



A New Business Concept

Applause Community Development Corporation has been carrying on business as A-WAY EXPRESS Courier Service since it was founded in 1987. Established by, and for, survivors of mental health challenges, A-WAY has proven to be a successful way to provide meaningful and supportive employment. Now, we want to build on that success, combining our 22 years of experience and the expertise of some of our 1650 customers, to provide more employment options and opportunities to psychiatric consumer-survivors. We want to do this by providing new products and services to our customers and our local community with the establishment of the *Applause Gallery Café*. We are presently in the process of consulting with our leading customers and the arts community and will shortly begin a consultation with the consumer/survivor community to help us develop this new business. Community Developer, Jacques Tremblay, who helped A-WAY get started, is carrying out the consultation.

We see the *Applause Gallery Café* beginning as a modest storefront café, dispensing gourmet coffees and fine pastries, displaying paintings by Toronto artists, and offering performances of Toronto musicians, writers and poets. Eventually, we see it growing into a larger licensed venue with a full program of live performances, fine art shows and other cultural presentations. We welcome your contribution to the further development of this vision and we hope that you will lend us your creative ideas and business expertise. We need your help to create a new truly social enterprise, where community, culture and commerce combine to create something special everyday – and night.

Stay tuned for more news!

SNOWFLAKE MAN

By Hazel Gardner

*17 below 32 with wind chill Street car stop
Streetcar Stops People scuttle out
Old man in tired snowsuit What's he doing?
Knurled Hands Turn Snip Turn Snip
By God It's a snowflake!
Snow That pits the exhausted sleeping faces
Of men on Bay Street Men who sleep on subway grates
Their sleeping bags slip ever down
Frostbite occurs in 20 minutes On exposed Skin
Cavernous hood tunnels Broken by brief Streetcar rides
And This man saw me As I saw him
"You're from A-WAY Couriers"
He said as me and my bag slumped
To the seat Behind him
"This is for You"
A snow flake
Analog of computer numbers
Warm buildings on Bay Street On one side
Crisp white On the other
Thank you! I put The One In my pocket
No two ever alike! The Glee in his eyes!
A child of three Tasting his first snowflake Snow
In his hair Many winters This one the first!
Cutting snow flakes With green children's Scissors
In a Florida orange snowsuit
Headed for Longbranch*

Hazel Gardner

By Rosemarie Gelineau

Hazel spent half of her childhood in Oakville and then at the age of ten, her family moved to Cobourg. Prior to A-WAY, some of her jobs included: camp counsellor, cleaner at a "cheap motel in Cobourg" and two summers at a government-run seniors' vacation resort. She moved to Toronto in 1987 and completed her Bachelor of Psychology at York University and subsequently, her diploma in Activation Coordination, from George Brown College. While at George Brown, she had her first contact with the psychiatric system and it was not positive.

Following a volunteer stint, she found out about Green Thumb Enterprises and worked there for a summer. Greenthumb led her to A-WAY, where she was hired as courier in February 2005. She loves the friendly, supportive, people at A-WAY; a place where she doesn't need to lie or hide her disability. The social service and mental health systems had left her feeling like "an alien on my own planet; unrecognized and without value". She had become defined by her disability, instead of her skills. She feels most jobs are not for the fulfillment of the worker; they are based on the employer's profit margin and schedule. Now she feels appreciated by the staff and customers and is buoyed by her "mentally and physically courageous" co-workers. She loves gathering in the kitchen for the 8:30 a.m. shift listening to the "delightful, off-the-wall storytellers".

Everyday, being on the road is different; a new adventure in a "beautiful city, full of history, artwork and hidden gems". Hazel appreciates the trust bestowed upon her to handle important packages and likens her courier job to "being one of the blood vessels of the city; a vital component". She revels in the simple things, even experiencing the "beauty of the weather", while others are spending the day inside offices. She gets to see the city in its many "moods". While on stand-by, she often reads the historic plaques, chats with receptive strangers and even writes poetry. A copy of one of her poems, "Snowflake Man" is showcased in this issue.

In her leisure time, Hazel writes short-stories, poetry, keeps a journal, paints, does pottery and woodcarving. She is a soprano in the Bloor St. United Church choir. She is also taking her Master Gardeners' Certificate at Humber College.

Hazel is truly a woman of many colours and talents and she is a valued member of the A-WAY team.

C.A.M.H. Info-Fair

By: Peter Bozoki

The Vocational Services' Council at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (C.A.M.H.) celebrated Canada Career Week last November, with a number of events. One of them was a one-day Info-Fair, held at the Paul Christy Community Centre, at their Queen Street site. Seizing a good opportunity to spread the word to potential employees and customers, A-WAY was present with our info-booth and three staff members in attendance. The one-day event's goal was to highlight the employment programs at the Centre, as well as other government and community employment initiatives to both staff and clients of C.A.M.H. and their families.

2008 was the second year the Info-Fair has been held at C.A.M.H. and A-WAY has attended both times. Long-time A-WAY employee, Pat Deutschman arrived first thing in the morning with Personnel Manager, Mary Sharp to staff the booth. They noticed right away the large, inquisitive crowds taking advantage of the free fair, to see the many agencies and businesses like A-WAY, that offer job possibilities and vocational guidance for consumer/survivors.

A-WAY courier, Joel Sebestyen arrived later in the day and was pleased to receive lots of positive feedback from people that already use A-WAY, or have heard about us and our mandate. Many other enquiries were made about finding work with us, or using A-WAY for their delivery needs. The three employees were pleased to see many long-time A-WAY customers in attendance with their own display booths, including: Youth Employment Service, Project Work and fellow consumer/survivor initiative, Parkdale Green Thumb Enterprises.

The show was a great experience for the A-WAY employees who attended and they found it to be very conducive to promoting greater community, economic development. We hope to attend in the years to come.

Michael Moniz

By Rosemarie Gelineau

Michael Moniz was born and raised in Toronto. He met fellow A-WAY colleague, Peter Bozoki through a group they had joined and Peter told him about A-WAY. In the spring of 2006, he applied for a job as a courier and was hired to do three days a week. He is now one of only two couriers that work five days a week. Recently, he was hired in a Relief Dispatch position and will begin training in March 2009. Although he enjoys his courier work, he is looking forward to the challenge of the dispatch position and sees it as a step-up. Michael enjoys the flexibility of A-WAY; no other employer has granted so much. He likes seeing the different and unique areas of Toronto that he wouldn't normally visit.

He indulged me in a "twenty questions" type exercise and here are the results:

What do you do to relax? Strangely enough, I like to take long walks!!! And take in a movie.

What is the most memorable place you've visited? Last year, I visited New York City and it was so surreal, being in a place that you've seen and heard about your whole life.

What is one thing you've always wanted to try? Travel overseas.

What is a little known fact about you? That I write screenplays. I have completed two, one horror and one drama. I am in the process of polishing them up and will then ask friends for feedback. I hope to get an agent soon.

What is one item you can't live without? Television, internet and a bed!!! Oh, I guess that's three!!

If you could have lived during any era, past (or future), which would you choose? Right around the time of Jesus' birth.

What is your favourite...

Restaurant? C'est What?-at Front and Church Streets.

Dessert? Cheesecake

Music? Rock!!

Are you a morning or night person? (Emphatically) Night!!!!

What would you rather do- read the book or watch the movie? Watch the movie, then go back to the book to see what's different.

What is one food you can't stand? Cheez Whiz!!!!

If you could change one thing in the world, what would you do? I know it sounds corny, but I would rid the world of war, terrorism and greed, foster respect for each other, remind everyone that we are all human. I would also want to repair the damage we've done to our environment.

A-WAY EXPRESS COURIER SERVICE

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In Memory of Joel Schwartz

By Alan Davis, Dispatcher

On March 3rd of this year, A-WAY Express lost a fine courier and fine gentleman with the sudden passing of Joel Schwartz. Joel suffered from a syndrome which made him appear handicapped, but nothing could be further from the truth. Joel was one of our most efficient, reliable couriers; friendly, polite and hard working. He was a fixture at our year-end holiday party and at the summer bar-b-que. People liked Joel from the time he first started at A-WAY. HE talked to everyone with no exceptions and had a fine sense of humour. Joel will be missed by everyone at A-WAY Express. We regarded him as a fellow brother in our fight for dignity and respect from the community at large. Rest in peace, Joel. You left a lasting impression on your comrades at A-WAY Express.

"Joel was a model employee - his enthusiasm and professionalism in his work made him not only a very valuable employee, but a delight to work with. He always had a positive, enthusiastic attitude and his work habits were exemplary. All of us at A-WAY will miss him a GREAT deal. He was a favourite member of the A-WAY family and will be missed, but never forgotten."

Laurie Hall, Executive Director



Joel Schwartz

On Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. Joel Schwartz, beloved son of Julie and Larry. Dear brother of Jonathan. Nephew of Rick and Elaine, Lisa and Richard Wagner, adored grandson of Anne Schwartz and Lorrie Learner.

Memorial donations may be made to
Reena Foundation, 905-764-1081
Taglit- Birthright Israel, 416-398-7785 ext. 1.



A-WAY EXPRESS
is financially supported by:

