

Wall of Honour Unveiled

As part of the Association's 50th anniversary, a special project was developed to honour our donors and volunteers who have made the growth and success of the Association possible. Our "Wall of Honour" was unveiled by Association Board President Doug Lane, Winnifred Stewart Foundation Board President Carolyn Graham and Executive Director Dennis Stockman.

The Wall of Honour provides opportunity for the Association to recognize the work of volunteers past, present and future. We were delighted to honour those people whose commitment and dedication over the years have benefited our programs and services. In addition, the Wall gives the Winnifred Stewart Foundation the opportunity to recognize donors whose

contributions have had a significant impact on our continued growth and development.

We realized that finding the names of the many people and organizations who contributed over the years was going to be difficult. Our committee of volunteers and staff worked diligently to gather as many names as possible, but we know we have certainly missed some people. We welcome everyone to come view the wall and to submit the names of anyone you feel should be recognized. Updates to the Wall will be completed annually in May in time for the Association's annual general meeting.



Photo left: Dale Parranto, one of our long-term volunteers, points out his name



If you have any questions about the wall, please contact Roxanne or Karen at 453-6707.

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
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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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The COMMUNICATOR

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The Winnifred Stewart Foundation will be holding a **Casino** January 11 and 12, 2004. Proceeds will go towards supporting the programs and services of the Winnifred Stewart Association. Volunteers are needed for day and evening positions, please give Roxanne or Karen a call at 453-6707 if you are available.

First Lady of Jalisco, Mexico Visits WSA

On August 19th, we were pleased to host Mrs. Maria Verduzco, First Lady of Jalisco state in Mexico, along with Ms. Rosalia Castro (Jalisco Social Services Representative) and Ms. Marcela Mandeville (Interpreter). They were very interested in our services, particularly those we provide for our seniors, such as the assisted-living homes. The First Lady was very impressed by what she saw and had many questions and comments about how our services compare to those provided in Mexico. The tour was followed by a tea hosted at Parker Stewart House.

This new and unique fundraiser is definitely creating a great deal of awareness of the Association and its programs!

MISSION IN THE MALL

THE ULTIMATE TEAM CHALLENGE

Based on the reality adventure shows we have come to know on TV, the Mission in the Mall: The Ultimate Team Challenge will be held October 5th at West Edmonton Mall. Teams will combine inspiration with perspiration to complete a number of exciting physical and mental challenges, with one team being crowned the winner at the end of the day.

Teams have been joining up quickly, inspired by both the cause, the promise of a great time and our fantastic prizes, including home theatre systems, trips to Jasper and Mexico, mountain bikes and much, much more. There is still space available, so get your team registration in soon by calling Cherry at 453-6707 or by visiting the web site www.missioninthemall.com.

You can also support this event by volunteering; we will need 300 volunteers to make this event run smoothly. There are a

variety of positions available in both morning and afternoon shifts. 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

Gold Sponsor- Corporate Projects

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Bronze Sponsors-

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Halls Pharmacy
Condon Barr

Door Prizes Provided by:

Snowbird Galleries, MacEwan Centre for Sport and Wellness, Marmot Basin, Purdy's Chocolates, Forzani's, Shear Simplicity and Cookies by George.

New House Opening

On June 27th, we were delighted to open our second assisted-living home for seniors with developmental disabilities with more than 80 people on hand to celebrate. Named after Winnifred Stewart's son Parker, Parker Stewart House is now home to ten individuals who are experiencing Alzheimer's and other challenges of aging in addition to their primary developmental disability.

We would like to thank our MLA Brent Rathgeber, Councillor Ron Hayter, Winnifred Stewart Foundation Board President Carolyn Graham, Winnifred Stewart



Association Board President Doug Lane, and Debbie Saidman of the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund for their kind words and to Reverend Harold Witte for his dedicatory prayer. Our thanks as well to Pat Walker of the Residential Services committee, Residential Services Manager Vicky Andress and new

resident Karen Fink for cutting the grand opening ribbon.

For more information about the assisted-living homes, please contact Cheryl Ackimenko at 453-6707.

Mobile Sensory Room

Our thanks to the Children's Ability Fund for their donation of \$9,661.79, which has enabled us to expand our sensory stimulation equipment and locations. The new equipment will enable more clients to experience sensory stimulation on a daily basis, and also provides the opportunity for clients to engage in sensory activities outside of the sensory room environment.

Having this equipment available has proven to be very successful for clients who have limited choices for regular recreation or who appreciate having a calming environment to take a break from our busy program.

We would not have been able to complete this special project without the support of CAF- thank you very much!

Learning Makes the Difference

Angela Howse

In June, Darlene Bertrand and myself were selected to represent the Association at the "Meaningful Activities for Various 'Abilities' Conference" held June 10 and 11 in Red Deer. Conferences such as these do not come along often, so we definitely wanted to make the most of this opportunity.

We were under the impression we were going to learn new activities but that it would be like other conferences, interesting but a little dry. We were both pleasantly surprised to find that was not the case. The conference was well-organized, entertaining and very informative. Sessions included art therapy, puppet therapy, dance therapy, and nature therapy. We were very impressed by the speakers and hands-on activities for conference participants.

The keynote speaker, Lorie Pulliam, was energized and a true inspiration. The conference concluded with a drum circle, which was a great experience.

The participants each received a tool kit, which is full of information and activity resources. Within the Recreation and Leisure Support Services program, Darlene and I will facilitate a two-part mini session each month and focus on one area of the tool kit. We are both excited and hope everyone will be as inspired as we were to offer new activity choices for our clients.

If you are interested in learning more about the resources available in the tool kit and from the conference, please give Angela or Darlene a call at 453-6707.

Announcements

Mark Your Calendars!

The Association's Christmas Party will be held December 13, 2003 at St. Michael's Heritage Hall, 7406-139 Avenue. Tickets will be \$25.00 each for all guests, and will be on sale November 3rd.

New Partnership!

Our thanks to the folks at Home Tweet Home for their new partnership! Clients are able to learn new skills by packaging wood, stone and floral components that go into making beautiful birdhouse hobby kits. Info: 732-5308.

Volunteer Services Program Receives Grant

Karen Dwyer

In July, the Winnifred Stewart Association received a \$37,884 grant from the Wild Rose Foundation to further develop and expand the Volunteer Services Program.

Volunteers have played a vital role throughout the Association's first 50 years but there has only been a formal volunteer program in place since 1993. In the past ten years, volunteers have continued to contribute their talents and skills to the Board of Directors, our programs, fundraising activities and special projects, but there has been no real growth in the size of the volunteer program. A recent assessment indicated the need for updated policies and procedures and showed the potential for enhanced client services through the effective utilization of volunteer resources.

Over the next few months the Volunteer Services Coordinator will be completing new policy, orientation and training manuals, developing new positions, designing marketing materials to promote volunteerism, revising all forms and



processes, improving the recognition program, creating evaluation tools and recruiting new volunteers.

We are very fortunate to have received this grant, as it will provide the necessary resources to build a strong foundation and achieve a significant expansion in volunteer services. The unique knowledge and experiences of volunteers, the additional support volunteers can provide beyond the work of paid staff, and the increased community awareness from marketing the program - these are examples of the benefits to the Association as a whole. A special thank you to the Wild Rose Foundation for their continued support.

For more information about the volunteering, please contact Karen Dwyer, Volunteer Services Coordinator, at 453-6707, ext. 243.

L.Y. Cairns Students Tour Work Opportunities

Michaela Cockerill

On April 9, 2003 approximately 30 students from L.Y. Cairns special needs classes toured and enjoyed a hands on experience at Work Opportunities. The students rotated between different areas in the facility, learning step-by-step about each contract and participating in production to experience what Work Opportunities is all about.

All of the students were very enthusiastic and eager to learn about our program and were pleased to find the staff were so encouraging and supportive. Many of the students are now placing Winnifred Stewart at the top of their list of places of employment after graduation.

To set up a tour of the Work Opportunities program, please call Barry at 453-6707.

Weyerhaeuser Grant

Our thanks to Weyerhaeuser for their grant of \$2,000 to fund a summer maintenance position for a local high school student. Our residences and grounds look great, and the student learned a lot of new skills because of this funding.

Thank you Weyerhaeuser.