

Meaningful Connections

Issue 3—February 2005

I work at Mac's on Wednesdays. I price all the groceries that come in and Marnie helps me put them away. On Thursdays I price all the magazines. When I am done my work I have a coffee and snack and visit with Gloria. I really enjoy my job and my boss, Gloria.

Tim, Employee of Mac's

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has given me their business with purchasing Avon products. It has been 7 months since I started being a representative. I really enjoy the valued role I have with everyone that supports me. I also enjoy having my support worker assist me in order to have my success. I am able to assist with putting products in the bags and delivering the orders accordingly. I have been able to benefit in purchasing demo products and samples of perfumes to promote and use myself. I have also been very thankful to have my own money to purchase what I want. For example, going to the hair salon and getting my hair done.

Laurie, Sales Representative

I am working on developing a little better understanding of the whole recycling process in order to venture into the community with my skills. My support staff offers me a lot of support at this time. Due to the fact that my support staff believes in me, I will be successful.

George, Recycler



I cannot believe we are already sharing our third newsletter. In order to share our increased number of connections, we have had to expand it to a double sided newsletter.

I have added a little twist to our newsletter. A twist of interest - readers not only have the opportunity to hear what each person wants to celebrate, but you will also hear feedback from someone receiving Volunteer Services.

Sharon

It has been my pleasure to provide Eddie and Scott with opportunities to learn about dog care and boarding needs. I enjoy watching the interaction between them and the dogs. I know that every Wednesday the animals are truly excited to see the van pull up. Animals need interaction with others and especially when boarding, as they are away from their families and need some extra tender loving care until they return. Scott and Eddie provide this for me. The help I receive from them makes the week go by quicker for the boarders.

Scott, thank you for caring for Ruffles. Ruffles loves to cuddle and climb on your wheelchair. He loves to play with you and find the hidden treats. You make his day brighter. He is an older dog and needs the care and comfort you give him. I believe that the relationship between you two is growing and needs the care and comfort you give him. He does not get a lot of exercise, so the visits are good for him.

My dogs are healthier and happier with the exposure to others and they learn to behave and react to different situations.

Eddie, I thank you for the care you give Dakota and the other kennel dogs when they are here. You keep the kennels clean and also take care of the food and water bowls. With working full time and caring for the kennels this truly helps me on Wednesday and it gives the dogs an opportunity to have some great play time with others.

Karen Gillick, Bark N' Board Kennels

With the cold weather here and the ice and snow covering the road, I have temporarily stopped going to the local shelter to walk dogs. I have started to go for my walk at a local arena. A lot of people walk there, so I meet new people every week. When the nice weather returns, I would like to go back to the shelter to assist as a volunteer.

Arthur, Volunteer

I come from a Scottish background and love bag pipes. I am very excited to share that I visit weekly with the 8 Wing Pipe and Drum Band at CFB Trenton. I love tapping my feet to the music and always tell the group how

much I like bag pipes. I have met many new friends.

Doug, Music Listener

Gail and Lucinda decided with their support worker, to try their talents at making theme baskets. We made 1 Christmas basket and 2 Valentine baskets. So far we have sold 2 out of 3 baskets. We are hoping Easter will bring more customers with more orders. Gail also volunteers her time at the humane society where she delivers cat food once a month and enjoys having the kittens on her lap.

Gail & Lucinda, Sales Person

I volunteer every Monday morning at a local school. I help serve breakfast to some of the children. With some assistance from my support staff, I bring in the breakfast cart, set up chairs, place napkins and clean off the tables when the children are finished eating. I look forward to going to the school as I have made new friends and enjoy my role as a helper.

Sally, School Helper

I volunteer every Wednesday morning at a local Food Bank. My duties are to tear apart cereal bar boxes and dump the contents into a large box. During the Christmas season there was a lot of work, but since the first of January it has decreased. I have made some new acquaintances and am always excited to help out the community.

Glen, Community Helper

I am still volunteering at a local school. There have been many changes at the school—new principal, vice-principal and teacher. The classroom has been changed around and I am seeing many new faces. With these changes, I have been a little apprehensive with my role.

After becoming familiar once again with the routine, I began to adjust and assist with the luncheon Café. I enjoy handing the children pop and chips. I believe they look forward to seeing me also. I love having coffee with my support staff after we are finished.

Walter, School Helper

I go to a local Food Bank once a week. I have assistance opening up Quaker Granola Bars and then I fill up huge boxes. I must fill at least 15 large boxes every Monday. I have a break at 10:30 a.m. I am full of smiles and enjoy my job very much.

David, Community Helper

I go to feed many horses at a local farm. I sometimes feed them carrots, pet them or I will sit on a bale of hay and watch them. I find this quiet and very relaxing. The benefit after is great, I go to Tim Horton's for coffee.

Bill, Community Helper

I started a new job at the Soup Kitchen. I really enjoy my job. When everyone finishes lunch, I wipe down the tables and help sweep the floors. When I am done my job, I go to the store and buy my favourite drink, "Pepsi", as I am usually thirsty after my hard work.

Chuck, Community Volunteer

Sherry-Lynn and I have formed a Meaningful Connection in the community, as we volunteer every Monday and Wednesday morning at a local Food Bank. We sort a different variety of foods and put them into large boxes. The boxes are then shipped to individuals and other organizations in the area who are in need of assistance. We really enjoy helping our community.

Sherry-Lynn & Michele, Community Volunteers

I continue to go to a Day Care every other week. While I am there, I socialize with the children and bring a different planned activity to do with them each time. The children enjoy my company and look forward to my visits. I thoroughly enjoy my volunteer work with the children and love to watch them play with each other. The children always say, "Good Morning" and come and speak to me throughout my stay.

Lucinda, Volunteer & Educator

I continue to volunteer at the Dog Kennel once a week for 2 hours. I enjoy seeing all the cats and dogs. I have a special bond with one dog called, "Ruffles". Ruffles loves me too. He climbs right onto my lap to get closer to me. I enjoy brushing and petting Ruffles and feeding him treats. I also have a bond with Karen who runs the Kennel. I always have a big smile for her.

Scott, Volunteer Helper

With support of our staff we have ventured into party planning. We plan for birthday parties, decorating for events and delivering flowers. We even made a delivery to Taste of Country on Halloween, fully dressed in costume! We love "running the roads" and picking



up the goodies that are needed for each event.

Michele & Rita, Party Planner Assistants

We have experienced great success with our new catering career. We have been extremely busy catering for meetings, a workshop, and many Christmas events. We enjoyed all the activities, but especially enjoyed shopping for the groceries. We even purchased a Costco card to save a few dollars on pastries, etc. We enjoy using the Tash equipment to help mix the ingredients. We feel the best part of catering is the taste-testing! We share all of the work and profits.

Jason & Suzie, Caterers

I am still volunteering at a local Kennel. I have made a new friend. Her name is Karen and she runs the Kennel. I like to go and play with Dakota. I think he really likes me. I still help to give the dogs treats and do small chores while I am there.

I go to a local school to hand out chips and pop to the Grade 1 class. I think even the kids who are not in Grade 1 are getting to know me because when I walk down the hall everyone I meet says, "Hi, Eddie!" I have made many new friends.

Eddie, Community Helper

I started cooking pumpkin pies in October 2004 with my support staff. I helped clean and cook approximately 40 pumpkins and made 100 pies and shells. I hope to use my money to buy a new chair. A trip to IKEA is in the near future—looks promising. Hopefully, by the next newsletter I can tell everyone how comfortable my new chair is.

Stacey, Cooking Assistant

The power of change is in your hands.

Barbara J. Hall