

DIRECT SUPPORT PERSON BULLETIN



From our EAFWR family to yours

— JOYOUS —
HOLIDAYS
— AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR —



Closed for the holidays. See you on January 2nd

Wishing you and yours a happy holiday season!

With the holiday season upon us, we want to wish you and yours a very happy, safe and prosperous holiday.

This year has been filled with change, excitement, and candor. Thank you for being a part of our 2016 and we look forward to journeying alongside you in 2017.

As Extend-A-Family Waterloo Region ventures into 2017, it is with hopeful and thankful hearts, questioning minds, and the intent of being the best we can be for those we serve.

All my best wishes for a peaceful, creative, inspiring and thoughtful New Year.

~ Maria

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Opportunity for Feedback

Extend-A-Family Waterloo Region has hired an independent evaluator, to retrieve and analyze feedback from Direct Support People.

Sue Weare, an Associate Director at the Centre for Community Research, Learning and Action at Wilfrid Laurier University, is our evaluator. She has created and administered a survey and has run focus groups (in person and over the phone) to gather this feedback.

While Sue has finished with surveying, a few focus groups are still being run.

All of the data and reporting will be done through Sue and her team from the university. We look forward to hearing your thoughts on what you like and ways we could support you better.

Thank you to all of those who have participated, by joining the focus groups or doing the survey.

Direct Support Person Facebook Group

Great things are happening on our Direct Support Person Facebook Page. Not a part of it yet?

facebook.com/groups/eafworkers/

i choose dignity

Early in 2017, we will be looking to hire a Co-Facilitator for I Choose Dignity in the Classroom.

This person will work with and report to the Neighbourhood Community Connector to present a five week program for grade one students in various schools. You will be responsible for assisting with updating and co-facilitating the classroom sessions. You must feel comfortable talking to and facilitating activities with small groups of children. Lived Experience an asset! Contact keving@eafwr.on.ca for details.



Have a Cup of cheer!

NEW YEAR GATHERING

Direct Support Person Committee 519-741-0190

Wednesday, January 11 from 6:30 PM
to 8:30 PM

Extend-A-Family Waterloo Region
91 Moore Ave. Kitchener, ON N2H 3S4

Drop in to the Extend-A-Family Waterloo Region for hot chocolate, snacks and mingling.

On January 11th, come by from 6:30-8:30pm, and have a cup of cheer! Bring a friend, come on your own or bring the person you support. [RSVP online here](#), or call Jill at 519-741-0190 x 301

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FUN WINTER ACTIVITIES

As the days get colder, sometimes it seems like there's not enough to do.

We are here to help! Check out our Direct Support Person Facebook page for updated ideas, activities and community events.

You can ask your peers for help, start a group or event. You can also ask your coordinator(s) for assistance!

Also, don't forget to sign out one of our themed activity bags. You can get more information about these by stopping in or calling reception.



Match Celebration

A big thank you to everyone who joined us for the annual Direct Support Person Match Celebration at Breithaupt Community Centre on September 17th! In spite of the less than ideal weather, we had a good turn-out of people. We didn't get wet under the covered picnic area, but we did get wet when we made a splash in the pool! Lots of fun was had with games and crafts. Our guests kept our face painter very busy! We enjoyed some snacks, and to our surprise, one generous guest brought a cake, which was devoured in minutes!

This was an informal event to say "thanks" and to recognize all those Direct Support People who are making a difference every day to the person they support, and Extend-A-Family Waterloo Region.

Kudos to:

- all those who ignored the weather and came anyways!
- everyone for joining in with the spirit of the event, and connecting with others!
- the young woman who welcomed and encouraged other people to join in craft making!
- the enthusiastic swimmers, especially the little guy who swam for the first time!

We look forward to seeing you again next year!

Want to connect with others?

Do you support an adult in Cambridge? Would they like to meet up with another individual with a disability? Do they enjoy music, dancing, swimming, computers and would like new friends to talk to.

A 21 year old women with autism who likes music, shopping, computers, and the Y is looking for a person to join her. She goes to buddy choir on Mon and the Y on Tues-Fri. Would anyone have anyone with similar interests?

If you are supporting an individual that has similar interests please contact Jill at jswanton@eafwr.on.ca or join the Facebook page.

MEET & GREET

Save the Date

FREE COMMUNITY MEET 'N GREET:
A SWIM AND POTLUCK

SAT, JAN 28, 2017 • SWIM 11-12PM, POTLUCK 12-2PM
STORK YMCA & JOHN M HARPER BRANCH OF WPL
SPACE IS LIMITED! REGISTER WITH:
TASHI@EAFWR.ON.CA
519 741-0190 EXT 308

STORK YMCA

Join us on Saturday January 28th, 2017, from 11am-2pm for EAFWR's Swim + Potluck Meet & Greet.

At Stork Family YMCA (500 Fischer-Hallman Rd. N., Waterloo), enjoy a free swim from 11-12pm, followed by a community potluck from 12-2pm. Bring a dish, a friend, and meet your Waterloo neighbours.

Space is limited. RSVP to Tashi at tashi@eafwr.on.ca or 519-741-0190 x 308.

All ages and abilities are welcome. This is a free event.