

Amigos Coffee House



Kenner Intermediate Amigo performs an original poem

Art has the power to make differences and disabilities disappear. In April, approximately 40 people including Amigos, their parents and community program participants attended a coffee house at The Spill. The Amigos performed poetry and music and displayed art they had created at their schools.

HUI had the opportunity to sit down with family members whose children participate in the Amigos program. One parent stated, "My daughter used to get bullied, but things have gotten much better. I'm so proud to see her have the support and confidence to perform today"

Heads Up for Inclusion would like to thank The Spill, volunteers from the KawarthaFEST Ambassador Program and guest musicians Kirk and Dylan Losell for making the event possible.

New Community Program!

In February, Heads Up for Inclusion launched the Community Program, an initiative aimed at bringing young adults aged 17-30 together to build inclusive relationships and enjoy recreation and leisure activities.

Program participants have been meeting biweekly at George Street United Church. They explore

shared interests through activities such as crafts, team challenges and board games.

Participants are also championing inclusion in the community as a whole. They have participated in events including a gardening day at the Stewart Street Community Garden and the Amigos Coffee House at The Spill.

(Right) Community Program participant, Robert, plants brusell sprouts at the Stewart Street Community Garden under the direction of garden volunteers



Message from the Chair



When I hear an educational assistant refer to one of our programs as "the most rewarding experience we've had all year", I know we're doing something right.

From the Amigos program and associated field trips, to

the community program and the introduction of new staff and placement students, it's certainly been a busy and rewarding year.

HUI continues to look for innovative ways to promote inclusion and create opportunities for relationships to form. The Board has been very excited to see the community program get off the ground. It recognizes a need for former Amigos participants and any other community members with a belief in inclusion to have the opportunity to maintain community connections after high school.

Our reach seems to grow every year and we are so pleased to know that even with last year's work-to-rule action our ties with the schools continue to blossom.

Thank you to everyone who continue to support our work. We couldn't do it without you!