



CHRYSALIS CLIENTS RECEIVE RED CARPET TREATMENT

Chrysalis' 18th Annual Achievement Awards and 40th anniversary celebration recognizes contributions made by individuals with disabilities

Edmonton, Alta. (October 20, 2008) —On Sunday, October 26, 2008 Chrysalis will host Roll Out the Red Carpet: The 18th Annual Achievement Awards. The celebration is sponsored by Servus Credit Union and will recognize the impact made by persons with disabilities in Edmonton communities through their employment and volunteer efforts. The event takes place from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Chateau Lacombe on 10111 Bellamy Hill, Edmonton AB.

“This is an especially significant Annual Achievement Awards ceremony as it also marks the 40th anniversary of Chrysalis,” says Chrysalis President and CEO, Lynn Groves Hautmann, “we are proud to celebrate the importance of diversity, and the value that people with disabilities have to contribute to society.”

Over the past year, award recipients have volunteered hundreds of hours in the community or have achieved their goals of employment.

Fionna Mitsuing, this year’s recipient of the Milestones to Achievement Award (for excellence in employment), has proven there is no limit to her abilities. Fionna is the first Chrysalis client in history to receive both the Excellence in Community Volunteerism Award (2006) and the Milestones to Achievement Award. Fionna, like many clients who access supports for volunteering in the Edmonton community, was once thought unlikely to ever hold a paid employment position. However, last year Fionna was offered a paid position at Meyers Norris Penny Ltd., an accounting firm in downtown Edmonton where she assists with cleaning duties. Fionna continues to prove that with the right encouragement and support, she can achieve anything. In this past year, Fionna has truly reached a milestone to her achievements.

New this year is the Servus Credit Union Community Award, sponsored by Servus Credit Union, which will be presented to Chrysalis client Donald Buckley. The award recognizes an individual who has shown leadership and has taken independent initiative in order to be a positive influence on his or her community. Donald is most recognized today for 30 years of volunteering with the Maple Leaf Hockey Association. Donald launders jerseys, assists with equipment and water bottles, and encourages players. Donald is an avid fan and their number one cheerleader. Donald is dedicated, friendly, has a great sense of humour and never misses a game.

“Everyone in hockey knows Donny,” says Bill Zaph, former Maple Leaf player, “Donny is a Legend.”

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Each employed Chrysalis client works an average of 633 hours in his or her paid position throughout the year. Volunteering clients contribute the equivalent of more than three months full-time, and totaled 61,878 collective volunteer hours to the community last year. Over 300 community organizations support Chrysalis clients in their volunteer and employment positions in Edmonton and Calgary.

The Annual Achievement Awards is an event run by a committee of staff volunteers. The event is made possible through generous donations from Edmonton's business community.

About Chrysalis

In 1968, Chrysalis began as a Centennial project under the direction of the University of Alberta and was created by parents and community members who realized that adults with disabilities deserved equal opportunities to contribute to their communities. Chrysalis was the first of its kind in the world, an agency especially planned for training adults with developmental disabilities to produce manufactured goods using automated machinery. Through Chrysalis, individuals were offered, for the first time ever, alternatives to staying in school or remaining inactive all day long in their residential settings.

Today, Chrysalis offers personalized services to help thousands of people with disabilities receive training, develop life and vocational skills, find employment, discover volunteer opportunities, and realize a better quality of life.

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