

# The Gateway Resource

Recycling recent memories and events



## Kim's Komments

As we can see by the date on the calendar, we are well into the fall season. Summer was a busy time at Gateway with many new developments and changes. To name a few: Occupational Therapy students took part in developing the training suite goals for the Supported Independent Program; our first car wash/fundraising event took place and was a success; the Grand Opening of our Recycling Depot is behind us; the Recycling Sorting Station is in operation; we celebrated Direct Support Professional week by honoring our DSP's in various ways; major renovations that took place at Our Home Residence are now completed; a new residence (built on Mountview Residence property) will be ready for occupancy in November; Mountview Residence, as we know it, is no longer as it was cleaned out/bulldozed down and construction of another new residence is being built on the same location; choir practice for the annual Christmas Program (being held on November 24th) has already been happening since early in October. Through all of this, it is always encouraging to see how Gateway employees and participants continue to pull together to make Gateway a desirable work place. Have a wonderful fall season and although the celebration of Thanksgiving is already behind us, let's remember that we have much to be thankful for.

Sincerely, Kimberly Nelson, CEO

## Car Wash/BBQ Fundraiser

Friday, September 2nd was the date the Gateway Car Wash/BBQ Fundraiser. It turned out to be a beautiful day, weather-wise, and there was good community support. Approximately \$1,300 in donations came in. These will go towards the purchase of a Program vehicle to be used to transport participants to and from their daily activities. A big thank you to our sponsors - Winkler Coop for the donation of food for the BBQ lunch and Eco Plus Sanitation and Cleaning Supplies (who donated car wash/cleaning supplies). Also a big thank-you to everyone who washed cars, helped with the BBQ lunch, and made this fundraiser a success.



## Gateway Resources Celebrates Direct Support Professionals

September 12-17 was Direct Support Professional week. Although we are always thankful for the work that the DSP's do, during this week we try to show them, in more tangible ways, that they are valued and appreciated. This year we held an essay contest where DSP's could submit a 500 word essay on the topic - Why you love your job and why you do what you do - with the top three essays winning a prize. First prize, an Apple I-Pad Mini, was awarded to Hilda Gerbrandt. Second prize, a \$150 MasterCard Gift Card, went to Jessica Marshall. Third prize winner, Tina Wolf, received a \$75 Superstore Gift Card. All other DSP's who submitted an essay received a \$25 Gift Card. A big thank-you to all our DSP's. Without you Gateway could not operate as it does.



### Below are excerpts from the essays that were submitted

*"Every day as a DSP is filled with new opportunities to work alongside some pretty amazing people. When I began working at Gateway, I thought I would do a lot of teaching. What I have discovered is that I have a lot to learn. I am surrounded by people with so much life experience and a willingness to share it."*

*'Do what you love and you'll never work a day of your life.' This quote rings especially true for me because I love being a DSP. I love it because of the individuals that my coworkers and I help support. I love not feeling like I wake up every morning to go to work. I wake up and I know that I am going to greet 150 people, give or take, who all are at Gateway for the same purpose - to build community. I know I am coming to Gateway as a part of something bigger, a part of a team. I am waking up every morning to strive to be better, not only professionally, but personally. I wake up to do what I love, not to go to work, and that is why I love being a DSP."*

*"I love being a DSP because of the cheerful greetings you get first thing in the morning, with a 'how are you?' and 'what did you have for supper last night,' and 'what did you do?' Being a DSP has and plays many roles and to be able to assist (the participants) in what their needs may be makes me feel I am helping them learn. Thank you for a place I can come to work, and feel I have accomplished a job that I love."*

*"What I really love about being a DSP is the participants - interacting with each and every participant that comes to the day program. There are never two days that are the same...the relationships that are formed between me and the people I support...seeing the smallest of advancements...I am honored to be a DSP at Gateway."*

*"I enjoy being a DSP for a variety of reasons...it's a creative job where you can put your own spin on things...has a lot of variety...no day is the same and I like it that way...hands down - it's the people that make the job. You get to see people achieve goals that they didn't think they could...see people try and fail and help them through it. As to staff - I've never met such a creative, caring and compassionate bunch. They want to see their participants do well."*

*"I love being a DSP because of the variety of ways I have been able to help the individuals work towards achieving their goals and to be more inclusive in society. I love seeing the light go on in their eyes when they are able to better understand what is going on in the community, locally and globally. I love the challenge of figuring out different ways of teaching the individual so that they are taught at a level where they can understand and be challenged, but not overwhelmed...when I can be a part of helping them feel better about themselves...the adventure of a new day...seeing some of the hopes and dreams fulfilled...being part of a team that is committed to the same goals."*

*"I don't just like my job, I love my job. Getting to go to work every day is so rewarding...knowing that you are helping people accomplish life goals...where I know I am going to make people smile and people are going to make me smile. This is not just a job but a life-long career for me. Teaching people...being there to see the progress. I know people say there is nothing perfect in this world but I like to think that this job is perfect for me. So when people ask me why I like my job all I can really say is that it is the most amazing experience in life - helping people, especially ones with different needs. So what is my job? My job is a DSP but only because a multi-tasking Ninja was not an actual job title."*





*"I work as a Casual for Gateway as a DSP so it's like going to a new place to work every time...the residents are always welcoming. It's nice to walk into work, which is a home, and be welcomed with 'hello' or 'hi.' With me working casual, when I walk in almost everyone in the house is looking through the window to see who the 'called in' person is. Everyone has a bad day one in a while but I found that there are a lot more smiles than sad faces. I have taken residents to hockey games...the singing of 'O Canada' is priceless. It's the little things in life that most people overlook or take for granted that are sometimes the most rewarding - like driving around the block to see Christmas lights. The smile on a resident's face is priceless."*

*"I love helping people and I love being creative and playful in my job. I have been told that I am 'doing a good thing' when I have shared with people about what kind of work I do. To me this implied that people with developmental disabilities are so unusual, strange, or deviant that only an extremely good-hearted person would want to work with them. The truth of the matter is that people with developmental disabilities are just people, like I am. Yes, they have some special needs, but so do I. So do a lot of people. It's just that their disability is often more noticeable than those who deal with a more invisible illness. To sum it up, I love every part of my job. I love making a difference in people's lives. I want to continue to be an advocate for the people I work with because I care about them."*

*"I love my job for one main reason and that is the ability to make a positive difference in an individual's life...helping them to achieve goals...there is just no higher calling and maybe that's why I don't think of it as a job. I love the challenge the work brings...the way it stretches and forces a person to personally grow. When you are a DSP you are part of a family that has no borders. I learned this when I had the opportunity to go to a Wpg. Blue Bombers Game (with participants). The support I received from complete strangers that happened to be in this field of work when it looked like things were going to fall apart was amazing, and instead a miracle happened. The best prize would be if I was able to make people realize that 'why' you do something is so important. A strong enough why will help on those days that may not go according to plan."*

*"One aspect of my work that I love is what I'm experiencing, discovering, observing, and learning from the individuals that I support. They have and continue to demonstrate and exhibit to me their abilities, not their disabilities. The most rewarding ability I see is their sense of humor and big smiles and happy, carefree personalities. With each new day of work, I am excited with anticipation to see what the people I support are going to teach and share with me. Then, the question is...how am I going to master the ability to apply this new knowledge to my life and my challenges, hoping and trusting that I will be able to accomplish and achieve these abilities as successfully as the individuals I support manage to maintain their abilities. So it's not really what I love about my job, but rather, what is there NOT to love about my job?"*

*"I am very passionate about the role I play in supporting individuals living with disabilities. I love when I am surprised by how much the people I support can do either on their own or with a small amount of encouragement. It is so much more than a paycheque that drives me to come to work. Although I have had many other jobs in the course of my lifetime, this position has been the most challenging and rewarding and the only career choice where I have felt appreciated and valued. I really cannot see myself doing anything else."*

**Another 'benefit' to working at Gateway -  
You may start to think,  
or even, unknowingly, dress alike.**



## Recycling Depot Grand Opening

The official Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the 8,000 square foot public Recycling Depot was held on Thursday, September 15th. Among those who came for the ceremony were MLA Cameron Friesen and Mayor Martin Harder, who both gave congratulatory speeches. While the front half of the building is filled with recycling bins for public use, the back half of the building is used as a much-needed storage area for baled materials. Following the ceremony guests received an explanation of the new recycling sorting line and viewed it in operation.



## Our Home Basement Renovation From This



## To This - A SIL Training Suite





## Our Home - Upstairs Suite Renovation

From This



To This - A Crisis Respite Space - Now where should we hang that picture?



## Mountview Residence - Phase I

From This...

To This...

To This...



To This



The Anticipated Move-in Date is Early in November



