



RYGIEL NEWS

Fall 2014

Living Our Vision

The evolution of Rygiel has been influenced by a holding vision and striving to achieve it. You may ask, “what is a vision and why is it important?”

We need to know our aspiration – what do we want to achieve and we need to be clear about what we believe and value. As an agency, it is important that we know how our services should impact the lives of those we serve.

Each one of us dream, imagine what we want in our lives. We create images of the life we want for our children, for others who are important to us.

A vision is an imaginative foresight – it is the act of seeing, or ability to see, a picture formed in the mind of future greatness. A visionary is a person who imagines how things should be. (Webster’s Dictionary).

An agency needs to do the same. We imagine what the lives of the people we support will be like as a result of our service to them.

This then guides the actions we need to take. It sets the path for the policies and services. Our vision statement clarifies Rygiel’s beliefs and governing principles, first for ourselves, and then for the greater community.

Our vision:

Every person we support will have a full and meaningful life, which means having a home, relationships of all kinds, and a variety of socially valued roles.

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Living our Vision (continued)

We have come to learn that home life, committed relationships and a variety of meaningful roles are the foundation for one to live a full and meaningful life. It is our responsibility to support the people who come to us for service.

The vision statement helps us be attentive on what is really important. It helps us stay focused as we do our daily work. It helps unite us together in common purpose. It serves as a constant reminder of what is most important.

Secondly, our vision statement lets other individuals and organizations know who we are.

There are many other reasons to have a vision statement. For example, having clear and compelling vision statements can:

- Draw people to common work
- Give hope for a better future
- Inspire community members to realize their dreams through positive, effective action
- Provide a basis for developing the other aspects of our action planning process.

In upcoming editions, we will look closely at each component of our vision for the purpose of deepening our understanding and reminding us of what is most important in our support to those we serve.

A Giving Staff

There is something very moving when a staff member approaches you and asks if they can donate on Rygiel's behalf for another charity. Moving because you know the staff not only makes her living here but also genuinely cares about the agency.

This is exactly what **Tracy Perrin** did for Rygiel this summer.

On August 16th 2014, a fundraising event, Saddle up for Cancer, was looking for sponsorships. Tracy decided she would sponsor but under Rygiel's name.

How did Rygiel benefit from this? People supported were able to come to Splitsville and enjoy a full day of free bowling . Rygiel also received recognition for the sponsorship through signage .

Rygiel would like to thank Tracy for her thoughtful and unique approach to supporting two organizations close to her at the same time.



Training Initiatives

CPR course at more than competitive rate

Did you know that employees and volunteers at Rygiel have to recertify for CPR every 18 months and First Aid every 3 years?

And did you know that you can also update your certification at the same price?

- Recertification cost of CPR and First Aid is \$50.00
- Recertification cost of CPR only is \$30.00
- Recertification cost of First Aid only is \$30.00

2015 dates are every other Wednesday, 6-9 p.m., starting on January 7th.

Contact Joanne Cimini , HR, at 905-525-4747, extension 211 to register

Golf - A Family Affair

This year, Rygiel Housing Corporation hosted the 7th annual Golf Tournament at King's Forest. The weather was perfect for our 100 participants who enjoyed their lunch, a round of golf and a wonderful dinner to end the day.

A lot of work goes into organizing and planning the golf tournament. The golf committee consists of volunteers who put in countless hours to ensure the day runs smoothly and that the golfers have a wonderful experience.



Salvatori Family hard at work at the golf tournament

This year the Housing Corporation decided to honour a family who have contributed many hours to make the golf tournament a success.

Penny Salvatori , along with her son Michael, have served on the committee for the last four years. They obtain golfers, sponsorships and set the agenda for the day. Husband and father, Frank, also contributes by donating prizes and getting sponsorships. The success of the tournament has truly become a Family Affair.

In recognition of these contributions, **The Salvatori Award** has been created. Each year, the names of the top foursome will be engraved on a plaque on the award. This lasting tribute to the Salvatori Family's dedication will serve as a reminder to all that volunteerism strengthens our community.

Many thanks to Penny, Frank, Michael and Rob for making Rygiel the beneficiary of their efforts. They are an inspiration to all.

Service Transformation

Over the past several months, there has been some positive news coming from the Ministry of Community and Social Services. With a substantial funding announcement in the last budget, our sector will see resources become available to families who are in need of services. Many have been waiting for years.

As a result of many concentrated advocacy efforts, the validation and clarification of need that came through the Ombudsman's review of the



sector and the work and recommendations of the Select Committee of government, the government was successful in committing millions of additional dollars over the next four years.

While the priority is to eliminate waitlist, some of the funds will assist with the modernization of the service system to meet current and future needs in a manner consistent with the Principles of the Social Inclusion Act.

Our Minister Dr. Jaczek's mandate is: "continuing to transform the delivery of developmental services in Ontario to help adults with developmental disabilities and their families live as independently as possible. This transformation will provide choice and flexibility through direct funding-and with existing transfer payment agencies and residential services system".

The government's vision is "to support adults with a developmental disability to live as independently as possible in the community and to support their full inclusion in all aspects of society".

The principles guiding the transformation are:

- Citizenship – Inclusion of people with a developmental disability in all aspects of community life
- Fairness and Equity – Individuals in similar situations and with similar levels of need can access similar supports, as available
- Accessibility and Portability – More flexible and individually tailored adult services and supports, portable funding
- Safety and Security – High quality supports and safety of adults are of paramount

Summer Student Car Wash

On Saturday, August 16th, Rygiel held another very successful car wash and BBQ fundraiser at Steve and Rick's Auto parking lot. Summer students, people supported by Rygiel, staff and volunteers worked hard on organizing this event, making and placing flyers around the city, making big, flashy signs, bringing supplies, and organizing transportation, the lemonade stand, BBQ and car washers.

Social media was used to advertise the event and raise awareness about Rygiel and the people supported.

The weather wasn't very cooperative but it didn't matter. Everyone had lots of fun, raised funds to help our Day Support programs and made connections with the community.

A total success in our books!

(Continued)

- Accountability – Accountability of services and government to people using supports and services
- Sustainability – Responsible use of resources to respond to current and future needs. (excerpt from West Region Forum, Oct. 2014).

This is an exciting time for our agency as we participate in the Transformation process and find new ways to respond to individuals and their families who will come to us for service. We are committed to change and improving services for all we support.

Holiday Bazaar Saturday, November 15th, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Knights of Columbus Hall
1527 Upper James St, Hamilton
(tucked behind Nissan dealership)**

Add this bazaar to your Saturday list—perfect place to find that perfect treasure or have a great snack. And help more than 200 Hamiltonians with developmental and complex disabilities have meaningful lives. Bring your friends

- Gently used jewelry, children's clothes, books and household items
- Crafts
- Homemade Cabbage Rolls
- Bake Sale
- Café with tasty treats



Many bargains—Bring Your Friends!

Accreditation

Rygiel has begun the process of Accreditation.

Accreditation is a process of meeting organizational and program/service standards developed by impartial organization specializing in quality assurance. Accreditation indicates that the accredited organization has achieved an appropriate level of organizational proficiency and that it has reliable mechanisms in operation to continually improve the quality of services it delivers.

There are many benefits to the process affecting all stakeholders: people receiving service and their families, staff and volunteers, community and funders. To name a few benefits: level of assurance that service quality meets or exceeds sector standards, there are mechanisms for accountability to the person served, reasonable level of assurance that the organization is well-run and provides good return on investment, ongoing program/outcome evaluations providing information on effectiveness, efficiency, and client satisfaction, etc.

Rygiel has contracted with FOCUS Accreditation. Orientation to the process was held on November 4th and attended by 30 staff and included representation from the Board of Directors.

We are very pleased to engage in this important process. It will take approximately 18 months to prepare for the onsite review. Many staff, people supported and board members will participate in the process. Regular updates will be provided through our newsletter and other communiques.

Complimentary Compliance Report

In early October, Rygiel underwent its compliance review conducted by the Ministry. This is a process required for each agency funded under the Supports and Services to Promote the Social Inclusion of Persons with a Developmental Disability Act.

This process is a wonderful opportunity for us to be reminded of the requirements under regulation to which we must be in compliance. It provides for feedback and affirmation on the elements where we do well and it is a good reminder to “pull up our socks” where we are not



functioning at our best. Thanks to Wioletta Gut for being the key staff person supporting the Ministry throughout the process. Thanks also to everyone who received a visit from the reviewer and welcomed her so professionally and respectfully.

There are a few items that require remediation and a work plan is being developed to bring us into compliance on those few items. All other requirements were in compliance.

The reviewer had many complimentary things to say about the agency and the service it provides. One of my favourite comments was “your homes are gems. They demonstrate inclusiveness and genuine respect for the people you serve”. Thank you everyone for the dedication that results in a high standard of support.

Wish List

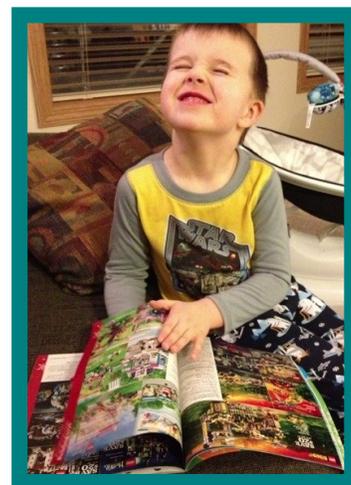
Remember those days when you were pouring over the catalogue, making wishes to whoever may be listening about what you wanted? Now you have a chance to be a Wish Builder

There are a number of items that would make life more fulfilling for those Rygiel supports. Our goal? **To raise \$32,000 to purchase all these items.**

This holiday season, please make a donation and help wishes come true:

- 4 Ipads
- DARTS transportation passes (10 passes and 300 bus tickets)
- Single bed and bed frame
- 2 sets of dishes
- Winter salt and sand
- Funds to subsidize some day programs for senior residents (\$21.00 per day per person) - need for 8 people.
- 6 snow shovels
- Gift cards for clothing - Sears, Walmart
- Gift cards for movies
- Projector
- Scrapbook supplies - albums, adhesive tape, decorative paper
- Baking supplies
- Hand held musical instruments, lap drums
- Needed - meeting space for approximately 40 people once month

If you buy gift cards through our Fundsript program (see last page) and Rygiel benefits from your generosity in two ways—your donation (receipt for value of the card) and a percentage of the card value given back to Rygiel.



Save the Date

- November 15—Holiday Bazaar
- Starting January 7th—and every second Wednesday—CPR/First Aid Recertification
- March 29, 2015—Spring Brunch



Be a Christmas Elf with Gift Cards

With the holidays coming up, buy that special someone a gift card from their favorite retailer and help contribute to a worthy cause.

Order your Fundscrip Gift Cards today! And 2-7% of the value goes to Rygiel. Available for groceries, restaurants, gas and many retail stores.

PLACE YOUR ORDER TODAY!!

It's an easy way to make a difference while getting that special person a gift in the process. For more information contact Viola at 905-525-4747 ext. 223



Contact Us

For more information or to make a donation, call us at:

**Rygiel Supports for
Community Living
905-525-4311**

Suite 200
1550 Upper James St
Hamilton, ON
L9B 2L6

Visit us on the web at
www.rygiel.ca