

Celebrating our successes

2017/2018

The Advocate

The newsletter of Community Living Thunder Bay

Sleeping Giant Photo by Barb Turk

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EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Terry sits quietly, an assortment of colored pens and paints sit spread out in front of him.

As he carefully gazes over his work, he reaches for the exact color necessary to complete his picture.

Once he is satisfied, the markers get put away, and he then gives Elizabeth his nod of approval.

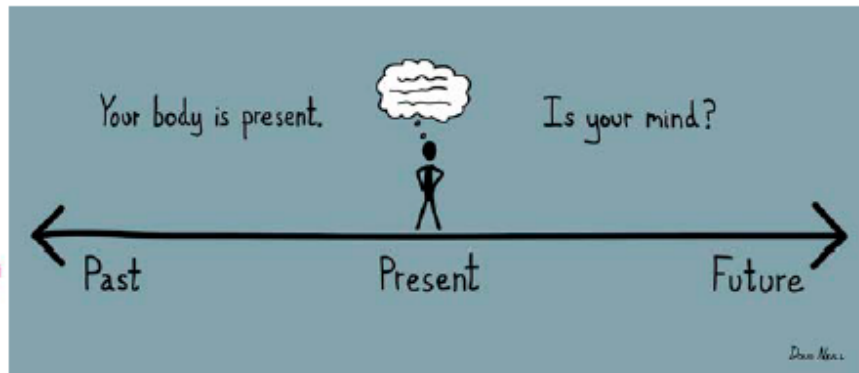
Elizabeth quietly comes over, places her hand onto his shoulder, and looks him in the eye and smiles.

Then she asks Terry, "and who will get this one?"

As usual, Terry replies "my mom".



New! THERAPEUTIC/MINDFULNESS SPACE



Just to keep everyone in the loop, we will be creating a therapeutic/mindfulness space in the former HR room. Nikki Health will be heading up the project. This space can be used by people we support and any staff in or out of the building. Once we have an idea of how it will be set up.... you can talk to your teams about utilizing the space.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Hello, my name is Richard Pelky. I have recently been hired as the System Administrator here at Community Living Thunder Bay replacing Adam Armitage. I wish to take a moment to introduce myself and am looking forward to meeting you in person. In the upcoming months, I will be focusing on the security infrastructure and conducting software updates on all equipment at CLTB. Feel free to drop in, call/text or email me if you have any questions or concerns. Looking forward to working with you!

Tracy's Trip to Cuba!



W.J. GRIFFIS CHILDREN'S CENTRE

We are excited to welcome Angela Kruger to our team! Angela is working (paid employment) in the kitchen on Monday mornings, where she helps with food preparation and washing dishes. When she has time, she also helps to fold and sort the laundry for the program.

Angela brings a wonderful positive and warm presence to the environment. The children and other staff enjoy spending time chatting with Angela! She tackles all tasks with a smile on her face and is willing to learn new kitchen skills!



Steven and Ron were picked by a family to do some shopping.



GRACIOUS GIVINGS CAMPAIGN

The kids at Pope Jean Paul II collected hats and mitts for the project and the special education class put them together.

THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

Packsacks to be delivered to homeless

BY HEATHER PUGH
THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

For the past couple of years around Christmas, Sheri Murray and her son, Garvey, have done around 100 cold nights and handed out packages to their mother with love to help these people warm.

Last year, Murray said they gave out about 100 each package to the homeless through the project called Gracious Giving.

This year that number jumped to 100, thanks to the help of her son's fellow students at Community Living Thunder Bay.

"It's amazing," said Murray. "And it's such a good feeling to have so many people put the same way on the end to have everything going on word of mouth."

After a tough year in which Sheri said, had no money that required much of care at his little hospital in Toronto, Murray said her son was more eager this year to give back to the community.

"He had so much city support through go-around and people who have given at that, so we're just giving back," said Murray.

"He feels that it's really important to acknowledge all of that," said Sheri. "Support from Community Living, that's when the organization jumped on board."

"I think if we could help out and do this for him and this is what we got," said Sheri, looking at two mountains of freshly-washed packages.

Starting in September they made posters with Sheri and Garvey's photo of their son and the community began dropping off boxes.

Students at Pope John Paul School also got together packages of socks, hats and socks to be put in the packs.

"Inside the packs are a couple pairs of socks, couple of hats and a pair of mitts, scarf, two vacuum, hand warmers, socks, hot drinks, cereal, soup, condiments, personal products and everybody got a water bottle," said Sheri.

The just-add-water items like soup, cereal and hot coffee are important, said Murray because "you can go anywhere and get a cup of hot water."

On cold nights, Sheri said staff members will be driving around delivering the packages, but they are also going to give some to the Shelter House 200 program.

"Because we have so many we thought we would distribute them to people who can give them out too," said Sheri.

Both Murray and Sheri said their plan to do the program again next year. It's something Murray said to mean a lot to her.

"I think if people do not have a warm place to go it's really important for us to know that a pair of mitts can really help," said Murray.

"It's not about feeding people or finding them shelter. It's about the reality that you live on the street and how can I give you items that will feed the body for warmth. Even if it just gets them through the next 16 hours."

"... it's about the reality that you live on the street..."

Heather Pugh



Annual Association Christmas Pizza Party

The party was held at the Heritage Building at the CLE grounds on December 14th with over 200 people in attendance. The pizzas were delicious and they came hot and ready from Gino's Pizza. Maverick Entertainment provided great music and everyone had a good time dance to their favorite songs.



MEET OUR TEAM



Transitional Aged Youth Team

Over the past several years we have noticed a significant change in needs of the young people coming into our service. More of the youth transitioning are experiencing mental health issues such as addiction, trauma, intergenerational trauma, suicide, gender identity struggles and FASD. We came to the understanding that we need to build capacity to be more effective in our services.

After hearing about some good work being done in Kenora, we decided to make take a trip to visit Kenora Association for Community Living and see it for ourselves. We came back pretty excited and full of great ideas!

We have recognized the need to develop a more welcoming and safe space for the young adults coming into our service so we can get to know them and develop trusting relationships. After looking at a number of locations around the city, we settled on our building on John Street. The rationale in repurposing our building on John Street was that we own the building and the renovations would be minor. For now, we are calling it the “Youth Hub”.



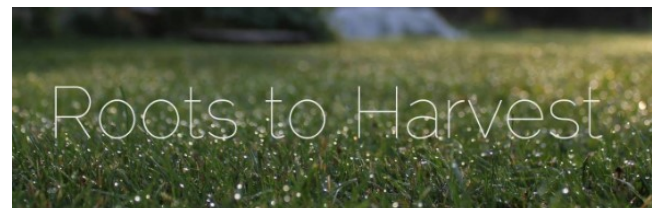
Last summer, we began planning for a number of youth who would be turning 18. We utilized this opportunity to structure budgets that would allow for staffing positions for an Indigenous Cultural Advisor, Case Coordination, Support staff and Management. We also requested funding for professional development in the areas of trauma, harm reduction, intergenerational trauma, mental health first aid, recognizing suicide risks and addiction. We hired Margaret Grimard as the Indigenous Cultural Advisor. Margaret works with indigenous youth to help them explore culture, participate in ceremonies and develop individual strategies

for each youth to assist them on their healing journey.

Recognizing that we could not do this work alone, we set about to build partnerships with other service providers including indigenous community service providers such as Matawa and ONWA. We also extended partnerships with Lutheran Community Care Centre and OPTIONS northwest to share the training resources and co-support a number of youth that were facing some challenges and at significant risk.

Connections are being made with our own employment team as well as Roots to Harvest to help some of the youth explore new work and volunteer opportunities.

Over the past two years, we have expanded our youth services resulting in approximately 2 million dollars of funding and 20 new part time and full time positions. We are currently developing an after-hours outreach component to better address crisis situations that happen during the evenings and weekends. Although there is still a lot of learning and a lot of changes that need to be made, I am so proud of the work that is happening and the commitment and passion that the staff demonstrate each day.





Snowshoes

Agnes recently bought snowshoes and was so excited to try them out. To the left is Agnes's first day out on the trail with her new snowshoes. Due to her excitement, she walked longer and faster. Agnes loves nature and being out for long hikes. She will now add this to her weekly adventures.



Painting Classes

Agnes enjoys her painting classes with Lisa Makela. These paintings are about Agnes's long hikes in Centennial Park. Agnes enjoys the views of nature and she wants to capture her favorite landscapes views on canvas. Over the past six weeks Agnes has improved her painting skills and has painted numerous landscapes that she enjoys.

Welcome!

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Community Living Thunder Bay
 Administration Centre
 1501 Dease Street
 Thunder Bay, ON P7C 5H3
 (807) 622-1099
www.cltb.ca