



DiscoverAbilities Community Bulletin

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

JUNE 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR DES:

- **Summer BBQ and AGM**



@discovers2014



DiscoverAbilities Events Society



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Community Market in Review

1st Annual Community Connections Conference featured a new and innovative initiative called the Community Market. The purpose of this market was to showcase community organizations that exist to support persons with disabilities and also acted as a platform for entrepreneurs with disabilities to gain some exposure and sales. The Market featured five entrepreneurs and a social enterprise including Iain's Incredible Edibles, Nic Notes, Sue Hall Artist Extraordinaire, DJ Ace, Kimberley Csihas and Promise of a Pearl (a social enterprise run through Autism NS).

The wonderful folks at the Spark Zone, which is an initiative aimed at promoting innovation and entrepreneurship among post-secondary students, provided funding for this event. This funding allowed us to create "Community Currency" which was a form of mock money. Every registrant of the conference was given \$15 in mock money to spend however they chose at the Community Market. This gave our attendees a chance to sup-

port their peers and make their own buying decisions without any out-of-pocket expenses. It was also an excellent opportunity for our entrepreneurs to increase their sales. Overall, the market put \$750 directly into the pockets of entrepreneurs not to mention the cash sales that were also made during the market.

Our feedback from both registrants and vendors was fantastic, and we look forward to growing this market every year. Two of our vendors, Iain's Incredible Edibles and Nic Notes, have provided statements below!

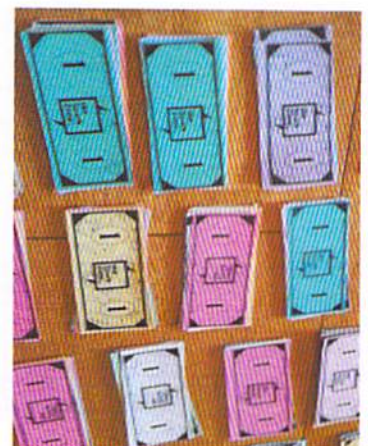
"My son was at the community market both as a vendor and a purchaser. His products sold well and he loved seeing what other vendors had. It's an opportunity for young people with challenges to display their varied and incredible talents".

-Heather Downey, Mother of Iain Downey of Iain's Incredible Edibles

"It was wonderful to see the vendors have an op-

portunity to display and celebrate their special talents at this event. My son's self esteem was boosted by the comments he received on his bird cards and the sales that he made. The mock money concept was a great initiative for registrants to stop by his table and make purchases. The market was a great opportunity for him to practice his business skills, whether it was making change or answering questions about the process of creating his cards. It was wonderful to see him so confident and independent!"

-Jennifer Overton, Mother of Nic Overton of Nic Notes





Meagan and Cath

"I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things"

-Mother Teresa

Join our Community Outreach Team and help us make great things happen!



Meet the DiscoverAbilities Events Society Board of Directors

If you would no longer like to be sent our newsletter, please opt out by sending us an email with the words OPT OUT in the subject line.

Congratulations to DJ Ace!

Board members Meagan and Jessica were thrilled to attend the PAANS Mel Hebb Awards on Monday, June 1 at the Province House in Halifax. PAANS, Partnership for Access Awareness Nova Scotia, holds a Proclamation Ceremony for the award winners during Access Awareness Week. This year Access Awareness Week took place from June 1 to June 7 and the theme of the week was "Youth: The Future of Ability".

Our board members attended to offer support to all winners, but one was of special significance to our organization. Simon McFadyen, commonly known as DJ Ace, took home an Exceptional Service Award for his continued volunteer efforts within the disability community. You may recognize Simon as the DJ from our Community Connections Conference as well as our pilot event the 2014 Adult Inclusion

Conference. Other winners included: Amanda McCulloch, Damion Stapledon, Jim Smithson, Jen Briand, Vicki Levack and Will Brewer. Congratulations!



Community Connections Corner-June 2015

Featured Event: The Sunburst Gala put on by SCRI Society, The Club!

This exciting fundraising event is happening on Friday, June 12th, 2015- a great way to kick off the summer. If you're not familiar with SCRI (Social, Cultural, Recreation, and Inclusion for all) Society 'The Club' it is an awesome organization that offers different programs that are accessible to people who have disabilities or special needs within the HRM community. The Club offers an inclusive environment for people of all abilities to hang out, meet

new people, learn new skills and to enjoy new experiences. The Sunburst Gala is a community event raising money to support The Club and all that it offers the community! The night will feature a Silent Auction full of artwork and goodies alongside music from The Action Figures, dance performances from young people of all abilities and prizes! A great way to make con-

nections in your community, meet some new friends, see some old friends and support a great organization. Tickets are \$20.00 and for more information please call 902-478-1917 or email theclub-scri@gmail.com.



Events in the Community

The following events are taking place over the next few weeks:

- Prescott AGM, June 10, 7 pm, 3435 Prescott Street
- ReachAbility, 15th Anniversary Party, June 15, 1-5 pm, 3845 Joseph Howe Drive, Suite 701
- SCRI Sunburst Gala, Friday, June 12, 7-10 pm
- Walk the Walk for Autism, Saturday, June 13th 9 am -1 pm
- Marathon of Sport, July 18th, Emera Oval, 8 am (to raise funds for the Special Olympics)