



CHRYSALIS SET TO CROWN THEIR CHAMPIONS

Chrysalis' 19th Annual Achievement Awards recognize contributions made by individuals with disabilities

Edmonton, Alta. (October 4, 2009) —On Sunday, October 4, 2009 Chrysalis is hosting The 19th 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.

“After 41 years of operation, Chrysalis continues to be true to its motto of "Change, Growth and Opportunity". What began as a centennial project in 1968 between the University of Alberta, Government of Alberta, City of Edmonton and a group of parents to train individuals with intellectual disabilities to use automated machinery and produce manufactured goods in house, has continued to evolve to meet the individualized needs, interests, goals and dreams of those served by Chrysalis through their involvement in community businesses and organizations.” –Lynn Groves Hautmann

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

Abegail Delumen, this year's recipient of the Milestones to Achievement Award (for excellence in employment), has proven there is no limit to her abilities. Abegail, like many clients who access supports for volunteering in the Edmonton community, was once thought unlikely to ever hold a paid employment position. For the past two years, Abegail has been employed at Go Logowear where she has become an integral part of the Go Logowear work force. Some of the work Abegail has done over the past two years includes cutting logo materials, folding clothing items and matching printed shirts and jackets. Abegail has set a high standard of quality at Go Logowear that has truly inspired her co-workers. With her dedication to excellence along with the support and encouragement from the rest of the staff, Abegail will continue to showcase her abilities and reinforce that this award is only one of many milestones she will reach in her life.

Last year, four new awards were introduced at the Annual Achievement Awards to recognize the 40th anniversary of Chrysalis. These four awards, the Chrysalis Partnership Award, the Servus Credit Union Community Award, the Chrysalis Champion Award and the Art Achievement Award, will be handed out once again during this outstanding Awards ceremony. For the second consecutive year, Leona Larrett will be awarded the Chrysalis Champion Award, which recognizes an individual who has contributed to the Chrysalis motto of *Change, Growth and Opportunity* through volunteer efforts. Over the past six years, Leona has been a fixture at numerous Chrysalis events and has never been shy to lend a hand in the kitchen, serving clients or with her daughter, Francine, who attends the Chrysalis Contact Program.

“Leona is a wonderful presence to have around as she is always so cheerful and positive in her approach to those with whom she comes in contact.” – Lynn Groves Hautmann

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 one of 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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