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Marie retires

On Friday May 6, 2016 in a packed, bright room at Matty Eckler Community Centre, people gathered to say goodbye and thank you to Founder Marie Perrotta. For the past 24 years, Marie has led Pegasus and created a warm, welcoming and very respected place. From her original dream of an inclusive space for her son Andrew and others graduating highschool to belong to, to the organization that it has become today speaks volumes about Marie's tenacity, vision and energy. The admiration for Marie was evident not only from the sheer number of people who turned out, but also that every aspect of the community was represented: staff from the Ministry that funds Pegasus, City Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon, Colleagues from other service organizations, staff from Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation, families, staff and, most dear to Marie, the participants of Pegasus. It was a loving tribute to a fantastic person.



Matty Eckler/Pape

"Bonjour" anyone?

Matty Eckler has put French in their program. Every Wednesday morning participants are listening to words and expressions in French.

So far they know how to translate the days of the week, numbers, basic foods and things and even bits of conversation.

You just have to look around the room and we are reminded with small posters glued on the fridge and on the walls how an English word is transformed. Going forward we will all learn to sing "Oh Canada" in French. With the help of cards with pictures, the internet, and Nikki, our placement student, (what a coincidence, she is fluent in French) we will connect with the language in a fun and intimate way. Nikki will be instructing our sessions as long as she is with us.

We are all looking forward to learning more....

Let me end this article with an "au revoir" for now.

Beaches

EXPLORING OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH WALKING

This year instead of Dragon Boating all Pegasus groups got together to explore our neighborhood through walking and meditation. Led by the BRC program group, every Wednesday morning the group would meet at different locations and explore the area. Participants were also able to learn how to get to different areas on the TTC.

We walked along the board walk towards Balmy Beach in search of Matt Damon (who was supposed to be living in the area while in town filming) with no luck. One week we explored Queen Street between Lee and Woodbine Park ending with meditation and relaxation near the pond. We were also able to explore Woodbine Beach and what it has to offer.

The most exciting walk was when all four locations got together and explored Riverdale Farm. We were able to check out the pigs, turkeys, chickens, horses, and cows.

Even though all locations weren't able to get together every week it was nice to come together to explore our communities.

Phoenix

The Phoenix program has started a jewelry business called "Sparkles by Pegasus".

We started this project for many reasons. First, Pegasus was given positive feedback during our studio sale last year. Secondly, this project helps to promote creativity, self-expression and confidence for the participants as well as adapting skills associated with the sale itself. All the beads we use are donated to the Pegasus store. Each pair of earrings is unique. They are all designed and handmade by our participants. All proceeds from the sale are given back to the Pegasus programs.

We will be continuing our sale on Tuesday afternoons in the front lobby of the Beaches Rec Centre.

If you are interested in buying a pair please contact the Phoenix group at 416 558 4014 or email kkenndv@pegasustoronto.ca



SH Armstrong

It was a summer full of fun for the gang at SH Armstrong. From visits downtown, to walks on the beach, to interacting with animals at Zoo To You, to relaxing in the pool the participants were busy! A big thank you to program staff for making the summer of 2016 one to remember!

From left, Gavin and Paul at City Hall. Next, Chris meets a friend at Zoo To You. David enjoys a walk at the beach. Far right, Emily chillin' in the pool.



Art Walk 2016

On Saturday June 4, 2016, Pegasus was an enthusiastic participant in the Kingston Road Street Fest/ Art Walk. We hosted 2 artists in the hallway we share with Close to the Bone, we participated in the Scavenger hunt and made the art we have a featured items for the day. The weather was amazing and the store was hopping. Thanks to store staff Virginia (pictured) and Cathy for working hard that day to help make it a success.



Summer fun pictures from all programs.



Welcome!

A big warm welcome to some new faces at Pegasus.

Andre Gordon is our new Manager of Administration.

Ciragh Lyons is the new Special Services Coordinator.

We also have a number of new relief staff who have joined the program teams.

Welcome back to store manager Marla McGrath!

Welcome to Pegasus. We are happy to have all of you!

New Executive Director for Pegasus

For those of you who don't know, I began as the new Executive Director at Pegasus on April 25th. I have known Pegasus and Marie for many years and have always admired the work done here so when I was offered the position, it was an honour. Although I am still learning and growing I am sincerely loving everything about my new position. The partici-

pants, staff, families, volunteers and supporters have all been wonderful and welcoming.

I have worked in the field of developmental disabilities for over 25 years in various capacities and most recently was the Director of Services at New Visions Toronto.

I have my degree in Disability Studies from Ryerson and my

commitment to ensuring people with disabilities have valued, meaningful lives is always in the forefront.

If you are in the neighbourhood, stop by and say hello.

Paula Murphy

Pegasus Annual Bocce Tournament & Picnic

Despite the deluge of wasps at our picnic, nothing could ruin the day! Beautiful weather, fierce competition and good food. Thank to everyone who came out to join us and helped make our day a big success! Congrats to Team Phoenix for their big win this year.



From left (above), Chris gets ready to roll the ball. Kaleigh gives last minute instructions. Team Matty had cheerleaders. Elizabeth relinquishes the trophy to Dan from Phoenix who were the champs this year.



From left (above) The police team discuss strategy before playing the champs from Phoenix. Peter and Mark entertained the crowd for hours. Serving up some good eats. Enjoying the good eats.

PEGASUSlooking beyond disability

Check out our newly designed website!

www.pegasutoronto.ca

Visit our Pegasus Thrift Store
Facebook page

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Pegasus Community Project is a registered Canadian charity that provides community based day services for adults with developmental disabilities.

Pegasus offers its services within the context of its core belief that:

- All people benefit from opportunities to learn and to grow and to have rich experiences.
- All people can contribute to the common good.
- The health and vitality of a community are enhanced when its members know each other and appreciate each other's differences.

Our programs are centrally located in vital, welcoming Toronto neighbourhoods. Each individual has many opportunities to access community resources and to learn and grow from a wide variety of experiences.

Looking for Volunteers!

Do you have a few hours to spare each week? Are you looking for a positive way to make a difference in the lives of people? Then we have a role for you!

We are looking for enthusiastic people to fulfill our volunteer roles.

1. **Store Volunteers**—come see what life in the Thrift Store is like. Volunteer alongside our participants and help make our social enterprise even more successful than it already is. Minimum commitment required is 1 (4-hour) shift a week.
2. **Bingo Volunteers**—The proceeds from the Pegasus involvement, as a charitable organization, with Dolphin Bingo provide valuable funds that help maintain the high level of programming at Pegasus. Each month Pegasus volunteers are responsible for 7 sessions. Our sessions are always on a Wednesday or Thursday from 9:45am to noon or from noon to 2:15pm and we provide two volunteers for each session. Each volunteer generally does two or more sessions a month. The larger our team of volunteers the less required of each one so please consider joining our team.
3. **Program Volunteers**—assist in our day activities alongside our amazing staff. Help out with programming and get to know the fantastic people who spend their day at Pegasus. Minimum commitment is flexible but 2 hours per week is preferred.

If any of these roles interest you, please contact Paula Murphy at 416-691-5651 or pmurphy@pegasutoronto.ca and she will put you in touch with the right person.