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connections

It's never too early to begin making life plans for your special child's future. That was the message stressed by **Rae Roebuck**, consultant and facilitator for the *connections* document. Rae was the guest speaker at an information evening held on Feb. 27, 2007 at Reena's Toby and Henry Battle Developmental Centre. Parents of Reena's outreach program participants were invited to attend and they filled every seat in the hall.

Connections is a how-to document which has been developed to help parents in Toronto and York Region plan as their child makes the transition from school life to adulthood. It provides information on transition planning and identifies some of the issues parents need to think about. It also contains information on accessing services in Toronto and York Region.

Parents attending the meeting were unanimous in their appreciation to Reena for giving them the opportunity to hear Rae's presentation. Over 120 pages long,

the *connections* document can appear to be daunting, but Rae took the audience through each segment of the publication which is written in a clear and easy to read style, defines steps to be taken along the way, and includes helpful 'tips.'

A note of caution

The *connections* document contains a paragraph of caution.

Having a transition plan in place however, is no guarantee that all the supports and services you have identified in your plan will be available to you in the adult system. The reality is that your child is moving from a

system of entitlement, (the public education system) to a system of limited and finite resources (adult developmental services).

The meeting was arranged by Reena's Family Involvement Committee which is chaired by **Wilfred Teper** and is part of a series of lectures, seminars, work-shops etc., which Reena holds throughout the year to share information with families.

A copy of *connections* is posted on Reena's website: www.reena.org/publications



(r to l) Rae Roebuck, Consultant & Facilitator for *Connections* document, Judy Coultres-MacLeod, Associate, and Wilfred Teper, Chair of Reena's Family Involvement Committee at the meeting held on Feb. 27th, 2007.

Report of Reena President & CEO

by Sandy Keshen



On Feb. 1, 2007 Reena was invited to make a presentation at a pre-budget meeting of the Provincial Government's Standing Committee on Finance, in Barrie, Ontario. I had

the opportunity to speak about current and future challenges facing families of people with a developmental disability, the need for additional funding and the critical need to recruit, train and sustain a strong work force for our sector.

Carolynn Morrison, immediate Past Chair of the Reena Board of Directors, parent of a Reena client, and untiring advocate on behalf of all people with a developmental disability, told of her family's experience thus far in the care of her son Lee. Her words touched her audience deeply and she has agreed to share them with you here.

We hear the words

By Carolynn Morrison

We hear the words "you are having a baby".

Our heart's are filled with joy and our minds race with the hopes and dreams that this child will bring.

The child is perfect! reaches each milestone on cue.

A daughter and a son, your world is complete.

During the "terrible two's" you notice the tantrums becoming more frequent and his speech does not progress beyond the echoic phase. It is difficult to keep him focused on an activity.

At the age of three we receive the diagnosis; our son has Autism. We are numb. The news would forever change the way we live our lives.

We look for services that do not exist.

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Report of the Chair of the Reena Board

by Helen Vale



Change is constantly taking place around us. Sometimes the tunings are not very noticeable and we take them in our stride. At other times however, the change is more overwhelming – and we don't know how we are going to cope with the new reality. We are all afraid of the unknown and tend to resist change. The best way to cope with inevitable change, is to arm oneself with knowledge and an open mind.

Fear of Facility Closures

Families were deeply worried that their child/sibling leaving their familiar surroundings in the institutions would be lost and unable to cope in the community. There was great fear of going from the comfort of the known to the uncertainty of the unknown. While their fear was completely understandable, the individuals have adjusted remarkable well. Reena is delighted to report that we have welcomed 25 individuals from institutions into our group homes and they are thriving - making friends – learning new skills. In addition, family members can now, more readily, visit homes that are located in the community and not in isolated locations.

Transformation of the Developmental Disability Sector

The transformation of the developmental disability sector, is a bold initiative of the Ontario Government's Ministry of Social

Services to allocate funding directly to individuals and their families. Our sector is at a critical juncture. As developmental service providers, we support the transformation agenda. Linking funding to individuals is the next step in developing responsive and adaptable community supports for the people we serve.

Reena is working closely with families, in a stabilized service system, to help them fully understand what transformation of the sector is going to mean to them and how to best access care for their family members. Over the past six months we have hosted a variety of seminars to address the various aspects of change. We have kept families informed about the government's initiative through mailings and family meetings. We will continue to arm our families with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions. We invite you to attend future seminars, and to feel free to initiate contact with Reena to address any questions you may have.

We both have careers and another child. It is exceedingly difficult to address the needs of our son. We make the decision to become a single income family.

When not providing care giving, much time is spent researching and resourcing information that would assist us to understand and work with this disability. At every turn it was discouraging to find that there were no answers.

We struggled to function as a "normal" family, responding to the many constraints of everyday life. When occasions arose that required both of us to attend we turned to my family for assistance and support. We created our own Respite Team.

When Lee was five years old my father died very suddenly. In an instant our Respite Team dissolved. During one of the most difficult periods of our lives we were forced to look outside of our family for assistance.

Thus began our journey through Autism.

Our son is physically perfect, a

beautiful child. He is verbal and very affectionate. However, all of this is overshadowed by the severity and length of his aggressions.

By fourteen our son is 6'4, and weighs 190 pounds. Each aggressive episode becomes increasingly more difficult to manage.

One terrible day I sustain some significant injuries. We realize that we are trying to control a situation that is truly beyond our control.

Once again our world is thrown into chaos.

How and where will we find the appropriate services for our son?

He is placed in a hospital with four-point restraints. Excessive medication is administered. We are frantic to find a solution.

We are given two options. Place him in foster care and he will receive services or press charges and he will be arrested and placed in a facility where he will receive services. For two parents who love and are committed to provide care for our son this is TOTALLY unacceptable.

Our hearts are broken.

During this crisis we work feverishly to find services. After hours of meetings and phone calls funding is provided and a placement is found fifty miles from our home. However, the organization does not have the expertise required to deal with Autism.

For five years we travel four hours each weekend to bring our son home. Of the 260 weekends we missed only 21. It was our desire that Lee be a part of our family and his extended family.

We discover the **Ontario government's** document "*Making Services Work for People*". The document stressed family involvement and the desire to keep clients geographically close to their home. **We did not realize that the initial funding that we had received was NOT transportable.**

Our family knows full well what "transformation" can mean. Through "transformation" families become empowered and can then make appropriate decisions and form the partnerships that will provide the desired services for their child or sibling.

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Welcome Barbara

by Maureen Ander, Resource Supervisor

Barbara Hudgin has now been living at 15 Lowesmoor for almost two months. Her transition from Huronia Regional Centre to Reena has been an altogether smooth one, thanks in no small part to the support of her primary worker, **Sandy Bartholomew** and the rest of the staff at Lowesmoor. Staff and clients have welcomed Barbara into our group home without reservation. She is finding her own 'space' in her new environment and we are still enjoying getting to know her.



Barbara Hudgin

In conjunction with the speech/language pathologist and occupational therapist who are working with her, we are optimistic that we can help Barbara open up her world of possibilities through adding to her sign language repertoire.

We are planning for Barbara to attend the Battle Centre Day Program, and looking at other ways to further expand her opportunities to socialize and experience life in the community.

Stay tuned.

Congratulations Danni

by Heda Mitchell, Support Worker

On Nov. 16, 2006, **Danni Lunsky** completed an eight-week Public Safety Group at Surrey Place Centre. To be selected for this group Danni went through an interview process without any assistance from staff. The group met every Thursday for eight weeks and was mediated by staff at Surrey Place Centre.

Accompanied by her primary worker, Danni embarked on the TTC subway filled with anticipation and questions. The group dealt with topics such as relationship circles which teaches about different types of relationships; safety when home alone;



Danni Lunsky

safety in public places such as the TTC or just walking down the street; and many other matters. Danni participated well and it became evident that Danni possesses good pedestrian skills.

At the end of the eight-week course, each participant received a certificate of completion. The goal now is for Danni to continue to practice what she has learned. Staff will encourage and assist her to incorporate these skills into her daily commute in the community. Danni's family and staff are very proud of her.

Keep up the good work, Danni.

Report of Reena President & CEO continued from page 3

With a team of twelve family members and friends we developed a Life Plan for Lee. We worked for over three years to secure our funding. We gratefully acknowledge all the assistance that we received from the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

With our funding in place we began to investigate and research all avenues of services. We sought to find a placement that would provide programs to meet our son's unique needs. It was essential to have qualified and well trained staff that could monitor and administer medication while meeting the ever-changing challenges of his behaviour. We desperately wanted him in a safe and caring community where he would be valued and supported and where our family could take an active role.

After careful study and thoughtful evaluation we determined that our son's complex and challenging needs COULD and WOULD best be met through a "transfer payment agency".

We have never for one moment regretted our decision!

There are two distinct factors. One is our partnership with the TPA in providing care and input into the services and programs that Lee receives. Two is the caring and committed staff that work daily with Lee and have now become a part of our extended family.

Our family knows what a daunting task it is to provide Lee's care. It is 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Over the years I have been Lee's Primary Care Giver, Play Therapist, Speech Therapist, Behavioural Manager, ABA Worker, Educational Consultant, Tutor, Nurse, Advocate Case Manager and MOM. All of this I might add was On-The-Job training.

Our sector is in desperate need of Staff Training and Development. There must be a standardize form of training. We must train each employee with the tools and skills necessary to provide services to this

distinct population. We must ensure that their training provides the necessary pharmacology instruction to enable them to understand the medication needs of their clients. They should receive on-going training to equip them to understand and develop strategies for behavioural changes.

Not only should they be well-trained but upon entering their chosen field they should be compensated on an equal scale with other areas of this sector. Only when they feel valued will we begin to see them remain working in this field.

Staff deserve the best training and compensation that we can provide and our children should not be required to settle for less.

I know that our family's story is but one of thousands that could be told. I have come before you today to speak on their behalf and for the children whose voices may NEVER be heard.

Thank you for your time and interest.

ElderHome 2 Opens Doors to New Clients

by Mohamed Lalji, Resource Manager

There was great excitement on Mon. Feb. 19, 2007, as **Mary Fisher, Joy Pont and Bernie Reisman** moved into their new home on Weldrick Road in Richmond Hill. The **David and Luba Smuschkowitz ElderHome** is Reena's second home built especially for seniors with a developmental disability. Although they will miss their housemates at Whittaker Crescent in North York,

Mary, Joy and Bernie are looking forward to meeting new friends and to enjoying the amenities which will suit their specific needs.

One week later, Leonard A. and William M. arrived from HRC (The Huronia Regional Centre). They were welcomed with open arms and we have made great plans to introduce them to the community. More individuals from HRC will follow

later in the spring and once **Charney Wuls** moves in from Ruden, our numbers will be complete.

When we have settled in, we will have an open house and we hope to see you all there then. In the meantime, on behalf of **Laurie Bertin-Keller** and myself, I thank all of you who have assisted us in the plans leading up to the opening of the home. It is very much appreciated.

Reena Client Mourns the Cottage Program

by Ryan Garnet

I had a great time at the cottage program. We went on a lot of outings and we hung out at the cottage. It was a lot of fun and we had great staff at the cottage. We went in to town it was a long drive to the cottage and we decided what to do in the mornings. We had the van every day. We had an amazing time at the cottage so please bring it back, it would make me very happy to have it back. Can you please put this in the Kolreena in the

next issue. I would like the cottage program back I really miss it a lot.

For next Summer I would love to go to

1. VEGAS
2. Florida
3. Miami beach
4. Mexico
6. Hollywood
7. Casino

Please lets do it for next summer.



Ryan Garnet

If you have not yet completed your plans for
PESACH SEDERS
and want to perform an important
MITZVAH

please consider leading a **SEDER** at a Reena group home for individuals with a developmental disability or invite a Reena client to your **Family Seder**

Monday evening, April 2, 2007

or

Tuesday evening, April 3, 2007



For further information please call: Arlene Margolese, Manager
Volunteer Services, Faith & Cultural Services 905-889-2690 ext. 2111

Towards a better future...integrating people with developmental disabilities into the community.

Reena Volunteer a Thornhill Local Hero

Reprinted with permission from *The Thornhill Post*

I've spent all of these years learning from staff and clients
and I think I get so much more back than I put in."

For some the path to volunteerism is difficult, but for **Risa Feldman**, it was just a simple matter of walking out her back door.

Feldman, who lives in the Bathurst Street and Steeles Avenue area, has become one of the most dedicated volunteers at Reena, the non-profit agency located directly behind her house. Reena provides programs and services to people with developmental disabilities in order to help them better integrate into society.

Feldman recalls how she first became involved with Reena eight years ago. "I watched as the home was being built," recalls Feldman, "and I thought maybe one day I would just pop in or give them a call." When she took time off from her work as a medical office assistant, Feldman at last got the chance to see what Reena was all about.

"I was basically there, at first, just to assist in the programs and help the staff, and I only intended to volunteer for six months," Feldman says.

Having had very little experience dealing with special needs people, she initially found herself intimidated by the different ways in which clients interacted with staff and volunteers. "When people came up to me right away and didn't follow the social rules I was used to, I thought, 'I'm not so sure about this!'" says Feldman. Yet she quickly became comfortable

with the clients at Reena, and cultivated a niche for herself as the Reena storyteller. "I started reading them books because I love to read, and what I found was that they loved it too," she says.

Feldman began to stop by the library across the street before each of



Risa Feldman reads to a participant in Reena's Outreach Program.

her shifts, grabbing four or five books to read to the clients. "Initially, I read to the young adults, but when I continued with the older adult groups, I saw that everyone loves to be read to." When Feldman is reading, staff at Reena get to take a break from their busy, action-filled days, and listen along with the clients. And during the story sessions, clients are certainly not just passive listeners. In fact, Feldman's readings usually inspire a great deal of discussion among clients and staff alike. "It is about much more than story time,"

says Feldman. "We talk about current events, the weather, the highs and lows of our lives – anything that comes up."

Contrary to what many would expect, Feldman is reading to a discerning audience. "It's easy to think you can read anything and

people with special needs will just sit back and listen, but I've found there's a difference between finding material that engages them, and reading something that is not relevant," she says. Occasionally, when she's in a hurry, Feldman has picked up the first library book she sees, only to then be told she's selected a dud. "I really do have some critics on those days," she says, laughing. The challenges of the role Feldman has chosen for herself extend beyond

making an appropriate literary selection. "Some days it can be challenging to get everyone to listen," Feldman says. "But I've learned to use teaching strategies to try to get them to settle down."

Still, on days when story time fails, Feldman has learned not to take it personally. "I try not to be hard on myself now, and the more time I spend at Reena, the easier my work gets." She says. I've spent all of these years learning from staff and clients and I think I get so much more back than I put in."

Developmental Services Appreciation Day a First in Ontario

On Jan. 17, 2007 the Atrium at the Toby & Henry Battle Developmental Centre was the site of an event which was being replicated simultaneously in 51 social service agencies across the province of Ontario. It was organized by OPSEU and each host agency, to thank all the members of the front-line staff for their outstanding dedication to the people they care for daily.

Michael Zroback, Manager, Reena Human Resources Department, introduced Reena support worker **Chris Moore**, President of OPSEU Local 554, who has been working tirelessly on behalf of Reena staff, to speak on behalf of the union.

Chris expressed thanks to all who had come to support the first ever Developmental Services Appreciation Day. "From Windsor to Ottawa, from Thunder Bay to Kingston, people are gathering in honour of this day at events such as this. To my friends and colleagues I say thank you. Thank you for being here today and thank you for the job you are doing so well."

Chris acknowledged the many staff members whose schedules prevented them from attending and thanked all staff for their outstanding efforts to ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities live in a sheltered and secure environment. He urged members to feel very proud of what they do and to educate their friends and acquaintances about the crucial role they fill in the lives of the people they support. "We are the ones who teach people with special needs how to cross the street, or how to take public transit. We are there to

ensure their safety in the community. We are the ones who support the clients in their job placements so they can participate in society, and we help them learn how to cook, clean and look after themselves where possible." He continued, "Hold your heads high because what you do matters. Respect yourself and the world will learn to respect you. We can start today by reminding people, especially people in government, that proper compensation for the work we do is more than a pay check – it is a sign of respect."

As a memento of the event, OPSEU presented each union staff member with an inscribed mug and Reena presented framed scrolls of appreciation to the staff of each residential location.

Sandy Keshen, President & CEO of Reena, also thanked the staff for their continued and dedicated efforts. She informed the group that the Reena Board has embarked upon a concentrated campaign to educate government officials

about the growing challenges of the developmental disabilities sector and the crucial need to retain staff by offering salaries and conditions on a par with other social services.

Sandy announced that as a mark of appreciation to staff, the Reena Board has made a donation to the **Stephen Lewis Foundation** in their honour. In acknowledging the gift, Stephen Lewis said: "Your gift can mean school fees for a child for a year; it can mean food for someone living with HIV/AIDS; it can mean soap and pain-killers for a woman in the final throes of the disease. By giving this donation, you have done a lovely thing. We will honour what you have done."



Chris Moore, Reena support worker and President of OPSEU Local 554.

What Reena Means To Me *by Zachary Cohen, Reena Client*

Hi my name is Zachary and I am a Reena client. I have been involved with Reena in many areas since approx 1999. I have been in several programs, which include: The Sunday Friends Club, Café Lundi, Summer Recreation as well as The Cottage Program.

Reena means so much to me. Each program I attended has taught me valuable life skills as well as life lessons that I continue to apply in my life outside of the Reena Battle Centre. One such important lesson I learned was that certain things happen in people's lives that are not under our control. They can be negative when

they happen, but we should forget about them and focus on the positive.

The Cottage Program was one of my MOST favorite programs. It was a summer vacation option that Reena operated in Collingwood. My most favorite year of the program was 2004. The reason that was my favorite year is due to the fact that the supervisor of the program hired THE BEST Coordinator the cottage program had. That year's coordinator was a role model to me in that he helped me to focus on the positive only rather than the negative.

I must thank several staff that have made a difference in my life during the

above programs starting with **Ann** (Cottage Program Supervisor). Words can't explain how appreciative I am for you hiring Josh as coordinator in 2004. You helped make the positive difference happen that year for me. Also, I must thank **Josh** and his staff "team" from both cottages that year. You guys were AMAZING!

In summary, I am 100% grateful to have attended all of the programs I did, especially The Cottage Program. I thank all the staff who were involved, because they made them as amazing as they are. "Anything is possible when you're positive".

Pathways To The Community (Mesilot L' Kehila)

by Ann Szabo, Resource Manager, Outreach and Respite Services

Reena has been providing quality day options for many years and has recently taken the next step in its evolution.

Pathways To The Community is a new initiative to address the needs of individuals who are looking to make a difference in their community. The program is located in the community at two locations. Pathways South is in the heart of downtown at U of T, Hillel campus, Wolfond Centre. Pathways North is on the south side of York Region in a store front on busy Centre St. Both communities compliment the day program and provide opportunities for socialization, integration, volunteering and great shopping.

Pathways To The Community is a growing concern with seventeen participants with a variety of challenges and goals. Both locations have a structured program that includes life skills training, social skills, community integration, individualized learning programs and leisure activities. The community has opened its arms to our program by providing our participants with volunteering opportunities at the Miles Nadal JCC, Winners outlets, and



Renee Bloom



The gang at Centre Island.



Benjamin Chung

Salvation Army. Negotiations are in the works with a popular coffee shop chain.

While Reena emphasizes Judaic programming and a Jewish environment, Pathways participants come from a variety of faith and cultures, social economic backgrounds and living situations including group homes, independent living and family homes. They epitomize the mosaic that is Toronto. They celebrate their differences and share a common goal of growth through learning, exploration and having fun; all with the support of well trained staff and volunteers from local universities.

The program is made possible through the MCSS Passports to Community initiative which provides limited funding to families, a grant from The Reena Foundation, and fees paid by participants.

Pathways To The Community is open to individuals interested in joining our growing team of participants. No experience required, just a desire to learn and grow. If you would like to learn more about this and other program opportunities please contact our intake department at (905) 889-2690 ext. 2051 or 2057.

The following email was received recently by Leora Kaizer, Co-ordinator of Reena's Outreach Program.

Dear Ms. Kaizer,

I've just dropped Stephanie off at Reena's Sunday Program at the JCC. On my way home I could not stop thinking about how wonderful Reena's program is. So I decided to send an e-mail to you. I hope you don't mind.

Thank you very much for providing the wonderful program and staff to help us. It's been 24 days since Stephanie stopped her constant repetitive tortuous movements / blowings (exhaling her breath) that had tormented Stephanie and us from morning to night for one and a half years. It started suddenly in the summer of 2005 and she stopped suddenly on Jan.18 this year when I picked her up at Reena after the last session. Your staff at the Sunday and Tuesday programs endured and supported Stephanie with great thoughtfulness and cheerful smiles. We are not exactly sure what made Steph to be able to stop these movements /blows, but I truly think Reena's programs made her, and pushed her to be able to stop those movements/blows. Her school has been so wonderful and supportive of her all through the years and she joined other occasional programs last Fall also. But Reena really gave Stephanie lots of joy and more positiveness in her life. Stephanie has been really looking forward to attending Reena's programs each time. Reena helped her feel happy.

There probably will be other ups and downs but we appreciate her present condition every single day.

We truly appreciate Reena from the bottom of our heart. Could you kindly extend our best regards to **Mr. Tom Petersen**, and the staff, **Michell, Michael, Shane, Tina**, and all the other wonderful young ladies and gentlemen at the Sunday Program (I'm sorry I cannot recall the names of the other wonderful staff) and **Fari, Nicole** and other wonderful young ladies and gentlemen at the After School Program?

Thank you very much for having and helping Stephanie and us.

Sincerely,
Harumi Metcalfe

Recognition for Reena's Training Expertise

by Joe Persaud, Manager of Learning and Development

MCSS Nominates Reena to Serve on the "Expert Panel on Training"

Reena has been chosen by the Ministry of Community and Social Services as one of a select group of agencies to serve on the Expert Panel. Over the next months (February to May 2007), the panel will identify essential training standards and develop a plan for promoting them across the developmental services sector. These options will be consistent with the vision, values, principles and objectives of the developmental services transformation, including citizenship, fairness and equity, accessibility and portability, safety and security, accountability and sustainability.

The Expert Panel will report to the Director of the Developmental Services Branch, who will provide regular

updates to the Joint Developmental Services Partnership Table.

MTCU Developmental Services Worker (DSW) Apprenticeship Certificate – Competency and Curriculum Development

The Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities is presently facilitating the development of the DSW Apprenticeship competencies toward provincial standards for this program. Reena, along with a provincial cross-section of DS agencies, is actively participating in the initial three phases of this process. Phase I and II have already been completed. Phase III will be facilitated later on this year.

Reena is a member of the advisory and steering committees that are reviewing and giving feedback toward the curriculum development.

MCSS – Developmental Services Application Package Pilot Project

As per the MCSS "Opportunities and Action" consultation paper, the ministry will be piloting the implementation of a new form to use to apply for supports and services funded by the ministry. This will result in a more consistent and reliable application process provincially. The MCSS "Transformation Principles" will guide the implementation of this new form.

Reena is one of only five DS agencies in the province to participate in Phase I of this pilot project. Along with this distinction, Reena will host the training sessions (February 19 – 21) for the 15 participants representing the five agencies chosen for Phase I. This will result in three new trainers from Reena certified to train new trainers on a provincial scale as the next phases of the pilot project roll out.

Residential Respite with Reena

by Ann Szabo, Resource Manager, Outreach and Respite Services

Reena began providing residential respite to adults living with their families five years ago. We have bedrooms in some of our Toronto and York Region homes that provide real life skills situations and the opportunity for socialization.

The locations for young adults has a long list of families who use them on a regular basis. The opportunity to take the occasional break from their care-giving responsibilities, knowing that their family members are in a safe and supportive environment can feel like a vacation to some parents. Respite is short-term relief for many families; to prevent crisis situations

while preparing themselves and their children for the future.

New home will accommodate children

Reena leads the way in respite with a new home opening up in April 2007 that will provide respite to families with children 7 to 15 years of age. For children with a developmental challenge and Autism spectrum disorder, the over-night experience can be scary and just as daunting for their parents. The Outreach and Respite department will use their training and experience of children to provide the support and programming for the new home.

The house is located just north of Steels off Bathurst. It will accommodate three young adults as permanent residents and have three bedrooms for children for planned respite on weekends. The location has an accessible unit with entrée to most areas in the home. Children who visit for weekend respite will also participate in other respite options taking place at the same time.

While we continue to offer respite to adults, we look forward to the opening of the children's respite home. If you would like to learn more about residential respite and the new home, please contact **Nicole Resick**, Respite Coordinator at (905) 889-2690 ext. 2224

OPADD: Building New Knowledge

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

Ensuring quality of life for older adults with a developmental disability is a new challenge facing the developmental service and long term care systems. There is no body of knowledge or experience on which to draw since this is the first generation of people with a developmental disability to live into old age.

The Ontario Partnership on Aging and Developmental Disabilities believes that we must maintain traditional values of inclusion and individualized planning while supporting people to enjoy quality of

life as they age. The partnership is pooling the knowledge and values of the long term care and developmental services sectors to create new knowledge and explore possibilities for a service system that adapts to the needs of the individual as he/she ages.

Defining this collaborative approach to support requires testing new models. These new approaches will stretch the boundaries of existing legislation and government regulation. Consequently, new policy will be required at the organizational and provincial levels to enable this innovation.



The ADD Trillium Project supports the testing of new models and the development of enabling policy. An inventory of new service delivery models and enabling policy ideas is being assembled for posting to the OPADD website. If you are involved in an innovative project, protocol or process that involves cross sector partnering between long term care and developmental services, send a brief description to the OPADD Project staff at aamore@reena.org along with a contact person and their contact information.

Report of the Chair of the Reena Foundation Board

by Murray Klein



President

by Gary Sim



The first six months of 2007 are again going to be a very busy time around the Foundation.

We have a number of fundraising events. Our events calendar was kicked off in February with the inaugural **Rock For Reena**. This is followed in March by both the 4th annual Reena Theatre Night and the 3rd annual Not Just Another Saturday Night. Our events calendar is topped off by the annual Reena Gala honouring Ellis Jacob on May 28.

Once all this activity dies down, we are still focussing on our one BIG priority for this year – **the \$4 million campaign for the Integrated Apartment Project**.

This project is both innovative and integrative (if there is such a word) in concept and in execution! Reena is going to purchase a 100 unit apartment building at a location to be announced within Reena’s current catchments area. The location is to be determined because we won’t actually begin our

search for a prospective purchase until we have raised the \$4 million.

There are two extremely exciting aspects to the venture. First, it is truly integrative in nature. Approximately 20% of the tenants in the building will eventually be Reena clients, living and integrating with other tenants on their floor. Reena clients will have apartment units all over the building, not clustered on one floor. For Reena this will be extremely cost effective in providing supervisory staff covering a number of tenants in one building.

The second exciting aspect is that 80% of the building tenants will be non-Reena clients from which Reena will be collecting market rents. This revenue flow will actually fund Reena programs. In this way, the project itself becomes in effect the endowment fund which will support certain Reena programs.

All we need to do now to make this dream a reality is to raise the \$4 million.

PASSOVER IS APRIL 2nd

ORDER YOUR Reena Foundation PASSOVER CARDS
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Lead Donors for the
\$4 million Campaign
for

The Integrated
Apartment Project.

Call Gary Sim @
905-763-8254 ext 3029

It's Hollywood!!!

Reena Foundation is extremely proud to announce that **Ellis Jacob** will be the honouree for the 2007 Reena tribute Gala Dinner. Mr. Jacob has 20 years experience in the motion picture exhibition industry. As President and Chief Executive Officer of Cineplex Entertainment, Mr. Jacob leads Canada's largest motion picture exhibition company.

Mr. Jacob is deeply committed to the community and sits on a number of Boards, including The Toronto International Film Festival and Mount Sinai Hospital. He is also a director of the Youth Technology and Mentor Program, the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT) and the Motion Picture Theatre Associations of Canada.

Mr. Jacob immediately took a leadership position in wanting to make this year's gala the best and most successful Reena fundraiser ever! "I would like to see as much revenue as possible end up supporting Reena's clients - we will get everything possible donated." This was the tone of the very first meeting of the Gala Committees.

Mr. Jacob's first call was to long time friend **Gerry Schwartz** to secure his support. Mr. Schwartz immediately stepped forward and agreed to have

ONEX be the Presenting Sponsor for the Gala. But Mr. Jacob's enthusiasm did not stop there. His next four calls ended with commitments from **Bank of Nova Scotia** and **Alliance Atlantis** to be Platinum Sponsors, and **RioCan** and **Tribute Communities** to be Diamond Sponsors.

Dinner Chair, **Jeff Rayman**, has pulled together an amazing Tribute Committee to ensure that the event is both financially successful and wonderful entertainment. **Ruth Berger** and **Mona Sherkin**, co-chairs of the Arrangements Committee note that this event "will be Hollywood all the way. You'll have to be there to believe it. There will be many surprises but just to tease you, the after dinner entertainment will be **The FabFour** and the MC for the evening will be none other than Toronto's foremost criminal lawyer, **Eddie Greenspan**."

Reena Foundation is greatly appreciative of the efforts of Mr. Jacob and Mr. Rayman as well as the other members of the Tribute Committee at time of writing: Honourary Co-Chairs, **Robert Lantos** and **Barry Avrich**, **Norm Bacal**, **Ruth Berger**, **Gord Berger**, **Judy Bronfman**, Councillor **David Cohen**, **Irving Feldman**, **Danny Greenglass**, **Marshall Gottlieb**, **Julia**



Ellis Jacob, Gala Dinner Honouree.

Hanigsberg, **Sharyn Jacob**, **Harry Kichler**, **Murray Klein**, **Susie Klein**, **Al Libfeld**, **Keri Levinsky**, **Pat Marshall**, **Suzie Mukherjee**, **Judy Naiberg**, **Gerry Richler**, **Julie Rose**, **Randall Rothbart**, **Dianne Schwalm**, **Mona Sherkin**, **Ed Sonshine**, **Fred Waks** and Fundraising Chair, **Frank A. Wilson**.

This year's dinner is being held at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Toronto on May 28, 2007. Tickets go on sale April 1, so don't be disappointed. Buy your tickets now. Call the Reena Foundation offices at 905-763-8254, extension 3034 or purchase your table or tickets on line at www.reenafoundation.org.

Featured Supplier: HealthSourcePlus

Michael Zroback, Reena's Manager of Human Resources, introduced Reena to an incredible partner when he invited HealthSourcePlus(HSP) to quote on our employee benefits program in 2005. Not only did the HSP quote and subsequent engagement result

in saving Reena 30% on its benefits package annually, but principals **Eric Shulman**, President and **Bruce Bell**, CEO immediately agreed to sponsor Reena Foundation's first annual Endowment Fund Holder Reception before they were officially hired.

continued on page 13...

We are moving effective April 1, 2007.

Our new address will be:

The Reena Foundation, 201-1118 Centre St., Thornhill, Ontario L4J 7R9

To Those Who Helped Us ROCK We Salute You!

by Fiona Ott, Development Officer

On February 24th, 2007 at the Great Hall a group of volunteers threw a grass roots “Rock n’ Roll” fund-raising party to help build awareness and encourage a new generation of people to get involved in supporting Reena. And “Rock for Reena” and brand new Reena Foundation event was born.

This event was an exciting endeavour to reach out to a new audience. It was a bit of a departure from the stately Gala’s. This event attracted 300 adults who enjoyed a casual evening filled with live music, food, tarot card reading, a market place, raffle prize draws, an acrobat show, and FIRE. A fantastic time was had by all.

This event was also lower price allowing a wider audience to get involved with Reena. This was made possible by the donation of almost all

the food and drink for the evening by a variety of sponsors. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our generous sponsors:

Gold

Imperial Coffee

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Dairy Queen

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Iceberg Vodka

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Hooters Restaurants

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We would also like to thank the organizing committee: **Jeff Beallor**, **Debbie Raphael** (Co-Chair), **Shelly Rabie**, **Rita Rayman** (Co-Chair), **Julie Rose** (Co-Chair), and **Mitchel Shnier**.

continued from page 12...

HSP is the fastest growing employee benefits company focusing on employer groups with 50 to 2,000 employees in the country. That growth has been propelled by a real desire to create healthier employee groups for its clients and to provide clients with a value added service, differentiating itself from other providers. HSP. “If we provide a lower cost service because of our own efficiencies and a value added service that improves the longer term health of the client’s employees, then clients tend to refer us to new potential customers. This in turn helps produce more efficiencies because of economies of scale”, says Bruce Bell, partner at HSP. That value-added service is HSP’s Total Wellness Program, focussing on how to improve the long term health of employees.

In the first months of being engaged as Reena’s provider, HSP also agreed to not only fund the Special Olympics Bowling Program for 2006, but agreed to create the Leanne Begley Endowment Fund at Reena to

permanently fund the program. Leanne Begley was HSP’s first employee, who passed away at the young age of 40.

Bruce and Eric have been involved in charity work and fundraising as individuals for many, many years. However, the combination of the company having attained a level of success and their desire to honour Leanne’s memory led Eric and Bruce to want the company to do more. This summer, HSP is launching a softball tournament under the DreamCatchers banner which will benefit the Reena Foundation. The tournament will allow corporate sponsors to engage their employees as part of this important fundraising event by sponsoring a team. In addition children with learning disabilities will be encouraged to participate in special games of their own, in line with Reena’s special Olympic programs. Their dream is that over the years this tournament will grow and raise a lot of money for many charities including Reena.

Endowment Fund Holders Gather

On December 5, 2006 Reena Foundation held its second annual Endowment Fundholder Reception at the studios of Systems 4 Photography. This event is held annually as a way of saying “thank you” to those that have chosen to honour Reena by establishing their own personal family endowment fund. Over 50 people braved the cold winter evening to attend. Plaques were presented to **Angela Iannuzziello, Ken Beck, Leon and Fran Kieselstein, Leonard and Gilda Whyne and Martin Karp, and Sheila Libfeld.**

Our special thanks to **Systems 4 Photography, Irv and Chuck Kochman**, for donating the premises and photography for the evening, to co-sponsors **Stuart Wilson (BMO Nesbitt Burns), Iceberg Vodka (David Sacks) and HealthSourcePlus (Eric Shulman and Bruce Bell)** for underwriting the cost of the evening. Special thanks to **Molly Simpson** for donating the design and printing of the invitations.



Sheila Libfeld, Murray Klein & Fay Rotman, Chair of Endowment Committee.



Ken Beck and Murray Klein.



Leonard Whyne, Martin Karp and Gilda Whyne receive plaque.



Fran and Leon Kieselstein, Murray Klein and Fay Rotman.

Endowment Funds – Securing Reena’s Future

Establishing a family endowment fund is a wonderful way of creating your own legacy at Reena and a wonderful way of encouraging future generations to follow in your philanthropic footsteps. The whole family can donate to your fund and watch it grow over the years and generations. To find out how you can create your own fund, call Gary Sim at the Foundation, (905) 763-8254, extension 3029.

There are a number of areas you can support. Funds can begin as Developing Funds, and once they accumulate \$5,000 they become Granting Funds (indicated by upper case).

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Ungerma Campaign Surpasses \$60,000!

Early last summer, **Irving Ungerma** launched a campaign to raise \$100,000 in support of programs and equipment used in the various outreach programs run by Reena in the Irving and Sylvia Ungerma Sports Complex at the Battle Centre. Irving is excited to announce that as of March 1 the campaign had reached \$60,000!

With summer coming up, we want to finish the campaign shortly so that Reena's kids can enjoy updated sports equipment and supplies as soon as possible.

The Irving and Sylvia Ungerma Sports Complex is a

virtual hive of activity all week long and especially on Sundays. At any time that one drops by the Toby and Henry Battle Developmental Centre, one might find a game of basketball, a sing-a-long, floor hockey or any number of activities with boys and girls of all ages enjoying the benefits of recreational activities.

Help us reach our goal by June! If you would like to donate to the Ungerma Sports Centre Campaign, please call 905-763-8254 ext 3034. All donations of \$500 or more will be recorded on a plaque in the Centre.

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We Will Rock You!!

Join us March 21 for Reena Foundation's 4th Annual Theatre Night and experience Queen's "We Will Rock You!!"

Set 300 years in the future, in a time when live music is banned, WE WILL ROCK YOU is about the kids who are in rebellion against the all-powerful Globalsoft Corporation that controls their lives. With **Brian May** and **Roger Taylor** of Queen as music supervisors the musical features 32 of Queen's

greatest hits. For more information about the play visit www.wewillrockyou.ca

What a fun way to support Reena's good work and enjoy a night on the town. In addition to a great show **Miller Thompson** is generously hosting a pre-show reception. Tickets are \$260 and include the show, reception, and a major tax receipt. Tickets may be ordered online at www.reenaafoundation.org or by phoning 905-763-8254 x3034

We wish to thank our generous sponsors.

Silver Sponsor:

BMO

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Special Thanks to the organizing committee, **Heather Goose** and **Susie Klein**.

The New Leaders 3rd Annual "Not Just Another Saturday Night"

by Fiona Ott, Development Officer

On Saturday, March 24, 2006, The New Leadership Division will be hosting its 3rd annual Not Just Another Saturday Night. This high-profile event attracts over 500 professionals and entrepreneurs between the ages of 25-50. Over the past two years, this signature event has raised over \$50,000 for Reena. With the recent growth in the New Leadership Division the third annual "Not Just Another Saturday Night" event promises to be bigger and better than ever.

The event takes place at ACQUA restaurant in BCE place downtown Toronto on March 24th. The evening begins with a charity Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament and concludes with a cocktail party, which should continue into the wee hours of the night.

Reena Foundation is extremely honoured to have a highly talented and energized volunteer committee working on its behalf, headed by co-chairs **Adam Henechowitz, Dayna Henechowitz and Steven Weisz**. Their committee consists of: **Alisa Bar-Dayan, Yoram Beck, Lauren Breslin, Kerri Caplan, David Collin, Jodi Fenwick, Danielle Goose, Zach Goldstein, Kerri Jankelow, Shayna Lampert, Michael Morris, Nicole Salama, Talia Schwalm, Mira Schwartz, Candice Wolfson, Adam Zalev and Tamara Zalev**.

Of course the night could not be a financial success if not for our sponsors. At time of writing these included:

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The New Leadership Division of Reena Foundation organizes this evening each year to benefit Reena's Respite and Enrichment programs. If you would like to order tickets or get involved with this group please visit www.reenafoundation.org/newleadership or call our offices at 905-763-8254 ext 3034.

A Personal Call Makes A Difference

by Fiona Ott, Development Officer

Throughout 2006 we attempted to contact all of you who care about Reena. Sometimes although you mean to contact us, you just don't have time in the busy day to respond to letters, or make that online donation. That's why the personal phone call from a volunteer who cares about Reena just as much as you do, is just the thing to make your annual giving easy.

In 2006 we told you about the increasing demand for Reena specialized care and you responded. Our 2006 phone-a-thon campaign raised over \$56,000 for Reena's Respite and Enrichment programs. And your donations are making a difference. One of the newest

programs your donations helped create in 2006 was the Pathways to Community program.

Your donations also helped to fund Reena's important After School Cool Club and Winter Break programs. These programs allow children, from seven and up, to learn important life skills that will help them reach their full potential. The demand for these programs has grown dramatically. The waiting list is long and new spaces need to be created immediately.

If you missed our call or would like to contribute to this campaign please call (905) 763-8254 x3034 or donate online at www.reenafoundation.org.

We wish to thank our volunteers,

board members, and new leaders who made this a success:

Erin Atteslander, Larry Bardugo, Dena Berzen, Symcha Brodt, Zachary Cohen, Ann Gotlieb, Adam Henechowitz, Dayna Henechowitz, Kerri Jankelow, Ginger Katz, Manny Katz, Murray Klein, Sheila Libfeld, Andrew Ott, Nicole Reznic, Lauren Sacks, Mitchell Shnier, Ilana Tobe, Herbie Ungar, Tom Ungar, Lorne Weiss, Steven Weisz, Anne Zeretsky, and Bobby Ziner.

Thanks also go out to **Irv Feldman** who generously donated the use of his **SF Partnership** offices for the 2006 Phon-a-thon.

Without all of you we could not have made this a success.

Thank You to Our Donors

The Donor recognition List below reflects cumulative gifts of \$36 or more received between Nov. 25, 2006 to Feb. 12, 2007. We thank all donors for their generous contributions including those requesting anonymity. Our Honorial 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) 763-8254, ext. 3034. 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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continued on page 18...



The New Leadership Group

*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 to join our existing Young Leadership Board. Our goal is to build a network of leaders to work closely on new and existing fundraising events and programs.

Upcoming events/programs: **March 24, 2007**

Not Just Another Saturday Night and Texas Hold'em Tournament

Thank you from the executive,

*Stephen Adler, Adam Henechowitz, Dayna Henechowitz, Melissa Kelman,
Mira Schwartz and Steven Weiss*

For more information please contact Fiona Ott at 905-763-8254 ext. 3030

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

...continued from page 17

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**Reena's 4th Annual Theatre Night -
We Will Rock You!**

Cannon Theatre

MARCH 24, 2007

Not Just Another Saturday Night

Acqua Restaurant, BCE Place

MAY 28, 2007

Gala Dinner - Honouring Ellis Jacob

The Sheraton Centre, Toronto

JUNE 27, 2007

Reena Annual Meeting

Toby & Henry Battle Developmental Centre
927 Clark Ave. West, Thornhill, 7:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2007

Guys Night Out

Woodbine Racetrack

OCTOBER 20, 2007

Magna Dinner

Magna Golf Club

Fiona Ott

Reena Foundation

Development Officer

fionaott@reena.org

905-763-8254 x3030



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