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META CENTRE celebrates *30 years*



MP York Centre, Michael Levitt,
Executive Director, Antonet
Orlando, and MP Vaughan,
Francesco Sorbara.

This is an exciting time for Meta Centre, as we celebrate our 30th anniversary!

Thirty years ago, thanks to a group of determined family members, Meta Centre opened its doors to the community with a small respite program that provided support to less than 20 adults.

All of us at Meta Centre owe a debt of gratitude to Grazia Molisse, Alvisio Provenzano, Giuliana Marrone and Nino Perricone. Without their determination for a better life for their children, we simply would not be here today. In the present with a vision for the future, Meta Centre's client base is approaching 500 (adults and children) that are individually supported in 20 group homes, 5 day program locations, respite programs and 20 Supported Independent Living apartments.

There is much to celebrate, and in celebrating the present, we are equally delighted to be able to acknowledge the individuals who gave of themselves professionally and personally to advance the aspirations of Meta Centre:

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Meta Board President Jim Johnston
and family.





30 years

META CENTRE celebrates
Continued from cover page/1

continued/page 1—the late Mimma Regina, our founding Executive Director and her senior management team—Antonet Orlando, Frank Grosso and Tullio Orlando – who helped build the reputation and achievements of our organization during the last three decades. The solid leadership from our Board of Directors who have held strong and committed over the years and the numerous clients and staff members, Lisa Bianchi, Meta Centre’s first employee —and past and present staff – who have made and continue to make us leaders in this field of social work. Organizational success depends on like-minded, team-spirited people who dedicate their skillsets to work with a genuine purpose to make a difference in the lives they support. This mind-set has consistently been at the heart and soul of Meta Centre. We take pride in the philosophy of its founders that has been

followed every day for the past three decades. As we rejoice in our accomplishments, we look forward to the future – for at the core of what has driven our passion and success is now our vision for what lies ahead. The landscape for developmental disabilities steers our focus to continue to provide quality, innovative and individual support, that includes integration in residential, day and respite services within the community. It is a challenging task that our current generation of Meta Centre staff and Board of Directors take great privilege to address. As we fondly recall our past, we celebrate this 30th anniversary milestone, and step into the future with a renewed sense of purpose and commitment to never stop being who we are meant to be in the service of others.



CALLING ALL FAMILY MEMBERS • SEND US YOUR FAVOURITE RECIPES FOR OUR
TEACHING KITCHENS DAY PROGRAM locations! Submit your recipe & photos to: info@metacentre.ca

INSIGHT'S WINTER EDITION CELEBRATES META CENTRE'S 30 years!





meta centre

RESPIRE SUMMER of 2016! Meta Centre welcomed a record 34 new summer students to the activities that served over 55 families. The exciting attractions included Ripleys Aquarium, an organized tour of the Rogers Centre, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto Zoo, a boat cruise of the Harbour Front and the Science Centre, to mention a few. In addition, participants were introduced to unique cultures of our city with visits to Nathan Phillips Square, Taste of little Italy, Taste of the Danforth, Toronto Jazz Festival and Rib Fests. Creative Expression and a visit to Colour Me Mine engaged participants into designing their own unique pottery pieces. The high energy summer days also included more relaxing recreational

excursions to Toronto Island and the Beaches, where the amazing summer weather offered outdoor BBQs, swimming and soaking up the sun. Fun interactive games, face- painting and music to dance the day away with tunes provided by DJ Pabz. The days flew by and another AMAZING summer camp adventure quickly came to an end. With a sense of gratification for the time shared, META CENTRE's team says goodbye as they relish in the moment, taking pleasure in the reminiscing of the experiences, the new friendships made and lasting memories. Wishing everyone the very best for the months ahead, they say goodbye with hugs and smiles, and look forward to next year's adventures!

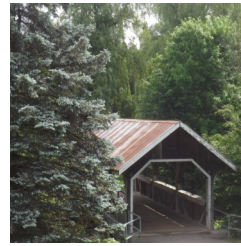
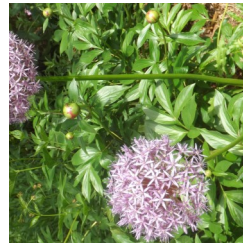
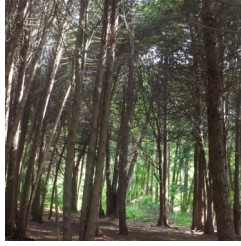
Family members say thanks:

"Patrick is soooooo happy! I am getting hugs all the time! I think it is because you all understand him so well, and stay calm and happy no matter how tough it gets! You are an amazing, energetic group. I have never seen so many people have so much love and admiration for all the kids and each other! No wonder everyone keeps coming back year after year to work with Nadia and Lana!" – Debbie (Patrick's Mother)

"We would never have predicted just how much fun he would have and how happy he would be in camp. This was his first time and you all made him feel very happy. Thank you for all the patience and understanding..." – Santy & Marijane (Nathan's Parents)

**Full copy of Respite Fall/Winter Calendar
& Respite Sunday's Flyer
Available online: metacentre.ca
or contact: laianfrini@metacentre.ca**





MORRISH

Shows off some serious talent through the eye of a camera!

June 15th was Nature Photography Day, and the Morrish Day Program took on the challenge to support the occasion with eight enthusiastic participants!

Alrick, Christine, Joshua, Karen, Dong, Mark, Sharon, and Lithini .

The “Group of 8” took to the woods to capture the quiet beauty that surrounds us.

What is Nature Photography Day?

The Nature Photography Association (NANPA) was formed in 1994 by over 100 members who are deeply invested in the future of this art form. Through their efforts, they ensure that access to public land continues to exist for nature photographers throughout North America. Each year in June they host a competition to encourage people everywhere to enjoy the day by using a camera to explore the natural world – a backyard, park, or other place close by. Walking, hiking, or riding a bike to take photos are activities that don’t lead to a carbon footprint and the fresh air can do wonders for the spirit! Morrish staff and clients felt that the

occasion was well worth celebrating; celebrate they did!

The “Group of 8” excitedly took to the woods to explore and capture nature’s silent beauty through the eye of their cameras.

The intimacy of their photos and the challenge of the competition further initiated an OPEN HOUSE viewing! So, as well as submitting photographs, Morrish hosted an “Open House” tour that invited visitors to view and vote for their favourite pictures. Tour guide, **Robert**, welcomed guests with a



refreshing drink, describing details and answering questions for the photos on display.

The photographs from each of the participants did not make voting easy and although they did not make the NANPA FINALS, internally they exceeded all

expectations!

The four favourites, shown above, made the “all time” favourites list!

Meta Centre congratulates each of the participants who also printed and framed their entries for display. Each of the photographs interpreted a peaceful beauty that instilled a renewed desire to appreciate the natural life that surrounds us.

Two of the four favourites were taken by Alrick, who explains that taking photographs is one of his past-times, and “trees” obviously captures his interest. His ability to bring their majestic presence to life through the eyes of the camera also intrigued interest into learning more of the gentleman behind the camera.



ALRICK

Alrick’s personality shines through in his creative ability to capture nature’s surroundings!



With two of his four photographs selected as favourites, Alrick’s

creative eye also brings us insight into his gentle and fun-loving personality. Described as an easy going, caring, and helpful young man, Alrick’s ability to express himself comes easily through the eye of the camera. His photographs gravitate to the majesty, solitude, beauty, and serenity of the tree scapes that surround us.

Alrick himself displays a majestic presence and a spirit that he nurtures through his love of music, recreation and social interaction. His support worker of 12 years-Alanna, lights up as she tells of how she has seen him mature from his teenage years into an independent young man; and she delights in explaining how he challenges his autistic behaviours to become more focused in his ability to take on specific tasks without becoming distracted.

The first to help someone in need, or to volunteer around the Centre, Alrick embraces life’s challenges and pleasantries with an optimistic willingness to give and receive. We’ll look forward to identifying and having him explore more of his creative abilities through various activities.

THE DAYS OF SUMMER

The Walk Relay & Gran Fondo
raising \$150,000



Steeles hosts a family BBQ Night



Kleinburg Invites Meta Centre
to join their Soccer Clinic



Birthdays



Setting up a 30th Photo shoot



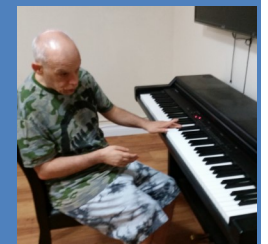
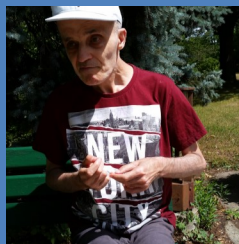
Before and After



Home Sweet Home



Home gardens can take on many forms, from a few plants in containers to large garden plots. Learning the art of gardening can become an enjoyable therapeutic experience to enjoy all season long! This year, Meta Centre took a “hands on approach” and enjoyed the therapeutic adventure of beautifying the outdoors with a “Beautiful Gardens” competition! The experience not only contributed to the environment and creative abilities, it also promoted an appreciation for the outdoors and physical activity. All agreed that the benefits of enjoying their gardens was worth the physical exertion.



Meta Centre brings a Day Program to our seniors! The result? Community excursions and in-house activities that are encouraging social interaction and encouraging the benefits from recreational activities! Identifying and discovering the great outdoors; and introducing a simple music session to include singing and a piano significantly changed the climate of the home environment. The addition of the in-house day program has resulted in more playful and social interactions. For one in particular, an experience at a water park has changed his desire to keep himself isolated— as he now shows a greater interest in socializing. For another, having music on a weekly basis, has progressed to him wanting to play the piano!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT META CENTRE



A NEW HOME FOR Meta Centre Vaughan Day Program in 2017



Stay tuned for ground breaking news in 2016 & postings with updates at: metacentre.ca

meta foundation
Special People. Special Needs.



Family Walk, Relay & Gran Fondo

Raising \$150,000 for Meta Centre, the annual Family WALK, RELAY & GRAN FONDO is testimony to the dedication of the people who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure its success. Sponsors are at the core of every endeavour and as always words of THANKS are never really enough for their ongoing support of our cause. This year, giving back to the event's major sponsors came from the hearts and hands of a group of clients from the Toronto Day Program who created each of the special gifts and personally hand-delivered them!

Thank you Platinum Sponsors: HSBC BANK CANADA, MCCARTHY TETRAULT, VISION EXTRUSIONS LTD., WILLIAMS & PARTNERS CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS, ZZEN GROUP OF COMPANIES, GRAY & ASSOCIATES PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION. **Thank you Gold Sponsors:** BEAYNI GROUP LTD., CAMBRIDGE GLOBAL PAYMENTS, GARDINER ROBERTS LLP, SUNVIEW PATIO DOORS LTD., UNITED FLOOR COMPANY LTD., VISION OUTDOOR PRODUCTS.



**Meta Centre Say
“Thanks” with
heartfelt sentiment
to the Major
Sponsors of the
2016**

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



**BLUE WILLOW • VAUGHAN
YORK GATE • TORONTO**

Day programs at Meta Centre locations in Toronto and Vaughan will be collaborating with the Public Schools in their neighbourhoods with preparing breakfasts for children at school.

This exciting venture will involve people from Meta Centre's day programs, their support workers, and teachers at each of the schools.

Ontario Partnership on Aging and Developmental Disabilities (OPADD)

Seeks to:

Uphold and improve quality of life for older adults with a developmental disability;
Strengthen service system functioning and planning capacity to support adults with a developmental disability as they age;
Create and maintain a body of knowledge about best practices; and,
Build and maintain an open cross sector dialogue that includes service providers, planners, educators, researchers and legislators.

For more information about OPADD, please check out their [website](http://www.opadd.ca)!

Reviewed: August 2016

