



Amigo News

Fall/Winter 2013

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PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS:

- Campbellford D.H.S.
- Crestwood S.S.
- East Northumberland S.S.
- Kenner C.V.I.
- Kenner Intermediate
- Thomas A. Stewart S.S.

Heads Up for Inclusion Board members include:

- John McNutt, *Chair*
- Jill Duncan, *Vice Chair*
- Marshall Elliott
- Catherine McGrath
- Kylie Hainer
- Paul Courneya
- Carrie Wright, *CLP Advisory Member*



HEADS UP FOR INCLUSION

Welcome back, Amigos!

The Amigos Program is back for another year of fun, friendship, and inclusion! Groups of students are currently meeting on a weekly basis at six schools: ENSS, Campbellford DHS, TASSS, Crestwood SS, and Kenner CVI, which is running programs in both the intermediate and high school!



Jordan and Sky decorate Halloween cupcakes during the Kenner Intermediate Amigos program.

The students represent a range of backgrounds, ages, and abilities. At Amigos, they share their various skills and experiences in spaces that embrace all their attributes. The Amigos have decorated cupcakes, made friendship buttons, and done lots of other fun activities to get to know each other.



@headsupamigos
Facebook.com/
headsupforinclusion



The Amigos at Crestwood S.S. present "In Flanders Fields" on Remembrance Day.

Thanks to students, teachers, parents, and support staff for welcoming the Amigos program so enthusiastically into your schools! We're looking forward to more opportunities to make friends and learn from one another.

Would you like to learn more about Amigos or start a program at your school?

Visit www.headsupforinclusion.ca or contact caitlin@headsupforinclusion.ca for more information.

Board Update

Thank you!

HUI would like to thank Donna Sanders for the many years of guidance, expertise, and enthusiasm she brought in her role as CLP Advisory Board member, as she passes this position on to Carrie Wright.

Carrie Wright

Carrie has worked at Community Living Peterborough for the past thirteen years as an Outcomes Facilitator. Currently, she works with children/youth aged 12-15, with the emphasis on early transitional planning. She supports approximately 20 families and assists them with obtaining funding, respite, and community services. In addition, she has a passion for working with siblings.

Carrie has three children aged 29, 24, and 10 years old. Her eldest son has Autism and Carrie has advocated with him to help improve services in the community. Carrie says she has seen the benefits of inclusion, both personally and professionally, and looks forward to her involvement with Heads Up for Inclusion.

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

rosanna.haroutounian@gmail.com
to request an information package.
Thanks for your interest!

Message from the Chair



John McNutt, Chair

New partners, new offices, and a new year of Amigos...I am thrilled to provide an update on all the exciting changes at Heads Up for Inclusion!

The Board has always believed in broadening our efforts to promote inclusion beyond schools with the help of organizations that are also committed to diversity and accessibility. We are developing partnerships to restart our Amigos in the Community program next year. With Fleming College, we are working with the next generation of inclusion advocates while giving them the opportunity to gain experience with youth in the community.

Our new office space at 250 Sherbrooke St., Unit 6, is also a place for collaboration and team-building as the non-profits here create a hub for creativity and information sharing. One of our partners here is the Council for Persons with Disabilities, with whom we are excited to co-host the Inclusion Conference again in 2015.

We are also reaching out to the community to add to our skilled and dynamic Board. Board members help ensure we continue to recognize the abilities of young people and show others that allowing everyone to be him or herself ultimately benefits every one of us. This is a great opportunity to create a welcoming community and attend fun events like the Amazing Race and Fiesta Barbecue.

Our new generation of staff has kicked-off a great year for HUI with strong participation in schools, exciting upcoming events, and heightened community awareness of our work.

Thank you staff, Board members, students, teachers, parents, and community members for your ongoing support of inclusion.

MNR Youth Day BBQ



Summer Student Bailey Gibson and Program Manager Caitlin Dunham at MNR.

Heads Up for Inclusion was at the Ministry of Natural Resources Youth Day Barbecue on July 18. Program Manager Caitlin Dunham, Workshop Facilitator Daniel Lombardi, and Summer Placement Student Bailey Gibson hosted fun activities and shared information about inclusion with the young people who work at the Ministry from across Ontario. Everyone enjoyed a barbecue in the sunshine. Thanks MNR!

Fleming College Volunteer Program Facilitator



Program Manager Caitlin Dunham and Volunteer Program Facilitator Katie Bruce at Crestwood Secondary School.

For the first time, Heads Up for Inclusion has partnered with Fleming College in Peterborough to provide placements to students. Katie Bruce is our first Volunteer Program Facilitator. She is in the second year of the Social Service Worker program and says her studies at Fleming support her experience working with people who have intellectual disabilities.

Since September, Katie has been helping students in the Amigos program form friendships and create inclusive schools.

She is also using her placement with HUI as an opportunity to learn more about intellectual disabilities and gain experience in program development for youth of all abilities.

HUI Program Manager Caitlin Dunham says she is thrilled to have the support of a placement student for the first time.

“Katie has been doing a great job of planning fun events and keeping students engaged as we restart Amigos this year,” says Caitlin. “I’m excited to continue working with Fleming College students to deliver our programs.”

Katie says she is sad to see the placement end in December but will continue to volunteer for HUI programs and special events.

Inclusive Thinking Workshops

One in seven Ontarians currently have a disability. By 2036, that number will rise to 1 in 5 as the population ages. HUI hosts workshops that help workplaces and educational institutions create environments that accommodate and value people with different abilities. HUI has held workshops at Trillium College, Kawartha FEST, and Employment Planning and Counselling. Call us for more information: **705-745-1700**

Amigos is Growing

After a successful pilot project at Warsaw Public School in 2012, HUI is taking the Amigos program to other elementary schools to teach more young people about the benefits of inclusion. Program Facilitator Katie Bruce is working on putting together fun activities that Elementary School Amigos can participate in once a week during their lunch breaks. These activities celebrate students’ diverse skills and abilities and help foster attitudes and behaviours that create welcoming communities.

HUI is also partnering with Seeds of Change to restart our Amigos in the Community Program. Located in the basement of George Street United Church, Seeds of Change is an accessible and inclusive gathering space for community activities, such as arts lessons and so-

cial justice workshops. Amigos in the Community are young adults with and without disabilities who meet to make crafts, cook, and play games that are accommodated to meet different needs. Sometimes, they may simply meet to chat.

We are excited to be working with students from Fleming College and the KPRDSB Peterborough Alternative and Continuing Education program to deliver Amigos in the Community. Stay tuned for more updates about these exciting new initiatives.

Want to be part of Amigos in the Community or start Amigos at your elementary school? Contact caitlin@headsupforinclusion.ca

Thank you! To our 2013-14 funders & partners

- Canada Post Community Foundation
- City of Peterborough
- COMART Foundation
- Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough
- Community Living Peterborough
- Crayola Canada - Lindsay
- East Side Mario's - Peterborough
- Fleming College
- Harry E. Foster Charitable Foundation
- Kawartha FEST
- Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board
- KRG Children's Charitable Foundation
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Pilkington-Henninger Charitable Trust
- Peterborough and the Kawarthas Association of Realtors
- Peterborough EATS
- Seeds of Change



Congratulations!



Victoria Salem receives her bursary from Communications Officer Rosanna Haroutounian at TASSS.

Victoria Salem of Thomas A. Stewart Secondary School and **Jessica Rudkin** of Campbellford District High School are recipients of this year's Amigos Bursary. The Amigos Bursary recognizes a student's dedication to the Amigos School Program and their excellence in promoting inclusion at school and in their community.

HUI receives Canada Post Foundation Grant



Heads Up for Inclusion is honoured to receive a Canada Post Community Foundation Grant for our 2013 Amigos program.

By raising awareness and funds, Canada Post supports volunteers and local and national non-profit groups that work to deliver a brighter future for Canadian children.

We are proud to be among grant recipients from schools, daycares, libraries, food banks, parks and other organizations which offer everything from sports clubs to suicide prevention programs to instruments for school music programs.

We received \$8,000 to help ensure students in our Amigos program can participate in making friends, learning, and having fun at lunch-time meetings and special events. Thanks Canada Post Community Foundation!

Please consider donating to HUI

Your generosity keeps our programs running.

We are a non-profit, charitable organization and rely on your support to continue promoting connections and relationships within our community (#84547 3255 RR0001).

Tax receipts are provided for donations of \$20 or more. To donate please contact 705-745-1700, email johnemcnutt@sympatico.ca or mail a cheque to the address below.

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