

Reena Community Residence

by: Ellen Rajzman, Residence Manager

It is hard to believe that we have been at the Reena Community Residence (RCR) for six months. The first group of people to arrive in August were staff and participants from the Pathways North Program. Today, we have two very busy day programs with 50 individuals attending Pathways North and Channels during the week. Some of the participants come in for the day, while others are tenants in apartments on the upper floors. No commute for these individuals!

People started arriving right after Labour Day 2012. It seems as though every other day, the elevators were in use, as movers were busy bringing in furniture and the belongings of our new residents. Our tenants range in age from mid-20's to mid-80's with developmental, physical and/or mental health needs with service supports provided by Reena, CCAC and Circle of Care.

We continue to work with our community partners on the Integrated Service Model. Applications for people with developmental disabilities are taken by Reena. Applications by seniors or people with physical disabilities or mental

health needs are made through Circle of Care. A Care Team, comprised of staff from both agencies, meets regularly to discuss and implement protocols for application, intake, and on-going support services.

Special Partnerships

We are delighted to announce a very special partnership with March of Dimes and the Central LHIN. Over the past year, the Reena Community Residence has been warmly received as a community-based option for young people who might otherwise need long-term care to meet their health needs. On Jan. 7, 2013, the Central LHIN announced a cluster care model of housing and support at the Reena Community Residence. March of Dimes will provide attendant care in one 3-bedroom and two 2-bedroom units for seven young people with complex care needs. Their support will be managed by staff from both Reena and March of Dimes – another example of how our innovative integrated service delivery model is providing wrap-around care for people with disabilities. We look forward to welcoming these young people to the Reena community.

Exciting Plans for Pathways at the Reena Community Residence Greenhouse

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Plans are underway for the environmental agency Shoresh to use the Reena Community Residence Greenhouse for its 2013 seedlings. Shoresh staff and volunteers will work with Reena's Pathways North Program participants to plant the seedlings in early March. **Shoresh** will supply the trays and seeds as well as the lamps. Pathways will be in charge of watering and daily care.

Shoresh, serves 1500 people annually through workshops, school and synagogue visits, and community partnerships. In 2009, Shoresh opened the Kavanah Garden at the Lebovic Campus. The Garden features over 100 varieties of organic vegetables, herbs, fruits, and wildflowers, havdallah

spice garden, and raised wheelchair-accessible garden beds.



When the time comes for transplanting, Shoresh will leave some of the seedlings at the RCR Greenhouse so that program participants can continue to nurture and harvest them. Pathways/Channels participants are also welcome to volunteer at the Kavanah Garden over the summer and help harvest the fall crop.

We welcome Shoresh and look forward to many 'fruitful' years ahead of planting, growing and harvesting food, flowers and friendships.

**Canadian soil.
Jewish roots.**