



Plainfield Community Homes

A Non-Profit, Charitable Organization

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

PLAINFIELD COMMUNITY HOMES ANNOUNCES A NEW VOLUNTEER INITIATIVE

BELLEVILLE, ONTARIO, January 15, 2003 – Plainfield Community Homes is pleased to announce a new initiative that will match interested volunteers to individuals with complex physical and developmental disabilities.

Through a generous one-year grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, an active Volunteer Services program has been established within Plainfield Community Homes. Plainfield Community Homes envisions an atmosphere of community where everyone belongs and all people are valued and respected as participating and contributing members. It is the goal of the Volunteer Services program to enhance the quality of life for all the people supported by Plainfield Community Homes by encouraging friendships, natural connections and community participation. Volunteerism is an essential and fundamental avenue that builds partnerships with the people supported by the organization and the community in which they live. This partnership will encourage an inclusive and diverse community.

Michele Macfarlane, Facilitator/Connector of Plainfield Community Homes, says “Opportunities and supports must be provided to people with disabilities to form a variety of meaningful relationships. When people with disabilities are a true part of ordinary community settings at the same time, and in the same fashion as other people, the quality of life for all members of the community will improve.”

John Klassen, Executive Director of Plainfield Community Homes, added that “people’s lives are enriched each time they can experience new social opportunities and friendships. I believe this is a win-win situation. The volunteer and the person with a disability will benefit greatly.”

If you are interested in making a difference in the life of someone who has a disability and creating lifelong memories just by giving a few hours of your time, consider joining the Plainfield Community Homes Volunteer Team.

Plainfield Community Homes is a non-profit, charitable organization founded in 1951 as the "Babies Convalescent Home". It has since grown into a multi-service organization that now provides a range of supports to over 80 children and adults with complex physical and developmental disabilities. Plainfield Community Homes employs more than 200 people and is funded by the Ministry of Community, Family and Children’s Services.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Ministry of Culture, receives annually \$100 million of government funding generated through Ontario’s Charity Casino Initiative. The Foundation provides grants to eligible charitable and not-for-profit organizations in the arts, culture, sports, recreation, environment and social service sectors.

- 30 -

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

**Michele Macfarlane, Facilitator/Connector
Plainfield Community Homes
Belleville, ON
Telephone: (613) 969-7407, Ext. 32**