

NEWSLETTER

Bellwoods Summer News



BELLWOODS
INNOVATING INDEPENDENCE

July 2016

Our Bellwoods Staff

At Bellwoods, our staff are at the **heart** of the organization. They are instrumental in ensuring services are provided and quality care is delivered. In this article, Bellwoods interviewed two employees to provide perspective from a staff who has joined the Bellwoods team more recently, and another staff who has been providing longstanding service to Bellwoods.



"Bellwoods is a multicultural organization who provides equal opportunity to everyone."

- Beverley Andrew,
Supervisor of Support Services

Beverley Andrew joined the Bellwoods team in December 2015 as our Supervisor of Support Services for Attendant Outreach Services (AOS) and our Mimico Apartment Project. She comes to us with several years of experience working with people with disabilities in the community and cluster sites.

What do you think “Independent Living” means to a person with a physical disability?

I believe it means having the ability to direct his/her own care and activities of daily living, and being able to make their own choices and decisions while living independently in their own home or in the community.

What does “teamwork” mean to you?

My interpretation of “teamwork” means working collaboratively together with my colleagues and management for the benefit of the organization in achieving their goals. Teamwork is also about the relationships and support you build and have amongst clients and staff.

What do you enjoy about working at Bellwoods?

I enjoy my interaction with clients and I also enjoy the flexibility and ability to work independently. Bellwoods offers a variety of excellent services to individuals with disabilities that provides them with the opportunity to live independently while they remain in their home. I also appreciate the training that the organization provides to the Bellwoods team.

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“Patience is a virtue. With everything in life, and definitely when it comes to my line of work, there is always a learning curve.”

- Florencio Famaran,
Support Service Worker

Florencio Famaran started at Bellwoods in October 1991 as a Support Service Worker at the former 389 Church Street location. The Church Street Project was established in 1983 and served 12 clients. It was a shared living environment providing 24-hour on-site access to personal support services. In the summer of 2008, Church Street clients were relocated to Bellwoods’ new 1082 Dundas Project location, where Florencio currently works.

What do you think “Independent Living” means to a person with a physical disability?

I believe that Independent Living for a person with disabilities means that they can make decisions and choices about their lives and direct their own care.

What does “teamwork” mean to you?

“Teamwork” is about the collaboration between myself and my peers, and working together towards a common goal. Teamwork is about knowing that we can rely on each other when needed and helping each other out when times get hectic.

What do you enjoy about working at Bellwoods?

I enjoy working in a supportive housing environment and being able to provide the services clients need, when they need it. I also feel that I have good working relationships with my coworkers and clients.



Debbie Wright, Independent Living Educator Retires

After almost 19 years working as an Independent Living Educator, Debbie Wright has retired from her position in June 2016. Debbie has provided tremendous service to us, and Bellwoods would like to recognize her for her great contributions and support to the clients we work with, and to the organization as a whole during her career at Bellwoods.

Debbie's dedication, compassion, knowledge and expertise in her position has provided our clients with support that has gone above and beyond on many occasions. Through her years at Bellwoods, Debbie's accomplishments are many. Her contributions to Bellwoods and our clients include: 1) having an instrumental role in the start-up of Bellwoods' Community Connect Program 2) coordinating and contributing to Bellwoods' participation in "Making the City of Toronto's 2014 Municipal Election Accessible" 3) organizing client social recreational activities.

Debbie's co-workers regard her as a no nonsense person with a big heart who gets the job done despite the challenges that may be present. Her passion and determination have been a driving force in facilitating the transitions of new clients to Bellwoods and in assisting existing clients at the projects and in the community. Not only is Debbie highly regarded within our organization, she has a strong presence and established great rapport with Bellwoods' vendors, partners, and resources in the community as well. Her true goal is to support the independence and quality of life of our clients.

While all of us at Bellwoods will miss her, we wish Debbie all the best in her retirement!

Events Party Announcements

Thank you all again for participating in our Bellwoods' Holiday and Staff Recognition Celebration Survey earlier this year. Based on the survey results, an Event Planning Committee was formed. After reviewing all feedback received in the survey, committee members have been meeting to plan for new events this year. This year separate holiday events for staff and clients will be held:

- Staff Recognition Event will take place at Bellwoods' Annual General Meeting on September 26, 2016 at **Trinity Community Recreation Centre, which is located at 155 Crawford Street**
- Staff Holiday Event will take place **Thursday December 1, 2016 at The Hot House, which is located at 35 Church Street**
- Client Holiday Event will take place **Thursday December 8, 2016 at Fantasy Farm which is located at 50 Pottery Road**

The committee will be preparing for the celebrations in the coming months and invitations with more details will go out in early fall. We look forward to seeing everyone at this year's staff and client Holiday Events, and Annual General Meeting/Staff Recognition Event.

This newsletter is produced by **Bellwoods**, a not-for-profit, charitable, accredited organization committed to transforming lives through excellence and innovation in Independent Living. Bellwoods has a vibrant 55+ year history of offering client-directed personal support services, transitional living and education programs, outreach services, Housing Hubs and accessible affordable housing.

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Calendar

Board Meetings

To attend the public portion of Board meetings, please contact Bellwoods at (416) 696-9663 Ext. 206 to confirm the meeting date, location and your intention to attend.

The Staff Recognition Event will take place at Bellwoods' Annual General Meeting on **September 26, 2016**.

*Future board meeting dates to be announced.

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