

Executive Director's Message

Well here it is at last! Finally after a long wait, we have managed to resurrect the CA newsletter. It is our plan to keep the newsletter going, so look for it quarterly.

So much has happened at the agency in the past 6 months! Where do I start?

I am certain that you all know by now that the CA office has moved from behind the Devonshire Mall to 495 Glengarry. Our new offices are located on the ground floor of the Thompson Tower at the corner of Glengarry and Wyandotte Streets. For those of you who came out to our After the Holidays Party, I am sure you will agree that our new office is roomier and will allow us to better meet the needs of the community.

Our CA team is growing to serve you better. In addition to our new space, we have new staff on

board. Join me in welcoming: Kathy Brosnan, our new Coordinator of Volunteers, Christine Easterbrook, Coordinator Companion Animal Assisted Therapies Program, and Liz French, Coordinator of Social Work.

This past summer the agency updated its corporate logo. To make our agency name more user friendly, we are encouraging everyone to call

us "CA". Short and to the point. Over the next 4 months we will be promoting new brochures, volunteer badges, lapel pins and much more in an attempt to showcase our new logo and corporate name. At the end of September, we will be unveiling our new website. Stay tuned for more details about www.citizen-advocacy.ca

With all the activity going on, we are still busy making a difference for seniors and adults with disabilities in our community. If you know of someone who could benefit from our programs, give the office a call.

If you haven't been by our office yet, please drop in Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Parking is available at the municipal lot in front of Windsor Water World. It would be great to see you

Joyce Zuk
Executive Director



Best Buddies At Citizen Advocacy (CA)

In September 2002, Citizen Advocacy (CA) was asked to host the Best Buddies program for the University of Windsor Chapter. Best Buddies is an international charitable organization that links college and university students with adults with developmental disabilities. The program matches students with "Buddies" based on mutual interests for one-to-one relationships. The duration of the match is from

September to April with the student and Buddy speaking on the phone weekly and meeting twice a month. The student and Buddy meet individually and at scheduled group activities throughout the school year. This past year was a great success. The matches enjoyed participating in a "meet and greet" social, bowling and pizza, Lancers night and other great activities. One student wrote "the best part of my Best Buddies

match was my friendship with my Buddy. He has taught me how to look at the little things in life and enjoy them more. I hope I have made as big an impact on his life as he has on mine." We look forward to creating more exciting matches this September.

Barbara Iacono
Social Worker

Facts about Developmental Disabilities:

- Approximately 900,000 Canadians have developmental disabilities
- 3 out of every 100 people are born with some degree of developmental disability
- 80% of people with a developmental disability live with a family member
- 77% of individuals with a developmental disability live below the poverty line
- Developmental disabilities may or may not be accompanied by physical disabilities
- The degree of disability varies greatly from individual to individual

"A Best Buddies match helps to break down barriers to inclusion and provides opportunities for shared experiences."