



YMCA CENTRE FOR LIFE

COMMUNITY BUILDING CAMPAIGN



NEWSLETTER MARCH 2024

As March ushers in the arrival of spring, our capital campaign welcomes new energy and momentum with a new project partner joining the team at the forthcoming YMCA Centre for Life. This additional collaboration propels us forward in our mission to create a dynamic and inclusive space that will radiate vitality and serve as a beacon of well-being for all.



A Transformative Partnership: CSBD Joins Forces with YMCA Centre for Life

Expanding the collaborative venture towards the YMCA Centre for Life, Community Services of Belleville & District (CSBD) has joined as a committed partner, providing a range of programs and community services for individuals and families. With a focus on delivering a variety of services, including assistance to children with Autism and individuals who experience developmental disability in Hastings and Prince Edward Counties, CSBD serves approximately 1,000 people each year. The organization offers parent education and clinical support for children with autism and assistance for those facing developmental challenges. Additional services include a Supervised Access Service and other services for families involved with child welfare services.

Nicole Chevalier, the Executive Director of CSBD, is enthusiastic about the partnership and highlights the transformative impact it promises for their organization and the individuals they serve. She emphasizes the significance of promoting their autism services, given the changing landscape where families now receive funding directly for autism services, leading to increased competition among agencies. "It's only one of ten programs that we have, but it's one of the more visible ones," says Nicole.

The partnership symbolizes a shared vision for community impact and providing services that

address both physical and mental well-being. Nicole says the move to the Centre for Life means they will be part of a lively and vibrant space, with increased traffic and opportunities for greater community engagement.

"I'm really excited about becoming a partner. We provide most of our services in the community, in people's homes. We have six different offices. Our main office is in the community, but we're a stand-alone agency," says Nicole, who envisions the Centre for Life as a hub where positive activities thrive, creating opportunities for people to see CSBD and access their services. The accessibility of the building is another exciting aspect

for Nicole, as it ensures ease of access for individuals with mobility challenges.

Together, CSBD and the YMCA aim to create an inclusive space where individuals can access not only fitness and recreational resources but also vital community supports. This collaboration represents a step forward in the pursuit of a healthier, more resilient community for Belleville and the surrounding area. As Nicole aptly puts it, "This is really exciting because you know there's collaborative opportunities with becoming a partner at the new Centre for Life."



CSBD staff celebrate Pink Shirt Day

Behind the Lens: Meet the Campaign Photographer



In the world of filmmaking, magic often happens behind the scenes. For Naveenchandraa Jayapremraj, known by his preferred name Harry, his journey has been driven by determination to find happiness in his work. Originally from Tamil Nadu, India, Harry has spent the past eight years immersed in the multi-lingual film industries of his home country. Now a student at Loyalist College in Belleville, Ontario, he is further pursuing his passion for filmmaking.

His connection with the YMCA is volunteering to capture photos and videos for the YMCA Community Building Campaign, which has become an opportunity to merge his filmmaking skills with his interest in public relations. "I just want to gain some experience and try something new," says Harry, whose vision for the project revolves around promoting a healthy lifestyle for people of all ages.

Despite having limited personal experience with the YMCA, he aims to convey the message that age should not be a barrier to staying fit and healthy. Before his role in capturing the essence of the YMCA, Harry's filmmaking journey has taken him from being an assistant director and photographer in Indian films to a model for various brands.

Harry's motivation is guided by his father's advice to find happiness in his work. He emphasizes the importance of passion and genuine interest in whatever one pursues. Graduating from Loyalist College this spring, Harry is optimistic about the future. His immediate plans involve seeking a job

in the advertising industry to gain valuable experience. Ultimately, he envisions transitioning into the film industry with dreams of making a mark in Hollywood, particularly within the Marvel universe. With a blend of filmmaking, modeling, and a newfound appreciation for the YMCA's mission, Harry's journey continues to unfold, promising exciting chapters ahead.



Did You Know

YMCA camps are a lifelong legacy of learning through diverse activities promoting physical, intellectual, and emotional challenges grounded in the organization's core values. March Break and Summer camps provide a holistic approach to nurturing the next generation of leaders, thinkers, and compassionate citizens.



1,000+

kids register for summer camp at the Belleville YMCA



20

youth are hired to staff summer camp



2-week

Leaders in Training program is scheduled for youth aged 13-15

Summer camp significantly benefits campers by offering:

- Opportunities to forge new friendships and encouraging healthy habits like physical activity and creativity
- Fostering problem-solving, socialization, and independence in a secure, structured setting
- Practicing the YMCA's core values of Inclusiveness, Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility, each symbolized by colored beads