

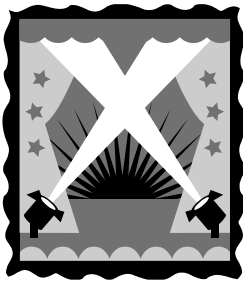
CHAP Connections

Spring/Summer 2005

CHAP Program — respiteservices.com

Volume 3, Issue 1

Spotlight on....



Look for future spotlights on page two of the newsletter.

As you know, respiteservices.com comprises over 30 agencies in the city of Toronto who provide various services including respite for individuals with a disability and their families. As a CHAP worker you may have agreed to have your profile sent to one of the cluster member agencies.

So who are these agencies and what are they all about?

In upcoming newsletters we will be featuring each of the cluster member agencies. You will learn about the services each agency provides, the general programs they offer and the specific criteria of who they support.

Whether you are one of the many students on the CHAP worker database or are currently working in the field of social services we hope the information will give you a better sense of the services that are out there and possibilities for future work opportunities.

Agencies to look for:

Jewish Family and Child Service
Bloorview Macmillan Children's Centre
Bob Rumball Association for the Deaf
Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto
Christian Horizons
City of Toronto Parks and Recreation
Community Living Toronto
East Metro Youth Services
Extend-A-Family
Geneva Centre for Autism
Griffin Centre
Jake's House
Kerry's Place Autism Services
Mary Centre of Toronto
Meta Centre for the Developmentally Disabled
Montage Support Services
Reena
Surrey Place
Safehaven Project for Community Living
The Salvation Army
Toronto District School Board
Variety Village
VITA Community Living Services

Spotlight... Bloorview MacMillan Children's Centre

Bloorview MacMillan Children's Centre is dedicated to enabling children and youth with disabilities or special needs to achieve their personal best.

Each year, more than 6,500 young people and their families from across Ontario benefit from their outpatient clinics, hospital care, assistive technology services and community outreach activities. In partnership with families and communities, they create unique programs and services to enrich the independence and quality of life of the children and families they serve. Programs are funded by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.



Some of their services include respite care (respite beds and programs/camps), swimming programs, various recreational and camp programs offered during the year and summer months, snoezelen (including a snoezelen pool), adaptive equipment loans and a unique elementary school program called Integrated Education/Therapy (IET). Community Based Services (CBS), currently located at the Mac Site, may be of particular interest to CHAP workers and individuals as loads of community recreation and resource information can be gathered here.

Bloorview MacMillan's award-winning research and education extend internationally to support people of all ages with disabilities.

Visit the website at www.bloorviewmacmillan.on.ca to find out more information on their various programs and services.

News and Bulletins



Welcome Back! Join us in welcoming back Ingrid Clifford from her maternity leave. Although it was difficult to leave the little guy at home Ingrid looks forward to the adult contact and continuing her work with respiteservices.com. She is back as a full-time CHAP Coordinator.

Resources! Our resource page is now available on the website. It includes a variety of information on books, websites with great ideas on activities and information on various disabilities as well as suggestions on places to go and other things to do. Be sure to take a look at the Summer Activities so that you are prepared with fun stuff to do with the people you are support during the summer. If you have any great resources that you think should be added to our list be sure to contact us and share the information with other workers and parents.

Recruitment! The CHAP coordinators have been busy attending various career fairs at Universities or Colleges to recruit new workers. Be sure to pass on information about the CHAP program to your friends and family members who are interested in providing support and encourage them to send in a resume.

Workshops and Training! Visit www.respiteservices.com and look under the Calendar of Events for topics, dates and times or contact Natalie Blackwell at nblackwell@respiteservices.com or 416 322 6317 ext 7 for more information.

Way to go... Ways to improve... Comments by CHAP Families

It is always nice to be applauded on a job well done and to know that your efforts are appreciated. In an effort to make sure that the support the CHAP workers are providing is meeting the needs of the families we have asked the families to share some of their experiences with CHAP Workers and to let you know what makes it go well.

We have also asked families to share some of their frustrations because as we all know there is always room for improvement.

Thank you to all the CHAP Workers for giving your all and providing a dynamic service to families and individuals.

Way to go...

"Thank you very much for your services. I got great applicants, and the e-method worked perfectly for me. I really appreciate receiving applications from people qualified to understand my daughter's difficulties."

"Our family has benefited from the CHAP Program. Our worker is reliable, shows good judgment with the children and is respectful of our boundaries. In turn, I find I am learning to let go of a lot of the little things and to keep an open mind about how a job is done. In this way the worker benefits me in my personal growth. On top of all that I am freed up to do

some things that are important to me and to feel more integrated in our community. I feel like I have a more balanced life."

"My son and I have been working with our CHAP worker since May 2003 and things are going wonderfully. We have made a great connection and she is a great support not only for my son but for me as well. It is such a great and unique bond that we hold dearly. This is a great service that you provide families like myself and I am happy that I found this organization."

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit."

—Aristotle

Ways to improve...

"We have been unable to find a worker in our area. Workers we did contact did not return our calls. We would love to have a worker work with our daughter in the evening or on weekends but have not had any luck. We had a worker once but she was way too busy and we were constantly rearranging our schedule to suit her needs. We are basically looking for

some parent relief but get tired of looking without any success."

"The workers either don't get back to me when I leave them messages or once they arrived, made it clear that they were completely unavailable for any of the times I might need them."

"It would be nice if CHAP workers would take more advantage of the training programs that are offered by the different agencies. Our son requires a ventilator and it is not respite for our family if we still need to be present with the worker. Our son would love to go to the movies without his parents and enjoy some independence and yet be safe at the same time."

"It would be nice if the workers could focus on activities that would best suit the needs of the individual being supported as opposed to doing things that the worker wants to do. Parents recognize that workers need to have payment for their services but payment should not be the priority, supporting the goals and dreams of the individual should be. It would be nice if some of the workers were older as the person being supported is older and would benefit from someone around their age, that shared similar interests."