

*Plainfield* COMMUNITY HOMES  
 Supporting Community Living

# Meaningful Connections

Now that the warm weather is here, I have started going back to an animal shelter. I know the dogs are happy to get out for their walks. We usually try to walk to the school up the road from the shelter. I know the shelter staff appreciate us donating all of our old newspapers to assist with the shelters.

**Arthur, Community Volunteer**  
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Glen seems to enjoy going to help out at the Gleaner Food Bank in order to offer something back into his community.

Glen usually walks into the warehouse and says a big "hi" to everyone, as well as shaking their hands. He does not like to take a break, as he prefers to work right through and get his work done.

Now that Glen's skill level has increased he has been given more responsibility.

**Glen, Community Volunteer**  
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Tony visits many locations in the community to sing with Wilma and Roger. He has gained wonderful friendships from this experience. People often ask about him if he is not present. Wilma and Roger find fulfillment in their music career having Tony present. **Keep up the great singing, Tony!**

**Tony, Singer**

## *Educating the Community...*

*By Sharon Wright*

Many of us who work in the Developmental Service Sector are often faced with the need to educate our community, a challenge I enjoy. An enriching source of knowledge to pull from comes from the people we support. As people in our agency continue with valued roles in their community, education on validation, rights, respect, etc. is given on a daily basis. They become the educator. What provides me with inspiration is that we are also educating the young, the base of our future. Many people we support have requested roles working with children and the youth. What they did not realize is that these roles were going to naturally make them the educator. The education is occurring at Day Care Centers, with public school children and teenagers on various ways people communicate, to show respect, to be a positive role model and to use their voice with positive words. What an empowering process! We are working towards a new challenge of educating college level students. In September, there will be two men educating on communication at our local college. These two young men want to receive education and to be the educator. They recognize the need and want to actively play a part in the process. **Way to go, Peter and David!**

"Believe and you will be believed."  
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Each Friday I go to a public school to assist with their café. This is my second year assisting. When I walk through the school, many of the children say hello to me as I am becoming a regular face in the school. I also know a few of the children outside of the school and they always try to find me when I am there to say "hi." The new Vice Principal and Principal are very welcoming.

I am still helping Karen out at the Kennel. Dakota and Ruffles are always glad to see me. They enjoy the attention and treats they receive. I sweep the kennels and put water in the dog bowls if they need it. My role of keeping the kennels clean and filling the water dishes is very important for the dogs. Karen now has a horse. I was very excited to see it. Karen said I could feed and pet him when I come to visit Dakota and Ruffles.

**Eddie, Volunteer**

*"Lifelong learning begins with a heart that desires change, wisdom and application."*

**Bill Mowry**  
 From: "Discipleship Journal"



Rosemary is very excited about having the opportunity to join a weekly Euchre Party in Roslin. She really enjoys cards and has a special device to assist her.

***Rosemary, Euchre Member***  
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I continue to attend a Social Club at a local church. I have made new friendships within the congregation. I usually greet the ladies with "I have not had my tea yet." The ladies often make sure a fresh pot is brewing just for me. I enjoy having spirituality in my life, as it is very vital to me.

***Barb's shared thought***

*Consider someone you know who is possibly lonely. Call him/her up or go over and visit with him/her with the express purpose of cheering him/her up.*

*From the book, "Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life"*

***Barb, Church Member, Friend***  
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I am in the process of creating a "Rent-a-Book Business". I enjoy reading myself, so this is great for me because I have access to many great books. I am making some extra money for myself. "Tim Horton's, here I come!"

***Bob, Business Man***  
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I have a new connection at a local business where I assist with feeding the birds and listen to all of their amazing sounds. I am spending time getting to know the many different birds by reading about them. I enjoy when the birds walk around and flutter about.

Becky greets me each week upon my arrival. She is very helpful and ensures that I get as close as possible to Pickles, Bowser and Bronx (the birds). My assistant had one in her hair, which made me laugh.

I also sell Regal Products with my friend. I rely a lot on my friend for her knowledge in this venture of business.

***Scott, Bird Lover and Sales Representative***  
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Our "Party Planning" job is still going full force. We have been decorating, delivering cakes, gifts and treats around Belleville. We enjoy our business very

much. It is a lot of fun getting dressed up for some of the deliveries, such as Halloween. Rita wanted the reader to know she spends her money on personal items and special meals out.

***Michelle and Rita, Party Planners***  
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Barb and Joanne share the same desire to have children in their lives. They both receive this through the Church Sunday School. The ladies drop off and pick up their letters at the Church Post Office. Crafts are often sent by the children for the ladies to enjoy. They are eager to meet their pen pals at a luncheon in May.

***Barb and Joanne, Church Members, Educators***  
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I am still volunteering at a Day Care Centre. My job has changed so I am only able to go when the children are outside due to accessibility issues. This allows me to volunteer Spring, Summer and Fall.

During the winter months I am able to keep my connection with the children alive by dropping by and getting the children to come on my warm van for a little visit. I also enjoy dropping treats off at Christmas, Valentine's Day and Easter.

I am so happy to be back and the children were very excited to see me. They respect me, understand my way of communicating and offer hugs to me when I leave. I am happy to help educate the children.

I still continue to run a small business (making gift baskets) with the help of a business partner. Easter proved very rewarding and we even made a basket so we could sell tickets on it.

My personal interest lies with movies. I love going to the show and watching movies at home. I decided it would be to my benefit and others if I started renting movies to staff. This way I can watch the movies I purchase and make some extra spending money. I am in the process of getting this business off the ground.

***Lucinda, Volunteer Business***  
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My support staff and I were busy making pumpkin pies to sell. I did well at this adventure and with the money I earned, I

am shopping for a special chair for my bedroom.

***Stacey, Business Woman***  
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I work at a soup kitchen and really enjoy my job. I clean all of the tables when lunch is finished and help sweep the floor. I have made a lot of friends at the Soup Kitchen. I really like Rosemary, a lady that works at the soup kitchen. I call her mom because that was my mother's name and she does not mind it at all. A lot of people talk to me every time I help out. They thank me and shake my hand for all of my great work. This has been a great experience for me.

***Chuck, Community Helper***  
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I have been making visits to the Humane Society on a regular basis where I spend a lot of time with the kittens and cats. I enjoy this very much and laugh and chat while they play on and about me.

I have also been making decorative baskets for special occasions to sell. I have made some profit from the Christmas, Valentine's and Easter Baskets I sold. I want to thank my support staff for assisting me with this.

***Gail, Volunteer***  
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I continue to volunteer at a dog kennel. I love the social role I play there. The dogs are so excited when they hear my van pull up. I feel with my experience and time I have on my hands, I would like to find a paying job at a pet store, taking care of animals. I am currently creating a resume to help me with this endeavour. "Way to go, Scott!"

***Scott, Volunteer Animal Helper***  
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I enjoy my role at the horse farm. I feed the horses carrots and pet them. I am enjoying my job a lot more now that the warm weather is here. During the winter months, the horses would take too long to come to the fence where I was waiting. I am getting better with putting the carrots in their mouths, as I had some trouble at the beginning. I am able to get really close to some of the horses in the stables. When I pet them I realize how beautiful they are. When I am finished, I enjoy going to Tim Horton's for coffee.

**Bill, Community Helper**

I continue to volunteer at the food bank. I help separate the granola bars into big boxes for the soup kitchen and churches. The other Volunteers that help out are getting to know me. They get my boxes set up for me and make sure the coffee is made for my co-worker and myself. Not only do I enjoy this work, but I also enjoy the treats Ray sends home with me. Ray is the person in charge and is a very nice man.

**David, Community Helper**

I am currently going to a pet store every Monday to assist in the Adopt A Pet Program. I am involved in feeding, grooming, and cuddling the cats and kittens.

Angel, my Supervisor, has been so helpful with my new task and I really look forward to seeing her and the pets each week. I have become terribly fond of the tiny kittens.

It is also a pleasure to greet and assist customers. I look forward to their pet stories. Each visit is different and new.

I will keep you posted. If you have an inkling to get a new cat or kitten, I would love to help you. I am there every Monday from 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon and look forward to seeing you.

**Jason, Volunteer and Animal Lover**

My catering company has kept me very busy and has been very rewarding for me. I get to work with three women and make some money to spend.

I have gone shopping for clothes a few times with my profits and am now saving for a surround sound stereo system for my room. I saw a real cool one the other day when I was at Costco picking some food up for my catering business.

I have started a new Volunteer job for a health care business. I am going to be a representative for them when they have in-services on the "Seating System" that I am currently using. I am also delivering flyers for them once a month to different agencies in the Belleville area. I enjoy helping a business that helps me.

**Jason, Health Care Assistant**

Sally volunteers at Harry J. Clarke School Monday morning with the Breakfast Club. She supports young individuals for 20 minutes before classes start in ensuring they have a healthy start to their day.

Sally seems to enjoy going to the school and is excited to see Grace and Laura. She always thanks them for letting her share in this morning routine.

**Sally, School Volunteer**

I have formed a Meaningful Connection in the community as a member of the Friendship Circle at Marantha Church. I attend this social activity weekly with a support staff. I enjoy listening to the music and stories that are shared among everyone there. I have formed friendships and am happy to be a member of the Friendship Circle.

**Heero, Friendship Circle Member**

I started the first of March volunteering every Thursday morning at the Loyalist Veterinary Day Care. I have met many new friends. I help out with grooming cats and dogs. I get to play ball and let them out for a run. I have two special friends, "Annie" who loves treats and "Ajax" who watches over me. I enjoy my new Volunteer job! Thank you Sharon for helping me get reconnected with animals again.

**Tara, Volunteer**

I continue to contribute at a used clothing store. I have become a vital team member. My boss just recently had

a baby and came into the store specifically to show me her baby boy, Hunter. He is so small and cute with such tiny hands. We had a nice visit and I told her about my job. The Assistant Manager wanted to see me before leaving for England on vacation. I felt very special. I have several customers engage me in conversation on an ongoing basis. I also reconnected in the store with an old neighbour of my grandmother's that recognized me. *Great work, Julie!*

**Julie, Volunteer/Friend**

My catering has been booming. I have been busy shopping and assisting with the preparation of catered meals required for various functions. From the profits I was able to take a leisurely trip to Costco and purchase a new 27" flat screen television for my bedroom. I also purchased a DVD player with my hard earned money and enjoy being able to view all my movies from the comfort and privacy of my bedroom. Thank you to my support staff for assisting me. *Thank you to my customers!*

**Susan, Caterer**

I have been working at Mac's Milk in Foxboro for a few years now. I use a price gun to put prices on magazines and groceries. I like it a lot and I usually work there two days a week. I like my boss, Gloria.

In May, I started a new job at No Frills. I collect empty boxes from the aisles and take them to the front of the store for the customers to use. I think this is going to be a fun job.

I like it and will keep you all posted.

**Tim, Employee**

I continue to treat the staff of Mix 97 to a coffee break with homemade goodies. Ingrid and I have awesome conversations. Ingrid recommended to me that she sampled Chai Tea at Starbucks. I love Chai Tea and the ladies at Starbucks now know my name and what I would like to order when I come in. "Chai Tea makes me warm inside."

**Lisa, Mix Listener, friend and Chai Tea Lover**

Walter is still going to Tyendinaga School every Friday at lunch to assist a class with receiving their lunch from Thundercraft Café. On several occasions he has also bought a slice of the delicious pizza and a drink.

Several children from the class make a point of saying, "hi" to Walter and give him little notes of "thanks."

Walter was recently recognized at Sears when he was out shopping with another person. A young child from the class that he assists at lunch time pointed out to his mother, "Hey mom, there is the pizza guy". *Wonderful work, Walter!*

*Walter, School Volunteer*

I assist in recycling at our office building once a week. My role involves pushing the carts, crushing the cans and returning the bins to their proper location.

I am starting a new Volunteer job at a local high school. My job involves collecting all of their pop cans and juice then take them to Darlene's home to support the "Fixed for Life Program." Darlene is the founder of this program.

Darlene thanked me for helping her with her special program.

*George, Recycler*

*"Our goal is to end pet homelessness in the Quinte and surrounding areas and to bring about a time where all animals born can be guaranteed a good loving home."*

*Darlene*

Sherry Lynn and I continue to participate in our community at the food bank. We enjoy taking the granola bars out of the boxes and getting them ready for the individual families.

It is a great opportunity for us to work with other volunteers and be a part of our community.

Sherry Lynn is also excited about her new connection completing some janitorial work at the office two days a week. She is paid for this work and is very happy to go to the bank to cash her cheque.

*Michelle, Volunteer and Sherry Lynn, Volunteer and Janitor*

*"Talk with someone who looks at the world a little differently than you do. Chances are he or she will inspire a new approach."*