

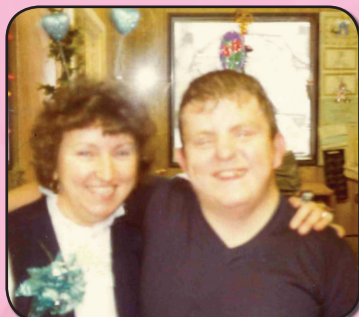
INSIDE:



Our growth: Pg. 2



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OUR 1ST WINNER!

TERRY KULIKTANA, a member of our Business Services Team, and Janice McKenna, longtime supporter and Inclusion NWT former boardmember, celebrate the first Bloomin' Buddies Raffle Early Bird Draw, which Janice won last Friday. The next Early Bird Draw will take place at 4pm TODAY, so get your tickets ASAP! (\$20 each or three for \$50)

another
BLOOMIN'
raffle

May 14 – June 18



InclusionNWT.ca

since 1962
Inclusion
NWT

"It was either this
or sell 978 kilograms
of cookie dough!" See page 3

We provide lifelong support for individuals with disabilities and their families in the NWT, since 1962.

inclusion nwt newsletter
05/28/2021



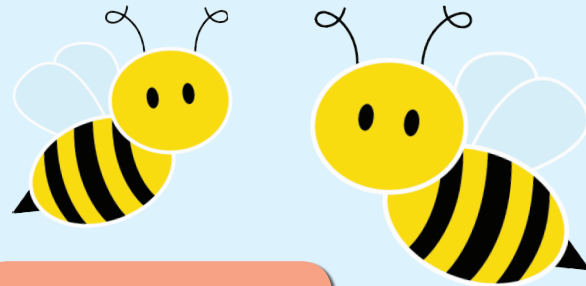
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Growing from our mistakes

by LOC students
with instructor
Thomas Gagnon-van Leeuwen

LIVE AND LEARN! This month, clients at the Literacy Outreach Centre are preparing to grow their own food. To get ready,

they reflected on their past experiences with plants to avoid past mistakes. Here are their stories...



Julie White



I GREW my sweet pea flowers.

At first, I put the plants in soil and I watered them.

Then, my sweet pea flowers died.

I learned that too much water will kill my sweet pea flowers.

Next time, I want to grow pea pods.

Caitlin Vandermeer



MY GRANDMA grew a house plant.

At first, she watered it every day of the week.

Then my grandma's house plant was green and healthy because she watered it every day.

My grandma learned that she has to keep watering the house plant every day of the week.

Next time, I want to grow a beautiful red rose.



Chris Strus

I GREW an apple tree

At first, I put paper towel in the Ziplock Bag. After, I put water in the bag.

Then, I put too much water. It died.

I learned that I put too much water in the seed and next time I will put less water.

Next time, I want to grow rhubarb.

Kineta Michel



I GREW flowers.

At first, Justine and I grew flowers outside at the house.

Then the flowers needed more rain. They got too dry outside.

I learned that we needed to water them more.

Next time, I want to grow houseplants and vegetables.

Edible lesson

SUSAN CHAFFEE AND KINETA MICHEL grew sprouts as part of their class project.



by Thomas Gagnon-van Leeuwen

IT'S STILL TOO COLD to start our outdoor garden, but we at the Literacy Outreach Centre experimented with growing food indoors by making our own sprouts!

Over the course of the week, we watched in awe as our

mung beans grew little tails. They even tasted pretty good!

All you need to make your own are clean jars, cheese-cloth or mesh lids, seeds or legumes to sprout and water.

Soak your seeds for eight hours to start, then drain and rinse twice a day, draining well each time, and harvest after a few days.

another BLOOMIN' raffle

May 14 – June 18

since 1962
Inclusion
NWT

InclusionNWT.ca

Proceeds to support services for individuals with disabilities and their families.

\$20 per ticket
or three tickets for \$50
Only 2,000 tickets available!
Lottery licence: 1064

10 CHANCES TO WIN!

**\$100
Early Bird
Draw
4pm every
Friday!**

Draw 4pm June 18:

1st prize: \$10,000

2nd prize: \$2,500

3rd prize: \$1,000

4th prize: \$500

5th prize: \$200

Draw held at Abe Miller Bldg.
& live-streamed on Facebook



Thank you

Garden of support grows around Inclusion NWT

by Inclusion NWT staff

INCLUSION NWT is hosting *Another Bloomin' Raffle* from May 14th to June 18th, with \$14,700 in cash prizes ready to harvest just in time for Father's Day!

Yeah. We know, we know. It's another Bloomin' raffle! We don't like it any more than you do. (It was either this or sell 978 kilograms of cookie dough.)

But when it comes to fundraising – much the same as

growing a garden – many hands make for light work!

Community support

The business community really came through for our 59-year-old charitable organization's ambitious flower-themed fundraiser! With generous seed money sown by 12 local businesses, the Inclusion NWT volunteer board has planted a fun and colourful raffle experience.



Tony Florio

"We are ever grateful to all of these businesses for recognizing the importance of the services Inclusion NWT provides to the community and we know the public also has our back," said Tony Florio, board fundraising chair with Inclusion NWT.

"These funds we seek to raise are critical for the delivery of essential services to individuals with intellectual and other disabilities and

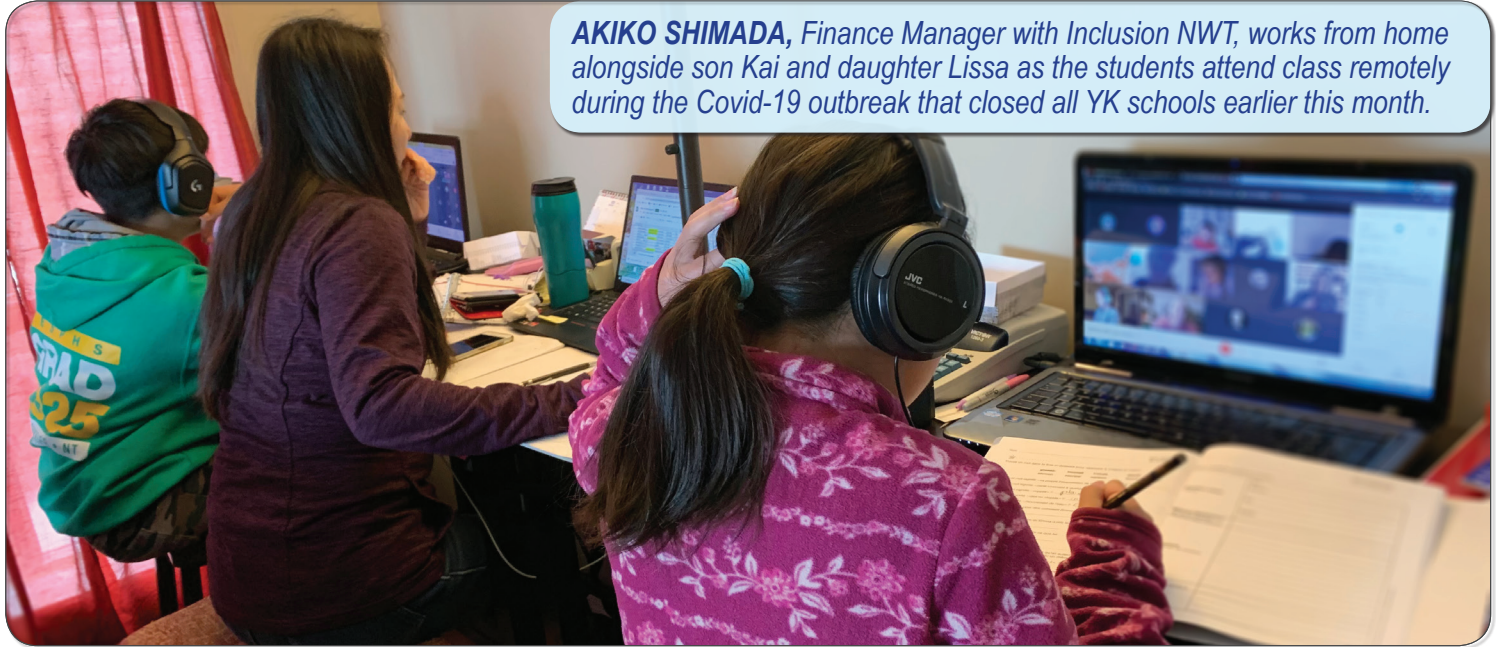
their families, at a time when we've fielded an increased demand over 2020/21."

Raffle proceeds will support services for individuals with disabilities and their families, such as Job Coaching and Respite Services.

Prize draws

Early Bird Prizes will be drawn Fridays.

Five grand prizes will be drawn at 4pm on June 18th: \$10,000, \$2,500, \$1,000, \$500 and \$200.



AKIKO SHIMADA, Finance Manager with Inclusion NWT, works from home alongside son Kai and daughter Lissa as the students attend class remotely during the Covid-19 outbreak that closed all YK schools earlier this month.



COVID UPDATE

A message from Executive Director Lynn Elkin:

AS WE ADVANCE through spring and through Yellowknife's first COVID outbreak, I am very thankful to the staff and clients of Inclusion NWT for their continuous efforts for more than a year now to follow the public health restrictions, even when some around us were relaxing a bit.

We continue to do what we have been doing – masking, distancing, sanitizing, screening daily, and keeping our bubbles and contacts as small as we can – while continuing to provide services.

In early May we were hit with staff needing to isolate for a couple of weeks because one of their family members was in one of the potential contact locations identified by the health department. This meant the remaining staff needed to be incredibly flexible and adjust as we made sure we could continue to provide stable services as much as possible.

It is a great comfort to be in a work bubble that has taken vaccinations seriously. Clients and staff were

given an early opportunity to be vaccinated and many took advantage of the chance.

Staff and client vaccinations

We are so pleased to have very high vaccination numbers among both staff and clients who were eligible. Our actual vaccination rate throughout Inclusion NWT is 84 per cent of staff with two shots completed and seven per cent with their first shot completed.

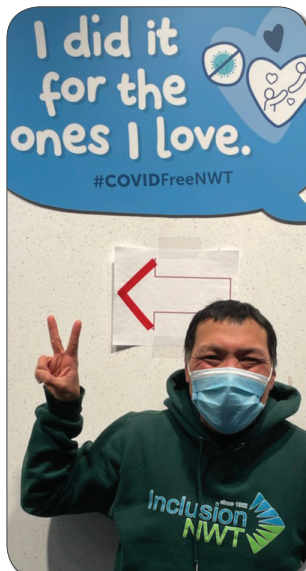
Clients and their families have similarly embraced the need to vaccinate, with 100 per cent of our Supported Living team vaccinated.

We hope our younger clients who can now book for Pfizer vaccinations will do so with the same enthusiasm as our older clients.

Thanks to our customers, families and clients for your understanding when we shift service to ensure all are as safe as possible.



RICHARD KOLSON (top) AND SAM PAMEOGORAK (right) each received both their Moderna vaccinations in April..



JOEY OOGAQ of The Odd Job Squad walks Kanga the husky between work shifts.

POOP is PASSÉ

THE ODD JOB SQUAD HANGS UP ITS SCOOPS

by Inclusion NWT staff

BUSINESS was booming for The Odd Job Squad pet waste removal crews in April and May, but the team is removing the service from its offerings, effective immediately.

"Our clients provided this popular service throughout the past year for many dozens of grateful households," said Donna-Marie Meserah-Zdyb, manager of Skills Training & Community Inclusion, and co-ordinator of The Odd Job Squad.

"In doing so, our team again confirmed its professionalism, dedication to quality service and desire to work hard for every customer. We're really proud of what (our workers) achieved."

Demand for The Squad's many other services is growing, as has the team's experience and skills in other – less fecal – fields, so to speak.

Yardwork gigs emerged as the big draw in recent

weeks, as winter released its grip on lawns, gardens and flower beds.

"Customers are calling to book The Squad one or two weeks in advance now to ensure their gardens are tilled or last fall's leaves and

dead grass are raked in time for BBQ season," said Meserah-Zdyb.

Dump runs, wood-stacking, online grocery deliveries, and small furniture moves are more than enough to fill the team's weekday shifts, she added.

Businesses are also hip to The Squad, as The Gallery of the Midnight Sun, Signed and YK Storage have demonstrated with recent or upcoming scheduled hires.

Inclusion NWT established The Odd Job Squad in 2018 to help under-employed individuals who self-identify with a disability earn money from one-off or short-term work while searching for more lasting employment opportunities.



LOOKING BACK AT WHERE WE BEGAN

Joyce Williams was there from the beginning, making Inclusion happen

by Joyce Williams

IN 1975, the students of the Abe Miller School were integrated into the new J.H. Sissons School. The association hired me as a part-time staff with a salary of \$5 an hour, to prepare programs for the students that were too old to be in the school.

There was an empty double-wide trailer sitting on the grounds of J.H. Sissons School.

What to do? Clear out the desks, clean up and make a plan. Divide the trailer into four working areas.

Create a kitchen space for life skills. This was done by having a good friend Elaine Richinger help me wallpaper the walls in one area. We had a stove and fridge, circular table and six chairs.

We invited art students from Sir John Franklin High School to share their talents and provide artwork for the other walls. Searched the community for items to have a relaxing reading and music appreciation area. Managed to furnish this with donations from Yellowknife Radio and the Hudson's Bay Co. (sofas, TV, coffee table, lounge chairs etc.)

The fourth area was to be the dirty working area – found enough money to purchase a log-roller.

Soon after the 1975 school year started, the building was ready to roll.

Continued next page



THE BIG BUDDIES BOWLING TEAM in 1983. Several of the players were with the organization from its earliest days. Pictured: Richard Kolson (back, from left), Ernestine Tambour, and Murray Adderley; and Ronnie Hauck (front, left), and Robert.

Now it was time to visit the families to introduce myself and explain what was available for their children. This was received with some apprehension. Parents were invited to come visit and see the new centre.

We needed a name – board members suggested "Abe Miller Activity Centre."

This name was used until we found out the federal government would not provide any funding for an "activity centres".

Funding was available to "sheltered workshops" and we managed to avoid using "sheltered" in our new name, hence we became the Abe Miller Workshop.

We then put the log-roller to work that we had purchased for the dirty area. After rolling newspapers that were dropped off by citizens, we rolled, covered them in papier machier, painted them brown and grey with powder paint, and got a contract to supply these to The Hoist Room to be used in the fireplace in the bar.

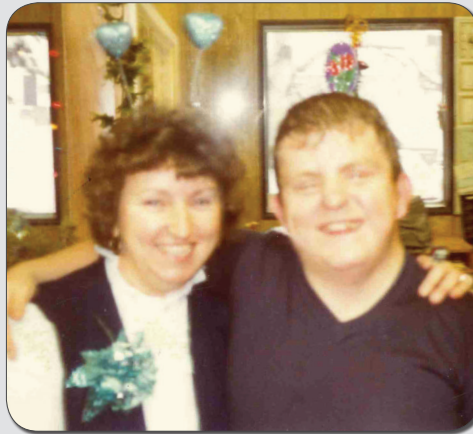
This gave us the opportunity to take our trainees to different parts of the city to share their work. Wow! Our first time making money.

Jumped, danced, hopped and sang

Started off with just one trainee. We jumped, danced, hopped and sang his phone number (I still remember it), Then came another, then another person. Everything was going well for a full year until...

One lad had a seizure. There were two other trainees there when it happened. One decided to undo his leg prothesis and throw it across the floor. The other trainee was hovering over the lad on the floor. I had a hard time to bring solitude to the Centre on this day.

So, at the next board meeting I requested another staffperson to be hired. Della Lewis was a teacher so we felt we had a good combination of



Joyce Williams (left) with trainee Ronnie Hauck. Della Lewis in her office (right).



teacher and nurse.

I always had to go to Rae Parker's place of work at CMHC to pick up a paycheque every two weeks, then with two staff we had it delivered.

We were starting to outgrow the trailer and Education District #1 wanted the space we were in outside J.H. Sissons School.

The Association had a land lease with the City of Yellowknife. Negotiations were onhoing to exchange the land leases, which would be beneficial to both parties.

The new trailer became Ecole Allain St-Cyr.

We moved into the chemistry lab of the old William McDonald School grounds, where Inclusion NWT sits today.

This was a great move for us as we were uptown and would be more visible to the community,

Once settled in our second new home, first purchase was a few briefcases, so that when trainees went to get the mail eventually on their own they had their heads held up high and were very proud to be mingling with others that carried briefcases.

Once again we were outgrowing our premises. A new building was discussed and on receiving a sizeable donation from the late Mr. Gordon Greenway our fundraising began.

The Lions and Lionesses Club's home was also demolished on

J.H. Sissons School Grounds. With no permanent meeting place they put all their fundraising activities into our new building. Money was arriving from all Lion's Clubs across Canada.

A verbal promise was made that they would be able to have use of one of the rooms for their meetings.

OI' Blasters Hockey Team

Donations from the OI' Blasters Hockey Team had been ongoing for many years, but with the news of a new building they did extra fundraising and furnished a room in the new Centre, called the Kenneth Ballsillie Room.

The Association began receiving cheques from the estate of Mr. Sven Jensen.

Did some research into who this man was. He was a miner who had befriended a young girl with Down Syndrome in Ontario.

The Association was receiving many thousands of dollars from Mr. Jensen's estate. His sister and nephew were invited to Yellowknife to show our appreciation of the thoughtful Mr. Jensen.

They stayed at The Explorer Hotel and spent three days mixing and visiting with staff and trainees in the new Abe Miller Centre.

They returned to Ontario with a very positive feeling.

This is how we started.

...just sharing.

another **BLOOMIN'** raffle

May 14 – June 18

InclusionNWT.ca



\$20 per ticket / 3 for \$50
Only 2,000 tickets available
10 chances to win:
\$100 Early Bird Draws every Friday
Draw 4pm June 18, 2021
1st prize: \$10,000
2nd prize: \$2,500
3rd prize: \$1,000
4th prize: \$500
5th prize: \$200



Draw held at the
Abe Miller Bldg.
and livestreamed
on Facebook

yadda yadda yadda



SCAN ME

Don't think of it as **gambling.**
Consider it an investment
in **karma.**

Lottery license 1064

since 1962
Inclusion
NWT



THANK YOU!



MARTIN EMSLANDER delivers a donation of summer uniforms to The Odd Job Squad on behalf of Signed.

Signed makes a donation (again!)

JANET PACEY, owner of Signed, outfitted The Odd Job Squad clients and staff in free summer uniforms in an array of colours, styles and sizes.

The graphic designer also created a logo for the collection of T-shirts and hoodies.

The Yellowknife business is a longtime supporter of Inclusion NWT. Our clients and staff appreciate all Signed has done for our organization.

PARTICIPANTS MADE GUMBIRD QUEST FUN!

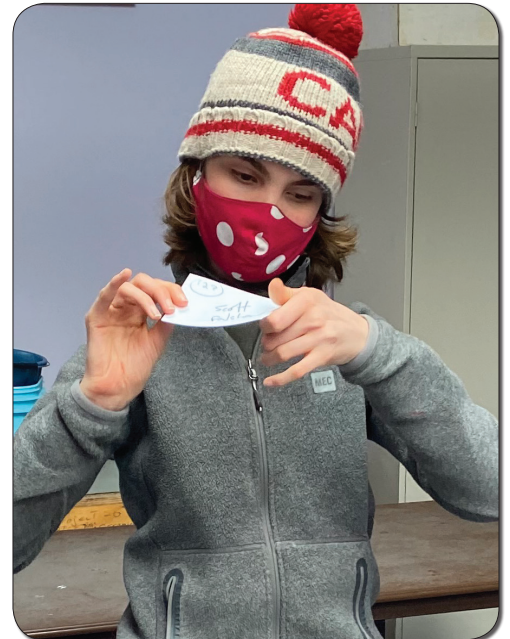
More than two-dozen teams took part in 2nd annual fun-raiser

THIS ONE was certainly one to crow about, with more than 75 individuals and teams pecking away at trivia questions, completing bird-brained crafts and pursuing other flights of fancy this spring. Some teams participated from Fort Smith, Hay River and Lutsel K'e.

Students from école St. Joseph School in Yellowknife composed their own series of children's challenges for us that ran on social media every Saturday and Sunday during the competition, inspiring many of their peers from other schools to follow along from home each weekend.

Our birding expert, Reid Hildebrandt, made the whole Quest take flight by drafting the Gumbird Tally Card and serving as our on-call judge each week.

Thanks to everyone who shared in the fun!



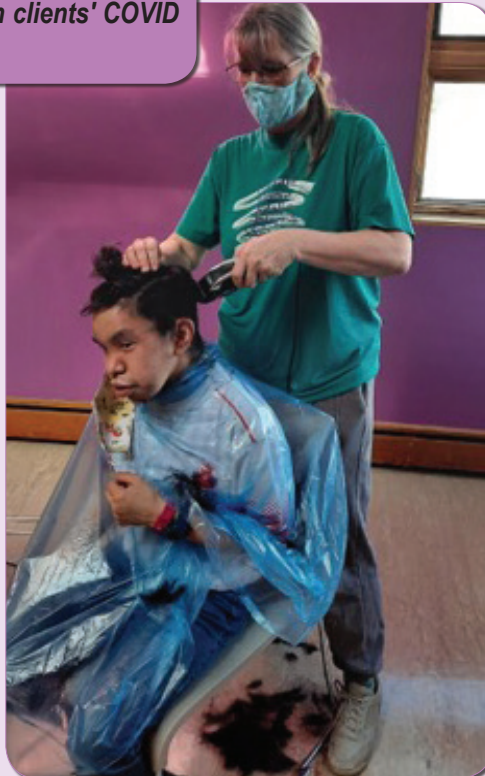
PICTURED: Seraphine Connell, clockwise from above, tracks down a Hatchling Challenge assignment at The Book Cellar; Sydney Peer of The Odd Job Squad picks the winner of three Capitol Theatre movie passes during an Early Bird Draw; and Donna-Marie Meserah-Zdyb, Manager of Skills Training & Community Inclusion, picks up a different kind of mask before selecting the Gumbird Grand Prize winners via video on social media.



DIY HAIRCUT



JULIE WHITE & CHRIS STRUS were please by their spring hair-cuts, courtesy of Lynn Elkin, Inclusion NWT Executive Director. Supported Living staff have also honed their barber skills over the past year in their efforts to maintain clients' COVID bubbles.



TERY KULIKTANA sports a refreshing buzz cut, courtesy of Supported Living Home Lead Alberto Valero. Each Supported Living residence is equipped with barber equipment.