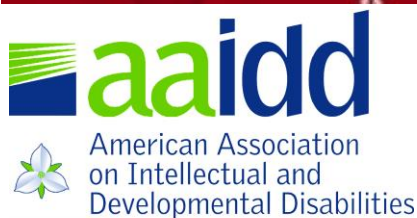


Trillium Tidbits

Issue No. 7



The Ontario Chapter



President's Message

Helping our Neighbors across the Ocean

Cataclysmic! Horrendous! Tragic! None of these words adequately describe the effects of Typhoon Haiyan. The Filipino people have suffered extensive loss of life and property and are presently in urgent need of the basics of life. Food, clothing, medical supplies and shelter are required immediately.

AAIDD Ontario answered this call to help victims of the recent Typhoon Haiyan Disaster. The Toronto Filipino community sent forth a call for donation of money, clothing and food. Our staff, students and families responded generously with these supplies. The same group volunteered at the Relief Center, sorting and packing boxes. Serving the needs of others in distress is an important life lesson. Our student volunteers with their staff worked hard and made their contribution as fully engaged citizens living with Down syndrome.

There was however, a memorable interruption in our work schedule. Our Prime Minister Stephen Harper arrived to thank the volunteers and invited us to have our photograph taken with him. He was gracious in his expression of gratitude to Ontario AAIDD for their work in building a respectful community. He spoke to us of how Canadians responded generously to those in need. Our youth group and staff were overjoyed by his kindness and have a wonderful memory.

I want to express my personal gratitude to Senator Enverga for facilitating this wonderful experience. My thanks also extend to his colleagues Senator Salma and Ministers Kellie Leitch and Chris Alexander who shared with us, the joyful grace of their presence. They too graciously posed with us for pictures.

Our out of class program at the center taught us important lessons. First, caring and helping others is the right course of action. Second, our Prime Minister demonstrated to us that political leadership has a human face. He certainly made ordinary citizens like us, feel special.

Dr. Ashleigh Molloy

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." - John F. Kennedy

Visit our website for regular updates

www.aaiddontario.org

Follow us on Twitter @AAIDD_Ont



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Fax: 416-226-0043

Email: aaid.ont@gmail.com

OUR MISSION

Mission Statement:

AAIDD promotes progressive policies, sound research, effective practices, and universal human rights for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

AAIDD's Principles:

AAIDD has adopted a 13-point set of principles (or core values) relative to its mission:

1. Achieving full societal inclusion and participation of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
2. Advocating for equality, individual dignity and other human rights.
3. Expanding opportunities for choice and self-determination.
4. Influencing positive attitudes and public awareness by recognizing the contributions of people with intellectual disabilities.
5. Promoting genuine accommodations to expand participation in all aspects of life.
6. Aiding families and other caregivers to provide support in the community.
7. Increasing access to quality health, education, vocational, and other human services and supports.
8. Advancing basic and applied research to prevent or minimize the effects of intellectual disability and to enhance the quality of life.
9. Cultivating and providing leadership in the field.
10. Seeking a diversity of disciplines, cultures, and perspectives in our work.
11. Enhancing skills, knowledge, rewards and conditions of people working in the field.
12. Encouraging promising students to pursue careers in the field of disabilities.
13. Establishing partnerships and strategic alliances with organizations that share our values and goals.

AAIDD's Goals

AAIDD's goals are to enhance the capacity of professionals who work with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Participate in the development of a society that fully includes individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Build an effective, responsive, well managed, responsibly-governed, and sustainable organization.

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Filipino Relief Event



What a day we had at the GEM Program on Monday, November 18th!! Today, the students and teachers lent a hand to the Filipino community, specifically to the victims of the Typhoon Haiyan. Thanks to Senator Enverga and his family, we were invited to help pack boxes full of food, clothes, blankets, and shoes to all those individuals who were unfortunately affected by the typhoon in the Philippines.

Our community service project took place at the Relief Centre based at Our Lady of Assumption church, and it was an even greater experience because we not only met various senators and ministers, but we had an opportunity to meet and greet our very own Prime Minister, Stephen Harper! Pictures were also taken with Chris Alexander, the Minister of Immigration and Citizenship, and Kellie Leitch, the Minister for Labour and the Status of Women! Both were most gracious.

After the Prime Minister thanked us for the generous contribution that Canada was making towards the victims of the typhoon, we returned to our work. Along with many other volunteers, we helped sort canned good, and separate various pieces of clothing, which will be shipped to the Philippines.

On behalf of the teachers and Dr. Ash, our youth group were wonderful representatives for our association. They were always willing to help, and showed their dedication to assisting those in need. I know that we were welcomed with open arms, and we were able to show everyone what the GEM program is all about: believing in the skills and talents of our members as full engaged citizens of Canada. I am so proud of all of us today, and I know that for me, it will be an experience that I will never forget!

Thank you to everyone who donated their canned goods and/or money. I know that it is greatly appreciated!

Carmen Lombardo

Teacher



The staff and students volunteer with Senator Enverga



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Dr. Ashleigh Molloy and the students met the Honorable Dr. K. Kellie Leitch (top left), Senator Salma (bottom left) and Minister Chris Alexander at the Filipino Relief Event.



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Special Education Resource Fair

On Saturday, November 2nd, we participated in a “one stop shopping” for parents and educators of students with special needs. It was a unique opportunity to access special services professionals for information, resources and presentations. **Ontario AAIDD had a booth where brochures and pamphlets were distributed by volunteer, Lindsey Molloy.**

Here are some examples of the presentations that were provided:

MENTAL HEALTH: Hope, Support, Resilience: You're not alone....When a family member has mental illness

LD: Getting Ready for High School: Preparing your child with a learning disability for transition to high school

AUTISM: Transition to high school planning for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders

One World, One Hope, One Dream

The TCDSB's Annual Special Needs Mini Olympics is an example of how all our students come together to make a difference.

The games provide opportunities to discover not only new abilities and talents but “their voices” as well. The students improve their lives, and in turn, the lives of everyone they touch.

For the past 16 years, the Special Needs Mini Olympics has become a board wide celebration of the resilience, courage, and fortitude of our students with special needs.



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Our Commitment to Students

In partnership with families, the parish and the community, our Catholic education system is directed at developing the full spiritual, physical, academic, cognitive, social and emotional well-being of each student.

Through their learning experiences, students develop a sense of self-worth and dignity as members of the people of God and are able to make a useful contribution in a complex and changing society. Inherent in these beliefs is the recognition that all students, regardless of exceptionality, are entitled to education in the most enabling environment. The exceptional student is a unique child of God and has a right to be part of the mainstream of education, to the extent to which it is practical and beneficial.

Thank You

Director of Education: Angela Gauthier

Superintendent of Special Services: Frank Piddisi

Ontario Ministry of Education: Paul Bertrand and Carolyn Anco

Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) and

The Education and Community Resources Fair Committee

CEC Head Custodian: Michael Cornacchia

TCDSB Audio Vision (AV) and Information Technology Support (IT) Teams

TCDSB Student Volunteers

All our Partner Agencies and Presenters

Special thanks to the TCDSB parent community and our students



Toronto Catholic District School
80 Sheppard Avenue East
Toronto, Ontario M2N 6E8
www.tcdsb.org

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Featured Presentations

DANCE IN THE SHADOWS (video and Q&A)

10:00 am – 10:30 am — Large Board Room (2nd Floor)

Susan Beanyni, PLAN Toronto

TRANSITION PLANNING FOR STUDENTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS: TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL

10:00 am – 11:00 am — Large Committee Room (2nd Floor)

TCDSB Autism Support Services Team Members

IMPLICATIONS OF HEARING LOSS AT SCHOOL

10:00 am – 11:00 am — York University Room (1st Floor)

TCDSB Deaf & Hard of Hearing Support Services Team Members

GETTING READY FOR HIGH SCHOOL: PREPARING YOUR CHILD WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY FOR TRANSITION

10:30 am – 12:00 pm — Large Board Room (2nd Floor)

M. Zangrilli, TCDSB PAT & J. Haydicky, TCDSB Psychology

DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES OF ONTARIO — PLANNING AHEAD FOR ADULT DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES SECTOR

11:00 am – 12:00 pm — Large Committee Room (2nd Floor)

Developmental Services of Ontario (DSO) / Surrey Place

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD'S INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLAN (I.E.P.)

11:00 am – 12:00 pm — Small Committee Room (2nd Floor)

TCDSB Assessment & Programming Teachers

HOPE. SUPPORT. RESILIENCE - YOU'RE NOT ALONE... WHEN A FAMILY MEMBER HAS A MENTAL ILLNESS

(video and presentation)

12:00 pm – 2:00 pm — Catholic Teacher's Centre (3rd Floor)

Part 1: Journey to Wellness (video):

Patricia Marra-Stapleton, TCDSB Mental Health Leader

Part 2: Christine Cooper, Family Association for Mental Health Everywhere

(FAME) & Stuart Clarfield, The Mission Media Company Inc.

Refreshments in Atrium

Registration on Main Floor

Main Floor and Atrium Displays

AGENCIES IN ATRIUM

Association for Bright Children

Camp Awakenings Ontario Camps Association

Child Development Institute

Corbrook

Developmental Services of Ontario (DSO) - Toronto Region

Extend - A - Family

George Hull Centre

Griffin Centre

Hincks-Dellcrest Centre

Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario-Toronto District

Psychology Foundation of Canada

Respite Services

The "Special Needs" Planning Group

Surrey Place Centre

Toronto Central Community Care Access Centre (CCAC)

Vita Community Living Service and Mensa

Woodgreen Community Services

Autism Ontario - Toronto Chapter

CNIB Library Partners Program

Community Living Toronto-Partners in Planning

Connect Ability

East Metro Youth Services

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FASD)

Integra

Heartfit Respite

Humber College (CICE program)

PLAN Toronto

Reach Toronto (New Opportunities for Learning)

Red Door Family Shelter

St. Patrick's Catholic S.S. / M.E. Class (S.W.E.A.T. Students with Exceptional Artistic Talent)

The Council for Exceptional Children

TC-CCAC Mental Health & Addiction School Nursing Team

Vita Community Living - Rights Group

TCDSB DEPARTMENTS ON FIRST FLOOR

TCDSB - The Angel Foundation for Learning

TCDSB - Kindergarten Language Program

TCDSB - Assessment and Programming Teachers/ Programming and Assessment Teachers

TCDSB - Social Work Department

TCDSB - Deaf and Hard of Hearing Department

TCDSB - Parenting and Family Literacy Centres

TCDSB - Settlement Workers

TCDSB Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)

TCDSB - Autism Services Department

TCDSB - Speech and Language Department

TCDSB - Early Learning, Full Day Kindergarten Program

TCDSB - Community Relations Department

TCDSB - Gifted Teachers

TCDSB - Psychology Department

Equity of Opportunity

The Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) is committed to providing an environment in all of its facilities that fosters independence, dignity, respect and to providing services that are free of barriers and biases to our students, parents/guardians, the public and our staff. The Board strives to ensure that the principle of equity of opportunity is reflected and valued in its learning and working environments.



Please find more details on these and other presentations at:

<http://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SpecialEducation/NewsEvents/Pages/default.aspx>



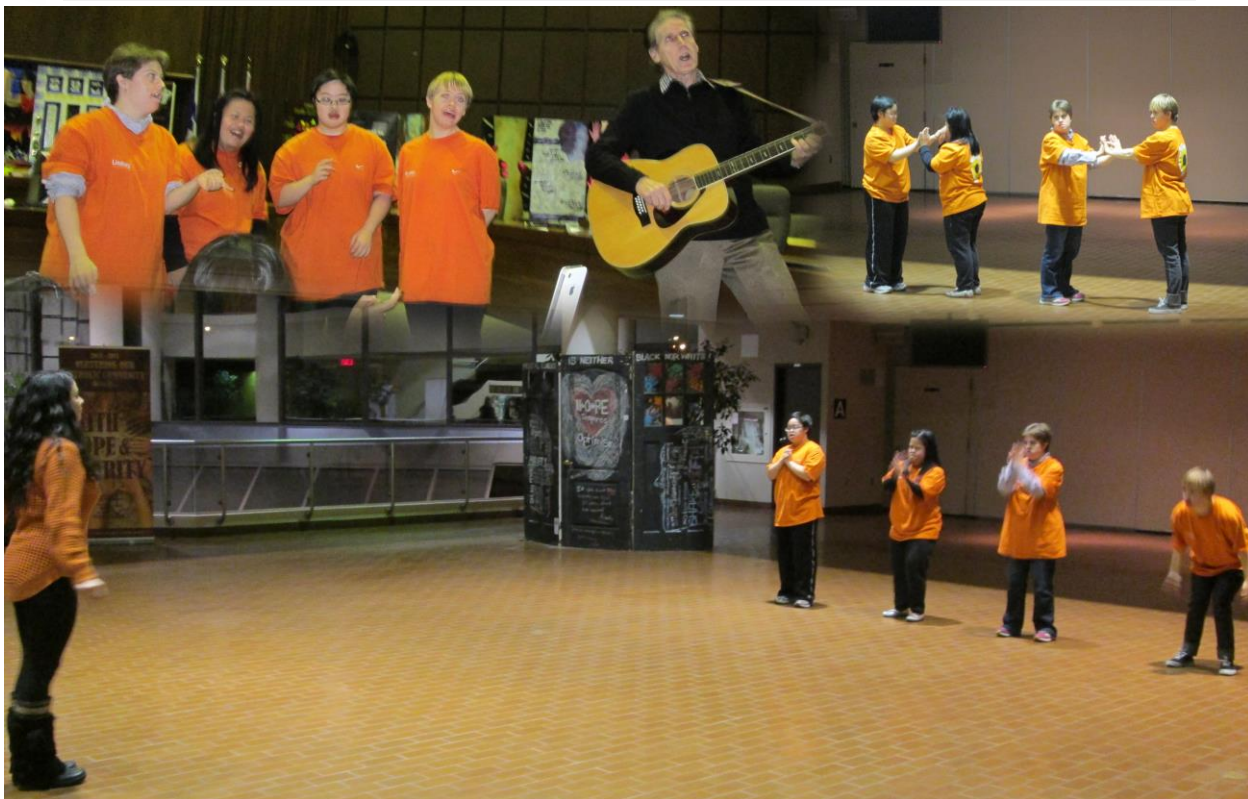
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THE SUNSHINE GANG!



On Wednesday, December 4th, The Sunshine Gang performed in the Atrium of the Catholic Education Center



The Sunshine gang singing with Dr. Molloy and performing interpretative dance with Danielle Violo

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The Staff and students with Trustees, Frank D'Amico (left) and Angela Kennedy (right)



The sunshine gang with Former Chair of the Board, Amy Anderchuk, Rev. Obina & Trustees, Frank & Angela

Class in Session

Our GEM Program continues to engage our students in a variety of learning topics.
A special thanks goes out to our competent teaching staff.





Learning through games



Language alive with Carmen Lombardo



Exploring our past with Jonathan Mauti



Finding your place in the world with Jennifer Haddad





Health & Wellness with Jackie Gomes: Lindsey demonstrates for the class



Practicing the scrip with Audrey Rodrigopulle



Kristen, Lindsay, Rocel and Kathleen enjoy lunch at McDonalds



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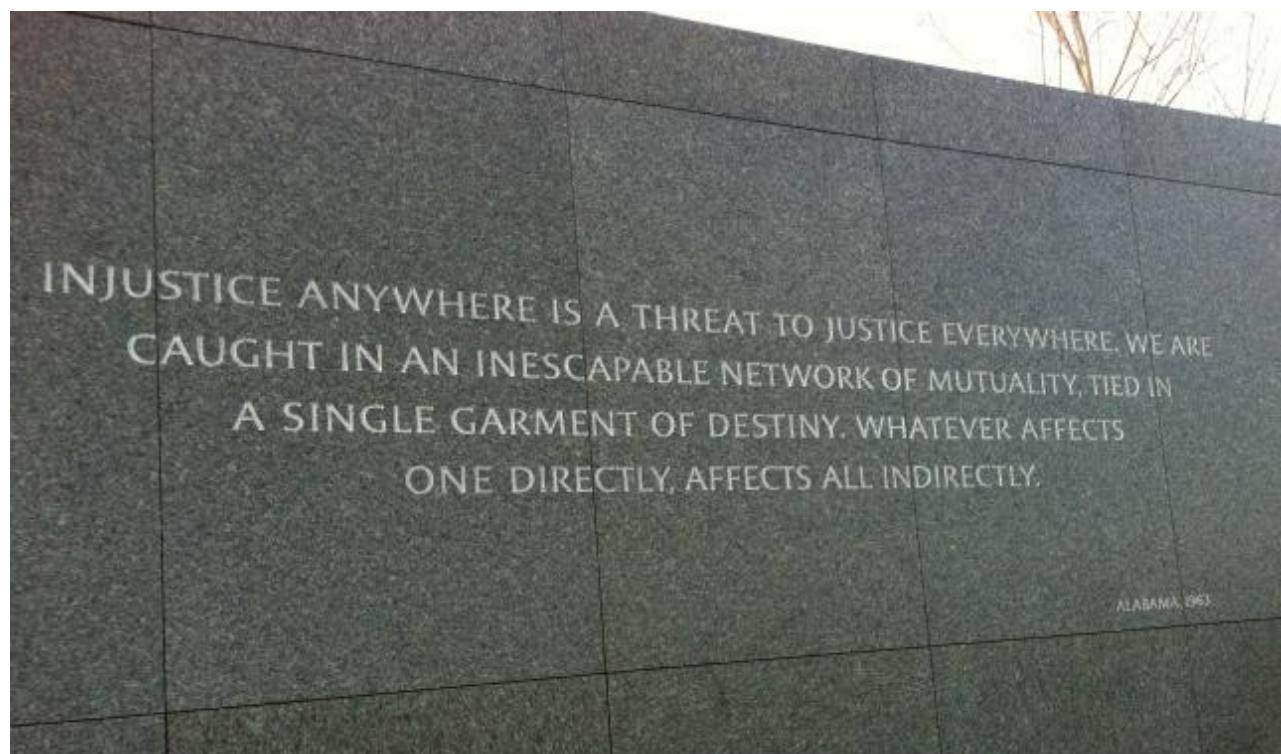


CANMEX PROJECT



This year AAIDD Ontario's GEM Program has been working in a project with teacher educators in Monterey, Mexico. Each month our staff participates in a meeting through Skype. The purpose is to share ideas and strategies through peer dialogue that will improve student outcomes. Specific cases are discussed and strategies devised. As collaborative educators we believe that knowledge has no borders. The teacher training college Escuela Normal de Especializacion promotes teaching all students in an inclusive environment. The Director, Dr. Humberto Rodriguez is a leader in the inclusion movement in Mexico and a dear friend. I have been privileged to be working with Humberto and the students for the past 4 years and have seen great progress. The future of students with special needs is in good hands in both Mexico and Canada with these teachers. Finally, I want to thank the students for sharing their Mexican Christmas cultural traditions with us during our December meeting.

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much." - Helen Keller



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Issue No. 7

Correspondence



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

September 13, 2013

Dr. Ashleigh Molloy
President
American Association of Intellectual and
Developmental Disabilities
4936 Yonge St., Suite 224
Toronto, ON M2N 6S3



Dear Dr. Molloy:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to thank you for your thoughtful letter of August 26. I truly value your kind words and welcome your ongoing support. I was very gratified to learn that you appreciate the direction in which we are leading our great country.

On a personal note, I would like to take this opportunity to commend you for your laudable work at the American Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. I truly admire your ongoing commitment to enhancing the capacity of professionals who work with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Your vision of a society that fully includes individuals with disabilities is inspiring.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to write. I wish you continued success cultivating and providing leadership in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada

Trillium Tidbits

Issue No. 7



Christine Elliott, MPP
Whitby-Oshawa

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Fax: (416) 325-1423
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Whitby, Ontario L1N 2H7
Tel. (905) 430-1141
Fax (905) 430-1840
E-mail: christine.elliottco@pc.ola.org

October 1, 2013

Dr. Ashleigh Molloy
Transformation Education Institute
4936 Yonge Street
Suite 224
Toronto, Ontario
M2N 6S

Dear Dr. Molloy:

I am writing to offer my congratulations on being selected as the recipient of the 2013 Urban Heroes Award in recognition of your community service.

I understand that this award is given to a member of the community whose personal efforts, sacrifices or contribution have made a significant impact to a cause, a person or a group in the local community.

This is certainly well deserved recognition of your commitment to improve the lives of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Again I offer my congratulations and best wishes.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christine".

Christine Elliott
MPP, Whitby-Oshawa

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Information Updates

- We would like to welcome our new staff member, Robert Zhaing. He will be teaching Math.
- On Wednesday, December 4th, our President, Dr. Molloy, was re-elected to serve as the Vice-Chair of the Special Education Advisory Committee (S.E.A.C) for the TSDSB.
All information regarding this committee can be accessed through www.tcdsb.org. Go to 'Special Services'

Resources

Everyone Needs to Move: For fun, for fitness, for focus and attentiveness, for learning

GeoMotionTV is a revolutionary learning and fitness tool. It is a streaming video website that delivers a variety of activities for children ages 4-12. The videos are designed to get children up and moving while learning.

GeoMotion TV is a great way to improve academic performance, promote better health, and even fight childhood obesity. Sign up for GeoMotionTV today and what your child's health and learning soar!

GeoMotionTV is easy to use:

1. Log onto www.geomotiontv.com
2. Select a video
3. Follow the video and start moving!



Web Resources

National Down Syndrome Congress	www.ndscentre.org
Canadian Down Syndrome Society	www.cdss.ca
Down Syndrome Research Fund	www.dsrf.org
Down Syndrome Footprint	www.downsyndromefootprint.com
Down By the Border	www.downbytheborder.org
TransEd Institute	www.transedinstitute.org



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Special Education Services at Home

The Special Services at Home program helps families who are caring for a child with a developmental or physical disability. It is funded and managed by the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

The program helps families pay for special services in or outside the family home as long as the child is not receiving support from a residential program.

For example, the family can hire someone to:

- help the child learn new skills and abilities, such as improving their communications skills and becoming more independent
- provide respite support to the family - families can get money to pay for services that will give them a break (or "respite") from the day-to-day care of their child

For more information please visit:

<http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/topics/specialneeds/specialservices/index.aspx>

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS LIKE YOU!

Change your Life! Gain New Skills! Love the Experience!

You are cordially invited to share your time and talent! Our association provides a weekly program on Monday (9:00am to 3:30pm). The program consists of teaching a variety of essential skills designed to meet the needs of our students with special needs. We seek to empower them so they can take their rightful place as fully contributing citizens. This program will be of particular interest to those college/university students pursuing a career in educational related fields. The program models a professional learning community where ideas and strategies are communally shared. Teachers/instructors learn from each other and from the students themselves.

Further information and questions are welcomed by contacting Dr. Ashleigh Molloy at aaidd.ont@gmail.com or (416) 697-4067.



Forum on Abilities

Giving community residents the information they need to turn disability into ability helping them to live life to its fullest.

The Show airs at **7:00 PM** on **Thursdays**,
Cable 10 & 63

Join Don Reist as he continues to be a supporter and advocate for the dignity of persons with special needs.



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It is that time of year when we reflect and are thankful for the many blessings we have. It is also a time for us to look forward to making new memories, achieving greater accomplishments and continuing to work collaboratively in providing inclusive education for all. We thank you for your support.

May the splendor of the season surround you with joy, may your home overflow with love, warmth and happiness.

Heartfelt Season's Greetings

From our home to yours



Dr. Ashleigh Molloy
President
AAIDD Ontario

Acknowledgement with Thanks

It is with sincere gratitude that we acknowledge the generous support that our association has received from Next Steps, Knights Village, Starbucks and Kam at Tim Hortons. These organizations have gone above and beyond to provide us with the assistance we require in hosting the programs presented by the Ontario Chapter of AAIDD. They have demonstrated their concern for persons with Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities as collaborative community contributors. They have been a major support for our student programs enabling us to pursue the mission and vision of AAIDD Ontario.

Volunteer Board of Directors

President: Dr. Ashleigh Molloy

Treasurer: Blaine Morlock

Secretary: Carmen Lombardo

Members at Large

(Promotions): Charles Tonna

(Special Projects/ Facebook): Danielle Michele

(Outreach): Danielle Violo

(Community Activities): Michael Quan

Website Managers: Dee Anderson & Paresh Christian

Newsletter: Johann Gomes

Videographer: Mark Christian

Visit our website for regular updates

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