



Kolreena

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

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Reena Community Residence Groundbreaking Ceremony

Report of the Chair of the Reena Board

by Tali Nizic

I was deeply gratified to serve as Master of Ceremonies at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Reena Community Residence held on April 30 and to welcome so many friends and well-wishers that we actually had to lift the flaps of the tent



to accommodate the crowd. The ceremony marked the end of several years of dreaming, speculating, planning, creating alliances, and finally, the commitment to proceed with building the Reena Community Residence on the grounds of the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus. I had the opportunity to acknowledge and thank the many government officials who have already given their support, and the community leaders who have been, and will continue to be, key players in the fulfillment of this exciting project. I

cont'd on page 3



L to R. Tobi Bekhor, C-Chair Reena Fdn. Campaign Committee; Councillor David L. Cohen, Richmond Hill; Paul Shaviv, Tanenbaum/Chat School; Frank Scarpitti, Mayor, Town of Markham; Daphne Wagner, Co-Chair, Building Committee; Irving Feldman, Co-Chair Campaign Committee; Madame Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Community and Social Services; Sandy Keshen, President Reena; David Peltz, Chair, Reena/UJA Federation Joint Management Comm; Dr. Reza Moridi, MPP for Markham; Tali Nizic, Chair Reena Board; Bill Fisch, Chair, Municipality of York; Ted Sokolsky, President, UJA Federation

Report of Reena President & CEO

by Sandy Keshen



a leader in supporting people with developmental disabilities, providing cutting-edge models and state-of-the-art programs in service, advocacy, family support, training and professional development. The Reena Community Residence will give Reena an opportunity to create future models of support that are unique. In association with our partner agencies, it will set a benchmark for the future – demonstrating that services can be provided in an integrated setting to a population with diverse needs.

With the building of the Reena Community Residence, we are establishing a new paradigm of inclusiveness where connection and compassion are the hallmarks. Residents will have secure housing with ample support; be able to live a life of self-determination, with higher self-esteem; have on-campus access to

health, social services; participate in educational and recreational programs and feel a sense of belonging and comfort within an embracing community built on Jewish values and respect and inclusion for all.

The Reena Community Residence will be a significant addition to the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus. The campus is a project of UJA Federation of Great Toronto's Tomorrow campaign and will be home to social services and recreational centres for all Greater Toronto Area residents. I want most of all, personally, and on behalf of the Reena organization, to thank UJA Federation of Greater Toronto for welcoming Reena so warmly to the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus.

Reena has a proud history of achievements since its inception in 1974, but none more significant, or creative and ambitious as the project we launched with the groundbreaking ceremony for the Reena Community Residence.

Reena is internationally recognized as

Help us to move forward By Minnie Ross, Manager, Communications/Marketing/Membership

Reena continues to expand its physical plant, acquiring new houses and welcoming new clients. You have demonstrated your financial support of Reena over the years, for which we are deeply grateful. Now we ask you to help Reena to build upon the strength of the agency by increasing the number of people in the community who have agreed to become a Member of Reena.

By becoming a Member of Reena, you will be endorsing the programs and support we are carrying on in the community on behalf of children and adults who have a developmental disability. You will also have the opportunity of strengthening Reena, helping us maintain our high standards of service and shaping the future of the agency in the years ahead.

Members of Reena

- have a voice in the organization
- are invited to attend the Annual Meeting
- can sit on a Reena committee
- have the opportunity to nominate persons to serve on the Board of Directors
- vote to elect persons nominated
- receive all literature and information about future programs

The number of members is taken into account by government offices and other agencies when applying for grants etc.

Annual Meeting

Reena's Annual Meeting will take place on Thursday, September 10th. If you become a member **now** you will be invited to attend the meeting and learn more about the agency you have chosen to support, meet some of Reena's clients and their families and our wonderful staff. **Become**

a Member To-Day

Annual membership is \$36 per person
 Special 10-year membership is \$250 per person
 A tax receipt will be issued by the Reena Foundation
 Please call Minnie Ross, Manager of Communications / Marketing / Membership, at 905-763-8254 ext. 3024 and let us know that you wish to become a champion by becoming a Member of Reena .

Sandy, I greatly appreciated having the opportunity to attend the ground-breaking. Over the years, I've attended several ground-breakings at colleges and universities...but they paled in comparison to Reena's. The community's involvement and the transformational nature of the Lebovic Campus are a wonderful example of integrating persons with disabilities to build even stronger communities. I left feeling very inspired and uplifted.

Thanks again for the invite.

–Richard K. Jackson,

Acting Regional Director, Toronto Region, MCSS

Report of the Chair of the Reena Board cont'd from page 1

am referring to **Daphne Wagner** and **Al Libfeld** the co-chairs of the Building Committee and **Ted Sokolsky**, President and many lay leaders of UJA Federation who attended including **David Peltz**, Chair of the Joint Management Team for the Reena Community Residence.

Representatives from the Federal and Provincial Government, as well as mayors and councillors from Vaughan, Markham and Richmond Hill were also at the standing-room only ceremony. The Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation has made a generous grant to the new project and **Leslie Barrett-Sanderson**, the Director of Communications spoke about the commitment of CMHC to Reena.

Representatives of partner agencies in the project, Chai Tikvah, Jewish Family & Child, Kehilla Residential Services and Circle of Care were all there creating an air of excitement, good wishes and well-being that was heart warming and very, very welcome. Our soon-to-be neighbours at Tanenbaum CHAT high school came to wish us every success, as did **Warren Kimel** who is co-chair of the Lebovic Campus Executive Committee.

I was very happy to introduce **Bill Fisch**, Chairman and CEO of York, Region, who brought greetings from his region, and **Frank A. Wilson**, Chair of the Reena Foundation who spoke about the plans of the Capital Campaign Cabinet to be chaired by **Toby Bekhor** and **Irving Feldman**. I want to

thank them for accepting this role and wish them every success in their efforts and pledge our wholehearted support of the campaign.

Madame Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Community and Social Services, was the guest speaker at the groundbreaking ceremony and she

thanked Reena for helping her ministry create inclusive communities for people with disabilities. She went on to say "We know that when people with disabilities are given the supports they need to thrive, our communities and our province thrive too." When **Peter Sen**,

(parent of a teenage son who participates in Reena's Outreach Program,) thanked the minister on behalf of everyone present, he said ... *"In the long run, Raymond needs more intensive support services in a residential setting. While waiting in the waiting list, Reena has helped me to support Raymond through various respite programs such as the after school program and holiday camps.*

Raymond always returns home happy. It is all because Reena has high quality management and a team of front line caregivers with love and care.

Today I am glad to see that different Governments and agencies are working with Reena to take another step forward to build more homes to support people in need. I

hope that there will be more good community projects in the future like the one today."

The groundbreaking ceremony was a collaborative effort by many people and I would like to thank

Minnie Ross, Manager of Communications / Marketing, for her role in coordinating and orchestrating the successful event – even to the extent of ensuring that the weather didn't rain on our parade. **Photography by: Barry Shainbaum Productions**



Madame Meilleur, Sandy Keshen & David Zimmer, MPP Willowdale



Rita Winkler thanks Minister Meilleur



Daphne Wagner and Al Libfeld, Co-Chairs, Building Committee



Joyce Frustaglio, Regional Councillor, City of Vaughan, Frank A. Wilson, Chair, Reena Foundation, Councillor Sandra Yeung Rocco, City of Vaughan, Minister Madeleine Meilleur, MCSS, Dr. Reza Moridi, MPP Richmond Hill, Bill Fisch, Chair and CEO York Region, Mayor Linda Jackson, City of Vaughan, Joseph Lebovic

Reena's President and CEO Honoured at Itanu Toronto Awards of Excellence Ceremony

A star studded cast, a large enthusiastic and dedicated audience and most deserving award recipients combined to make the second **Annual Community Inclusion Awards of Excellence** on February 26th an evening to remember.

It began on a high note when **Gary Sandor**, Chair of the Community Awards of Excellence spoke about **Itanu Toronto**, the inclusion initiative of UJA Federation, and its vision of a community where people with disabilities can contribute to and participate in the normal "rhythm of the day" as full members of the Toronto Jewish community. He introduced **Ralph Benmergui** the well-known radio and television host and producer, as the Master of Ceremonies for the presentation of three special awards.

The Program Award, which was presented to Kadima School was accepted by **Dr. Rosalie Shadlyn** and the Organization Award, presented to Centre Camp at Bathurst Jewish Community Centre was accepted by the Director, **Andrew Levy**. Our main interest, however, was centred upon the Lifetime Achievement Award which was



Award Recipients: (l to r) Dr. Rosalie Shadlyn, Andrew Levy and Sandy Keshen

needs. (It was the opinion of many in the audience that because Sandy is so deeply committed to continuing and expanding her work with Reena and people with a developmental disability, that the award ought to read Lifetime Achievement Award, thus far.)

In her acceptance speech Sandy acknowledged the many champions and supporters who had sustained her along the journey begun almost 40 years ago, as well as her late husband **Murray**, her children **Rena** and **Bryan**, and her grandchildren **Rebecca**, **Noah**, **Elysa** and **Ilan**, to whom she referred as the 'champions of the future.' *"I am especially grateful that UJA Federation has established an Inclusion Initiative. It demonstrates the commitment of the Jewish community to ensure a place and sense of belonging for everyone."* (Sandy Keshen, 2008)

The keynote speaker at the event was **Richard Ouzounian**, the renowned writer, director and theatre critic. He spoke of the many stages that he and his wife have experienced since their son was diagnosed as having 'special needs'; their pain, their denial, their acceptance and their search for help. He applauded the UJA Federation Community Inclusion Initiative. He congratulated the award recipients and said he and his wife look forward to a brighter future when people with a disability are universally accepted.



Richard Ouzounian presents the Lifetime Achievement Award to Sandy Keshen, while Noah Wolansky applauds his grandmother.

presented to **Sandy Keshen**, President and CEO of Reena 'honouring her tireless, lifelong striving to make our Jewish community more inclusive of people with special

The Ontario Partnership on Aging and Developmental Disabilities (OPADD)

By Ron W. Coristine, M.P.A., Project Manager

The OPADD Symposium was held March 9 –11, 2009 in Richmond Hill, Ontario. It provided a venue to highlight what OPADD has achieved, share success stories, hear from the experts, identify persisting roadblocks, engage the uninformed and establish key priorities for the future. This important event brought together members of the OPADD provincial table and regional committees, those involved in local projects, care-givers, academics, researchers, planners and policymakers.

Delegates from across Ontario gathered to learn, dialogue and develop plans for the future. **The Honourable Madeleine Meilleur**, Minister of Community and Social Services addressed the delegates, thanking them for the work done on behalf of older adults with developmental disabilities in Ontario. The Minister acknowledged the importance of the partnership between developmental services and long term care/seniors community programs and the achievements of the past several years. She underlined the commitment of the government of Ontario in its support of the Vision: **That older adults with a developmental disability have the same rights to support and services as all older Ontarians.**

A key piece in the symposium design was a series of focused dialogue sessions which identified OPADD's progress to date and developed Action Plans to deal with key issues. Analysis of the dialogue sessions provides some interesting findings about what we see as important and where we are heading.

The evaluations from the symposium have been tallied. The resulting analysis and findings are available in the Symposium Evaluation Report. A few highlights from the findings—



(l to r) Sandy Keshen, Dr. Lilian Thorpe, Dr. Tamar Heller of Chicago, Speaker and Margaret Ringland of the OPADD Collaborative and OAHNESS



(l to r) Sandy Keshen, Minister Meilleur, Dr. Lilian Thorpe, of Saskatchewan, Speaker



Minister Meilleur and Dr. Roy Brown of British Columbia, Speaker

- Respondents appreciated the learning opportunities.
- Strengthened their understanding of stakeholders in another sector and their ability to collaborate.
- Strengthened their understanding of OPADD and their commitment to engage.
- Supported learning about transition planning and aging.
- Strengthened their learning relative to LTC legislation, regulation, policy and coordination.
- 98% of respondents indicated they would recommend the symposium to colleagues.

Symposium proceedings and speaker PowerPoints have been posted to the OPADD website. Go to the home page; then click the news/resources tab; then the OPADD papers/reports link.

Elway Court Clients Enjoy Sabbath Services

By Sarah Boyd, Support Worker

Saturday is our favourite day of the week at 40 Elway Court. On that morning, we (clients and staff) dress up to attend Shabbat Services at Beth Torah Synagogue (47 Glenbrook Ave.) In a society where our population is often greeted with trepidation, and sometimes even disdain, the congregation at Beth Torah has quite literally opened its arms and embraced us wholly into their midst.

When we arrive, we are warmly greeted by the usher with smiles and Hershey Kisses and are then guided to our seats. Often, we are led to the very front of the congregation. The Torah is usually being read publicly as we take our places. We open our copies of the Torah and follow along in both Hebrew and English. On one occasion, our clients were invited up to the reading platform to participate in returning the sacred Torah scroll to the holy ark. They talked about it for days afterwards.

Rabbi Yossi Sapirman then speaks to the congregation in a finely crafted and often very humorous sermon. He preaches tolerance, compassion and good judgment, as reflected in the synagogue's open-door policy towards our clients. Even though I am not Jewish, I always come

away with a new nugget of spiritual wisdom when I leave Beth Torah that day.

The service usually ends with the cantor, **David Young**, inviting several of our clients up to the reading platform to sing with him and the choir. **Sharon Abramowitz** has been known to wave her arms in the air and conduct the choir and the rest of the congregation in the songs that end the Shabbat services. She quite literally beams with joy. "Yahah say Shalom; Yahah say Shalom..."

At the end of the service we head upstairs for a delicious and healthy Kiddush lunch of challah bread, egg salad, tuna salad and various hot entrees. All kosher, of course. The meal is accompanied by a chance for our clients to socialize with other members of the congregation, several of whom greet them with familiar hellos and warm hugs.

Even when our clients have behaviours, the members of Beth Torah show the utmost patience and forgiveness. This congregation lives and breathes integration, tolerance and compassion. We are extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to attend Beth Torah synagogue and wish to express our sincere gratitude to all the members of the congregation.

Shabbat Shalom, everyone.

Cooking Is Fun at 409 Wilson Ave.

By: Winsom James, Support worker

The cooking group is an ongoing part of programming at 409 Wilson. Staff enjoy helping their clients work towards achieving their goal to learn how to prepare meals independently.

Each month, the group starts at the grocery store, where they shop for the ingredients of their chosen meal. They, with staff encouragement, make choices in keeping with

another of their goals- to eat healthier foods in accordance with the Canada's food guide, something they have been discussing with staff in the weekly tenant meetings. Once back in the kitchen, the individuals use hand washing throughout the preparation of the meal as they take turns chopping, dicing and cooking the meal from scratch.

Our clients have benefited from past student presentations where safe food handling, hygiene and shopping for healthy foods, was discussed in a fun and informative manner.

All participants agree that learning to cook can be fun and that the best part is to sit down and enjoy a yummy meal that they themselves have prepared!



Cooking group: (l to r) Stephen Aronovitz, Aaron Pysluns, Lionel Bulkin, Winsom James, staff.



Paul Cantlie

Developmental Disabilities Counsellor (DDC) Program - Class of January 2009

By: Joe Persaud, Manager, Learning and Development

Reena and George Brown College's partnership pre-employment training program completed its 9th successful session on May 6th, 2009. As you may know, our partnership includes four other developmental service agencies - Kerry's Place, New Leaf, Montage, and Salvation Army Broadview Village. We are very proud to announce that 17 students successfully completed the January 2009 program offering and are ready to embark on their career in developmental services.

The graduation event is scheduled for June 11th at George Brown College (GBC). **Georgia Quartaro**, Dean of General Education and Access at GBC will again act as MC for the event and **Tali Nizic** (Chair of Reena's Board of Directors) will deliver the "Welcome Address". Other honoured guests scheduled to speak are: **Dr. Reza Moridi** (MPP for Richmond Hill), **David Zimmer** (MPP for Willowdale), **Paula Sonshine** (Reena Board Member



Developmental Disabilities Counsellor (DDC) Program - Class of January 2009

and Member of our Learning & Development Committee), and **Ron McCauley** (Executive Director - New Leaf). As well, the person most responsible for the success and the sustainability of our program, **Sandy Keshen** (President & CEO - Reena) will join us to celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates.

The next DDC program is scheduled to begin on July 6th. We have received over 120 applications so far and there

is still time left to apply!! If you know anyone interested in working in developmental services who have little or no formal training/experience in the field, please tell them about our program and invite them to visit our website (www.reena.org <<http://www.reena.org>>) for more information and/or contact Clifford Walsh (Learning and Development Registrar) at (905) 889-2690, ext. 2048.

Supported Independent Living Program Celebrates Passover 2009

By Heda Mitchell, Support Staff

This year's SIL Seder was a roaring success. As usual it was held in the Recreation Room at 495 Wilson Avenue.

There were approximately 70 people in attendance and the room was welcoming with spring flowers and brightly covered tablecloths. The evening got underway with the story of Passover. The reader made it interactive which the clients enjoyed. The story was followed by the clients reading their individual portions explaining the different symbols from the Passover Seder. All of the clients take great pride in coming up to the

front of the room and speaking in front of their peers and in turn receiving applause for their efforts from the group.

One of our Reena staff, **Aaron Spodek** provided the music and led the group in singing while playing the guitar. Everyone enjoyed the songs as they were reminded of the Passover music before the actual Seders. The holiday food, provided by our Reena caterer Ta'am Tov, was excellent.

The SIL Seder is a symbolic gesture for our clients who take great pride in their culture and heritage and look forward to this special event every

year. The simulated Seder provides our SIL clients an opportunity to socialize as a group and at the same time celebrate one of our important holidays.

A special thank you to the Aronoff Family Fund. The Aronoff family established an Endowment Fund at the Reena Foundation, in loving memory of their daughter Fern, to be used by the SIL department. The available interest from the fund is used every year to make certain programs, such as the SIL Seder, more affordable for our clients. It is very much appreciated.

A parent's address to the Reena Board

I am so honoured to have the opportunity to share our family's experiences as part of the Reena organization with you. Reena is an amazing organization from the top down and I wish to acknowledge the dedication and vision of Sandy Keshen and the wonderful Reena staff.

My teenage son, Levi, has a multiple diagnosis of Autism, Tourette's Syndrome and a developmental delay. He has been a participant in the Reena system for close to 10 years and right along with him our whole family have been the privileged beneficiaries of all that Reena has to offer.

There is a famous allegory that describes having a child who is born with special needs being compared to landing in Holland when you have actually booked a trip to Italy. It comes as a shock and you can never be prepared for that diagnosis. In fact, from our experience, the journey with a child who has an evolving multiple diagnosis is more accurately compared to yes - booking a vacation to Italy and yes, ending up first in Holland, but then in Spain, then India and then Australia and so on... and each day brings new challenges and new surprises. You really cannot predict or anticipate what is coming up next. So what is amazing about Reena is that each step of the way, they have services and resources and expertise to help the family through the challenges of that journey within a Jewish context.

In his early years, even with a diagnosis of Autism, Levi was a good natured and placid toddler so it came as a shock when he turned eight and had the onset of Tourette's. His need for constant supervision, stimulation and behaviour management became very difficult for us as a family to

manage alone. Levi would come home from school and then we had the daunting task of meeting his needs and struggling to constantly redirect and stimulate him in structured and social activities, while at the same time getting through the "monster hour"-homework, dinner, lessons with our other two younger children. I remember expressing this challenge to a social worker and she kept on reiterating-well you can take your son to this or that half hour or hour long program or hire a worker. In my mind I kept thinking -been there, done that and how does that help? What do I do with my girls while I am driving him around to these programmes? And as for a worker, it is costly, workers come and go and how does a worker alone with my son provide him with a community or social experience? Luckily for us just at that time Reena was starting up their after school and Sunday outreach program and it was like an answer to our prayers. They provided a structured ongoing program that took my son from school, through yummy dinners, through to bedtime. The programme provided him with a community of peers, Jewish holiday celebrations, opportunities for stimulation, life skills acquisition and community outings. Meanwhile I could attend to the needs of my girls all the while knowing that his needs were being served better than anything I could offer at home. One of the highlights of our experience with Reena was Levi's Bar Mitzvah. We had grappled back and forth with how to celebrate this milestone and as I said earlier, with a child with special needs you cannot plan from one day to the next. My husband had the idea to celebrate at the Battle Centre so that our larger community would embrace our son's

immediate community and the Battle Centre was a comfortable venue for him. It was a glorious day and Levi was totally in his element and at ease. As Levi entered into adolescent services, we were again presented with what seemed like insurmountable challenges. Once again, we had the shock of seeing his needs become even more complex. Take your average teenager with all of their moodiness, agitation, and changing interests and multiply that by a thousand and you get a taste of what life is like with a teenager with a multiple diagnosis. Our chatty, happy go lucky sociable son suddenly had constant extreme mood swings where he veered from agitation and even aggression to being withdrawn, non verbal and non responsive. In January 2008 and then again this past Fall 2008, our son had episodes of volatility resulting in his being hospitalized twice for a total of six weeks. We came to the very difficult realization that we were not managing our son in the home and we feared for our safety, and for our son's safety. Up to this point services and resources had been fairly accessible and centralized. But ironically as Levi's needs increased, services seemed to dry up and all of a sudden we were navigating a labyrinth of piecemeal services, long waitlists, puzzling acronyms. We were in crisis and we kept hitting walls. We were given absolutely bizarre advice from different segments of social services-that no one goes from hospital into respite, and therefore, that even though he was not stabilized we would have to bring Levi home and figure out what to do with our him upon discharge. One social worker suggested that if we believed in a G-d, we should just pray harder.

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News from 240 Crestwood

By: Barbara Drzewiecka, Supervisor

240 Crestwood is welcoming two new clients, **Melissa Tropea** moved in on May 4th and **Grisha Dykman** will join Aaron, Petra and Melissa on June 1, 2009.

Everyone is excited about their new housemates and will be sure to make them feel welcome. Everything is ready for their arrival and warm weather activities are planned.

All the children really like our new trampoline and are already using it every day. The children are doing well, and are adjusting to the house routines.

They are some of the seven new clients who were welcomed into the Reena 'family' in the past three months. We are delighted to report that they are all settling into their new homes, getting to know their housemates, staff and neighbours.

In memory of a wonderful man

By Mohamed Lalji, Resource Manager,
Day and Residential Services

On the morning of May 14, 2009 **Peter Kurrle** passed away at 17 Whittaker. Peter was a very special individual who came to Whittaker from Huronia Regional Centre in February 2007.

Peter was a remarkable individual with unique needs. Given his history at Huronia, I was concerned at the beginning during intake, of the possible challenges Reena would have once he moved to Whittaker. To my surprise, (or maybe not,) our staff went well above their usual genuine care, concern and professionalism to ensure that Peter received the best care. We at Reena are all very happy to know that he had the opportunity to live in the community.

My sincere thanks to supervisor **Simi Singh** and all the staff at Whittaker who were fortunate to have worked with Peter, for all the love and care they showed Peter.

Reena is grateful to all of you for the wonderful work you have all shown.

Peter was a wonderful man, who touched a lot of people. We will all miss him.

THANK YOU AND GOODBYE TO A SPECIAL VOLUNTEER

By: Mille Chadwick, Volunteer Coordinator

Albert Chung is a high school student who has volunteered with Reena's Outreach department over the past two years, most recently in the After School Program on Tuesdays. He is now leaving Reena to pursue his post-secondary education in the United States.

Albert expresses his thoughts on his volunteering experience with Reena in the following excerpts from an email he sent to me, and from his exit interview:

"It has been my great pleasure to volunteer at Reena. I have learned so much over the course of 2 years with the staff and the clients. Volunteering at Reena has forever shaped me into a better person.

"I just want to let you know that it has been a phenomenal experience at Reena that helped me learn a lot for myself and about myself. I think volunteering for the

long period of time helped me gain these insights into the meaning of such organizations as Reena and a new perspective of viewing human beings and society. I know of many young people of my age that volunteered at Reena to get community service hours and left shortly after, and I feel that they are missing the true meaning of their volunteer service at Reena. Thank you for giving me a great opportunity!"

Albert has been an exceptional volunteer. His hard work, dedication, and positive attitude have been much appreciated by both staff and clients, as evidenced by feedback from **Robyn Gibson**, an Outreach senior staff member:

"I can truly say he has

been one of the best volunteers Outreach has had in the past four years. I wish him nothing but the best."

On behalf of everyone at Reena, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Albert. We wish him every success as he moves forward. He will be missed here at Reena.



Albert Chung, (left) in conversation with program participant Filip Lazarevic

Human Resource Strategy for Developmental Services Update on Progress

By Joe Persaud, Manager, Learning and Development

In 2007, the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) hired a consultant to research recruiting, training and retaining people who work in developmental services (DS). At the same time, the Expert Panel on Training studied the best ways to build the skills of people who work in developmental service agencies. The Provincial Network on Developmental Services met with the ministry to examine the research of the consultant and expert panel. As a result, the ministry and Provincial Network decided to develop a human resource strategy for the DS workforce. The strategy was officially launched in March 2008 with a 10-year work plan. Over the next 2 years, the ministry will work with everyone in the DS field to design a creative and effective strategy.

Following the launch of the strategy, the Human Resource Strategy Steering Committee (HRSSC) and several sub-committees were created to plan solutions for the sector's following human resource (HR) needs:

- Determining basic values and skills – known as core competencies – for staff
- Ensuring consistent agency-based training across Ontario
- Developing the best HR practices
- Marketing careers in developmental services
- Recommending standards for education programs

The HRSSC and its sub-committees are comprised of members from across the DS field, including representatives from the ministry. Representation on these committees consists of sixty-eight (68) senior staff from fifty (50) organizations and nine (9) provincial regions ensuring that membership reflects the socio-economic, geographic and cultural diversity reflective of

the province. The vision, values and goals of the DS transformation will guide the work of the committees. The sub-committees cover the following streams of work:

- Agency Based Training
- Awareness and Marketing
- Best HR Practices
- Core Competencies
- Developmental Service Worker (DSW) Program Standards (Community College Program)
- Shared Interests (engaging and acknowledging unionized and non-unionized representation as stakeholders in the strategy)

Reena is represented on the HRSSC and several sub-committees by Sandy Stemp (Program Director), Joe Persaud (Manager of Learning and Development), and Michael Zroback (Manager of Human Resources).

By the year 2017, the HR Strategy will result in:

- A pool of qualified and engaged professionals supporting people with a developmental disability
- Consistent DS education, training and development programs across Ontario
- Advanced management skills across the field
- An association of professionals dedicated to serving people with a developmental disability

Success of the 10-year term for the strategy will be measured by Queen's University through an ongoing partnership with regard to evaluation and feedback. Please visit the MCSS website or click on the MCSS link from Reena's website to view *article in full.

*Excerpt from MCSS's "Spotlight on Transformation" Feb. 2009 bulletin summarized by Joe Persaud, Manager of Learning and Development

Canada Summer Job Program Doubles Funding

Reena would like to thank **The Hon. Peter Kent, M.P.**, for his assistance to Reena through the Canada Summer Job program. For many years, Reena has received grants through this program for four students who have performed a variety of tasks within the organization. Now, thanks to Mr. Kent, and his staff, we have been able to provide jobs for eight students – a 100% increase!

The additional funding will provide jobs to four students in Reena's Summer Recreation program. This

program provides quality recreation and social enrichment programs to individuals with a developmental challenge who live in the community with their families.

Thank you, Mr. Kent, for your continuing interest in Reena's efforts on behalf of people with a developmental disability, and on behalf of the young men and women who have been granted an opportunity to work at Reena this summer, we thank the Federal Government's Canada Summer Jobs program for the funding.

Video Success Story!!

By: Joe Persaud, Manager, Learning and Development

The Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) recently initiated contact with Reena to produce a video to feature Reena's Developmental Disabilities Counsellor (DDC) program as a "Success Story". MCSS personnel from their Marketing department visited Reena's Battle Centre on May 7th to interview some key people involved in the success of the program: **Norman Beck** (Reena service recipient), **Sandy Keshen** (President & CEO - Reena), **Georgia Quartaro** (Dean of General Education and Access - George Brown College), **Susan Edwards** (Manager - Montage), and **Joy Okpiaifo** (Reena full-time staff and former DDC graduate).

Our innovative pre-employment training model with the goal of attracting, training, hiring, and retaining new staff to make

developmental service a career choice has garnered us recognition from across the province (MCSS and The Provincial Network's HR Strategy for Developmental Services) and internationally (research conducted by Deloitte for MCSS). Also, our graduate employment rate upon completion of the program is approx. 95% and our overall retention rate for all graduates hired since 2003 (first DDC program offering) is approx. 90% - these statistics are just a couple of the key outcomes that attracted the attention from MCSS.

Thank you to all of you who participated in this successful video shoot and thanks to the Day Program supervisors (**Desmond McLean** and **Rob Scott**) and their staff for assisting with the logistical issues for the day. Along with the MCSS personnel, I was very impressed with

the activity in the building and the energetic staff supporting clients in the various program rooms.

A special thank you to staff members **Debra Waring**, **Stacey Donaghy**, **Sandy Toben**, **Clifford Walsh**, and **Shigemi Yoshimori** for their tireless dedication to their work. Also, thank you to the many Reena supervisors, their staff, and clients who have been involved in making this program such a successful training model. Our supervisors have filled many roles (instructor, preceptor, coach, and mentor) while maintaining their day-to-day responsibilities and that's a testament to their commitment to ensuring high quality supports for our clients.

MCSS plans to feature the video on their website and we are looking forward to receiving a copy of the end product to feature on our website too, so look for it soon!

Still Our Youngest and Littlest Volunteer

Although time marches on, our adorable little Alfie celebrated his 5th birthday at the Reena Battle Centre on April 22, 2009. His many admirers helped to blow out the candles and in gratitude, he treated them to a delicious piece of his birthday cake.

Alfie, a teacup poodle, has been charming our hearts for the last 2 years with his weekly visits. He is a certified Canadian Pet Therapy dog and is accompanied by his owner Lynn Best. Clients and staff enjoy the much needed love and affection Alfie brings. In fact, his visits are truly an important form of therapy for everyone at Reena and we look forward to his visits for many years to come. Happy birthday Alfie!



A parent's address to the Reena Board

cont'd from page 8

To my mind, safety in the home is a fundamental right but the social services agencies did not seem to have solutions, only obstacles. Once again, Reena came to our rescue providing us first with weekend residential respite and then helped us to partner with social services that could really provide us with assistance and most importantly they provided immediate ongoing residential respite upon discharge from hospital. Levi loves the group home, it is comfortable, homey, and the staff really know him and the word "no" is not in their vocabulary. There is always a solution. It is a comfort to know that when he is at the group home, Levi can continue to remain in his familiar Jewish community environment. I was so touched when one of the group home staff said that our son adds life to their home. I can honestly say that we owe Reena our life and our family remains intact because of Reena.

– Sarah Sherman

REENA VOLUNTEER SYBIL RABENOWITZ RECEIVES VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

By: Mille Chadwick, Volunteer Coordinator

Each year, the Ontario Government's Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration recognizes volunteers from all sectors through a number of programs. One of these is the Volunteer Service Awards, in recognition of continuous years of service with a community organization.

This year, Reena nominated **Sybil Rabenowitz**, a volunteer in Reena's Day Program, for a Volunteer Service Award. On April 20th in a touching and meaningful ceremony held at the Premier Ballroom & Convention Centre in Richmond Hill, Sybil was honoured with this award, and received a lovely pin and a certificate in recognition of her eight years of dedicated service to Reena.

Tali Nizic, Chair of the Reena Board of Directors, **Sandy Keshen**, President & CEO, **Arlene Margolese**, Manager of Faith & Cultural Services and Volunteer Services, and **Mille Chadwick**, Volunteer Coordinator, were all in attendance to share this special occasion with Sybil.

From the time she was a young child Sybil saw her mother volunteering, giving her time and effort to those in need, and at a very early age Sybil began to follow her mother's example. For as long as she can remember, Sybil was involved in volunteering in South Africa, her homeland.

Sybil began volunteering with Reena within three months of arriving to live with her daughter's family here in Toronto. Currently, she conducts a lively music program, managing to captivate and enthrall over 80 clients in Reena's Day Program each Monday morning.

Rob Scott, a Reena Day Program

Supervisor, comments: "Sybil is one of those truly exceptional people who come along once in a lifetime. A special thing happens when Sybil enters a room; she spreads a sense of joy, goodness, and belonging."

Sybil is truly an amazing individual and an outstanding volunteer. She celebrated her 90th birthday this year and is still going strong! On behalf of everyone at Reena, I would like to take this opportunity to express our admiration and appreciation to Sybil, for everything that she is, and for all of her accomplishments at Reena.



Sybil Rabenowitz left, with Tali Nizic, Reena Chair

City of Vaughan Volunteer Awards

Frank A. Wilson, Chairman of the Reena Foundation Board of Directors, proudly received the City of Vaughan Volunteer Award for his many years of service to the community. Frank has served on the Reena Foundation Board for over a dozen years, and is finishing his term as Chair in June. Frank will continue to serve on the Board as past Chairman and will head up the Human Resources Committee of the Foundation even while he becomes President of JNF Canada."



Frank Wilson receives award from Mayor Linda Jackson

Report of the Chair of the Reena Foundation Board

by Frank A. Wilson



It has been a great pleasure and my honour to have served as Chair of the Board of Directors of Reena Foundation for the past two years. The primary responsibility of the Reena Foundation, as a separately constituted corporation from Reena, is to raise funds to help Reena provide a better quality of life for people with developmental disabilities and their families, than would be possible through government funding alone.

The business of raising funds is a business of people and a business of trust.

I have had the privilege to serve with a Board of dedicated, caring and talented people that have truly made good things possible. I would like to specifically thank the various members of my Executive team.

Jeff Rayman has been the heart and soul of our fundraising success at the Foundation for more than the past decade. Jeff has always been willing to call anybody for anything because it was for Reena's kids. Jeff was instrumental in securing every one of the honourees for our past five dinners. He has served the Reena Foundation and thereby Reena's clients well and his departure from the Board will be felt deeply.

Irving Feldman and **Tobie Bekhor** have been the cornerstone of the planning and development of the biggest fundraising campaign Reena Foundation has ever undertaken. They have carefully assembled a first-class Fundraising Cabinet that will ensure the success of this \$18 million campaign. Anyone who has been involved in a significant capital campaign understands that they have put their lives on hold for the good of Reena's kids and for that we are truly grateful.

Leon Kieselstein, is the newest member of our Executive team and has quickly made an impact. Leon has served as Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee in a very challenging year both for our investments and for our fundraising. Leon has also become an active member of the Campaign Cabinet. Thank you Leon for everything you are doing.

I can't say enough about **Murray Klein**, our immediate Past Chair. Murray has served on the Board for over a decade and paved the way for the successes that we have enjoyed over the past two years. Murray has always been passionate and selfless in his commitment to Reena's kids. His calm counsel is always appreciated.

The youngest member of our Executive, **Steven Weisz**. Steven has been the heart and soul of creating a New Leadership Division of talented and energized young professionals that

will boldly take Reena into the middle part of this century. Steven's drive and commitment to the philanthropic and volunteer sectors in general and to Reena specifically are truly inspirational.

A very large part of the responsibility of fundraising is the stewardship of those donated funds – the careful management of investing those funds and the reporting back to our donors as to how the funds were spent. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to those people that have played a huge role in ensuring that Reena Foundation and our investment portfolio have done relatively well during this tough economic downturn. **Lorne Weiss**, Chair of the Investment Committee and his group of talented investment professionals on the committee have done a great job in managing a 4.1% return over the past year.

To a very special friend of the Foundation, **Al Libfeld**, thank you for your ongoing support and sage counsel. You have helped continue to keep us focussed and moving forward!

To every other member of the Boards that I have had the honour of Chairing over the past two years I would like to thank you for the difference you have made and most importantly for caring. Reena needs more ambassadors like you to get out into the community and, like our campaign slogan suggests, tell everyone you know that if we are to be a great society, there needs to be A Place For Everyone!

And thank you for the opportunity and the privilege of serving as Chair of the Reena Foundation Board. I truly hope that Reena may reach its full potential with new leadership throughout the organization going forward and may you go **from Strength to Strength**.

Youth Philanthropy at Reena Foundation

Project Give Back is a passion-based program designed for elementary students to develop empathy, build character, and ignite community minded citizens. Reena Foundation was delighted to know that two students from Netivot Ha Torah chose Reena for their project.



Rachel

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Rachel. I'm in grade 4 at Netivot Ha Torah Day School. I was assigned a project to explain what the charity I chose does and I chose the charity that touched my heart, Reena. I chose the Reena Foundation because I want to help people who are not as lucky as I am or you are. For my fundraiser me and my friends make a mock birthday party with lots of games! I hope what I've done helps the Reena Foundation. Maybe when I'm older I'll work there. Sincerely, Rachel

Reena Foundation is inspired by the leadership being shown by the youth of our community and proudly recognizes their activities and accomplishments.



Shira

Shira explained to her class what Reena Foundation does and why it is so important to her. She told them that she is very lucky and not everyone can be so lucky, so she wanted to do something for the Reena clients. She helped by getting her class to create plant kits that will be planted at the Reena homes.

Reena Foundation would like to thank both Rachel and Shira for thinking of Reena Foundation and for their generous support and creativity.

Guys Night Out 2009



Join us on Wednesday September 9 for Guys Night Out at Woodbine Racetrack.

Over the past six years Guys Night Out has raised over \$230,000 for the New Leadership Endowment Fund. Guys Night Out attracts over 300 professional males in the 30+ age group.

Event Features: • Prime Rib Buffet • Wagering on Horses • Silent Auction • Argo Blue Thunder Cheerleaders. For tickets or for more information please contact Dayna Bleeman at 905-764-1081 ext.30

Title Sponsor: Eagle

Race Sponsor: Whitley Financial

Table Sponsors: Goldman & Shapiro, HSBC/Deloitte, ISG Search, Manulife, Paradise Homes, ScotiaMcleod, SF Partnership, TES, US Tax Group, Arnie Unger, Wealthmore Financial Strategies Inc.

5th Annual Not Just Another Saturday Night

Held in the heart of Liberty Village the **5th Annual Not Just Another Saturday Night** attracted just over 500 young professionals from the greater Toronto area. Organized by the New Leadership Division hosted by the event's co-chairs **Sheri Becker, Esther Benarroch, Paul Bleier, Zach Goldstein, Adam Henechowitz** and **Steven Weisz**, at The Academy of Spherical Arts, the New Leadership Division raised \$20,000 dollars for Reena.

The night was kick started with a charity poker tournament. All proceeds from the buy-ins, the re-buys and the add-ons went to improve the quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities, whom the Reena Foundation supports.

From there the evening moved to cocktails, a charity raffle, and a silent auction featuring the works of Reena clients and the sale of jewellery and art by the likes of **Jessica Gorlicky**.

The venue was packed with the city's young people, schmoozing and dancing the night away; with live jazz entertainment and tracks spun by DJ **Perry Gilman** of Montreal.

Many showed their support for this worthy cause. For more information about The New Leadership Division for the planning of next year's event or to simply find out more information, find Reena Foundation – New Leadership on Facebook, or visit the main site www.reenafoundation.org.



Co-Chairs: L-R Adam Henechowitz, Esther Benarroch, Zach Goldstein, Sheri Becker and Paul Bleier



Co-Chair Esther Benarroch with print sponsor Charles Benarroch of Continental Press



Live paintings created by Jessica Gorlicky



Winners of the raffle.

Alex Eisen Society

Shelagh's Story

Shelagh Barrington has been a long time supporter of Reena. She joined the Reena Foundation Board in 1995 and has continued to stay active.

Reena first came to her family's attention when they began exploring the options of bringing her sister **Judith**, who had been living at the Huronia Regional Centre in Orillia since 1963, closer to the family. The family contacted a number of community organizations and in 1992 **Sandy Keshen**, Reena President & CEO suggested that Judith should attend a week long Reena summer camp to assess her capabilities and adaptability for a possible Reena group home placement. While other organizations were questioning a placement for Judith, Reena made it

their goal to find Judith a home.

When Shelagh was asked why it was so important for her to stay involved with Reena; her answer was very simply "I wanted to know the organization that is caring for my sister". It was important for her to stay connected to Reena as a way of staying connected with her sister.

By including Reena in her will, Shelagh hopes to provide a piece of steady funding for Reena. She explained that in Canada we expect the government to do it all and it is just not possible. "Governments can only do so much, we all need to step up and contribute where we can.

"Including Reena in my will is my way of planning for the future. Supporting Reena allows this

innovative organization to continue to provide support for families like mine. If your family member is being cared for by Reena, you are very fortunate. Please consider your commitment to Reena when planning your estate and help other families attain this wonderful goal."



Shelagh (r) with sister Judith

Chuck's Story by Gary Sim, Reena Foundation President



Charles Hopkins with his daughters Erin and Meaghan.

I recently had the great pleasure of spending some time with **Charles (Chuck) Hopkins** – an amazing individual who spends every day trying to make a difference in this world. Chuck is the father of two girls – **Meaghan** and **Erin**. Erin has called Reena "home" for the past 19 years.

Chuck is a retired school teacher / Superintendent in the Toronto school system, and today is a full time volunteer with the United Nations. He travels the globe trying to bring a quality of life to the millions of children who do not have access to any type of formal schooling. Pursuit of this passion means that Chuck only spends about 90 days a year in Toronto. He does ensure that he makes it home most Saturdays so that

Erin can spend time with him at his High Park area home.

As the newest member of the Reena Foundation's Alex Eisen Society, I asked Chuck what had motivated him to include Reena in his estate planning. He graciously consented to allow us to print his story in the hope that it would inspire others to do the same.

"When Erin was born, the doctors told us that she would never sit up and that she would not live beyond her teens. It was suggested that the best thing to do was to institutionalize Erin. We simply could not bring ourselves to do that. By age seven Erin was walking and is doing quite well for someone born with only one hemisphere of her brain.

"Being a widower, living at home was not much of a life for Erin. Reena has been a blessing for my family. When she lived with me I knew what she couldn't do. At Reena they continue to discover what she CAN do. Erin has had a much fuller life because of Reena, and I am thrilled that as a partner in her care she is home with me most weekends. And although Reena has the expertise I believe it is important to continue to play a role in Erin's life.

Reena has been so good to my family, when it came time to do some estate planning – to continue to look after things when I am gone – I really felt it was my turn to step to the plate and do something for Reena.

I am not a person of great means, I live on a fixed income, but I do have some equity built up. Including a provision for Reena in my estate planning is a good way of giving back to the organization that has cared for my daughter, without putting any undue financial hardship on my family.

I have left a gift for Reena in my will. I am in the process of setting up a family endowment fund so that I know the bequest will go to a fund that has already been set up. As a result of our meeting I would also like to look into taking out an insurance policy on my other daughter so that we can maximize the ultimate gift to Reena.

Over the years I have seen Reena continue to attract the very best leadership so I am confident that Erin and others like her will be in good hands for a long, long time."

Alex Eisen Society

Donating Life Insurance can be Very Powerful

by Larry Berdugo



Throughout the many years of my involvement with Reena, I am often asked what is the “best way” to give to Reena?

There is no simple, easy answer to that. Organizations like Reena need funds to maintain their operations and for capital projects.

There are over 75,000 registered charities in Canada and the government continues to

reduce its level of funding to these organizations. Many of these charities are fighting for their lives and seeking ways to facilitate donor giving programs.

There are many options that allow people to donate more to their favorite charity through smaller incremental amounts. In these circumstances we can implement a life insurance based planned giving program. Through the use of life insurance, one is able to increase the size of the gift as well as increase the size of the tax benefits to you.

How does it work?

There are many ways that one can make a gift of life insurance to a charity. One way is to purchase the policy and name Reena as the primary beneficiary. Alternatively, you can purchase and own the policy in your name and designate your estate as the beneficiary. Then within your Will, you can direct your estate to gift the funds to Reena. Finally, you can ensure Reena is the owner of the policy and you pay the premiums directly to the insurance company. Any of these methods might be suitable depending on what your goals and type of charitable receipt you would like to have.

What are the benefits to you?

All of the scenarios listed above provide varying tax benefits. If you elect to purchase or transfer the policy and name Reena (as I have done personally) as the beneficiary or your estate directs the funds to Reena, then Reena will issue a charitable tax receipt when it receives the funds (at the time of death). If Reena owns the policy and you are paying the premiums, Reena will issue a charitable tax receipt each year for the sum of all premiums paid that year. Either way, you receive a charitable tax receipt to be used against the amount of tax you owe.

Example

Mrs. Jones makes frequent donations to Reena. Even though she gives regularly, she would also like to give to Reena a special gift of \$100,000 upon her death. Life insurance is an effective way to plan for this gift.

The Insurance Solution

Mrs. Jones' personal information	Female, 64, non-smoker
Insurance product	Permanent
Death benefit	\$100,000
Personal tax rate	45%
Assumed life expectancy	Age 83

The cost of the life insurance is \$208 per month. By paying this amount, Mrs. Jones is guaranteed Reena will receive the \$100,000 gift.

As an alternative to permanent life insurance, Mrs. Jones could invest the \$208 into a taxable investment. Assuming the investment earned 6% each year, when she dies, the investment would be worth approximately \$71,000. By using life insurance, Mrs. Jones has been able to increase the size of the gift by \$29,000.

How to make your gift last

There are three different ways to donate a life insurance policy to a charity. The following chart summarizes the tax benefits associated with each alternative:

Owner of the policy	Beneficiary	Premium payor	Charitable tax credit derives from:
Charity	Charity	Mrs. Jones	Premium
Mrs. Jones	Charity	Mrs. Jones	Death benefit
Mrs. Jones	Estate	Mrs. Jones	Death benefit

Permanent Life Insurance – an excellent solution

- A great estate-planning product available for individuals between the ages of 60 and 85.
- Offers guaranteed premiums and a guaranteed death benefit.
- Premiums payable to age 100 with the policy remaining in effect after that.
- Various riders and additional benefits available, including: Accidental Death Benefit and Term Insurance Rider.

We would like to acknowledge the following members of the Alex Eisen Society

Edith Abramczyk	Leon and Fran Kieselstein
Shelagh Barrington	Malcolm Peake
Larry Berdugo	Freda Rubenstein
Alex Eisen	Honey Schipper
Susan Feldman	Mitchell Schnier
Charles Hopkins	Joe Weisman

Endowment Funds Securing Reena's Future

Establishing a family endowment fund is a magnificent way of creating your own legacy at Reena and a wonderful way of encouraging future generations to follow in your philanthropic footsteps.

Melvin Yale Katz Family Fund

When the Katz family lost their beloved Melvin they decided to direct all memorial donations to Reena. Once they realized they had raised over \$5000 they decided to establish the **Melvin Yale Katz Family Endowment Fund**. They choose to make the fund directly benefit S.I.L. Programming, but more specifically a pilot program that will begin in June. The pilot program will be a dance themed as a "sock hop", it gives the S.I.L. clients the opportunity to get together in a social setting and enjoy music and dancing with fellow friends. The Katz family is thrilled with their decision to fund this new initiative and plan to be at the first annual "sock hop"!



(l-r) Ann Szabo, Gary Sim with the Katz Family

Kazman Family Fund

The Kazman's have been supporting Reena for many years, but did so anonymously. It wasn't until recently they decided to open an endowment fund and show others what a wonderful way to give in perpetuity. Dr. Kazman believes the programs that Reena offers have enriched his son's life and have expanded his group of friends tremendously. He considers Reena a world class organization and the model for what other agencies should strive for.



(l-r) The Kazman Family - Dustin, Carol, Steve, Efram and Sandy

It was never about the recognition for Dr. Kazman and his family, but he wanted the community to know that because of donors and endowment funds like his family's, his son has been able to lead a fuller life and it has expanded his horizon.

Joel Schwartz Fund

It was a life changing experience when Joel Schwartz went on a Birthright trip to Israel. He came home with a sense of belonging and having a calm happy feeling inside that convinced him that he was part of the group. When Joel passed away a short time ago, Joel's parents decided to open an endowment fund in his honour, **Joel Schwartz Endowment Fund**, to pay tribute to their wonderful son. It was a natural fit for his parents to direct the funds to help other individuals like Joel to go on Birthright with a shadow and share the same positive experience. "They invested in Joel, and as a result he had an amazing time not at the expense of anyone, and that was all I could have asked for", explained Julie Schwartz, Joel's mother. It was important for her family to make sure that others have the same positive experience and she wanted to express her thanks to Reena and the community for allowing it to happen.



(l-r) The Schwartz Family – Julie, Joel, Larry and Jonathan

Endowment Funds – Securing Reena’s Future

We are grateful to acknowledge the generous donors who have established the following Endowment Funds, which allow us to maintain and improve the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities.

CHAMPION - \$100,000 +	PATRON - \$10,000 +	Michaels Family Fund	Goose Family Fund
Morris & Beverly Baker Foundation Fund	Fern Aronoff Fund	Mayers Family Fund	Leslie Hartman Fund
David Esplin Fund	Bacal Family Fund	David J. Nizic fund	David & Molly Kelman Memorial Fund
Jenny Hammond Fund	Norman & Fay Bacher Fund	Rayman Family Fund	Joshua, Zachary & Catherine Machado Fund
New Leadership Fund	Barrington Family Fund	Ed Richmond Fund	Frances O’Leary Family Fund
Bert & Marilyn Raphael Advocacy Fund	Mayda & Max Beck Fund	Trevor Rosenberg Fund	Peake Family Fund
	Binder-Peckman Education Fund	Ross Family Fund	Stu & Fay Rotman Fund
	Michael & Tillie Blinder Fund	Schwartz Family Fund	Frank & Elaine Simkevitz Family Fund
PARTNER - \$50,000 +	Paul Cantlie Fund	Helen Unger Fund	Teper Family Fund
Martin Goodman Fund	Jolene and Morris Carrady Education Fund	Weisman Family Fund	Morris & Fay Vanek Fund
Bernice Guziker Fund	Roslyn & Norman Climans Fund	Wilson Family Fund	Ernie Weiss Family Fund
Irving & Sylvia Ungerman Fund	Laura Cohen Fund	Frank & Judy Wilson Fund	Weizenberg Family Fund
Stevie Gottlieb Fund	Phyllis & Irving Feldman Family Fund	Morris & Mary Yuchtman Family Fund	
Reena General Fund	Sybil Goldberg Fund	Whyne/Karp Family Fund	DEVELOPING FUNDS
Jon Sherkin Fund	Rose & Max Goldenberg	LEADER - \$5,000 +	Les Agasee Fund
	Hanigsberg/Sossin Fund	Abramowitz Family Fund	Robert Berdugo Fund
BUILDER - \$25,000 +	Susan Harris & Daivd Kassie Fund	Leane Begley Fund	Sandy & Jerry Brooks Fund
Joe & Helen Berman Fund	Diane Harris Fund	Allen & Judy Berg Fund	The Canada Israel Experience Fund
Catalano Family Fund	Morris Henechowitz Fund	David & Deborah Breslove Fund	Pearl Goldstein Continuing Education Fund
E.B. Esplin Fund	Justein Family Fund	Les & Bertie Bulkin Fund	Jesion Family Fund
Rebecca Farb Fund	Angela Iannuzziello Fund	Ted B. Chester Family Fund	Melvin Yale Katz Fund
Rienne Fleischmann Fund	Aaron Murray Keshen Music Fund	Durigon Family Fund	Kazman Family Fund
Kenny Freeman Education Fund	Kieselstein Family Fund	Harry Edelstein Fund	Irving & Anita Marcus Fund
Helen Levin Fund	Al & Sheila Libfeld Fund	Eiley Family Fund	John and Fanni Rev Fund
Rose & Manny Lipman Fund	Donald Lipman Fund	Alex, Olga & Marvin Eisen Fund	The Occupational Therapy Fund
Morrison Family Fund	Liss Family Fund	Epelbaum Family Fund	The Wachsberg Family Fund
Fred Samuels Fund	Jack & Pearl Mandel Fund	Ethel & Hirsch Erdle Fund	
Jordan & Sandi Soll & Family Fund		Lipa Fleising Fund	
		Alex Flomen Memorial Fund	

Report of the President

by Gary Sim



This past year has clearly been a year of challenge for everyone! The economy is going through a recession unlike any experienced in the past 70 years! Corporations that were once considered rock solid are seeking bankruptcy protection. Individuals have seen their life savings and retirement funds severely eroded.

But these are not the worst of times.

Yes, Reena Foundation has experienced a downturn in fundraising results but the lack of results were more a result of the careful planning for the upcoming campaign than an unwillingness of our constituency to support Reena's needs. It has been very refreshing to hear the positive response from you, our donors, to the plan to build a new residential complex on the Lebovic Campus.

It has been inspirational to our Campaign Cabinet to know that despite personal setbacks, our constituents

understand the real need to build housing and services for people with developmental disabilities. And it is very exciting to hear more and more people and companies talking about the need to champion this sector.

We remain very positive that the current year is going to be the very best fundraising year in Reena Foundation's history. The project has attracted the very best in leadership. It has attracted the interest of community leaders never before involved with Reena Foundation. It has already drawn significant new donors as well as old friends.

We are truly excited about the project, its implications for a dramatically different Reena once completed and yes, a very different fundraising organization in Reena Foundation. The future is bright.

For Reena Foundation – these could easily be considered the best of times!

Join the Reena Team at the Scotiabank Waterfront Marathon

by Barbara Smiley-Goldman

On September 27, 2009 I will be participating in the Scotiabank Waterfront Marathon in support of Reena Foundation. The event consists of a marathon, half marathon and a 5km walk/run. As team captain I am asking you to join my team and help reach our goal of raising **\$10,000 for Reena's Respite and Enrichment Programs.**

"My son Josh, who was diagnosed with Autism when he was three years old, has been involved with the Reena for the past couple of years. He has participated in their summer camp for the past 2 summers and has also participated in their March break camp. Under the wonderful care and guidance of the staff I truly believe that my son's life has been enriched in so many ways. He looks forward to coming to the center and feels loved by all of those who offer him guidance, and most importantly unconditional love and support" Barbara

Smiley-Goldman, Reena Team Captain.

The Scotiabank Waterfront Marathon attracts over 12,000 runners each year with wonderful incentives for all participants. It is important to stress that the run is only competitive for those that want it to be. It is a "fun run" meant for everyone and we encourage all runners, of all levels to join the Reena team with two goals in mind – to raise awareness for Reena in the province and to help support a wonderful organization that without our help would not be able to reach out to so many who need our help.

By signing up you are bringing us one step closer to our goal. Just remember, no matter which distance you participate in, your fundraising makes a difference! Please help us make this event a truly exciting one for all.

Call the Foundation office at 905-764-1081 ext.34 to sign up.

Thank You to Our Donors

The Donor Recognition List below reflects cumulative gifts of \$36 or more received from **March 1st to May 31st 2009**. We thank all donors for their generous contributions including those requesting anonymity. Our Honourial and Memorial card program at Reena Foundation continues. What better way to say Mazal Tov or convey condolences than with a contribution to Reena Foundation? Cards are available from \$10 each. If you wish to make a donation, please call Reena Foundation at (905) 764- 1081, ext. 34. We apologize for any errors or omissions. To help us correct our records, please call the Foundation office, at the number above.

Patron - (\$10,000.00 +)

Mr. and Mrs. Marshall W. Gottlieb
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wachsberg

Leader - (\$5,000.00 +)

Eagle Professional Resources Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Irving Feldman
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Leboff
Melyka Inc.
Mrs. Helen Rosen
Secutor Capital Management
SF Partnership, LLP
Chartered Accountants
Mr. and Mrs. Joel Vale
Herschel Victor Foundation
Mr. Stephen Farb
and Ms. Esther Yermus
Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Yudell

Benefactor- (\$1,000.00 +)

The Benjamin Foundation
Continental Press
Dorvict Resource &
Consulting Centre Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Ron Hoffman
IBM Employees' Charitable Fund
Immersion Media
Jewish Foundation of
Greater Toronto
Mr. David J. Kassie
and Ms. Susan Harris
Mrs. Sandy Keshen
Mr. and Mrs. Murray Klein
Lagover Mutual Benefit Society
Samuel & Rose Levy
Charitable Foundation
Merrick Wealth Management Inc.
Miller Bernstein Greenwood LLP
Stevpar Construction Limited
Mrs. Hellen Stollar
Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Sussman
The U.S. Tax Group Inc.

Guardian - (\$1,000.00 +)

Mr. Donald Bennett
Mr. Larry Berdugo
Mr. Barry Corbin
Fogler, Rubinoff
The Harold & Ethel Freeman
Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Allan Garber
Mr. Eric Kert
Mr. Norman E. Kraftchuk
Dr. and Mrs. Martin Kushner
Mr. Dean Lazer
Mosiack Lodge Benevolent Fund
Mr. G. Investments Limited
Ontario Bar Association
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Sherman
Mr. and Mrs. Jay Swartz

Friend - (\$100.00 +)

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Abraham
Mr. and Mrs. Meyer Abramczyk
Mrs. Ethel Abramowitz
Mr. and Mrs. Claude Abrams
Act II Jewellers
Mr. and Mrs. Leo Adler
Mr. Alan Alber
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