR

June 2004

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the top prize of the day. This years prizes are even bigger and better!

1st place-

A trip to Las Vegas for up to 8 people

2nd place-

Jasper road trip for up to 36 people

3rd place-

Jasper ski package for up to 4 people (All prizes include accommodation, and transportation)

Pledge Prizes - Our pledge prize structure is different this year, as it will give everyone the opportunity to receive incredible prizes. Each participant to reach the minimum dollar amount for each pledge level is guaranteed the associated prize. Reach all five levels and you win all five prizes!

Raise \$100- MIM T-shirt

Raise \$250- MIM Hoodie

Raise \$500- \$75

gift certificate to West Edmonton Mall

Raise \$1000-

Fantasyland Hotel Package

Raise \$5000-

Travel Voucher for \$2000 for

anywhere in the world!

Registration is open today! Hurry and sign up your teams before the mass media advertising begins on June 6th. You definitely don't want to miss out as many people have already called to see when they can register. To register your team please go to www.missioninthemall.com or call 453-6707 and ask to speak to Beverley or Cherry.

You can also support this event by volunteering; we will need 300 volunteers to make this event run smoothly. Please contact Karen at 453-6707 to register as a volunteer. All volunteers will have lunch provided, training prior to the day and will receive a t-shirt.

Our thanks to partners and sponsors for making this event possible:

Venue Partner-

West Edmonton Mall

TV Partner- CFRN Television

Print Partner- Edmonton SUN

Radio Partner- 96X

Gold Sponsor-

Corporate Projects

Fun Sun Vacations/Marlin Travel

Silver Sponsors-

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Edmonton Eskimos

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Copper Sponsors-

Mowbrey Gil

Condon-Barr

MISSION IN THE MALL

THE ULTIMATE TEAM CHALLENGE

Once again, on October 24th, 2004, hundreds of Edmontonians will embark on a mission to complete a variety of mental and physical challenges scattered throughout West Edmonton Mall. Although all of the challenges are top secret and confidential, it is guaranteed that participants will compete in fun, challenging, and exciting activities. Mission in the Mall requires teams to work together and compete against other teams in a series of challenges that test their intelligence, strength, agility and wit. Ranging from deciphering riddles to tackling complex obstacle courses, teams will be required to combine perspiration with inspiration if they want to take

Alberta Fundraising Conference

From February 7th-10th Suzanne Jickling and myself attended the Alberta Fundraising Conference which focused on "Inspiring Philanthropy". We were very fortunate to have been selected for and AAFRE scholarship to offset the costs of the conference.

Suzanne and I attended the pre-conference, which was an excellent start to a weekend filled with fundraising education and relationship building. The session touched on what is philanthropy, different trends in charitable giving, the importance of knowing your organization well, fundraising methods, and many other interesting topics. It was great to attend the pre-conference because it gave us the opportunity to build a foundation of fundraising concepts, which helped us to prepare for the remainder of the weekends sessions.

The conference was an excellent means of meeting fundraisers from across the province who have similar interests and goals that we have. The presenters were dynamic, and had a great deal of insight into the future of philanthropy and trends affecting fundraisers. The opportunity to share experiences, ideas and frustrations were very valuable to us and we look forward to implementing new strategies in the near future.

Recruitment Drive for Volunteer Services!

Volunteers have always been an important part of the Winnifred Stewart Association, serving in a variety of capacities for over 50 years. Currently, our emphasis is on building a team of volunteers to enhance client services. Thanks to the Wild Rose Foundation grant we received in 2003, we have been able to create a number of new activities and expand existing projects within our programs. We have purchased equipment and supplies for recreational and exercise activities, art and drama therapy classes, educational and administrative projects and much more. Each of these new or expanded projects centers around volunteer involvement. We are looking for people to work directly with individuals or groups of clients and staff in a wide range of areas. Positions include Soccer Coaches, Workshop Developers, Community Access Assistants, Physical Activity Trainers, Craft Instructors, Program Assistants, and many more.

In addition, following the success of Mission in the Mall: The Ultimate Team Challenge, our need for special event volunteers has increased substantially. In order to stage this year's event on October 24, we will require the help of more than 300 volunteers.

We are now in the process of recruiting volunteers to fill these positions. If you would like to get involved and join our fabulous team or if you know anyone who would be interested in supporting the Winnifred Stewart Association through volunteering, please contact Karen at karenmd@winnifredstewart.com or 453-6707 ext.243.

An Expansion of Recreation & Leisure Support Services

On February 2nd, the Recreation & Leisure Program took over another site, which was previously run by Pearle Villa. This has been fantastic for the clients who were already attending that program because it allowed them to stay at the location they were familiar with instead of looking for a new day program. Through this growth we have gained several new staff from Pearle Villa who have been a great addition to our Association. Currently we are providing services to 19 individuals and are increasing this number to 40 over the next year.

The new site, which is now called Recreation & Leisure Site #2, is a smaller version of what is currently being offered at the main building. Since the beginning of April, clients and staff have been working hard at setting up new activity rooms and community access activities, which is new to this location. Everyone seems to be very excited about having the opportunity to get out of the building and explore new things. Recently clients at both day programs were able to meet each other and enjoy some fun entertainment from the Elvis show as well as outings to the Winspear to take in afternoon concerts.

Crafts are definitely an area of expertise to this site and for many years they have sold their products to various customers around the city. On April 21st staff and clients set up a table at Norwood Extended Care and sold many of their crafts and baked goods. Over the next few months we will continue to explore new activities and look forward to welcoming new clients who will be joining the program.

We would like to thank everyone for all of their patience during the transition of this second site and would also like to thank all clients and staff from within WSA who have stopped by to tour the facility and to introduce themselves. Your generosity and kindness have been appreciated by all of us.

For more information about Recreation & leisure site 2, please contact Corinna Blayone at 702-1333. If you're interested in touring our new site we are located at 140, 14315- 118 Avenue.

Announcements

Client Appreciation Day is on June 25th. The day will be filled with lots of fun and exciting activities.



Soccer Season starts June 28th .
Come out and support your team!

Residential Services

February 1, 2004, WSA welcomed ten people into Residential Services as three houses, which were purchased from Pearle Villa, were added to the existing 10 residences. As well, twenty new positions were created, 8 of which were previous Pearle Villa employees. The transition has been smooth and many thanks are extended to staff who volunteered to work in the new houses. Everyone pulled together to provide the excellence that the Winnifred Stewart Association is known for. Thank you to the houses that have visited or have extended invitations to their homes for a 'get to know each other' party. There are always pleasant surprises when old friends meet again.

Written by
Giselle Wichern, Supervisor

Work Opportunities & Sales and Promotions Update:

It has been quite an eventful year so far at Work Opportunities and Sales & Promotions. We have been very fortunate to receive a couple of grants which have helped us to expand our services. With money from the grants we have purchased treadmills, exercise bikes, exercise balls, dynabands and workout videos for our new work out area at #50. As well, through the IBM Community Grant Program we have received 2 new computers for our Client Voice Room. The new computers have touch screens and innovative programs that have been very beneficial to our clients. The clients have also been

very busy as the delivery of garbage bags, flowerpots, etc. has begun. They deliver the products to businesses in the greater Edmonton area.

On a sad note, we'd like to take a moment to remember two members of the Work Opportunities Team. Don Eiffert passed away on October 31, 2003 and Lynne Nixon passed away on March 3, 2004. We were all deeply saddened by their sudden and untimely passing.

"Their memory will live on in the many lives they touched"

Edmonton Oilers Puck Surprise



The Edmonton Oilers Ladies Association and the Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation teamed up to support us at their "Valentine Puck Surprise" at their home game on Wednesday, February 11th.

The entire team autographed 683 specially wrapped pucks that were available for \$20 each. 23 of the pucks were signed in gold ink, with the remaining in silver. The Oilers Ladies sold the pucks at the four main entrances on the main concourse of Rexall Place. When the gold autographed pucks were taken to Community Corner, the bearers received an Edmonton Oilers team-signed stick.

Susanna Staios who headed up the fundraising activity for the Oilers Ladies Association said, "We're very grateful for the support the fans always give our fundraising efforts. The Valentine Puck Surprise is a fun and rewarding way to support the Winnifred Stewart Association and seniors needing assistance in the community. We thank the Oilers fans for helping make a difference in Edmonton."

The fundraising event brought in an exciting \$11,380. We would like to thank the Edmonton Oilers Ladies Association for thinking of us when choosing their organization of choice and we look forward to possible future opportunities with them.

Shawn Ewasiuk
Community Access Coordinator

Taxes, Taxes, Taxes

In early February this year the Winnifred Stewart Association hosted a seminar on "Tax Benefits for Families with Dependent Adults". Over 40 members of the Association filled the room to hear Dianna Muise a Chartered Accountant and Tax Specialist with Kingston Ross Pasnak and Doris Bonora a lawyer specialising in Trusts and Estate Planning with law firm Reynolds Mirth Richards and Farmer.

Over the past year it became apparent that many families with Dependent Adults were not taking full advantage of their tax credits on an annual basis. Just recently, while speaking with one of the Winnifred Stewart members on this topic, he was surprised to hear that now he can claim the Care Giver Tax Credit for looking after his daughter who is living with him and his wife at home. "Years ago", he said "I argued and argued with authorities about this exact issue!" the issue being

the ineligibility to claim the Care Giver Tax Credit because he was a parent. He was pleasantly surprised to learn that now he can back file for the care giver tax credit to 1998.

This was one of the areas that was well covered by the seminar as well as the need to closely look at lines 305, 306, 318, and 319 when you are completing your next income tax return. Deanna supplied the seminar participants with a tax booklet and hand out loaded with information to ensure that when you file your next tax return it includes all the tax credits you are eligible to claim.

Doris on the other hand delivered information on the importance of appointing an alternate guardian and a trustee once the parents are not available to look after their dependent Adult children.

If you would like to have the information that was given at the seminar, please contact Nena at 983-5104.

New Changes

Did you know that the federal government is preparing a bill that will allow parents to defer their RRSPs and RIFs to their dependent adult children? Until recently this option was only available between spouses, but soon it will be possible to transfer these funds to a dependent adult children tax free. In the fall we will be hosting a seminar which will address this specifically. Make sure to look out for an announcement about this seminar and attend to hear how this can be done.

The Winnifred Stewart Association has been enhancing the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities since 1953. Today we are innovators in working with aging adults with developmental disabilities to design customized programs that address the unique needs of our clients and their families.

Publications
Mail Agreement
40662034

Our core services include:

- Community-based residential housing
- Employment training and placement services
- Recreation and leisure support programs
- Planning and support services

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