



Reena

Towards a Better Future — integrating people with developmental disabilities into the community

Kolreena

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Annual General Meeting

by: Minnie Ross, Manager, Communications/Marketing

The jubilant Reena Choir received a standing ovation at the Annual General Meeting, held on June 23rd. Their enthusiasm was infectious and the 150+ people attending were delighted to join in some of their songs.

Marg Rappolt, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Community and Social Services was the keynote speaker. She spoke on behalf of the Minister, Madame Madeleine Meilleur when she acknowledged Reena's leadership in providing services to people with a developmental disability – helping them live full, more independent lives. She also said that Reena has been a 'great partner' over the past three decades – doing so much to promote the inclusion of people with a developmental disability as part of our communities.

Families planning for the future.

Ms. Rappolt went on to pay tribute to the wonderful families who are such an important part of Reena and who are a vital ingredient in planning for their children's future. She expressed the Ministry's interest in Reena's Family Involvement Committee, to encourage families to plan for their children's future, and said that she and her staff will be very interested to learn more about Reena's strategy as we implement it.

Volunteers – One of Reena's Key Strengths.

Volunteers, too, were recognized for giving so generously of themselves – year in and year out, without fail. "In this spring's Throne Speech" she reported, "the government announced that

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Guest Speaker Marg Rappolt



Report of Reena President & CEO

by Sandy Keshen



We at Reena are deeply committed to helping people with a developmental disability to live and enjoy life in the community. Over the years we have received many thank-you letters from families we have helped in large or small ways that are very much appreciated. I would like to share the following letter that I recently received from a parent.

Dear Sandy:

I'd like to thank you so much for all that you are doing for Melanie. I know that you went out of your way to make a place for Melanie in one of your group homes and she has settled in very well since she moved in March. A 1:1 support worker was also made available for Melanie as she transitions into her new life. It is also wonderful that a place was found for her in the Pathways day

programme and Melanie is now going three times a week and is doing fairly well there (fantastically for Melanie). I know that it is not easy to find the funding and resources to make these supports available and I want you to know that it is so very much appreciated.

Reena is a truly wonderful agency. The staff at the Silkwood house is fabulous. **Roda Njenga**, (the supervisor) **Susana Gordon**, (Melanie's primary worker,) **Claudeen Brown**, (her 1:1) and **Daniel Sapir-Silver**, and **Erik Kokkonen** are warm and supportive of Melanie. Susan and Claudeen enthusiastically take Melanie out into the community despite her challenges and she is doing far better than she has done for many years. I ask Melanie how her day has been and she responds with "great" or "fun" and she is happy at Silkwood. I have found the staff to be sensitive, empathetic and supportive of family members' relationships with Melanie. I also appreciate the Jewish environment and the opportunity for Melanie to celebrate Shabbat and Jewish Holidays at her home and in her programme,

I'd also like to comment on the involvement of **Brenda Rothenberg**. Brenda has been our family contact person with Reena since we chose Reena as our lead agency several years ago. Brenda has been our major support through some very difficult times. She has always been amazingly

supportive and caring and a very skilled advocate in negotiating the Residential/day system. When we were in crisis, Brenda called us every day, and sometimes, more than once a day, to keep us updated on what was happening and how we were coping. I don't think I could have got through the stress without Brenda's support.

I am so grateful for all your wonderful staff and programmes. Reena really feels like a family with everyone taking a personal interest in Melanie and all the family. Thank you so much. Please accept this small donation as a token of my appreciation. As we approach the Holidays, I'd like to wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year.

Sincerely yours,

Linda Gruson.

Mrs. Gruson began her journey with Reena several years ago when she first chose Reena as her lead agency. She was connected to a staff person who helped her understand and navigate the very complicated system.

There were many challenges along the way. It took a great deal of patience, tenacity, and advocating to find a permanent place that Melanie was able to call home.

It was very gratifying to work with a family that understood the difficulties that agencies are facing, and was prepared to work along as a partner to achieve a common goal.

Report of the Chair of the Board and Chair of the Government Committee

by Laurine Schmelzle



At the annual general meeting Marg Rappolt, Deputy Minister of Community and Social Services, spoke to us about the ministry's Transformation Plan and the introduction of Application Entities to which families and individuals will apply for supports. "One of the big changes coming

out of the Ministry of Community and Social Services' Transformation Plan is a new way for people with developmental disabilities to apply for supports" she said. "When doing systems and service planning, our ministry must consider the needs of all adults with a developmental disability. This includes a very large group of people who are not currently in service or receive very few supports." The government sees Application Entities as the key to bringing its vision of a more equitable, accessible and financially sustainable developmental services system to life. The government is currently seeking organizations interested in becoming Application Entities. The minister will designate one organization as an Application Entity in each of the ministry's nine regions.

Current government projects.

HR Strategy

The Ontario Government is looking at the core skills and future skills that will be needed from people who work in our sector and to develop a strategy for ensuring that qualified people continue

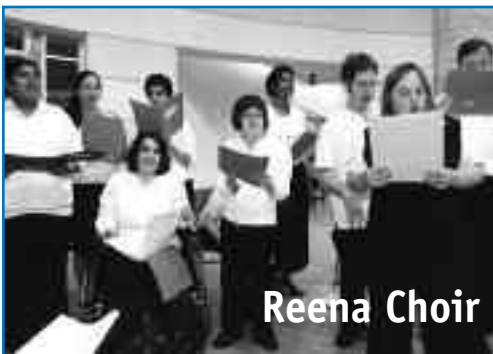
to be attracted to working in this field. A **Primary Care Initiative**, led by Dr. Bill Sullivan from Surrey Place Centre, is helping us build skills and knowledge in Ontario's primary care community about the specific health care needs of people with developmental disabilities. Its goal is simple: improving the quality of primary care for people with a developmental disability.

Long-Term Care Sector

Ms. Rappolt recognized Reena's efforts and strong leadership in forging a strong and productive relationship with the Long-Term Care sector through our work with the Ontario Partnership on Aging and Developmental Disabilities. She noted that Reena has created unique partnerships including Cummer Lodge and Baycrest Centre, successfully placing people with developmental disabilities who need care in these settings.

Reena's Government Relations committee will continue to liaise with key Ontario government ministries with the goal of a better future for all people with a developmental disability.

Annual General Meeting *cont'd from page 1*



Reena Choir

it is looking for ways to strengthen Ontario's volunteer and non-profit sectors. They see what I and my staff see every day – the enormous contribution that thousands of Ontarians make by donating their time and efforts to not-for-profit organizations."

Vision for the Future: "In the end" concluded our guest speaker "our shared objective is to develop a system that really focuses on the person and his or her individual needs. This was part of the vision of the pioneers who founded Reena and I can see that vision is still very much alive today. I wish you continued success with your work.



(l to r) Guest Speaker, Marg Rappolt, Deputy Minister, MCSS, Laurine Schmelzle, incoming Chair of the Reena Board, Richard Jackson, Regional Manager, MCSS, and Sandy Keshen, President and CEO, Reena.



Tali Nizic (r) thanks Guest Speaker Marg Rappolt.

Laurine Schmelzle appointed Chair of Reena Board

At its Annual General Meeting held on June 23rd, Laurine Schmelzle was named Chair of the Board of Reena and will take up this two year appointment in September 2010.

Laurine Schmelzle has been a staunch supporter of Reena for many years and became a member of the Reena Board in 2006.

As a board member, Laurine chaired two crucial board committees; the Government Relations Committee which explores new initiatives, encourages ongoing dialogue with government ministries and elected members, and works with other groups as “one voice” when needed: the Reena/Reena Foundation Communications/Marketing Committee which ensures that the communications and marketing strategies of Reena and the Reena Foundation are continually reviewed and revised: ensuring that best practices are utilized in all communications and marketing. Laurine will continue to chair these committees “ because I believe both of these

portfolios are crucial to the core of the agency.”¹

Laurine Schmelzle has a Bachelor of Religious Education from Tyndale University and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Waterloo, with a major in Social Development Studies and Certificates in General Social Work and Family Violence. Reena’s goals and mission complement her current life vision and commitment: to help parents build strong families where children are given the opportunity to become all that they possibly can be.

“It is my great privilege to be a part of the Reena team. I consider it an honour to work along side Sandy Keshen, President and CEO and the dedicated Reena staff and Board as we continue to carry out Reena’s vital work of integrating people with developmental disabilities into the community.”

Newly Elected Members of Reena Board



Daniel Vitaver: Daniel is CEO of Tape Education Services and brings a knowledge of both business and staff training. Daniel has volunteered at Temple Kolami and Hillel and currently is a member of Reena’s Finance Committee.



Jean Byers: Jean is a Geriatric Psychiatrist and has served on Reena’s Continuous Quality Improvement Committee since September 2004. Dr. Byers will bring a wealth of knowledge to the Board. She currently works full time at Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences (previously Whitby Mental Health Centre).



Arthur Kruger: Arthur is retired. He was a Professor of Economics at the University of Toronto and Dean of Arts and Sciences at U of T. Arthur will bring a wealth of experience to the Reena Board. He is a Board member of the Betel Centre and has been an outstanding volunteer at Reena. Arthur’s grandson is in Reena’s programs.



Benn Spiegel: Benn is a businessman who specializes in commercial, office, retail and industrial real estate acquisitions and management. He is a founding member and ongoing supporter of Leadership Sinai. Benn brings to the Board operational and planning knowledge.



Phil Lipofsky: Phil is a Reena client who previously served on the Reena Board. Phil is looking forward to being on the Board again and will bring a client’s perspective to the Board.

Presentation of Awards



Marilyn Raphael (r) receives the Reena Board Member of Distinction Award.



Beryl Baker presents the Morris Baker Ish Tzadic award to Bert Raphael, Hon. Legal Counsel.



Tali Nizic (l) presents the Employee of the Year award to Ben Chung. At right is ??? representing Daily Bread Food Bank, Employer of the Year recipient.



Tali Nizic thanks Robert Lesser, outgoing member of the Reena Board, for his dedication and support during his term of office.



Tova Guttenberg (l) presents the Rabbi Joseph Kelman Humanitarian award to Stan Kugglemass, (Chair of ITANU ?? and former Chair of the Reena Board). Congratulating Stan is Rochelle Carrady, a founding member of Reena.



Outgoing Chair of the Reena Board, Tali Nizic (l) receives an illuminated address from Laurine Schmelzle

Trevor Rosenberg Award



Dana Rapkin, (l) and Ese Osoria (r) are the recipients of the 2010 Trevor Rosenberg Scholarship Award. Valerie and Edmund Rosenberg presented the certificates and wished them good luck in their continuing studies.

Dear Ms. Keshen:

I would like to extend this note of thanks for making the Trevor Rosenberg Scholarship available to staff at Reena. As one of the recipients this year, I am grateful for the scholarship as it will be used towards the 'Yoga For The Special Child' course I recently completed. I have been implementing yoga on a regular basis at the Reena Pathways program. I learned how to modify yoga positions according to the specific needs of each client, focusing on increased muscle strength, flexibility, breathing and concentration. This opportunity is helping to make a difference in the lives of Reena clients. Thanks again to you and the Rosenberg family.
- *Dana Rapkin* (Pathways staff)

Dear Mrs. Keshen:

I am the co-recipient of the Trevor Rosenberg Scholarship 2010. I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to you, and the Rosenberg Family, for making the Trevor Rosenberg Scholarship possible, and for providing these benefits and opportunities to Reena staff. I was thrilled to learn of my selection for this honour and I am deeply appreciative of your support. I am a third year student at Ryerson University in the Disability Studies program, and I hope to make a difference in the disability sector. Thank you once again for all your efforts. With gratitude,
Ese Osoria

Vacationing in the Bahamas

Submitted by members of Fraserwood staff

On May 30th the ladies from Fraserwood were finally on the move again. This time a sibling and staff from Van Horne joined them. They spent five wonderful days at the all-inclusive Riu Palace on Paradise Island, Bahamas.



(L to R) Isabel, Novlette, Neta, Lisa, Deborah, Edna, Shireen, Dora and Lyabode)

Our favourite activity while on the trip was a four-hour boat cruise around Nassau and Paradise Island where there was an amazing show performance, fine food and dancing.

When asked about their vacation, the ladies reflected on the many activities they enjoyed and remember most including:

- Walking through Atlantis Resort
- Visiting the Aquarium, watching the Shark feeding, Sting Rays and Scuba Divers
- Swimming in the bubbly hot pool at the hotel.
- Soaking in the Jacuzzi, relaxing in the Sauna....uuuummmmm
- Putting my feet in the ocean and feeling them sinking in the sand as the waves retreated.
- Watching the fire dancing show and almost getting my hand burned (ha ha ha)
- Swimming in the ocean...WOW!
- Going for a ride on a Sea-Doo
- Dancing on the Boat Cruise.

Edna, Shireen, Lisa and Neta would like to say Thank You to the staff who took time away from their families and busy schedules to take them on this fun trip.

Next year we'll do it again.



Edna, Shireen, Lisa and Neta enjoying the sun.

Ottawa Trip *by: Alison Arshinoff*

As sister Agencies, both Reena and Tamir have had a very long standing relationship and are often invited to take part in each others' celebrations. So, on Wednesday, May 12, 2010, Tamir invited Reena clients from many different locations to go to Ottawa and watch their performance of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, which they were putting on at the Centrepointe Theatre to celebrate their 25th anniversary.



Jeff and Alison contemplating the trip to Ottawa.

Once the invitation had gone out to Reena clients from Kingsbridge, Wilson Avenue, Elmridge Drive, Elway Court, Manadon Drive, Barksdale Road, Luverne, Cedarsprings, King High, Lowesmoor, Crestwood along with their supervisors **Joanne Woo, Petrina Hart, Debbie Bentley, Sharon Raymond, Nicole Resnick, Carolyn Falle, Juliet Dayes and Barbara Drzewiecka** and **James Sejjengo**, residential manager, started the plans to go on this trip. We also met up with **Sandy Keshen** President and CEO of Reena and **Tali Nizic** Chair of Reena Board in Ottawa.

I woke up very early on that particular morning and headed over to 495 Wilson Avenue to board the bus to

Ottawa. We were all tired and ready for a nap, and so were very happy and surprised when we found out that the coach bus was a lovely Limousine. No one complained! We left Toronto promptly at 6:10 A.M.

While on the bus the participants enjoyed many movies including Michael Jackson's "This is It" which we all had a great time dancing to, especially Sharon who had so much energy. We danced to "The Sound of Music" and many other themes with Sharon leading the way. Of course we chatted endlessly and had as much fun as we possibly could on a Limo bus. Once finally arriving in Ottawa, at around 11:30 A.M., all Reena clients were treated to a lovely lunch of wraps which had been brought along by Reena.

After that it was time to go and watch the show which we all enjoyed and couldn't believe had been put on by the Tamir clients and professionals who had been preparing it for the last two years. It was also interesting to see that most roles in the show were performed by two performers: one from Tamir and one professional from the community taking turns singing



Paul-Shari-Alan in front of Centrepointe Theatre, Ottawa

and dancing. Once the show was over, we headed to the Agudath Israel Congregation where the Reena guests and Tamir performers were treated to

dinner.

At dinner, the Tamir hosts thanked Reena for making the long journey from Toronto. Both Reena and Tamir clients enjoyed talking with each other and made some new friends. After dinner, it was too soon for those of us from Reena to board our lovely limo bus and head back to Toronto.

Our Reena group noted with pleasure that both the Tamir and the community performers were extremely thrilled to have their sister agency make the long trek from Toronto to Ottawa just to watch their performance of Joseph and the



"Dreamcoat" Thank You Card by Kaylee and Gavin

Amazing Technicolor Dream coat and we all wished that we could stay together longer to chat.

And what a way to spend the day! I mean who can complain about taking a day off to go on such a fantastic day trip in a limo with so many friends?

Reena hosts special guests

by: Aaron Spodek, Community Social Worker

"Welcome to Tim Horton's; may I take your order?"

"Yes...can I please have one large Ice Capp with chocolate milk and another eight regular sized Ice Capps?"

"Is that it?"

"Yes, that is it..."

"O.K. one large Ice Capp with chocolate milk and eight regular sized Ice Capps. That will be \$26.00. Please drive-thru."

To any ordinary Torontonians, the only thing unordinary about this "drive-thru window" interaction is the large number of drinks being ordered (and maybe the chocolate milk). For our guests from Kiryat Shemona (Northern Israel) it took a couple of days before they were familiar enough with the Timmy's lingo to make specifications on their orders. However, with some serious encouragement from one of their gracious hosts, **Ryan Garnett**, it was not long before our guests were hooked on our country's famous Tim Horton's Ice Cappuccino.

For nearly three months Ryan and his housemates, **Zachary Cohen** and **Hershy L.** were busy planning for the arrival of their

houseguests from Israel. In addition to providing ideas for the trip's 10-day itinerary, the guys from 241 Crestwood (one of Reena's group homes) were preparing to open their home to four people whom they had never met. They had questions and there were many unknowns.

Fortunately, the logistics had already been taken into consideration. Two years prior, a planning committee headed by **Arlene Margolese**, Manager of Volunteer Services and Faith and Cultural Services at Reena, had been formed to discuss the possibility of initiating an exchange program with the Renanim Special Education School in Kiryat Shemona. In the 2006 Lebanon War, Renanim, a school for approximately 120 children with special needs, was hit by a Ketyusha rocket and ostensibly destroyed. Touched by the perseverance of the people affected by this tragedy, the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto partnered with several other philanthropic organizations to create a fund to help rebuild the school. Not long after, on a UJA-sponsored mission to Israel, **Sandy Keshen**, President and CEO of Reena, visited the Renanim Special Education School and encountered their heroic story first-hand. This inspirational



from left to right - Udi Susan, Assaf Biton, Tamar Liram Bitbul, Yosef Shimon

visit was the impetus for initiating the exchange program between Reena and the Renanim School.

Fast-forward two years, and **Yosef, Assaf, Tamar** and **Udi** are seated in the beautiful backyard of **Paula Sonshine** (Vice-Chair of the Reena Board), enjoying a delicious BBQ prepared by the world-famous chef, **Donald Bennett** (Treasurer – Reena Board). They are tired, having just arrived from the airport, but encouraged by the warm welcome, including Canadiana packages (flags, hats, stickers, etc.) provided by **Jan Allin** (Reena Board member).

Unfortunately, our guests never did have a chance to catch their breath. The next nine days were a steady stream of fun-filled activities that left little room for downtime. Transported in an 11-seater rental van, generously donated by the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, our adventures began in Niagara Falls. After a tasty picnic lunch by the Falls, we proceeded to Marineland for rides and acrobatic marine animal shows.

Returning home to Thornhill we enjoyed more local fun for the remainder of the trip. Our activities included: Canada's Wonderland, The Ontario Science Centre, Vaughan Mills Nascar Speedway, The Hockey Hall of Fame, The CN Tower, a tour of The UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, a Toronto Blue Jays baseball game, and The Metro Toronto Zoo. We also enjoyed delicious meals at Marky's Delicatessen, Olde Spadina (Hot dogs @ Rogers Centre) and Café Sheli, all of whom offered us generous discounts. There were so many options for day-activities that we could not fit them all into our schedule. Nevertheless, we still made time to coordinate activities, including a large Friday night Shabbat meal, with 12 people from the Miriam Home (a Montreal-based developmental service agency) on vacation in Toronto. A huge thank you to The Reena Foundation for their



(l to r) Sandy Keshen, President & CEO, Reena, Jan Allin, member of the Reena Board and hostess Paula Sonshine

generosity and to **Jessica Kassabian** for pulling all of the donations and passes together prior to the trip.

When I think back on it, there are several notable moments that define the success of the trip: Gathering as a group on the exit ramp of the "Behemoth", Canada's largest rollercoaster, and taking in the bewildered expressions of joy and confusion on the faces of our guests (having just experienced their very first rollercoaster ride); Ryan turning to Ann and saying that he wants to go back



Assaf Biton helps push Ryan Garnet's wheelchair.

to Israel with his guests, assuring us that he would even be willing to travel in their luggage; the running conversations between Udi and Zachary regarding the number of people in Zachary's family and the constant back and forth of Assaf's interest in Aaron's collection of keys; Udi's wild and unorthodox antics; Tamar's wonderful map reading and

group leading skills; the perma-smiles across the faces of Hershy and Yosef; Leah's delicious lunches; and the vivid



Front row (l to r) Zachary Cohen, Ann Szabo, Tamr Liram Bitbul, Ryan Garnet.

Back row (l to r) Hershy L. Assar Biton, Aaron Spodek, Yosef Shimon, Naomi C.

image of Assaf pushing Ryan in his wheelchair wherever we went.

While there were many memorable experiences, the memories that will likely endure for years to come are those of the friendships formed and the relationships forged. The ease with which the visitors and their hosts melded into a unified group is truly indescribable. Except for their accents, by the end of our journey it was hard to distinguish between who was an actual resident of 241 Crestwood and who was a visitor; the guests had integrated into the home so completely.

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Athletes Compete at National Games

by: Nadavya Stollon, Supervisor Level 2

On Monday July 12, 2010, six athletes from the Reena Special Olympics Bowling Team traveled to London, Ontario as part of Team Canada to compete at the Special Olympics National Games. **Hyla Rubenstein, David Gosling, Emmanuel Attencio, Larry Weinstein, Lewis Rosenberg and Victor Henry** have been training for the games for the past few months. They have traveled to tournaments in London and Barrie to get extra practice and to become comfortable with competing far from home. All their hard work and practice paid off.

An Impressive Scoreboard

All of our athletes won medals!

Contestant	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Hyla Rubenstein	Three		
David Gosling		One	One
Emmanuel Attencio		Two	
Larry Weinstein	Three	One	
Lewis Rosenberg		One	One
Victor Henry			One

Congratulations to all the athletes on their outstanding performance!

Thank you to **Lori, Darlene and Shirley**, Special Olympics



National Coaches for the guidance and support that they gave our athletes. Thank you to staff, supervisors, and friends who traveled to London on Thursday, July 15 to cheer on our athletes. Thank you also to **Jerome Barrett** for accompanying the athletes to the games, and numerous practices beforehand.

In the next few months we will find out if any of our athletes qualify for the World Games that will take place next summer in Athens, Greece! We will keep you posted!

Birthright Trip to Israel, 2010



Mike Goldberg (l) and Adam Zeleny

I am so pleased to hear that Adam had a great time and a wonderful experience on the Birthright Israel trip. I am sure that he will remember this trip for the rest of his life. I am certain, as well, that the connections to his Jewish roots, positive

experiences with his fellow travel mates and all of the unique and special sights and sounds will influence his future decisions in a positive way. We were happy to help.

Just wanted to let you know that Adam had a great time in Israel. It was an exciting and exhausting trip for him and very well worth it.

We all appreciate what you did to facilitate this journey. We think the trip helped further develop Adam's self esteem and maturation immensely. His helper, **Mike Goldberg**, was just what the doctor ordered. He was mature, supportive and respectful of Adam's needs while

proving to be a great travel companion. It was wonderful that the group as a whole was very accepting of Adam.

Again, we thank you all very much for allowing Adam to experience this wonderful journey.

Sincerely,
Bob, Cheryl and Adam Zeleny

Funds to cover the cost of a shadow accompanying an individual with a development disability is provided in part by the Reena Foundation. To support this program call 905-764-1981.

Partnerships allow family members to enjoy community activities

Reena client can now pursue his favourite activities

by: Sandra Juhn, Senior Financial Services Officer

We are very happy for a Reena client whose family has agreed to provide ongoing funding from a trust to enable him to regularly attend sporting events and live theatre. Our client is a resident of a Reena group home who impresses staff with his knowledge of sports and the arts. He looks forward to these events with enthusiasm and is excited to report on his outings when he returns.

This funding will cover the cost of tickets, as well as 1:1 staffing, and other costs such as snacks and transportation.

The family has also generously provided additional funds for our client to attend an overnight summer camp and purchase new clothing.

Most of Reena's residential clients receive a monthly income from the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). The provincial government allocates most of this income to cover room and board at Reena, leaving group home clients with a comfort allowance of \$128 monthly to cover all personal needs. Group home residents over the age of 65 receive federal Old Age Security and, if they are eligible, may receive the Guaranteed Income Supplement.

As you can imagine, while \$128 monthly may cover basic personal needs, it doesn't provide enough money to cover very many of life's little pleasures. We are very pleased to be able to support our client in following his interests and thank his family for providing the means.

THANK YOU TO HOWARD BLOOM

by: Terry Ripley, Resource Supervisor

This is a story written with and on behalf of Renee Bloom who lives in Manadon.

Renee wanted to say thank you to her brother and tell him how much it means to her to be receiving money from him. Renee wanted to express how she has benefited in so many ways over the past few months from money she has begun to receive from her brother Howard Bloom for her day program transportation.

Renee uses the money to pay for transportation to her day program at Pathways North. This program is so important to Renee. She says she really likes it "...because they keep me busy." By being at the day program, Renee gets to be meaningfully included in her community. Renee tells her staff that her very favourite thing to do is to volunteer at "Winners" in the shoe department!

Because of Howard's support Renee can now also buy a bus pass with her money, which she uses to participate in many different events and activities in the community.

Renee goes to the YWCA to swim several times a week in addition to going to different shopping malls and stores, to the library and anywhere else that she chooses. Thank you Howard, for making all these things possible for a sister who never misses an opportunity to tell us how great you are – we thank you.

Outreach, Respite and Enrichment Programs

Camp Northland Experience

by: Nadavya Stollon, Supervisor Level 2

With only one session left, campers have been having a fabulous time at Camp Northland this summer! They have participated in activities such as, surfing, sailing, canoeing, pontoon boating, and wall climbing. Many were first time campers, and had never tried most of the activities before. One highlight was when Alex S. went on the



swing at the ropes course for the first time, and decided to be lifted all the way to the top. He released the rope, and swung down with a group of fifteen boys cheering for him and chanting his name. Alex was very proud of his accomplishment, and was greeted with high fives and handshakes when he touched ground.

This summer, we have been focusing on integration, and have been paired with one girls' cabin and one boys' cabin with whom we participate in one activity each day. The Northland campers and staff have been very friendly, and our campers have built lasting relationships with them. As we walk around the camp, staff and campers approach us to say hi, or invite us to play a game of Frisbee with them.



We look forward to an exciting last week of camp, and hope that everyone will return next summer for another season of fun!

You can help us maintain these vital Outreach, Respite and Enrichment programs by calling the Reena Foundation, at 905-764-1081.

Reena's Summer Camp at the Toby & Henry Battle Developmental Centre

by: Lorna Ross, Reception/Admin. Support Outreach

Summer is here and that means "Camp". Sitting at the "front desk" in the rotunda at the Battle Centre, I am witness to a lot of activity each day at Reena.

For the fourth summer now, I have watched the Outreach staff prepare wonderful activities for our Reena Summer Camp.

Beginning early in the spring with interviews, then a month of training and orientation, our staff get into the spirit of what Reena is all about – doing their part to make the summer break an exciting, fun-filled time for our campers.

Seeing so many staff return year after year to be a part of camp is a tribute to the dedication, compassion, and caring of these young adults to our "kids". As a mother, and part of Reena, I take pride watching the interaction between camper and camp staff each day.

This summer has been exceptionally hot, but our counsellors have not let the heat and humidity stand in the way of giving each of our campers a full camp experience.

Our young clients have a full day of activities; swimming, crafts, outings, etc.

To Robyn, Liat and Nadavya, to Esther, Gabi, Jerome, Lisa, Ben, Kyle and the rest of the camp staff, well done!

Reena hosts special guests

contd. from page 9

I am grateful for having had the opportunity to work with such an amazingly committed group of staff throughout this journey. The staff of 241 Crestwood, **Ann Szabo** - Manager, **Barbara Drzewiecka** - Supervisor, and **Leah Tator** - Residential Support, truly made this trip happen. Thank you **Roy** and **Naomi** for your help as well; it is appreciated greatly. **Arlene Margolese**, **Elaine Goldbach** and **Mille Chadwick** were responsible for making sure everything ran smoothly, so that we on the front lines could focus on enjoying ourselves. Thanks for all your hard work; it really paid off. **Udi Sussan** and **Tamar Liram Butbul**, Renanim School staff members, also deserve a huge amount of credit for the success of the trip. They were so easy to work with and added an element of fun and excitement that we never could have expected.

Most of all, I would like to thank the guys from 241 Crestwood. You opened your home selflessly. You made your guests feel welcome and comfortable and left them with such a positive impression of Reena and their Jewish "family" here in Toronto. You deserve all of the fun that you had on this trip. I hope you will remember it for as long as I do.

Sincerely,
Your faithful chauffeur,
Aaron Spodek

The Making of Tzedekah Boxes

by: Michelle Anbar, Outreach Supervisor

The tzedakah box and the tradition of giving tzedakah are a basic part of Jewish living. It is a means for a Jewish person to perform one of the most important acts of Judaism. The word tzedakah comes from the Hebrew word tzedek, which means righteous. In the Bible, the word tzedakah refers to justice, kindness and ethical behavior. In Modern Hebrew, it refers to charity - giving to those in need.

When I asked staff and clients to make Tzedekah boxes for a special occasion, I was pleased but not surprised to find out that there are many talented people both participating and working at Reena. Two of the artists who worked on the large commission of Tzedekah boxes are **Theodore Kapodistrias** and **Christopher Szabo** (shown left to right in the photo). Below is an account of the journey they took to completing this most important commission.



Our first trip was to IKEA, we needed boxes that were not of the ordinary jars, frames and even clocks, that could be reused instead of thrown away like the traditional Tzedekah cans donated to the synagogue. We decided on the jars and frames.

Next we journeyed to the local arts and crafts hub called Micheal's, where we found our stained glass materials (paints, lead based outliner, and a highly toxic stencil liquid that had to be handled with

extreme care). We were very much inspired and influenced by our very own **Karen Marks** who made some wonderfully crafted stained glass Reena logos for gifting. **Ralph Gallore**, recently retired and sorely missed maintenance man to the Battle Centre, helped with the project and also was a recipient of a plaque on his retirement.

Last but not least were the picture frames. We wanted to keep tradition alive by hand drawing stylized sketches that we manipulated using a wonderful art medium called Adobe Photoshop, adding watercolour textures and coloring techniques to our original rough drawings. When our final product was ready, we raced over to Staples and had our pictures developed and printed on glossy, real neat looking paper stock.

We must have looked like a couple of kids leaving a candy store that just had a clearance 50% off going out of business, boxing day sale, in other words, jumping high fives weren't as high as our feeling of jubilation. WE DID IT!

How We Did It

by: Christopher Szabo, Outreach Recreation Support Worker

Making the Tzedekah boxes and frames was a real treat, one could say a spiritual endeavour that we hope will happen again in the near future. We'd like to thank the Outreach program and Pathways clients for their excellent contribution and help.

It was an amazing feat, having three weeks to create a minimum of 18 boxes with only our imagination and teamwork to guide us, something Reena is all too familiar with. That is what made these "gifts that give back" come into fruition.

Here's how the process manifested from an idea into something quite tangible:

Report of the Chair of the Reena Foundation Board

by Leon Kieselstein



&

Report of the President

by Gary Sim



The past three months have been very productive for Reena Foundation. As you will read in the following pages, we have made tremendous strides in fundraising for both our major campaign – The \$18 million Reena Campaign: A Place For Everyone – and on our annual campaign to raise money for the Outreach, Respite and Enrichment Programs.

The results of the past three months has been the fruits of many, many months of efforts by a great number of talented volunteers working with staff to get the Reena message out into the community. We are very positive about the coming few months also because there is a very good potential of even better things to come because of the groundwork that the campaign teams have been doing.

The coming months will also see a very busy season of events at Reena Foundation, and I encourage everyone reading this message to either get involved with an event or at least attend one of the events – there truly is something for everyone.

The Fall event season kicks off with the re-branded Race Night for Reena on October 6 at Woodbine Racetrack. We are thankful to Chair, Steven Cook, and his entire hard-working committee for continuing to build on the success of the past with this event. For the past 6 seasons this event was “Guys Night Out at Reena”. In an effort to be more inclusive, we hope the event will be attractive to both men and women this year. It promises to be a fun evening at the races.

On November 12, Reena’s 3rd Women of Strength breakfast series continues with Sheri Sheppard. Sheri is both interesting and funny and is sure to please all attendees. Thank you to Chair, Heather Goose and her committee for all your talents and time in staging this event.

On October 30, a very talented team of volunteers led by Tobie Bekhor is again presenting The Reena Dinner at Magna Country Club. If you would like to reserve a ticket, do it fast! This event has very limited seating and sells out quickly every year.

Finally, it seems like a long way off but we are very excited about this year’s Theatre Afternoon. We will be featuring the hit musical “Billy Elliot” on Sunday January 30. These will be the hottest tickets in town so order yours on line or through our offices quickly. Steven Kazman and his committee are anxious to sell out as quickly as possible. Seating is limited.

Reena became the great organization it is today because of the ongoing involvement and leadership of countless volunteers. We need you help to continue to build on this tradition. Won’t you call our offices and volunteers to help organize one of these events or to help sell tickets. The amount of time you commit is completely up to you. We can assure you that the experience will be rewarding and you will have the knowledge that you helped fund programs for Reena’s young participants.

Thank you in advance for making the call!

Foundation Awards at Reena's Annual Meeting June 23, 2010



Leon Kieselstein presents the Reena Foundation Family Philanthropy Award to Mona Sherkin.



Leon Kieselstein presenting Mike Nethercott with the Reena Foundation Board Member of Distinction plaque.



Leon Kieselstein and Gary Sim present Mitchell Shnier with a Reena pin. Mitchell is departing the Reena Foundation Board after a decade of distinguished service.



Plaques were presented to the Chair of various committees for the 2010 Reena Tribute Dinner. (l to r) Jeff Mouckley, Susan Mouckley, Mona Sherkin, Leon Kieselstein, Marilyn Raphael, Ruth Berger, Denise Alexander and Sue-Ann Levy (missing - Debra Alexander).



Leon Kieselstein presents the Young Leadership Award to (l to r) Sheri Becker, Esther Benarroch and Paul Bleier.

Largest Gift Ever to Reena Foundation!

Reena Foundation recently received a gift of \$1 million from the **Maxwell and Ruth Leroy Charitable Foundation**. This is the largest gift ever received from a Foundation in the history of Reena! "This gift is an extremely welcome gift. It will provide incredible momentum to the \$18 million Reena Campaign: A Place For Everyone" says campaign co-chair **Irving Feldman**.

In acknowledgement of the gift, Reena will name **The Maxwell and Ruth Leroy Holocaust Remembrance Garden**. The garden will extend across the entire western length of the new building and will be a secure and tranquil garden of remembrance and reflection for staff, families and friends as well as a place of teaching and therapy for clients of the new Reena Residential Building.

Leon Kieselstein, Chair of Reena Foundation and family friend of Max Leroy as well as Candace (Leroy) and Ed Lewis recalls – "In late 2009, Max and Candace were looking for a charity that met their interests where they might make a donation. They knew I was involved with Reena, so we talked and they decided to make a gift to the Capital Campaign. In early 2010, I brought the Holocaust Remembrance Garden to their attention and they immediately liked the concept and what it could mean to both our client population and to the wider Jewish community."

As Candace explains, "This garden will be very

worthwhile for Reena and to the whole Jewish community. I was fortunate enough not to have lost any family in the Holocaust – my grandparents came to Canada before the war, and my parents were born in Canada. The Holocaust survivor generation is getting older and soon we won't have any of them left to tell the story first hand. It is so important to have this type of garden. Jewish history and heritage have always been important to our family."



The Maxwell and Ruth Leroy Remembrance Garden will not duplicate memorials that have been created elsewhere in the city. However, Reena will not allow the fact that the first 250,000 people to die in the Holocaust were the disabled – people that the Nazis considered "useless" – to be forgotten.

"My father worked all his life," says Candace, "His first job was a paper route that he had at the age of 5. He worked right up until one month before he died at the age of 93, this past July, 2010. My mother taught us to give back – she supported charities both through donations and volunteering her entire adult life, and my father supported her in all her endeavours. So when she passed away in 2005, he carried on supporting charities providing a better quality of life, especially for disadvantaged children. They also wanted to give to something specific and not to general overhead. This is why giving to this project at Reena was so attractive to my Dad and me."

Come Score for Reena!

by: Zack Belzberg

Reena client, **Joel Schwartz**, died tragically on March 3, 2009; just two months after participating on a Birthright Israel trip with support from Reena 'shadow' Emmanuel Flatt. Joel, age 25, was a remarkable young man; courageous, optimistic, kind, funny and smart. He had the time of his life along side his fellow Birthright Israel travelers and leaders in Israel.

In order to enable other Jewish young adults with a developmental disability to have this same opportunity, Joel's family established the '**Joel Schwartz Endowment Fund**' at Reena. This endowment provides funding for the "shadows" that are necessary to accompany Reena clients on inclusive Birthright Israel trips.

Zack Belzberg and **Jesse Abrams**, close friends of Joel's brother, **Jonathan**, approached him with the idea for a memorial hockey tournament to raise funds for the endowment. The Joel Schwartz Memorial Classic ("JSMC") was then born.

The inaugural event will take place on March 13, 2011 when teams of 12 to 15 players will convene at Chesswood Arena for a full day of competitive fun in

honour of a young man whose goodness out measured his years. Money will be raised courtesy of team entrance fees and sponsorships.

The JSMC committee currently includes **Jesse Abrams, Zack Belzberg, David Goodman, Corrie Pollock** and **Jonathan Schwartz**. If you would like to join the organizing committee or learn how to enter in the tournament please contact Jesse Abrams or Zack Belzberg at jesseabrams1@gmail.com or Belzberg@rogers.com, or visit the Reena

Foundation website at www.reenafoundation.org for updates.



Joel Schwartz enjoying his Birthright Israel trip last year.

Reena FOUNDATION
THEATRE NIGHT
SAVE THE DATE
SUPPORT REENA FOUNDATION'S 7TH ANNUAL THEATRE NIGHT
BILLY ELLIOT THE MUSICAL
JANUARY 30, 2011
1:30 P.M. SHOWTIME · CANON THEATRE
PACKAGE PRICE \$260
FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 905.764.1081 EXT.34
OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.REENAFUNDATION.ORG

SAVE THE DATE
Reena FOUNDATION
RACE NIGHT FOR REENA
IN SUPPORT OF REENA'S RESpite & ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS
OCTOBER 6, 2010
★ WOODBINE RACETRACK ★ 555 REKDREE BOULEVARD ★ TRACKSIDE TENT
EAGLE High Altitude Dining

Campaign tops \$4.1 Million

At September 1st we are extremely proud to announce that our hard working committee has raised another \$2.1 million in the last 90 days! All that hard work over the winter and spring is really starting to pay off. The early summer began with the announcement that Reena Foundation was to be the beneficiary of a gift from the Estate of **Earl Mandell**, long time friend of Reena, **who passed away in 2009. That was the largest gift Reena had ever received from one donor. It was followed by another \$1 million gift from the Maxwell and Ruth Leroy Foundation**, the largest gift ever received from a Foundation.

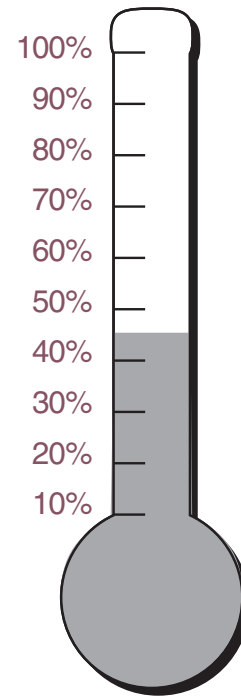
Our committee has not been sitting on its laurels so we continue to have high expectations that we will begin to see some more of the fruits (gifts) of the efforts of dozens of Campaign Cabinet members who have been knocking on doors since last fall.

You will see listed below all the donors who have already counted themselves in and helped us achieve 45% of our capital portion of the project. The first phase of our campaign is to raise the \$9 million required to build the new Reena Community Residence. The second \$9 million will help us build our endowment fund that will permanently secure vital Outreach, Respite and Enrichment Programs that are not government funded.

Our thanks to all those hard working individuals on our Campaign Cabinet listed below. They have put in all the fundraising efforts to achieve these wonderful results to date.

Please visit our website at www.reenafoundation.org and go to the campaign page to learn more about the project.

\$9 Million
Capital
Portion of
Campaign



Tobie Bekhor



Irving Feldman

Endowment Funds - Securing Reena's Future

Establishing a family endowment fund is a wonderful way of creating your own legacy at Reena and a wonderful way of encouraging future generations to follow in your philanthropic footsteps. The whole family can donate to your fund and watch it grow over the years and generations. We would like to acknowledge the ongoing commitment of our fund holders to growing their fund and securing the future of Reena. In particular we thank and congratulate the Wilson family for having taken The Wilson Family Endowment Fund up to the Builder category. We also congratulate the Barrington family for having moved The Barrington Family Fund up to the Patron category. We also thank the Martin family for having built The Pearl Goldstein Continuing Education Fund to a full granting fund, and the Rajzman family for creating The Rajzman/Wagschal Family Fund as a full granting fund.

CHAMPION - \$100,000 +

Morris & Beverly Baker Foundation Fund
David Esplin Fund
Jenny Hammond Fund
New Leadership Fund
Peake Family Fund
Bert & Marilyn Raphael Advocacy Fund
Reena General Fund

PARTNER - \$50,000 +

Bernice Guziker Fund
Irving & Sylvia Ungerman Fund
Stevie Gottlieb Fund
Jon Sherkin Fund

BUILDER - \$25,000 +

Joe & Helen Berman Fund
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Catalano Family Fund
E.B. Esplin Fund
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Rienne Fleischmann Fund
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PATRON - \$10,000 +

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The Estate of Earl Mandell

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Take out your calendar

- **Race Night for Reena**
 - Woodbine Racetrack
 - October 6, 2010
- **Magna Dinner**
 - Magna Golf Club
 - October 30, 2010
- **Women of Strength**
Speaker: Sherri Shepherd
 - November 12, 2010
- **Theatre Night at Reena Foundation**
 - Canon Theatre
 - Sunday January 30, 2011

For information
on any event contact:
The Foundation Office
905-764-1081 x34



Reena: A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ABOUT
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