

# C.H.A.N.G.E.S.

## Down syndrome Support Group

### Newsletter



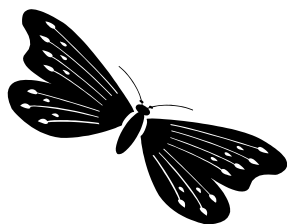
**April 2006**

#### C.H.A.N.G.E.S.

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### SPRING GALA 2006

*C.H.A.N.G.E.S. is once again hosting a gourmet gala at the Holiday Inn on Thursday, April 20th, 2006. The evening includes a delicious meal, a silent and live auction with Keith Monk and music by local entertainers, Rick and Gailie.*



*The gala will begin at 7:00 pm. with cocktails, followed by dinner at 8:00 pm. A limited number of tickets are available for \$75.00 each, with a tax receipt of \$30.00.*

*Holiday Inn is located at 150 George Street North, Peterborough.*

*If you have any auction items, you would like to donate, please call the office. We would really appreciate them.*

*Join us for an evening of good food, wine, music, conversation and an opportunity to support the programs and services at C.H.A.N.G.E.S.*

*For reservations, call Deb at the office at 749-6695.*

**Mission Statement:** To support each other in our quest to normalize and enrich the lives of our children so that they will reach their fullest potential.

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## **ODSP CHANGES ANNOUNCED**

On February 8, 2006 the Minister of Community and Social Services announced a number of changes to the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP).

These changes will be phased in with items 1 and 2 below effective April 1, 2006. The remaining changes take effect on November 1, 2006.

Following is a summary of those changes as they affect ODSP recipients.

### ***Finding work***

1. Improved access to a range of employment services such as job placement and job retention services to help recipients find jobs
2. Requirements that spouses who do not have a disability and are not primary care givers look for work.
3. \$500 one time grant to help recipients cover the costs of participating in a training program, looking for work, starting or changing jobs (e.g., uniform, equipment, professional fees)
4. Up to \$600 per child informal child care costs while recipients look for a job, participate in training or start a new job

### ***Keeping more of what is earned:***

5. 50% of all earnings are exempt from clawback
6. \$100 per month for each adult family member who is working
7. Up to \$600 per child (under the age of 18) per month for informal child care costs
8. Up to \$300 per month deduction for disability work-related expenses (e.g., attendant care, specialized technology/equipment)

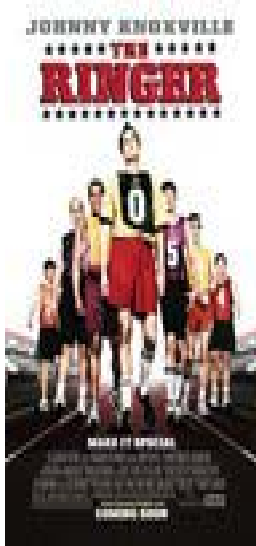
### ***Moving toward financial independence:***

9. Ongoing drug, dental and vision care benefits to recipients leaving ODSP for employment unless coverage is available from the employer
10. One-time employment transition benefit of \$500 to cover the costs of starting a job for recipients leaving ODSP for employment
11. Improved rapid reinstatement into the ODSP program for recipients at any time if their job does not work out

Information compiled from Ministry of Community & Social Services documents  
Further details available at: [www.cfcs.gov.on.ca/CFCS/en/newsRoom/newsReleases/060208.htm](http://www.cfcs.gov.on.ca/CFCS/en/newsRoom/newsReleases/060208.htm)

### **SEAC (Special Education Advisory Committee)**

C.H.A.N.G.E.S. is pleased to announce that we will be represented by member Kathy Traynor, at the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board's SEAC monthly meetings. Kathy has been endorsed by our Board of Directors in this capacity and encourages parents to contact her with any issues they feel should be addressed at the Board level. Kathy may be contacted at 740-9533. Thanks Kathy for volunteering your time!




**Actors with Developmental Disabilities**  
**Featured in New Movie**

Actors with developmental disabilities are the stars of a new film called *The Ringer*. The Farrelly brothers directed the film about a man who pretends to have a developmental disability to rig the Special Olympics. The film includes four men with Down syndrome in speaking roles. Johnny Knoxville, of *The Dukes of Hazard*, plays the man who pretends to have a disability.

Special Olympics are looking for your opinion of the movie. Will viewers leave the theatre with an increased respect and understanding for individuals with developmental disabilities? Advocacy includes speaking up—whether to correct shortcomings or to congratulate endeavours. If we want to see more projects include actors with developmental disabilities we need to encourage studios to do so. If we see individuals with developmental disabilities poorly represented on screen, we need to voice our objections. So let Fox know—is it thumbs up, or thumbs down?

Complete the survey? [Http://theringer.specialolympics.org/sound\\_off.html](http://theringer.specialolympics.org/sound_off.html)



*Thank You To  
Our  
Wonderful  
Volunteers!*

Jamie Jackson  
Geoff Schwartz  
Don McMaster  
Lori Asuncion  
Erin Metcalfe  
Allyson DeNoble

**Upcoming Events**  
**Mark your Calendars**  
 Family Picnic  
 Riverview Zoo  
 Sunday, June 4th  
 Summer Camp  
 Westdale United Church  
 Weeks of  
 August 8th, 15th, 22nd  
 Blue Jay Game

Thank you to C.H.A.N.G.E.S.:

Dear Peterborough and Area Down syndrome Support Group:

Mike Cusk and I would like to thank you for helping us with celebrating National Down syndrome Week. Mike is a senior one student at Valley Gardens Jr. High School in Winnipeg, Manitoba who has Down syndrome. I am Mike's Paraprofessional. We work closely together everyday.

We sold the Down syndrome awareness bracelets during that week. Mike is involved with the Builders Club here at school. It is a club that helps raise money and supports different charities or events in our community and also globally.

We raised \$100.00 for the Pakistan Earthquake victims as well as celebrating National Down syndrome awareness. The students and staff were very supportive. Mike and I created a wall of information on Down syndrome. We included poems, pictures and some facts and myths on Down syndrome.

Thanks again, Nadine Friesen



# Thanks for your generosity!

A Special Thank You to Allyson DeNoble for helping out in the office during Deb's surgery. Deb really appreciated all your notes and messages. Allyson's compassion for the agency goes above and beyond the Board table. She's a special person with a special daughter!

## FREE HAIR CUTS!

Paul Asta's Hairstyling School on Chemong Road, has made a generous offer to C.H.A.N.G.E.S. All members, ages five and over with Down syndrome can receive a free haircut at the school on Tuesday afternoons from 1:00 to 3:30 pm. When booking your appointment, mention C.H.A.N.G.E.S. and your haircut will be free. Many thanks to Mrs. Arpa for thinking about us and making a difference in the lives of people with Down syndrome!



## \$3,000 DONATION

We are the recipient of a \$3,000 donation from the (G.I.F.T.) Grocery Industry Foundation..Together. They generously donated funds to support our cooking program for young teens with Down syndrome. These funds were generated by their annual Cash For Kids coupon promotion, which runs every February in over 1700 Ontario grocery stores. With your support of this event, it enables G.I.F.T. to put financial support back into communities across Ontario. C.H.A.N.G.E.S. continues to build relationships, support and awareness of Down syndrome across the country.



## KUDOES TO K & J ELECTRIC

Kevin McNulty and his guys, Jeff and Dan, donated their time and equipment to update the wiring in our kitchen to accommodate the new stove we purchased with our donation from G.I.F.T. These guys had to make a few visits to the office so we really appreciate their efforts to help us out!!!! Thanks guys!!!

**Job Fair for Families to Recruit  
Support Workers**

**April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2006  
6:30-8:30 pm  
Lion's Club, 347 Burnham Street**

**On Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> there will be a job fair for potential support workers and families. Families looking to hire support workers should make every effort to attend this event. You should come prepared with a position summary and have a list of questions you may want to ask workers.**

**With the summer fast approaching, it is important that you begin the process of finding that right person to work with your child.**

**College, university and senior high school students are being encouraged to come out to this event. Also this event is being advertised throughout the community. Interested individuals are being asked to come with multiple copies of their resumes and references.**

**Parents and potential Support Workers will be asked to sign a "waiver" disclaiming Community Living Peterborough of any responsibility as an employer of the potential support workers.**

**To register please contact  
Sandra Scott, at 743-2412 ext. 542 or [sscott@communitylivingpeterborough.ca](mailto:sscott@communitylivingpeterborough.ca)  
by April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006.**

**DISCOVERY  
Pathways to Better Speech  
For Children with Down syndrome**

**Written, produced and directed  
by Will Schermerhorn**

**New DVD available for viewing—chapters include:  
Hearing Issues, Encouraging Speech, Making Speech  
Understandable, Text and Reading, Building  
Vocabulary and Grammar.**

**Call the office and reserve it today!**

**81 minutes  
[www.blueberryshoes.com](http://www.blueberryshoes.com)**

*APRIL BAKE  
AND  
CRAFT DAYS*

**Youth ages 15 and up are invited to meet  
their friends and have fun baking Easter  
treats and designing projects this month.**

**C.H.A.N.G.E.S. Centre will be open on the  
following Saturdays from 1 pm—4 pm:**

**April 15th  
April 22nd  
April 29th**

**Cost is \$5.00**

**Call today to reserve your spot!!!**

Vance Lasenby Education Day Committee  
Proudly Presents

# ~**PLANNING AHEAD**~

Transition Planning for a Person with a Developmental/Intellectual Disability

**May 15th, 2006**

**7:00pm - 9:30pm; Doors Open @ 6:30pm**

Speakers followed by an open question forum

**Lions Club Community Centre**

**347 Burnham Street, Peterborough, ON**

Target Audience

Families•Care Providers•Students in LLS•Teachers•Developmental Service Agencies

Speakers:

**Tri County Community Support Services:**

Intake Resource Team (IRT) Representative

will speak on how to effectively access adult housing and day supports

**Community Living Peterborough:**

Host Family•Respite•Group Home•Supported Independent Living

**Tri County Family Home Program**

**Kawartha Participation Projects (KPP)**

**Adult Protective Services (APS)**

**Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP)**

**Ministry of Community Social Services:**

Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)

Income Supports•Employment Supports•Special Services at Home

**Free Admission•No Registration Required**

Refreshments provided courtesy of:



**For more information contact:**

Margaret Marchen-Tri County Community Supports (Peterborough) (705) 876-9245  
[margaretmarchen@cogeco.net](mailto:margaretmarchen@cogeco.net) or Tammy Ross (Lindsay)-(705) 328-1055

