



Ability Online Support Network Newsletter

December 2006

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Holiday Greetings from Ability Online

It's that time of year again – time for family and friends, a break from school and work, and plenty of delicious treats! Being home for the holidays might be an excellent time to log into Ability Online, catch up with your friends, share stories, and check out all of the new features and programs on the site.

However you are spending the holidays, we wish you a safe and wonderful season, and a happy 2007!

The Ability Online Team

Program News – Live Career Chats!

On December 13th, Ability Online held its first ever live career chat, hosted by Hugh Scholey, VP at High Road Communications. Hugh spent an hour chatting with Ability Online members about what it's like having a career in Public Relations and answering individual questions. The transcript of the career chat is posted within the Job Readiness section of Ability Online so members are invited to come on in and take a look!

The event was such a success that we will be carrying on with future career chats in the New Year. Stay tuned for a schedule of future event dates.

New Website Feature – "Inside Scoop"

Log into Ability Online and check out our redesigned member pages and our new feature, "Inside Scoop". Inside Scoop brings great messages from within our Conference areas to the forefront. When members log in, they can see at a glance what's new, what members are talking about, and highlighted member stories and achievements. Special thanks to long-time member Sarah Evans, who brought us this idea and who is regularly combing the Conferences to bring members fresh news.

"Germ-free" for CF Kids!

Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children has been a strong community partner for 15 years, but we are always thrilled when we link up with new programs within the hospital. In October of this year we had the opportunity to be part of the Cystic Fibrosis family teaching day, presenting Ability Online to a group of teens with CF. Given the fact that

Member Profile - 2006 "I CAN!" Contest Winners

Each year we ask our members to share their own inspirational messages of what they feel makes them the special person they are. And each year they come back with powerful and deeply moving self- declarations. Even in the face of adversity, our members can look inside and find wonderful things to celebrate. We applaud all our members for having a winning "I CAN" attitude.

The judges had a tough time deciding, but they finally chose the winners for our 2006 contest. Please join me in congratulating our Grand Prize and Runner Up winners...

Grand Prize winners:

- Jessie L.
- Roxanne V.
- Jonathan C.

Runner-Up Software Winners:

- Crystal C.
- Salie H.
- Meghan E.
- Ashly M.
- Dawn O.
- Kelsey S.

Way to go everyone! And a big thank you to HP and Microsoft for donating great prizes for our contest and to High Road Communications for judging the contest – theirs was the hardest job of all!

Here's just a small taste of the "I CAN" attitude found on Ability Online:

"I have always known I am a special person with a focus on what I can do.
I CAN be an inspiration to many people who have lost hope.
I CAN be a caring person, to my friends, family and even people I don't know when they need someone to care for them.
I CAN open my heart and make the best of every day.
I CAN be there for my friends when they need someone to talk to.
I CAN imagine a world of possibilities.
I CAN brighten up my friend's and family's world when it gets too dark.
Even though I can walk and write normally **I CAN** be a helpful friend to the people who can't do that stuff normally".

Jessie L. "I Can" Grand prize winner

these kids couldn't sit closer than 10 feet to one another (due to the risk of spreading germs), it quickly became evident that this group is well suited to an online environment. Rather than having to be physically isolated from their peers in general, these kids can connect to other kids with CF online, knowing that they are not alone with their daily health concerns. Moreover, Louise Taylor, one of the nurses responsible for the clinic at HSC, is keen on getting kids with CF across Canada connected via Ability Online. To accomplish this, we are setting up a private online community for this group which we will be launching in the new year. The teens with CF will not only have their own "germ-free meeting room", but they'll also have access to all the other wonderful programs (e.g. the "Ask Anything" Homework Guide and Job Readiness) that Ability Online has to offer.

All entries can be found in the "I CAN!" message area (#16) for registered members to view. To read the personal reflection of what the "I CAN!" contest means to one of our winners, [click here](#).

Quick Links...

[Register Now](#)

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2007 Call for Conferences, Trade Shows, Resource Fairs

To all of our Community Partners – We are trying hard to get the word out to all of the children and young adults across the country who might benefit from Ability Online's programs. If your organization holds a conference, trade show, or resource fair that you think we might be interested displaying or speaking at, please send details to Michelle McClure at Michelle.McClure@ablelink.org or call our office at 1-866-650-6207.

Join our mailing list!

Thanks to Exceptional Family Magazine

Ability Online would like to thank new partner, [Exceptional Family Magazine](#), "Canada's resource for parents of exceptional children", for their commitment to assisting us with our national awareness efforts!

email: system.manager@ablelink.org

phone: 1-866-650-6207

web: <http://www.abilityonline.org>

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