



Amigo News

Fall 2016

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PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS:

- Campbellford D.H.S
- Crestwood S.S
- Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School
- Keith Wightman Public School
- Kenner C.V.I
- Kenner Intermediate
- Kent Public School

Heads Up for Inclusion Board members include:

- John McNutt, Chair
- Jill Duncan, Vice Chair
- Marshall Elliott
- Catherine McGrath
- Fenna Green
- Breanne Mackenzie
- Lori Wilson, Treasurer
- Jewel Green
- Julia Marino, Resource
- Carrie Wright, CLP Advisory Member
- Heather Cunningham, Resource KPRDSB



Welcome Back Amigos!

It's great to see all of the smiling, happy faces of our Amigos as we begin a new school year. This year has seen some change to our programs. We are excited to begin our programs again at



Crestwood Amigos at the pumpkin celebration

Kenner High School, Crestwood Secondary School, Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School, and our pilot program at Keith

Wightman Public School.

We are equally excited to say "hello again" to the Amigos Program at Kenner Intermediate.



Amigos orientation workshop at Kent PS

This year we will be welcoming Kent Public School in Campbellford to our Amigos family. We are looking forward to helping the

Grade 7/8 students foster meaningful friendships, and spread the word about inclusion in their school and community. We are excited to see these students learn and grow!

**Follow us on
Twitter and
Facebook!**



@headsupamigos
Facebook.com/
headsupforinclusion

Please consider donating to HUI

Your generosity keeps our programs running.

Visit www.headsupforinclusion.ca or contact

christa_mccorquodale@headsupforinclusion.ca for more information.

Heads Up for Inclusion

250 Sherbrooke St., Unit 6, Peterborough ON, K9J 2N4 P: 705-745-1700

www.headsupforinclusion.ca

Board Update

With a brief hiatus over the summer, the Board is now back in full swing! We have been able to adopt the Strategic Plan that was developed at the Strategic Planning Retreat that Board members attended in June 2016, and are working to implement the recommendations. In addition, we are preparing for our Annual General Members meeting coming up in November.

We are also reaching out to the community to find some passionate and devoted volunteers to join our current Board of Directors. This is a real opportunity to be involved in a grass roots organization dedicated to making meaningful change in our community. Board members help to shape the direction of our organization. If you are interested in becoming a valuable member of HUI's Board, or know someone who is, please contact information below.

Interested in joining the HUI Board?

Heads Up for Inclusion is asking persons with disabilities, teachers, parents and supporters of people with disabilities to help us promote inclusion by becoming Board members. The Board meets on a monthly basis at the HUI office, 250 Sherbrooke St. Unit 6 in Peterborough.

Contact

christa_mccorquodale@headsupforinclusion.ca
to request an information package.

Thanks for your interest!

Message from the Chair



It's always a wonderful feeling to be able to successfully usher in another year of Amigos!

Both our Amigos School and Community programs successfully launched with strong

participation and commitment from staff, students, participants and volunteers. There is a good deal of enthusiasm surrounding our programs and new initiatives this year.

As some of you may know, at the end of the last Amigos year I experienced a health set back. Unfortunately this meant multiple surgeries and a continued stay in hospital. Despite this, I have managed to oversee the operation of HUI from afar with the help of the Vice Chair and HUI staff. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jill Duncan, Christa McCorquodale and Wanda Prince. The organization has continued to run

and deliver programming as usual, and will continue to do so until my return. Thanks to all of you who sent your well wishes!

On another note, I would like to welcome some new and familiar faces. First, I would like to welcome back our co-op student Jonathon from Fleming College's Community Integration through Cooperative Education program. Jonathon was a valuable asset to our organization last year, and will be a welcome volunteer addition this year as well. Welcome back Jonathon!

I would also like to welcome Andrea Ieropoli. Andrea is a Trent University student who will be conducting research on best practices, and helping to evaluate our current Community Program. She will be working closely with HUI staff and Community Program participants to develop her research, and will share her results upon completion.

As an organization we will continue to work towards expanding the reach of our programs, and develop further inclusion strategies for those living with barriers to inclusion.

Community Program Report

With generous funding from Trillium in June of this year, the Amigos in the Community Program launched at the beginning of September and is off to an amazing start! We currently have 15 Connectors and 12 Amigos in the program, which is only 3 less than the target goal for June 2017! The Community program is for young adults (aged 19-30) with or without disabilities whom are facing barriers to inclusion. Participants are paired with volunteer Connectors who share mutual interests and goals. Bi-monthly group outings are also part of the program where participants are encouraged to socialize. To date, we have successfully completed two group events, a Paint Lunch and Learn and a Halloween Karaoke event at Tonic. Thanks so much to Tonic Karaoke for donating their venue! The response was overwhelming positive, and the events were well received by all.



Spirits and Splatters Paint Lunch & Learn

Matching of volunteers and participants is currently underway, with many Amigos eagerly anticipating their first one on one social outing. We would like to thank our many community partners (old and new) for assisting us in promoting the program, referring clients and offering up venues and other services. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or participant in the Amigos in the Community program, please contact Wanda Prince at 705-745-1700 or at wanda_prince@headsupforinclusion. Stay tuned!

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What's New?

This is shaping up to be a truly exciting year for Heads Up for Inclusion! We are expanding our focus to all youth and individuals who have barriers to inclusion, and are looking at ways to better promote inclusion to youth living in rural areas.

In September Heads Up for Inclusion developed a workshop series for the Grade 7/8 class at Queen Elizabeth Public School in Peterborough. They were looking for ways to create a more inclusive environment in their school, and classroom. The workshops focus on creating awareness around those living with a disability, communication, inclusion and leadership skills. After the first workshop many students said that they had found commonalities with students in their class that they hadn't explored before. Others wanted to know how they could include more people and get to know more people in their school. The group is becoming more open with each other, and more aware of opportunities for inclusion!

Students in the Business Leadership Course at Campbellford District High School participated in an inclusion and leadership workshop on September 26th as part of an initiative to bring the message of inclusion to rural schools. The students were encouraged to take a leadership role in their school, and plan school wide activities that everyone could participate in.

The Keith Wightman pilot program is back! This year students from grades 2 to 4 will participate in the program. This year the focus of the program will be learning what it means to be a good friend, and what it means to live with a disability. Good luck to our Keith Wightman friends in their second year!

Back Page Contest Winner



Congratulations to Hayley Burrett, our first Back Page Contest Winner this Amigos year!

Hayley loves volunteering and helping people. When she is not helping local agencies, you can often find her working out at the Peterborough Sport and Wellness Centre. She is currently a Connector in our Amigos in the Community Program and eager to be paired up with an Amigo to start socializing. Her smile and positive attitude is such a welcome addition to our team!

Thank you!

To our 2016-2017 funders and partners

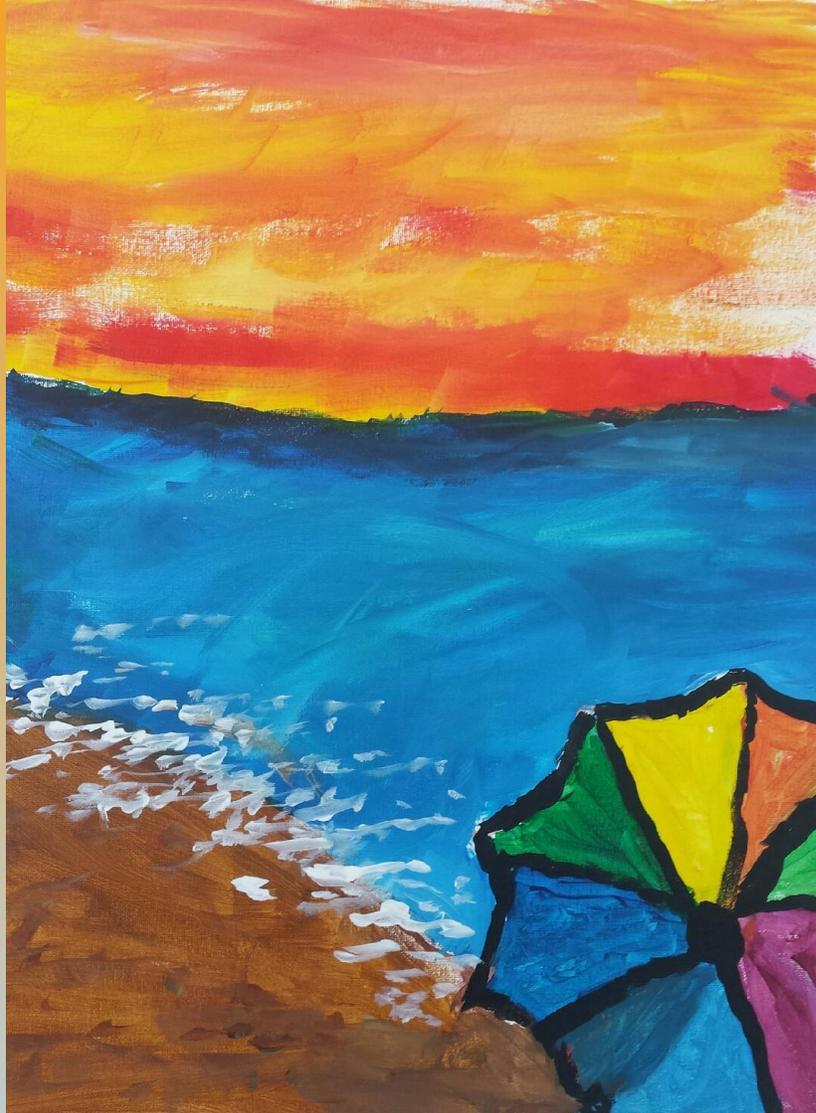
- Canada 150 Fund
- City of Peterborough
- Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough
- Community Living Peterborough
- Community Living Campbellford
- East Side Mario's—Peterborough
- Fleming College
- Harry E. Foster Charitable Foundation
- Kawartha FEST
- Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board
- K.M Winter Jewellery Studio Inc.
- Mackenzie Investments
- Medichair (Trent)
- Minute Maid
- Ontario Trillium Fund
- Pilkington— Henninger Charitable Trust
- Realtors Care Foundation
- Sadlier House



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**Congratulations to our Back Page Contest winner
Hayley Burrett!**



**HEADS UP FOR
INCLUSION**

Heads Up for Inclusion promotes **connections** in our community leading to the development of **relationships**, so young people with barriers to inclusion can lead **meaningful lives**.



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