

DIRECT SUPPORT PERSON BULLETIN

SUMMER WORK!

Looking for additional summer hours? Many families are looking for someone to either accompany their child to camp or simply spend some extra 1:1 time over July and August. Email your coordinator directly if you have availability. From here, we will match workers based on family need. (Please note that the regular matching process will apply and we cannot guarantee full time work).

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Looking for more hours? Know someone seeking meaningful part-time employment? Another 100 families have received funding that can be used to hire a 1:1 support person! We need your help to find more people who share Extend-A-Family's vision for inclusive community and believe in supporting the unique goals/desires/needs of others.

Let your coordinator know if you would like more opportunities! You can also update your availability.

Refer a friend by sharing the following link:

<http://visit.eafwr.on.ca/positions/>



COUNT ME IN COMMUNITY RALLY

Join us as we walk in solidarity down King Street in Kitchener to City Hall to share our message of respect and acceptance of one another. We will celebrate our differences and our similarities.

Friday June 12 5pm-8pm

More details at www.ichoosedignity.com

DIRECT SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE

We are pleased to announce that we have hired 3 wonderful individuals for the Extend-A-Family Direct Support Representative Committee!!! Please take a few minutes to get to know your Committee and read a little bit about them:

Julie Mainland

My name is Julie and I am a Direct Support Person here at Extend-A-Family part time, and I work at W.A.L.E.S. as a Community Facilitator part time as well. I am looking forward to being a part of this committee, not only to help brainstorm ways of bringing DSP's together, but also to encourage others to continue developing and maintaining a community that we are all a part of.

Brooke Willis

I'm Brooke and I have been working for EAF for about a year now, and I couldn't be happier. I am thrilled to be involved with the representative team. By joining other members of this team, I hope to be a more active member of the Extend-A-Family community, and help bridge other workers into doing the same. Along with my team members, I strive to be able to connect workers with each other, enrich our work experience, and bring everyone together for celebration, education, and to form lasting relationships within our community.

Chaitali Maybhate

My name is Chaitali and I have been with EAF since September 2012. I enjoy interacting with people. I find this job very rewarding and I enjoy helping people smile.

I feel like with every act I do I create a ripple and this is the main reason why I want to be a part of the Representative committee. The act of kindness, help and care will have a significant effect on the community.

SAVE THE DATE!!

You are invited to a MATCH CELEBRATION afternoon in the park!

September 12, 2015 from 1pm to 4pm at Waterloo Park, Waterloo

We would love to take this time to appreciate all that you do in your work with Extend-A-Family and to celebrate your time with Extend-A-Family and the individual(s) you are supporting.

We hope you see you there, and if the person you are supporting is available to join us we would love to celebrate with both of you!

More details to come so stay tuned!



PHONE USE



Have you ever been out with a friend and you are trying to have a conversation and they are texting or staring down at their phone instead of paying attention to you? How does this make you feel?

Unfortunately, this same situation is experienced by individuals that EAF supports and the person on the phone is their Direct Support Person. Relationships are very important at Extend-A-Family and if you are on your cell phone, what message are you sending the individual you are supporting, their family and the community? Can you be an active listener and an ambassador for inclusion if you are distracted by your phone? Remember, you are a representative of Extend-A-Family in the community and we want the community to notice your amazing work, not how quickly your fingers can move across a screen. So the next time you are with the individual you are supporting, please think twice before checking your phone. Instead, put the phone down and create an opportunity for face to face conversation.

Change Your Banking Info?

Please let us know if this changes to ensure that you continue to be paid. If the account information that we have for you is no longer valid, a \$20 fee will apply.

On-Call Policy Reminder:

It is important that all Direct Support People carry an emergency information card for the people you support in case of an emergency while you are with them.

We would like to encourage all of you to refer to the On-Call Policy located in your worker handbook, as well as on the web-site: <http://www.eafwr.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Worker-Handbook.pdf> on Page 33 (Section 5 g.), for more information about what this service is for, what types of situations are considered to be an emergency and how you should go about reporting such occurrences

WORKER FACEBOOK GROUP!

Want to connect with other workers and the individuals they support? To join the Facebook group, contact Ben Sauder at: bsauder@eafwr.on.ca

THE BRENS



Once upon a time there were two young girls in Cape Breton. Little did they know that one day their youngest sons would not only have the same name, but be united by the forces that are Extend-A-Family.

Brendan
Gerrard Terry

Gabriel Solomon was born on July 18th 1988 in Kitchener Ontario. Almost 6 years previous, Brendon Joseph Wilkie was born in Sydney Cape Breton on September 15th 1982.

Both of the Brens encountered many struggles in their lives. And, that just may have been the reason they were matched together. In September of 2010 they had a meeting that was unlike any meeting either men had ever experienced before.

On some glassware in the living room China cabinet was some tartan that was familiar to the Brens alike. It was Cape Breton tartan. The tartan on the glassware would represent a lifetime of serendipitous brotherhood.

As chance would have it, the Brens' mothers were those little girls in Cape Breton.

Soon after this meeting, a relationship began that was based on support and a mutual zest for music, adventure and art. Soon after though, a flourishing friendship would ensue. Common appreciation for media and websites like YouTube would soon construct a root system of a tree that would continuously grow. What kind of tree you may ask? The Brens thought you may ask that so they invented a new breed of tree that best describes them as a team. The tree they invented is called the Brainrise Tree. The Brens are always trying to give their brains a rise! That's why they created, and have been known by their YouTube channel titled "brainsworldchannel". Check out the Bren's brains as soon as you can.

Throughout the 5+ years the Brens have been

friends, many cool events have been planned for them to attend. Some of the cool things the Brens have done include getting the crap scared out of them at the haunted houses in Niagara Falls. Luckily they didn't fall into the falls! How about a trip up the CN Tower as they again got the crap scared out of them.

The Brens even met the entire stage crew of Billy Talent, and luckily got to film some of that experience (which you can find on their channel).

One Bren loves hockey and the other despises it. Can you guess who is who? So on a regular day the arena is pretty much out of the question. On most typical days they chat about life and what they want to do with themselves. They celebrate accomplishments and point out things they both need to work on.

One of the Brens is an aspiring actor. He has been encouraged by the other Bren to pursue this dream. That dream has been achieved. From short films too live performances the Bren's are becoming known on YouTube. These acting experiences are becoming more and more frequent. The other Bren is an aspiring rock star. The other Bren encourages this goal. Can you guess who is who?

The Brens are always setting goals. Right now the Brens are concerned about participation and mutual involvement in their communities. One Bren visits WALES to help achieve his goals. The other Bren sometimes wishes he could go to WALES as well! Sounds like a very fun and helpful system.

With any great relationship comes a great responsibility for all involved.

The Brens would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to Extend-A-Family and especially to Jill Swanton for bringing them together. Everything has always been so positive and uplifting.

Maybe one day the Brens will say that in their old age they praise the fact they never went their separate ways.

The Brens

