



Kolreena

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

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Report of Annual General Meeting

by Minnie Ross, Manager, Communications

As usual, Reena's Annual General Meeting was well attended by family members, Reena supporters, volunteers, clients and staff. **Morris Zbar**, Senior vice-President UJA Federation was the guest speaker at this year's meeting which took place on June 27th at the Toby and Henry Battle Developmental Centre. He spoke about the exciting Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus under construction at Bathurst Street just south of Major Mackenzie Drive - a city which is taking shape through the vision of UJA's TOMORROW Campaign. The city will serve the increasing needs of York Region's growing Jewish population. It will be infused with learning and education; it will be a city for families to meet and participate in community centres; and will include a community



Helen Vale, Chair of Reena Board, presents a Reena pin as a token of appreciation to Morris Zbar, guest speaker

residential building for people with special needs. Mr. Zbar expressed the high esteem in which the UJA Federation regards Reena's work in the community and looks forward to a strong Reena presence at the Lebovic Jewish Community Campus in the near future.

In her Chairman's report, **Helen Vale** thanked volunteers, staff and supporters for their contribution to a year of growth and achievement and for enhancing the lives of the clients who benefit from the diverse programs at Reena.

Presentation of Awards

The Chair presented three special awards: a Lifetime Achievement Award to **Harley Mintz**; the Spiritual Inclusion in the Community Award to **Rabbi Philip Scheim** and the Rabbi Kelman Humanitarian Award to **Dr. Robert Heyding**. **Robert Lesser**

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Helen Vale presents the Lifetime Achievement Award to Harley Mintz

Report of Reena President & CEO

by Sandy Keshen



Baycrest Geriatric Services which will enable individuals to come directly from an institution to their centre for long-term care. We are negotiating the move of two ladies currently in the Huronia facility to move into the Baycrest Centre. Reena has been planning this move for some time and our expertise with developmental disabilities will serve as a resource to Baycrest in carrying through the move and ongoing wellbeing of the clients in their new environment.

Reena is fully in accord with the Ministry of Community & Social Services' (MCSS) commitment to make sure that all facilities will be empty by 2009 and is working with agencies in the regions of Toronto, York Centre and Hamilton/Niagara to make this happen.

Working with MCSS to create more residential options.

In Spotlight on Transformation, a bulletin from the MCSS, the Ontario government sets out its guidelines for creating more residential options for community living. The goal of Ontario's developmental services transformation is to provide adults with a developmental disability with more residential options so they can live independently within their communities. Reena is working closely with MCSS to make this cornerstone of transformation a success, as it puts in place a solid foundation – the building blocks of which are a common application tool, application centres, and a funding framework.

Application package pilot project A tool towards transformation

Reena has been chosen as one of a small number of DS agencies in the province to participate in a pilot project to implement a new application form and assessment tool to apply for supports and services funded by the ministry (Supports Intensity Scale – SIS.) This will result in a more consistent and reliable application process provincially. Three Reena staff members, newly trained as interviewers, completed 45 client interviews in Phase I of this project. We have had an additional three interviewers trained and Reena is committed to complete 51 client interviews when Phase II is scheduled to end August 31st. Phase III begins in October 2007 and Reena is committed to complete 154 client interviews by the end of the fiscal year.

Helping families plan for the future

Connections, was written in 2006 as a guide to transition planning for parents of children with developmental disabilities in Toronto and York Region. Reena is collaborating with the Connections' authors, York Support Services

Coming home to the community

We at Reena are delighted with the successful relocation this year of the large number of individuals from institutions to Reena homes in the community. Thanks to the diligent and caring attention of our front-line staff, the clients are thriving in their new homes. They have had the opportunity to re-connect with their families and make friends with their neighbours. Reena is currently in the process of receiving a further 10 new clients from institutions in the coming months.



New partnership with Baycrest

Shopping in the community for the very first time. Centre for Geriatric Care

In past years we collaborated with agencies such as Cummer Lodge when it was necessary to transfer a client from a Reena home to a long-term care setting. Today we have created a working partnership with

Reena lends a helping hand

The Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) has asked Reena to become involved with a small Jewish agency in Hamilton that needs assistance in strengthening its operation. As we have done in the past with

agencies such as Surrex, Home Again and Chai Tikvah, we are always willing to share our knowledge and expertise to help others. We are working with the Hamilton group to develop a broader range of supports, to be creative with their resources and to build leadership.

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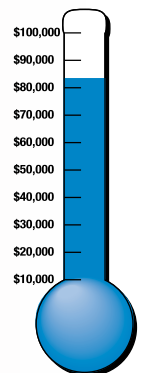
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Ungerman Campaign Surpasses \$83,500

Irving Ungerman's campaign to raise \$100,000 in support of the Ungerman Sports Complex at Reena as well as the programs that take place within that facility continues to attract funds. To date, over \$83,500 has been raised. In addition, Howard and Cindy, who recently married, asked friends and family to direct their gifts to the Ungerman Campaign. They have raised in excess of \$8,000. Howard's son-in-law, Michael Switzer,

threw a party on August 29, The Michael Switzer Client Appreciation Night. Proceeds went to the Ungerman Campaign. The event was located at the new Active Kids Zone and featured sports, games, dance games compliments of VIBE Dance Studio and a raffle.

All proceeds from the campaign will go towards purchasing and replacing equipment for the Ungerman Sports Complex at Reena.



Thank You to Our Donors

The Donor Recognition List below reflects cumulative gifts of \$36 or more received from June 1st to August 13th 2007. 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.

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Reena clients walked for Israel Day under the UJA Inclusion banner.

Network and Surrey Place Centre to develop a training tool to help parents plan their family member's future needs and to move towards greater self-reliance. **Connections** can be accessed on Reena's website: www.reena.org. (see Publications.)

Outreach Programs

Reena's Outreach programs have continued to flourish. The number of participants increases each season and the programs have successfully taught clients valuable social skills through interesting and fun activities. The growth of these programs has created an increase in our cost centres that is cause for concern as we plan for the future. Outreach programs do not receive any government funding. Many families are not in a position to sustain higher fees and to maintain the quality and excellence of the programs we depend heavily on fundraising in the community. Reena is deeply appreciative of the Reena Foundation that has granted a portion of the dollars needed to continue the programs that mean so much to the

participants and their families.

Appreciation and best wishes

I am delighted to have this opportunity to express my appreciation, and that of the entire board of directors to our loyal, dedicated and long-serving volunteers who continue to be the life-blood of our agency. Their contribution to every Reena program - from direct support to our clients, in administration, serving on

committees and board of directors - have helped our organization to grow and flourish. In particular I would like to thank all those wonderful teenagers and young adults whose energy and caring have made our Outreach programs so inviting and valuable to the participants. May the coming year be filled with good health, happiness and peace.



Reena clients love to party!

Report of the Chair of the Reena Board

by Helen Vale



I am delighted to have this opportunity to welcome Reena's new board members, **Donald Bennett, Al Libfeld, and Elaine Norris**. I look forward to working with them in expanding Reena's presence in our community. As board members they are involved on one or more of Reena's committees. We welcome members of the community to also become more involved with Reena through serving on one of our committees and look forward to hearing from you.

Ongoing challenges facing the

developmental disabilities sector

While the Government's recent investments and initiatives were a good first step, our sector remains at a critical juncture. Ongoing pressures include:

- Aging parents who are too old to care for their adult children with a developmental disability.
- Too many people are still without the supports they need to help them live successfully in the community
- Changing support needs among aging individuals with a developmental disability
- The cost of transforming the system
- A 25% wage gap between staff in the developmental services sector and service workers in other sectors.

Provincial government election

We have an opportunity this year to let our voices be heard by incumbent MPPs and those seeking election. In the coming weeks, we shall all be inundated with calls from campaigning candidates asking for our vote in the October election.

We know by your support of Reena throughout the years that you care for

the wellbeing of people with a developmental disability. When approached, we urge you to question the candidate and determine how he/she will support the developmental disabilities sector.

Furthermore Reena is developing a tool kit to help families to meet with their current MPP and **express their concerns**. It is a very extensive package containing letters of introduction, meeting preparation guide, background information, suggested questions, etc. We encourage **members of the community** to join the Reena team, **meet with your MPP** and make your voice heard on behalf of our clients. Please call Minne Ross at (905) 763-8254 ext. 3024 to receive this kit and help us elect a caring and supportive government.

Shana Tova

On behalf of the Boards of Directors of Reena, Batay Reena and The Reena Foundation, I wish you and your loved ones a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year .

Welcoming three new Board Members



Al Libfeld has been involved with Reena for the past six years, serving on the Reena Foundation board of directors. Al's expertise in

building and property management will be of great value to the Reena board.



Elaine Norris is a teacher with a degree in Special Education. She serves on the Special Education Advisory Committee of the Toronto

District School Board and is a community liaison representative on the Autism Society of Ontario, Toronto Chapter. Elaine also is a member of Reena's Family Involvement Committee.



Donald Bennett is a Chartered Accountant and has served on a number of community boards. He has been elected to

serve as Treasurer on the Reena Board and brings a wealth of experience to this position.

Report of the President *continued from page 10*

On November 1 the New Leadership Division will launch a new fundraising event – Taste Matters. This event is targeted at young professionals, giving them an evening of wine sampling and good food at the Design Exchange. Thank you to co-chairs **Stephen Adler, Lisa Bradburn, Lori Gilis and Adam Zalez** for their dedication to making this unique event a reality.

Ladies, circle your calendars for November 15 when Reena will launch its first Breakfast & Learn event featuring the renowned **Margaret Trudeau**. My special thanks to **Heather Goose** for her leadership in launching this event as well as her Co-chairs for the event, **Danielle Goose and Sheila Libfeld**. We are most excited to be able to add this event to our portfolio.

Of course, the fall will be a time when we intensify our efforts through direct mail and telethons to raise money in support of Reena's Respite Programs. We will begin with our direct mail in September and we look forward to a very successful telethon in November under the chairmanship of **Ricky Brooks**.

The fall is going to be very busy and we are going to raise a lot of friends and money for Reena. It is made possible because of the dedication, talent and energy of a very committed group of volunteers who give freely of themselves for Reena and the people we serve. I hope I have not omitted any of the chairs of the various efforts but there is literally an army of people behind this leadership to whom we also owe a very big debt of gratitude.

Host an event in support of Reena

Everyone has their own reasons for giving and everyone has their own ways to give. The dedicated fundraising efforts of individuals, small businesses and major corporations help fuel Reena Foundation – and bring some fun, a shared sense of purpose and an even stronger community. From lemonade stands to golf tournaments, show your commitment, creativity and compassion to help integrate individuals with developmental disabilities into the community now and in the future. Hosting your own event is easy. For information on how to host your own event, please contact Reena Foundation at 905-764-1081 ext. 34.

Endowment Funds – Securing Reena's Future

Reena Foundation thanks and welcomes **Sanford & Gerry Brooks** and **Les & Gertie Bulkin** who have chosen to create their own Endowment Funds.

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THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY FUND

The New Leadership Division

New Leadership was busy this summer ramping up for a very exciting fall. We are pleased to welcome 5 new members: Leah Carr, Shirlee Harel, Matthew Henechowitz, Jonah Midanik and Andrew Stulberg. We are also very pleased to welcome Lisa Bradburn to the New Leadership Executive.

On September 19, the popular Guys Night Out event will take place at Woodbine Racetrack. It offers a great night out for the gentlemen, prime rib buffet, wagering on horses and silent auction, all in support of Reena's respite and enrichment programs. Tickets are almost sold out, so get them while you can.

New Leadership is excited to announce the newest event to Reena Foundation's repertoire, Taste Matters, on November 1 at the Design Exchange. During the evening, two hundred guests will sample vintage wines and gourmet food while being entertained by accomplished and inspiring jazz musicians.

For more information about our events or to join New Leadership please contact the Foundation Office at 905-764-1081 ext. 34.



The Young Leadership Award is awarded to Dayna Henechowitz by Murray Klein.



The New Leadership Division

Are you looking to get involved, on a volunteer basis, with a group of young professionals?

Would you like to create a brighter future for individuals with developmental disabilities?

The Reena Foundation is seeking young professionals to develop a unique and entrepreneurial style of philanthropic leadership. Our goal is to build a network of leaders to work closely on new and existing fundraising events and programs.

Thank you from the executive,

*Stephen Adler, Lisa Bradburn, Adam Henechowitz,
Melissa Kelman, Mira Schwartz and Steven Weisz*

For more information please contact Dayna Henechowitz at 905-764-1081, ext.30

Visit us at: www.reenafoundation.org/newleadership.asp

Annual Meeting Report continued from front page

received the Board Member of Distinction award, and the Employer/Employee of the Year awards were presented to **Costco Wholesale** and to **Debora Kozoriz** who has been working at Costco for five years.

Welcome to new board members
Carolynn Morrison, Chair of the Nominating Committee thanked the outgoing board members, welcomed new board members for 2007-2008 and announced the appointment of **Tali Nizic** as Chair Elect for the coming year.

Treasurer's report
The Treasurer's report was presented by **Stanley Abraham**. He reported that for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2007, Reena had a surplus of \$93,443 which was largely the result of a one-time grant from the Ontario government. The grant is earmarked

for capital projects, such as the much-anticipated integrated apartment building and expansion of the Reena training centre.

The accounting firm of Deloitte &



Tali Nizic has been named Chair Elect of the Reena board for 2008-09. She is a long-term supporter of Reena and has

served on many committees including the Family Forum Committee, Family Involvement Committee, is a member of the Education Task Group and also serves as chair of the Continuous Quality Improvement Committee.

Touche was reappointed as auditors for the coming year.

Reena Foundation

Murray Klein reported that both the 2006 Gala Dinner in honour of **Norm Bacal** and the most recent dinner in honour of **Ellis Jacob** resulted in unprecedented funds, friends and awareness raised – restoring Reena's reputation in the community for gala Galas. Proceeds will support Reena's plan to build an integrated apartment building which will provide self-sustaining housing in greater numbers to people with developmental disabilities.

The Foundation also completed the campaign to build **The David & Luba Smuschwitz Reena ElderHome** (to be officially dedicated at the end of September 07); attracted many young adults to expand the fundraising activities of the New Leadership Division; and increased the number of

Endowment Funds which enhance Reena's Respite programs.

Murray thanked the outgoing board members, presented the Board Member of Distinction award, Family Philanthropy award, and the Young Leadership award to Ruth Berger, Tobie Bekhor, the Ellis Jacob family and to Dayna Henechowitz respectively. He then introduced Frank A. Wilson, the incoming Chair and wished him every success.

The meeting ended when a birthday cake was wheeled into the hall and we all sang Happy Birthday to a very surprised Alex Eisen, a long-time and dear friend of Reena, who was celebrating a very special birthday.



Rabbi Philip Scheim receives the Spiritual Inclusion in the Community Award from Helen Vale



The Rabbi Kelman Humanitarian Award is presented by Helen Vale to Dr. Robert Heyding



A smiling Robert Lesser receives the Board Member of Distinction Award from Helen Vale



Helen Vale presents Reena pins to outgoing board members Kenneth Beck (centre) and Wilfred Teper



(l to r) Helen Vale, Eles Filicetti (who receives the Employer of the Year Award on behalf of Costco Wholesale) and Debora Kozoriz, Employee of the Year Award recipient



Joe Persaud (r.) receiving the Trevor Rosenberg Scholarship Award on behalf of Neha Chopra from Valerie and Ed. Rosenberg

In the Ungerman tradition

By: Minnie Ross, Manager, Communications & Media Relations

Once again the Ungerman Family has demonstrated their long-lasting and ongoing support of Reena. Following the tradition set by his parents Irving and Sylvia, Howard Ungerman became deeply involved in Reena's work in the community on behalf of people with a developmental disability, and has been a champion of Reena for over 20 years.

Howard has provided leadership to Reena in many areas: first as Secretary to the Reena Board, then Chair of the Board from 2000-2002, and currently serves as Chair of Batay Reena, (the housing arm of Reena.) He has also been involved in fundraising activities.

Reena still holds a special place in Howard's heart because when he married Cindy Kirsch on July 1st this year, he asked his friends and family that, in lieu of wedding gifts, they could, if they so wished, contribute

funds to purchase sports equipment for the Irving and Sylvia Ungerman Sports Centre at Reena.

Thank you Howard and Cindy. Thank you for your generosity and thank you for being such special friends.



KINUS 2008

In June 2008 Reena, together with Tamir of Ottawa, will co-host the 4th bi-annual KINUS conference in Toronto.

"Kinus" the Hebrew word for gathering, reflects the purpose of this conference. KINUS is a gathering of Jewish service providers from across North America and beyond, who meet every two years to network, share best practices and work out solutions to problems encountered by all. In the past, members of KINUS have met in Detroit, Washington and New York. Attending this conference is not only a must for professionals, but for lay people as well, including parents, teachers, agency staff and students.

In June 2008, the KINUS conference in Toronto will centre on the theme of "inclusion," a major challenge for our clients, our agencies, and for the broader Jewish community. The committee is hard at work, planning a conference that will be thought provoking, enlightening and entertaining, with seminars, workshops and site visits highlighting the many agencies and facilities that Toronto has to offer.

KINUS 2008 aims to cover a broad spectrum of topics, highlighting how inclusion is achieved on many levels, through innovative partnerships with federations, agencies and synagogues, novel housing models, the appreciation and expression of arts and culture, full participation in religious and spiritual life, and opportunities for continuing involvement in social, recreation, employment and education throughout an individual's life cycle.

If interested in more information on this exciting conference, please call Arlene Margolese at 905-889-2690 ext. 2111 or email amargolese@reena.org. We welcome your participation.



Lucille Roch, deputy Minister of Community & Social Services, visited the Toby and Henry Battle Developmental Centre on July 17th where she met with Reena staff and clients. Sandy Keshen, President & CEO presented her with a plate hand-painted by a participant in Reena's Pathways program.

Get well wishes touched my heart

By: Marilyn Raphael

While I was confined to lying on the couch with my leg immobile, I received a package which brought such joy to my heart that it was worth the pain after an operation on my ankle. The package was filled with letters and cards lovingly written and drawn by my

daughter, Sherrie, and her friends in Reena's Sunday Friends Club. They expressed concern, friendship and love, and above all they were a testament to the patience and skill of the Reena staff who helped them to express their thoughts and put them on paper. I shall always treasure these cards.



Reena Foundation welcomes FOUR new Directors to the Board

Ricky Brooks

Richard is the managing partner of *Brooks Barristers & Solicitors*, a boutique business law firm located in Toronto, Canada which was founded in 1999 and which caters to entrepreneurial clients. Prior to founding, "*Brooks, Barristers & Solicitors*", Richard worked with Baker & McKenzie, an international law firm, and prior to that, with Goodman & Carr.

Richard was born and raised in Toronto. He and his wife Johanna have three children, Arielle, Leah and Max. Richard and Johanna have both been active in a number of charities in Ontario including UJA, JNF, Baycrest and Reena. Richard previously served as a member of Reena Foundation's Board of Directors.

Sheila Libfeld

Sheila Libfeld has been a long term and ardent supporter of Reena. She served on numerous gala committees over the years. Last fall Sheila actively participated in the telethon, raising considerable funds for her first time out. She is a member of the Batay Reena Board, and served on the Board of Reena for the past three years.

Sheila and her husband Al live in Toronto and have three wonderful children.

Richard Wachsberg

Richard Wachsberg is the Chairman of Apollo Health and Beauty Care, Canada's leading manufacturer and distributor of personal care products.

Mr. Wachsberg pursues several charitable enterprises and has supported the efforts of Reena annually since the early 1990's.

Mr. Wachsberg resides in Toronto with his wife, Nathalie and their 3 children.

Steven Weisz

Steven was born and raised in Toronto and graduated from the University of Western Ontario with a Bachelors degree in Economics. In 2000, Steven joined his family's building and development company; Paradise Homes Corp, which has been an industry leader in the GTA for over 35 years. As one of the Principals in the firm, he has been responsible for numerous facets of the development and land acquisition process in addition to overseeing the after sales service operations. Steven is on the State of Israel Bonds - Real Estate Division and has organized numerous fund raisers for this organization over the past two years. Steven joined Reena in 2005 and has chaired numerous successful events.



(l. to r.) Murray Klein, outgoing Chair, receives an award for his years of commitment on the Reena Foundation board. Presenting the award is incoming Chair, Frank A. Wilson.



Sharyn Jacob accepts the Family Philanthropy Award on behalf of the Jacob Family from Murray Klein.



Murray Klein, presents a Board Member of Distinction Award to Ruth Berger (Centre) and to Tobie Bekhor.

Report of the Chair of the Reena Foundation Board

by Frank A. Wilson



As the New Year approaches, I am very excited about the future of both Reena and Reena Foundation. There are many wonderful initiatives taking place at Reena as the organization continues to take a leadership role within the sector. Reena Foundation will do whatever we can in order to raise money, secure more friends and create more awareness, which will help achieve the very best for our clients and all those people with developmental disabilities.

Our new Board of Directors is full of promise for a brighter fundraising future and I look forward to working with each of our Directors and volunteers in raising more money for Reena. I especially look forward to working with Steven Weisz and the bright lights of our New Leadership Division. It is our desire to help train, motivate and empower this energetic and talented group of young people. This group are the future of Reena, our community, and they need and deserve all of our dedicated and enthusiastic support.

This fall, the Foundation will continue to focus its fundraising efforts on two significant priorities for Reena. The first of those will be to continue to target the \$4 million we need to raise in order to make the Integrated Apartment Project a reality. This

project will allow Reena to provide housing for an additional 30 individuals with developmental disabilities.

This is a truly unique project. It is a model of true integration. It allows us to quickly provide housing to a large number of individuals. It ensures a friendly landlord in perpetuity – Reena, and, it provides an ongoing inflow of funds from rentals that will endow programs supporting this population. This project is extremely vital given the lack of housing available and the critical level of need.

While the Integrated Apartment Project must proceed, the need for the Foundation to raise the funding for Reena's vital Respite and Enrichment Programs continues to grow. We continue to target and to raise the \$6 million in endowment funds to permanently fund these programs.

We will continue to successfully reach out and help individuals who truly need Reena, even in these challenging times. To do this, we need more donors, more volunteers and more people to truly care about those with a developmental disability. Please, help us spread the word!

In closing, from my family to yours, let me wish you and your families a Happy New Year, an easy fast and a sweet year.

Report of the President

by Gary Sim



As we enter the Fall, I am very excited about the various activities taking place at the Foundation and the line up of events we have in store. The Fall will kick off with Reena's 5th Annual Guys Night Out at the races. On September 19 we will have over 250 people gather for an evening of dining, camaraderie and wagering on the thoroughbreds, all for the sake of raising money for Reena's kids. Thank you to Co-chairs **Steven Weisz** and **Jonah Laist** and their entire committee for pulling together what will be our most

successful event to date.

On October 20, keeping with the racing theme, we will stage our 5th Annual Cooper/Stronach Dinner at the Magna Golf Club where participants are treated to an exquisite evening of entertainment and fine dining. Thank you to our hosts **Syd Cooper** and **Frank Stronach** for their amazing kindness and generosity, and to Co-chairs **Tobie Bekhor**, **Lily Litwin** and **Lorne Weiss** for their annual efforts on this very special event.

continued on page 13

Reena's Second Northland Program A Success!

By: Leora Kaizer, Program Coordinator, Outreach Dept.

In the second week of August our second summer at Camp Northland B'nai Brith in Haliburton came to a close. Our clients, ages 7-15, each enjoyed a one-week stay at the residential camp. A total of thirteen clients participated in the program over the course of the summer. They



Jillyan Farbstein coaches Noah Wolanski who is not daunted by the high rock climbing wall.

took part in water sports, games, a ropes course, and dramatic play. Although they slept in their own cabins, the integration was even more established than during our first summer. There were more dances, more swimming, and more integrated evening programs. After each session, the clients arrived back at the Battle Centre happy and tired.

A new milestone

A second program also came to a close. A new milestone was set - we launched a fully-integrated program where four clients spent all of Northland's second session in a cabin with Northland campers and staff. This program was supported by two Reena staff, which helped ease the transition. As with all new programs, there were growing pains, but in all the program was a roaring success. The Northland campers embraced our clients, and helped them to participate in every program. One



Brandon Osei and Michelle Mironov enjoy boating with program coordinator Leora Kaizer (right)

client was even given a starring role as one of the seven dwarfs in the end of summer production of Snow White.

Thank you

A special thank you to Camp Northland and their staff, as well as Reena's staff: **Alana Zinman, Alana Liberman, Jed Thomson, Mandi Koenigsberg, Sari Novack, Jillyan Farbstein,** and senior staff **Sari Shanoff** for all their amazingly hard work this summer.

Another Great Season of Bowling!

By: Nicole Resnick, Respite Coordinator, Outreach Department

Another great season of bowling has come to an end. This was a marvellous year for all of our bowlers. We attended tournaments where all of the bowlers played with great sportsmanship and grace. Throughout the season we celebrated the bowlers' birthdays, had a fun and exciting Chanukah party, and held a well-deserved bowlers' appreciation party. The end of the year barbeque was a relaxing event where the bowlers had the chance to socialize with their friends, win great prizes and enjoy a delicious meal. **Reena bowlers to represent the Toronto Region.**



I am delighted to announce that seven of our bowlers have been endorsed to participate in the Special Olympics provincial games representing the Toronto Region. This is



a great achievement. These bowlers are **Victor Henry, Hyla Rubenstein, Larry Weinstein, Harold Goldberg, Edna Marcus, Emmanuel Atencio and Lewis Rosenberg.** We wish them the best of luck.

A big thank-you to coaches **Ashleigh Orrett, Shane Tator, Michelle Anbar and Marlene Bowers,** the bowlers' families and support staff for all their hard work and dedication throughout the season.

Excerpt From:

Graduation Speech of the Developmental Disabilities Counsellor (DDC) Program - Class of January 2007

By Adedolapo Ogundipe

It is indeed an honour and a pleasure for me to be standing in your presence tonight to deliver this graduation speech on behalf of my class, the Developmental Disabilities Counsellor (DDC) Program class of January 2007.

It is wonderful to see all my classmates gathered here looking very radiant. I say this because the DDC program was a four-month training, unlike any other short-term program. It was four months of intensive, rigorous and challenging learning that in the end allowed us to acquire new skills and up to date information, and so many new experiences.

For me, the journey that has led to this wonderful day had an interesting beginning. Like most of my classmates, I had worked with healthcare agencies prior to coming to this program. On more than one occasion, I had found myself in situations where I was working with clients and issues arose and I did not know what to do, how to respond and exactly what was required of me. I was concerned about this; I had discussed my concerns with a friend of mine who happened to be a staff of Reena. She told me about a program put together by Reena in collaboration with George Brown College. She said she knew people who had attended the program and they all had wonderful things to say about it. She told me the DDC Program may be what I needed to acquire the right skills and information. I wasted no time. I came to the Battle Centre to find out more about the program. I got more information and decided right away

to pick up an application form. I filled the form and brought it back immediately, because for me time was of the essence if I was to continue in the field successfully.

Ours was a class of 35 students, students from different walks of life, all coming together as a class with the major objective of acquiring knowledge, skills and training necessary to work successfully with our client population. In saying what I am about to say, I know I speak the minds of my classmates, that the DDC



Program has afforded us all the opportunity and the privilege of learning so much. Knowledge as they say is power; this program has indeed empowered us to go out into the field not as mediocre staff, but as people who know their job, their responsibilities to their clients and that are willing and ready to support the clients in achieving their goals. We have had the privilege of being taught by very knowledgeable, experienced and focused instructors.

The class had a few challenges, as one would expect in a class of 35 adults, coming from different backgrounds and experiences, and with different mindsets. The beauty of it all is that we overcame those

challenges, we are the better for them and here we are today reaping the fruits of our labour. I would like to seize this opportunity to press upon my classmates that we should all go into the field as great ambassadors of the DDC Program. Let us be recognized and appreciated as a breath of fresh air in the field. Wherever we go, let them ask us, "where did you learn how to do this?" On a final note, on behalf of the DDC students of January 2007, I would like to thank all those who conceived the

idea of a program such as this and who ensured it became a reality. The seed that was sown has germinated, and it has grown to become a tree. A tree whose branches continue to grow and whose fruits, we, the class of January 2007 have become.

A special thanks to Joe Persaud, Manager of the Learning and Development

Department, to our Learning and Development supervisors, Debra Waring, Stacey Donaghy and Sandy Toben and to all our instructors. A big thanks to all the Reena staff, including the administrative staff and the catering staff.

A heart felt thank you to Georgia Quartaro and George Brown College and to all the partnering agencies: Montage Support Services, Kerry's Place Autism Services, New Visions Toronto, New Leaf: Living and Learning Together Inc., The Safehaven Project for Community Living and The Salvation Army Broadview Village.

We appreciate you all. Thank you ladies and gentlemen.

Dialogue on Stewardship

by Ron Coristine, M.P.A., Project Manager

Should older adults with a developmental disability move to long term care homes? The dialogue around this question is pivotal to clarity about inclusion and stewardship of public funds. People with a developmental disability are no longer sent to distant institutions. They now learn, live, work and play alongside everyone else. So too should they grow older in the community, congruent with the philosophy of inclusion, which has driven the de-institutionalization process for years.

Sometimes inclusion stalls as prejudice gets in the way of clear thinking about how to plan the transition to older adulthood for people with a developmental disability. Some LTC service providers have no previous experience with developmental

disability and are reluctant to accept them as clients. Some developmental service providers feel that older adults with a developmental disability should not use the long-term care continuum of services. The logical extension of this thinking would be to create a parallel system of services for older adults with a developmental disability. This would ignore the philosophy of inclusion and responsible stewardship of public resources. In effect, young people with a developmental disability would be unable to receive support within the developmental services system as it reshapes itself into a parallel LTC system.

While it is the norm to keep aging members at home as long as possible, the changes associated with aging can sometimes be too severe. At some

point, quality of life cannot be maintained despite everyone's best efforts. This is the tipping point, where consideration must be given to moving to a long term care home. However the tipping point need not be a crisis. It can be anticipated and sometimes delayed through effective transition planning to older adulthood.

The Ontario Partnership on Aging and Developmental Disabilities brings players in the long term care and developmental services systems to a dialogue on these issues. To date, the partnership has developed cross sector planning capacity, knowledge exchange, models of transition planning to older adulthood and several resource guides. The goal is to ensure quality of life and planned access to all services for seniors, including long term care homes.



MEMBERSHIP DUES NOW DUE

Now is the time to renew your Annual Membership in Reena.

Please note that membership fees still remain at \$36 for a yearly membership or \$250 for a 10-year membership. (Reena will continue to honour those supporters who became Life Members in the past.)

Members:

- may nominate persons for election to Reena's board of directors
- are invited to attend Reena's annual meeting
- receive Kolreena, Reena's quarterly news magazine
- are entitled to a 10% reduction on all items purchased at the Iannuzziello Family Gift Store and the Toby and Henry Battle Developmental Centre Greenhouse.

Please complete the membership for below.

Not yet a member? Simply fill out the form and let us welcome you as a member of the Reena Family.

I wish to help Reena - I wish to become a Reena member

\$36 yearly
 \$250 (10 years)
 Please indicate if you are already a Life Member

Name _____ Address _____ City _____

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Card # expiry date _____ Signature _____

Cheque enclosed in the amount of \$ _____

Please send the completed form to: Reena, 927 Clark Avenue West, Thornhill, ON L4J 8G6

Take out your calendar

SEPTEMBER 19, 2007

**Guys Night Out
Woodbine Racetrack**

SEPTEMBER 30, 2007

**Official opening of the David & Luba Smuschkowitz
Reena ElderHome
10:30 a.m. - 138 Weldrick Road West, Richmond Hill**

OCTOBER 20, 2007

**Magna Dinner
Magna Golf Club**

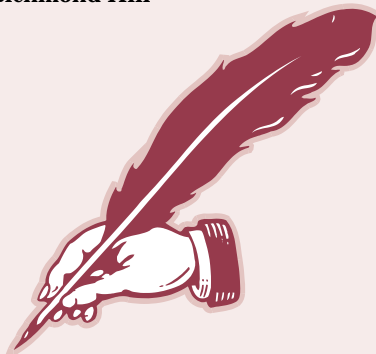
NOVEMBER 1, 2007

**Taste Matters
Design Exchange**

NOVEMBER 15, 2007

**Ladies Breakfast
Guest Speaker: Margaret Trudeau
Bayview Country Club**

**For information on any of
these events contact:
The Foundation Office
905-764-1081 x34**



Xolreena: A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
ABOUT REENA ACTIVITIES PUBLISHED FOR THE
FAMILIES, FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF REENA

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President Gary E. Sim, CFRE

* Deceased

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Sonshine Day filled with sunshine

By: Joe Persaud, Resource Manager, Learning & Development

The 2ND annual "Sonshine Day" appreciation luncheon at Paula Sonshine's home took place on Monday July 9th. It was a perfect day for a garden party and the weather certainly lived up to the name of host and the event. Paula generously and graciously hosts this annual luncheon in appreciation and recognition for all of the hard work and time that our board

members, committee members, and other volunteers offer to Reena. Their time and expertise is greatly appreciated. Thank you very much to Paula for her generosity and gesture of appreciation.



Hostess Paula Sonshine with her husband Barry together with some of their guests enjoy the sun at the 2nd annual Sonshine Day.

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