

Verve... dynamics in the Vaughan Community

From Anna Baldussi Lato, Community Support Coordinator

How did we come up with Verve?

It's great to be neighbours and partners with A Stroke of Art. Adjacent to an art studio and artist definitely has its benefits. For one, the energy and creativity is constantly flowing between us. Community events and venues are consistently shared which in turn creates participation and linkages for the people we support to the community. So why Verve...dynamics in our Vaughan community? Verve simply defined...vitality, energy, spirit, life, animation. Verve simply defined... the Vaughan community!

Umoja

This summer the Creative Theatre Workshop had the opportunity to see a musical performance that you might have heard of "Umoja". The Spirit of Togetherness. This was held at the Toronto Elgin Theatre. "Umoja" has come to Toronto for the second time in collaboration with Ysis Entertainment Inc. Ysis Entertainment was one of our golden corporate sponsors for this year's show, "I Believe". What better way to show our appreciation by supporting their production. The group took the subway down to the theatre and as soon as they walked through the doors they were mesmerized by the architectural design and the warm colours of the theatre. And walking into the main room made it even more enchanting. This was an experience they will not forget. When asked how they liked the performance they said "the stomp scene was amazing and exciting. They way they used the garbage cans and stomped all over the stage." They also said "The singing and dancing was amazing and they liked the way they got the audience involved, everyone was laughing and clapping."



Creative Theatre Workshop

It is not only lights camera and action here at the Creative Theatre Workshop in Vaughan. Leonardo DaVinci and Robert Munch also come to mind with the groups amazing art work and story writing abilities.

The group has recently come up with a short story idea which they have named the "Extreme 7". At the Creative Theatre

Workshop our group engages in many different activities that are not only extracurricular, but also educational and skillful. They take part in classes such as theatre, art, dance, computer, pilates, cooking, creative writing and anatomy. They also receive extensive training in boxing. Thai Yoga and massage is another weekly competent included in their schedules. This group has also managed to give back to their community by taking part in programs in collaboration with Meals on Wheels and the King Museum.

During the summer the group was able to visit many of our Toronto attractions such as the ROM museum, Ontario Place, Medieval Times, Famous People Players, Wild Water Kingdom, The Fringe Festival, Centre Island, and Q107. They even had the opportunity to see the South African production entitled "Umoja" held at the Toronto Elgin Theatre. This group is an exceptional bunch of people and coming to the CTW on a regular basis is now an integral part of their lives in which they enjoy very much..

Thai Yoga

At the Creative Theatre Workshop Thai Yoga is a part of Thursday schedule and every Thursday the group looks forward to being a part of it. Thai Yoga has enhanced the groups ability of understanding their bodies, and has included a spiritual component in their lives. Thai yoga massage is a wonderful relaxation mechanism that emphasizes appropriate breathing techniques. My Thai yoga practice is entitled Buddha Baby and as of now we have Thai massage available. Home visits are available upon request and we also offer our services for special events and home functions. By appointment only. There will also be yoga classes available in the future. You can contact Nadia at 416-419-3282 or Kristina at 416-508-5623.



United Way

The United Way of York Region provides annual funding of \$161,000 to Community Living York South to operate the community outreach program. On November 4th, the 2005 United Way Campaign had raised 40% of their campaign target. Please give generously to the United Way and remember...you can designate your contribution to Community Living York South.

"I Believe"

The Community Living York South Vaughan Day Program and community members annually host a theatre/art production. This year's show was entitled "I Believe" Journey into a world of Creative Theatre...Experience IT!!! This year's show was definitely a success with over 300 people attending the production at the City Playhouse in Thornhill. We were delighted to have the presence of Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco and former Premier Mike Harris at our show, this support will always be appreciated. We also had a column in the Vaughan weekly and King Weekly highlighting our producers, cast and performers. All in all, it is exceptional to see how our group has been able to use their creativity, imagination and dedication to put on an unthinkable performance. Our continuous integration with community partners and corporate sponsors makes our team stronger year after year.

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Perfect Gift Ideas for Christmas

Having trouble trying to find that perfect gift idea for all those special people in your lives?



Well look no further.....The Creative Theatre Workshop in collaboration with A Stroke of Art have designed beautiful monoprint pieces. No two pieces are alike; each one is designed differently, which gives each piece a sense of its own identity and creativity. These monoprints are a true representation of our creative and colourful group.

These monoprints are great gift ideas for people of all ages or great for any special occasions such as birthdays, baptisms, communions or just because. We even know somebody who used monoprints as a bomboniere for their wedding gift. So come on in and take a look at these beautiful prints.

To purchase or for further information about these pieces please do not hesitate to contact us @ 905-264-7262.
Info: Large 8' X 10' \$20.00

Small 5' X 7' \$ 10.00

Did you know....

That Community Living York South has a Community Options program that assists individuals with a disability to find meaningful day options within their community to work or volunteer. The people we support in Vaughan have found meaningful job experiences, not only with skilled training, but also by creating meaningful relationships with their employers.

It is with these community members that we may be able to continue building foundations where we would like to make other individuals we support achieve their goals and dreams.

We are always searching for new day options in our community. If anyone has or is aware of any community connections in which you could link us up with, it would be greatly appreciated. Please do not hesitate to contact Josie @ 905-264-7262 or 905-884-9110 Ext. 512

Right from the Supervisor mouth...

"The individuals from Community Living York South have been very helpful with our children here at the daycare. They take the time in doing extra duties to help all staff at the centre."
Janet Batstone -Vaughan Family Child Care Centre

"Greatly appreciated and always welcomed within our other local agencies"
Vaughan Family Child Care Centre

"Rosalia is a very hard worker. She is very independent and is always ready to help out others."
Joe - The Cakery

Who's Who In Vaughan ????

Here at Community Living York South, Vaughan Office, we have a dedicated and hard working team. Some you might know, some have been here awhile, some have not.

Anna Baldussi Lato, Community Support Coordinator in Vaughan for 12 years. Responsible in assisting families and individuals to connections and resources in the community. Supervisor of the Vaughan Day Program.

Josie Sanguedolce, Community Options, a volunteer for 5 years and now a staff member with Community Living for 1 year. Responsible for making connections in the community for placements.

Ritu Bhasin, Community Support Worker, a part time staff with the organization for many years, now a full time staff with the Vaughan team for 1 year. Responsible for the direction of the Vaughan Day Program.

Nadia Tomaselli, Community Support Worker. A part time staff with the Vaughan team for 1 year. Responsible for the day to day implementation of programs including Thai Yoga with the Creative Theatre Workshop.

Teresa Romeo, Community Support Worker. Initially a full time summer student now a part time staff. Responsible for the day to day implementation of programs including the meals on wheels with the Creative Theatre Workshop.

Speaking Out....

Community Living York South along with the Vaughan Day Program had the opportunity to participate in a Speakers Training Bureau. The facilitator Ruth Anne Whicher, from r.a.w. (raw talk on real issues) expressed and allowed the individuals we support to fully understand and comprehend how to create a presentation from beginning to end. She also allowed people to express their common fears not only within our community, but also in meeting new people.

The Creative Theatre Workshop fully enjoyed and expressed their creativity to others who had attended the bureau. They had the opportunity to discuss their experiences out in the Vaughan community this past summer.

The staff in Vaughan always encourages people for full feedback on all of our activities that we attend. This particular activity was one they fully enjoyed because it allowed them to increase their social barriers by overcoming their fears with steps on how to face social interactions within their community. The Creative Theatre Workshop as well as the staff is always looking for new and exciting workshops or venues and would like to be able to participate in other trainings like this one. If anyone knows of any interesting workshops that will be going on in the community of Vaughan kindly let us know because we are always looking for new and exciting ideas.



Come and meet other families!

At Community Living York South's strategic planning day, families indicated that they wanted to have an opportunity for "Meet and Greet" with other families therefore we are extending an invitation to you to.....

Come Out and Talk with other members from families who have a son or daughter, brother or sister with an intellectual disability. Share your experiences about the issues that you are facing and your ideas about how families could be better supported in our community.

Come Out and Learn about innovative approaches to creating communities, schools, workplaces and public policies that support families in securing a good life for your family member with an intellectual disability as well as yourselves.

Come Out and Advocate for yourselves and with other members to make changes with governments, community leaders and employers.

OR JUST COME OUT! and have a coffee on Community Living York South.

**Please contact Brenda Crouse
Community Development at
Community Living York South**

**905-884-9110 ext 227, 905-771-0011 ext 227,
or 905-889-5239, x 227**



REENA is pleased to offer workshops for children and youth who have a sibling (brother/sister) with a developmental disability and/or autism spectrum disorder.

DATES: Sunday November 27/05
(for children 7-11 Yrs.)

Sunday December 4/05
(for youth 12-15 Yrs.)

TIME: 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Toby & Henry Battle Centre
927 Clark Avenue West
Thornhill, Ontario

FEE: \$20.00

**Ann Szabo @ 905-889-2690 ext. 2112
or email aszabo@reena.org**

Get Involved...

Community Living York South is starting our annual membership drive on November 20th and we need YOU!

Members provide the foundation of support to Community Living York South. By becoming involved, your membership fees can help a person with an intellectual disability to realize their dreams. Your membership fees from our annual membership campaign goes to improve current supports and services that we are able to provide for individuals and their families living within the York South community. As a member of Community Living York South, not only will it benefit you and your family, it will also benefit our community. Please contact us @ 905-884-9110 to find out how you can join our Community Living family.

Do you enjoy being with people? Can you spare a few hours? If so, we would love your help! Volunteers sit on our Board of Directors and Committees. Share your talents, skills and abilities or lend a helping hand and provide your friendship. Come help out with our fundraising events and have fun!

Can't give your time? There are many ways to help! Many services organized by Community Living are made possible through donations. Your gift can help assure that services are there for the people who need them.

Community Living needs partners who believe that all people have unique and different abilities and should be included in the community. Your voice joined with ours makes a real difference in building communities - **COMMUNITIES WHERE EVERYONE BELONGS!**

Boxing

Who says you can't have your cake and eat it too., you probably have not attended my boxing classes. My name is Curtis Caesar and I have had the opportunity this year to work with an exceptional group of people at their Creative Theatre Workshop in Vaughan. Seeing their improvements in energy and increased knowledge of boxing techniques throughout the year has not only moved me but given my classes a whole new meaning. They have had the opportunity to experience first hand, that you can have fun, feel great, and exercise, all at the same time. Life is too dull without throwing a good punch. For any questions on how boxing can be a part of your life, contact Curtis Caesar at 416-833-0078. Work with me to put the F in fun!



Seneca College King Campus Strikes Big!!!

How about that!! Three talented young ladies raised \$511.00 in one night for the Vaughan Community Living office. Stella Raco completed her student placement with the Creative Theatre Workshop from February to April 2005. In her second year enrolled in the Social Service Worker Program, Stella with her classmates Alex Zaichkowski and Natasha Brown created a fundraising event for one of their courses. Held at The Moose and Firkin Bar and Grill on Saturday November 12, over 100 people came out to support the event while creating awareness in the community about the organization. Many thanks goes out to the Astro Poor Band who also contributed their time to the event and donating proceeds from the sales of their CD's. Sponsors included Angelo's Garden Centre, Mississauga Hardware, Dewalt, Buddha Baby, Sylvio Service Centre, Zellers, Angelo Virginilli and Peter Lamanna. So what are the comments, "Great Experience", "Good Response", "Awareness Created".... all in one fun filled night in fundraising.

On behalf of the Vaughan Team and the Association, thank you Stella, Alex and Natasha for all of your hard work and effort!

Come one, come all...

Tis the season to be jolly...
mark your calendars.

Community Living York South—Vaughan
Would like to invite you to our 2nd
annual Open House Christmas Party on
Wednesday, December 21, 2005 at 11:00 pm

Where? 136 Wings Rd.
(off Rowntree Dairy Rd.)

Kindly respond to the Vaughan Team at
905-264-7262. Leave a message with
number of people attending.



A Stroke of Art-Inspirational Art Studio

Since the opening of our studio in Oct. 1999, we have made it our goal to reach out into the community of Vaughan, using the vehicle of visual arts. A Stroke of Art has been involved in many community projects and has been an intrinsic part of several creative initiatives. Art exhibits, community murals, innovative and unique art classes along with community partnerships are what make the mission for this art studio become a reality. Mirella Tersigni (founder/director) continues to persevere in the Vaughan community, advocating the importance of how art can shape the lives of children, youth and adults and lead them into a world of creative self-discovery.

Creative Theatre Workshop

CTW began as a wonderful partnership that has developed and become an integral part of the lives of the Community Living-Vaughan Program and its participants. Founding members; Anna Baldussi-Lato, Mirella Tersigni and Christian Scarlato have been the heart and core of CTW since Summer of 2002. The Creative Theatre Workshop is the first of its kind, combining theatre performance, with art and production. Unique in concept, CTW has managed to become a fully polished theatre company integrating participants of the Vaughan Program. Tots and adults, together with volunteers and students in our community perform live on stage, create all props, costumes and write all the scripts.

All performances are theme based, that include wonderful messages of how everyone can work and help each other, participate and live in harmony in our community. Every year the titles of the annual CTW productions, have their message clearly stated: 'We go Together', 'Are you gonna go my way', and this year, "I Believe..."

CTW have already begun to work on new ideas for their next adventure, and will be going beyond the stage into the community to send their message

"nothing is impossible, as long as you *believe..*"

Art inspirations

Artinspiratons, will be a section in **VERVE**, provided by Mirella Tersigni, that will include creative events, insights and education regarding creativity in the Vaughan Community. It will provide a short resource of local creative events, new programs and ideas, ideal for parents, family, Community Living members, teachers, and community volunteers. We would like to welcome any suggestions or notice of any event, for this section.

You can email: astrokeofart@bellnet.ca