



Ability Online Support Network Newsletter

March 2007

Happy Spring from Ability Online!

Spring is a great time for fresh new starts, and we have lots of them - new program features like live career chats, new friends from our recent recognition event, and soon - a new home for Ability Online! Read on for more details and safe travels to everyone who is heading off for March Break!

The Ability Online Team

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Program Update - Live Career Chats

After launching our Job Readiness Program last summer, we have continued to work on enhancements for the program in order to make it even more dynamic for our members. The idea for Featured Chats came about as a result of an offer from our PR firm, High Road, to host a live chat session. One of their VP's, Hugh Scholey, hosted a chat one evening in November to discuss Public Relations as a career option. The success of this evening, has led to the creation of a series of Job Readiness Chat nights, designed to focus on the various elements of the job search process and specific careers. In February, we kicked off the series with a chat to look at the Human Resources Profession, both as a career option and as a way of highlighting the complexity of the job search process.

Next chat: March 26th - members are invited to participate and receive live job search coaching!

Beginning in April, we will break down all the elements of the job search process to facilitate discussions around the various technical elements, including resume writing, interviewing, company research and more. A full schedule will be posted on the Job Readiness section of our site. Anyone interested in participating in or even hosting a chat, is invited to contact Michelle McClure, Director of Program Development & Member Services at michelle.mcclure@ablelink.org.

From the Heart Recognition Event

We were so happy to have the opportunity to see and thank our volunteers, patrons, and corporate partners on Feb. 22nd! Thanks to everyone who came and helped

Featured members - Our Volunteers!



What sets apart Ability Online from other online programs is our secure, monitored and nurturing online environment. The people who help create this welcoming place in cyberspace are known as our Hosts, and collectively, they contribute thousands of hours online - monitoring, supporting, caring and sharing passionate messages. They often log on several times a day, covering a 24-hour time span; they stimulate discussions, share life experiences, and most importantly, make sure everyone is behaving! They also facilitate live chat sessions, they listen, and grow from their experiences online, while contributing to the growth of our members. They truly are the heart of the program.

On February 22nd, 2007 at our From the Heart event, we honoured those volunteers who have been with us for at least ten years. In fact, we have one volunteer who has passed the 15 year mark for volunteer service!

Congratulations and gratitude go out to Gord C. (15-year recipient) and to Nancy M., Will M., Mike G., Sarah E., Ward K., and Megan W. (10-year recipients).

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make the event so special, including Member Ambassador Laura, Blog Squad members Jowel and Hellay, and special friend Carol Bragagnolo who spoke at the event. Also, a warm welcome to our new Patrons, Chief Michael Metcalf of the Peel Regional Police and CityTV's David Onley!

All of the organizations who have contributed to Ability Online since our last event (18 in all!) were recognized and given a copy of John Terpstra's book, [The Boys](#) and guests were treated to a reading from the book (following by an original blues performance) by our very own Andrew Crighton, member of Ability Online's Board of Directors.

[Click here to see photos](#) from the event.

We're Moving



That's right, after many happy years on Finch Ave., Ability Online is moving downtown! As of April 1, 2007, our new home will be in an innovative hub for small charities called the Centre for Social Innovation. As well as

being a cost-saving measure, we are excited to be joining a community of organizations and individuals who are just as passionate about social change as we are. Our new address will be:

Ability Online Support Network
@ Centre For Social Innovation
215 Spadina Avenue, Suite 405
Toronto, ON M5T 2C7
Fax: 416-644-0116

Our phone numbers will remain the same: 416-650-6207 and 1-866-650-6207.

As we move, there will be a short window of interrupted online service. We will send out an announcement to members with specific timing and details.

10th Annual Axion Charity Challenge

It's hard to believe it's been 10 years that Axion has been hosting their annual golf tournament with proceeds benefiting Ability Online!

This year's tournament, taking place on June 28th, 2007 at the Sleepy Hollow Golf and Country Club in Stouffville, ON will be bigger and better than ever!

If you'd like to play, please contact Mike Teixeira at Axion - 905-731-3118 or mteixeira@axioninsurance.ca. If you can donate merchandise for the prize table, please contact Jean Christie at Ability Online - 416-650-6207. We look forward to seeing you there!

Blog Squad in The Toronto Star

Special thanks to Helen Henderson at the Toronto Star for her amazing coverage in last Saturday's paper! We've had countless phone calls and inquiries as a result. If you didn't see the article, [click here](#).