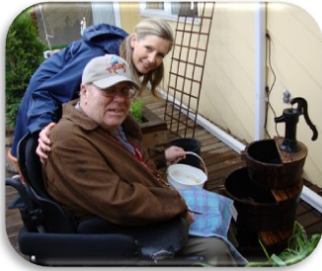


June, 2011

CIP Summer Outings

ARBI's Community Integration program (CIP) helps to re-engage clients in meaningful activities in the community. Leisure and volunteer pursuits bring deep meaning into the lives of brain injury survivors.

The summer is a great opportunity for CIP to involve clients in outdoor activities. This season clients have enjoyed a trip to Lunchbox Theatre and the Titanic exhibit at the Science Centre.



Activities to come are trips to Sunnyside Home and Garden Centre and participation in the Sports Sampler Group, which gives clients a chance to play a variety of modified sports such as bocci ball and lawn bowling.

Participating in these events is an important part of the rehab program. Many tasks, such as gardening for example, require fine motor skills, dexterity and evoke sensory stimulation.

Stampede Breakfast

Callin' all Cow-Folk



Wednesday, July 13, 9:00 - 11:00 am, roughly 400 folk will attend to chow down on some delicious flapjacks and bacon, as we celebrate Stampede week. We hope to see you there!

Astoria Group Charity Classic Golf Tournament in support of ARBI

Join us on September 19, 2011 at the beautiful Heritage Pointe Golf Course to participate in a fabulous day of golf, fun events, and prizes. Chaired by Diane Beattie, this event is sure to be a day of fun and excitement. To participate, sponsor, or donate prizes or auction items please contact Jane Dafoe at jane@arbi.ca or Emmerly Clarke at emmerly@arbi.ca, 403-242-7116.

ARBI is launching a **NEW** website and social media campaign, **coming soon**.

Join us on Facebook and Twitter to stay connected!



Volunteers Give the Gift of Time

We invite you to join our team:

And make life better for a brain injury survivor. Call us at 403-242-7116 or email info@arbi.ca. We will provide a thorough orientation to our programs and match you with a volunteer opportunity that best meets your needs.

E.D.'s Corner: A note from the Executive Director



Spring is upon us. The release of an RFP (Request for Proposals) for brain injury/stroke services by Alberta Health Services (AHS) is imminent. ARBI has been providing specialized services for survivors of the most severe brain injuries for over four years *without* compensation from AHS

– even though an astounding 100% of our referrals are from AHS professionals. A successful RFP application would ensure sustainability for our programs.

Because of support from people like you, we have been fundraising almost 50% of our operating dollars. Thank you! Your generosity helps ARBI provide rehabilitation, community integration and family support in an atmosphere of teamwork and respect.

Your gift gives hope. Individuals who have been given no chance of recovery, regain dignity, independence and achieve their best possible quality of life. Survivors deemed to be so injured they cannot move or speak, problem-solve, feel, or survive, can learn to create art, appreciate music and even volunteer.

ARBI helps survivors regain their independence, whether it's with daily tasks such as dressing or eating or engaging in leisure pursuits.

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With your help, survivors have moved out of long term care, attended their son's wedding and watched their grandson receive his high school diploma. Every day, ARBI graduates enjoy activities such as teaching French, planting a garden, cooking a meal, curling, sailing or volunteering with a disabled child.

Every step toward independence and being able to once again participate in meaningful activities is a reason to celebrate!

Thank you to all of our donors and contract funders who so generously support ARBI; we appreciate your commitment to *making life better*.

ARBI is currently redesigning our website. There will be something for everyone – survivors, families, volunteers, professionals and donors! The launch is currently scheduled for mid-July.

Mark your calendars for our Stampede Breakfast the morning of Wednesday, July 13. Welcome to our event sponsors Grover and Company!

Enjoy your summer and be safe!

Judith Stawnychko

Volunteer Corner

Shiel started volunteering at ARBI, June 2009. He works with Erik on his On-site rehab program.

When asked about volunteering he replied, "It opens up my eyes to what it is like to live with a disability. The physical and emotional challenges that are present all the time. The positive outlook that the clients have really affects me and really puts life in perspective. I am grateful that that I am able to help someone with their rehab and to be able to actually see the improvements. I get a sense of satisfaction that I can help and be part of (Erik) regaining skills."

Shiel is accepted to U of A med school for Fall 2011.



iPad is just the touch!

For many of us iPad enthusiasts we marvel at how fascinating, fun and helpful this **tool** can be. Give an iPad to a person with physical or cognitive challenges, it becomes a lifesaver. A device long overdue!



The young clients particularly grab hold of the iPad for its slick features and great memory aid. For those with fine motor coordination and visual challenges it is ideal.

One of the most fascinating examples of the iPad's use is that of our client Darren. A few months ago Darren depended on a costly speaking device (\$6000) that he has used for years.

Darren's Mother Elita rigged up his new (\$500) iPad to his electric wheelchair. She is famous for her ingenuity and creativeness. From that moment Darren had a thin computer at his immediate disposal for every application **including speaking**.

Darren reports that he can speak quicker and he likes his "voice" much better. He says he loves it because everything he needs is right there. He only uses his home computer to make cards now. One of the best features of the iPad is that you can **multitask**. For instance, if you are playing a game and want to speak you can easily do that. Darren's social world, through Facebook and email, is even more accessible now. Communicating and keeping up with his friends is effortless.

Don Felder Visits ARBI

February 4, ARBI hosted Don Felder Live!



As you scanned the crowded auditorium at ARBI you saw smiling faces and tapping toes, as clients and friends gathered to enjoy acoustic renditions played by Eagles, original lead guitarist, Don Felder.

His visit to ARBI was such a delight. Clients such as Bert wore band T-shirts to get in the mood to enjoy a morning of music. Don played favorites such as Hotel California and Best of my Love.

Music Therapy is an important part of rehab. Music stimulates many areas of the brain simultaneously, evoking emotion, memory and of course FUN. Clients work on speech and cognition while they sing along to the songs.



Alan, an ARBI client, had the opportunity to play his guitar along-side Don, and sing one of the songs he has been practicing. For Alan, who survived a stroke after completing his sixth Ironman triathlon, this was an amazing feat.