

What's Up at Thumbs UP?



A message from the Service Manager

What a busy term we have had at Thumbs UP. We have had new people starting and along with them new staff. Joining myself and Trish are Lois and Wendy. Both of them have extensive experience in the disability field and are great assets to the service. All the staff here work in dual roles with the official job title of Facilitator/support person. Each of our team works one-on-one with individual people and also runs activities for the groups at Thumbs UP.

Thumbs UP is a community participation service, which means that we try to find specific activities in the community for the young people who attend to take part in. This is an ongoing process and can

be difficult to get up and running due to staffing and financial constraints. Some of the work we are doing with the young people attending is life skills—fostering communication skills, decision-making, use of manners, to name a few. To many these seem like trivial everyday things, but they make an important part of everyday interaction with others around us.

In April we celebrated Thumbs UP's first birthday. We had a lunch that the young people helped to prepare. See the photos below.

In September I will be leaving Thumbs UP to become the Service Manager at Ace House. I would like to thank all involved with Thumbs

UP for the support they have shown me and give a big "thumbs up" to the parent group behind it.

-Mardy Streater



Inside the giant Tree at Te Papa.

THUMBS UP TURNS ONE!



Issue 1, June 2008

Thumbs UP Newsletter

With this issue we launch What's UP at Thumbs UP, a newsletter we intend to produce three times a year.

If you would like to suggest an article or photo for inclusion in What's UP, please contact Rose Chadwick at

TUTrust@windowslive.com

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Thumbs UP Successful in grant applications

Thumbs Up Service was one of the successful applicants to the Hutt City Council Community Development Funding Scheme this year.

The Committee received applications requests totaling \$562,599 but had only \$151,000 available for distribution. Thumbs UP was awarded a grant of \$5,000 towards the cost of the rent of Thumbs UP premises.



This was the third successful grant application for Thumbs UP.

Last year we received a grant of \$2250 From TG Macarthy Trust for the purchase of musical instruments, and earlier this year we received several major pieces of equipment to meet the needs of our physically disabled clients from Life Unlimited.

A recent application has been made to another Trust to employ a community recreation facilitator and plans are underway to apply for funds to secure a van which can accommodate at least two wheelchairs along with several passengers.



Coouncillor Deborah Hislop presented the cheque for Thumbs UP to Rose Chadwick and Trish Cuttance at the presentation ceremony at the Lower Hutt Council Chambers.



Matty Walsh demonstrates one of the musical instruments bought with the grant from the T.G. Macarthy Trust

Introducing.....Timothy

Each Newsletter we will be introducing one of our Thumbs UP clients. This newsletter features Timothy Chadwick.

My name: Timothy Chadwick

My age: 22

The school I attended: Raphael House, Rudolf Steiner School

My family: Mum: Rose, Dad: Noel, Sisters: Alice and Skye

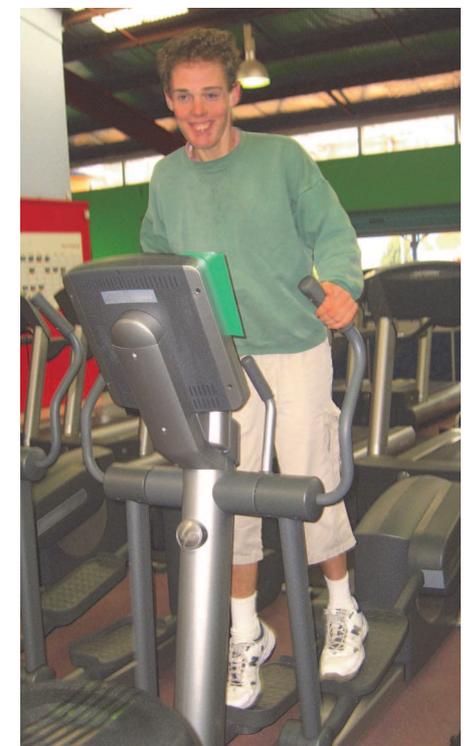
Things I like: walking, going to the gym doing puzzles, talking (especially about my favourite things), listening to a music CD when I go to bed at night, helping mum and dad with household jobs like bringing in the washing and helping to carry the shopping into the

house, singing little phrases that I like the sound of (like "zippedy do dah, zippedy day"), skipping along the pavement when I am happy.

Favourite places: Petone beach, Belmont Hills, Days Bay

Things I like about going to Thumbs UP: talking to the people there, going on outings, making my lunch, going to the coffee shop to buy a ginger beer, going to the gym.

Timothy on the cross trainer at Jenkins Gym



Expect Success

Expect Success is the adolescence to adulthood transition programme of Wellington After-Care.

The programme's aim is to successfully transit young people from adolescence into adulthood by reflecting the interests and aspirations of the young person involved, as well as incorporating contributions from families and schools.

There are three key elements to our program designed to ensure success. First is the intensive level of pre-planning involved. This is done to obtain an insight into the young person's needs and ideas for their future. Second, is the wide variety of input and

information used. This is gathered from the young person, family, school, outside agencies and other organizations that may be relevant to the specific situation. The third concerns the diversity of pathways that young people may navigate—from tertiary education, family holidays and adult learning centres to part time employment.

Our transition program is uniquely tailored and designed to 'expect success'.

If you would like more information about Expect Success please contact Simon Baldock at transition@wgtnaftercare.org.nz



Simon Baldock

Guardianship

Several of the families at Thumbs UP have recently gone through the process of arranging welfare guardianship for their disabled sons and daughters, as a result of issues arising from WINZ benefits.

A welfare guardian is someone appointed by the Family Court to make and implement decisions on behalf of a person in relation to all aspects of their personal care.

Welfare guardians are appointed when a person wholly lacks the capacity to make or communicate decisions about an area or areas relating to their personal care and welfare. The Court must believe that the appointment of a welfare guardian is the only satisfactory way to ensure that appropriate decisions are made for that person.

The person seeking guardianship needs to fill out special forms that are available from the local Court. The Court then appoints a solicitor to represent the disabled person, to ensure that their best interests are being served by the process and that the proposed welfare guardian is a suitable person who will promote and protect the welfare of the person for whom they are acting and who will encourage him or her to exercise any capacity they have.

Kerry O'Brien, a solicitor from Petone, has been frequently appointed by the Court to represent people for whom an application for Welfare Guardianship has been made.

Kerry advises "that dealing with the application is, in most cases, straightforward. However, the process can be streamlined by including in the application for appointment of welfare guardian a consent signed by the other parent. In nearly all cases this is sufficient for the lawyer appointed and obviates the need to make further enquiries with close family members.

Secondly, you can detail in the application the specific bank account number the welfare guardian seeks to administer on behalf of your child who is referred to in the application as the "subject person". It can assist to provide a photocopy of the most recent bank statement.

If there are assets of any value beyond say \$10,000 the Court may require the appointment of a property manager though given the youth of the subject person this would happen only rarely. In my experience the actual applications are processed in the Family Court Judges "box work". This means, in nearly all cases, the ensuing order appointing a welfare guardian will be processed with-

out the need for a Court appearance. It helps to have the name of the Family Court Case Officer assigned to your application as they can respond immediately to any query you may have regarding the progress of the application through the system."

There is no cost to apply for and obtain Welfare Guardianship. If you have any questions, please speak to the helpful staff at the Family Court.



Barney Martin with Kerry O'Brien.

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Barney Martin with Kerry O'Brien.



Thumbs UP
St Augustine's Church Hall
12 Britannia Street
Petone

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Relievers Needed

Thumbs UP and other Wellington After-Care services need relievers, people who can step in when our regular staff are away on leave. This may be for an odd day here and there, or for more extended periods of time. Work can be one-on-one support for someone with a significant disability or facilitation and support for a group of people with intellectual and/or physical disabilities engaged in a range of activities.

Relievers should have experience and/or interest in working with people with disabilities, an ability to work effectively in a team, and a current driver's licence.

If you are interested in finding out more please contact
Kervin Farr, General Manager
Wellington After-Care
Phone (04) 385 7302, ext 801

email: manager@wgtnaftercare.org.nz

Thumbs UP is a day service for young people with an intellectual and/or physical disabilities with high or very high support needs. We welcome the involvement and support of community organizations, local businesses and individuals with our service.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the following organizations:

Ministry of Social Development

St Augustine's Church

Life Unlimited

Hutt City Council

T.G. McCarthy Trust

The Correspondence School

Update from Thumbs UP Trust

Thumbs Up Trust is a registered Charitable Trust established by the families of the young people attending Thumbs UP Service.

The aims of the Trust are to enable Hutt Valley youth with significant intellectual and/or physical disabilities to actively participate in and contribute to their communities, to learn and develop new skills, to engage in a range of cultural, artistic and recreational activities and to enjoy feelings of being valued and belonging to a community.

The families in the Trust have been active over the last several months in lobbying the Government to increase its level of funding to community participation programmes.

In the months ahead we will be exploring various avenues for fundraising.

Donations are very gratefully received and can be sent to Thumbs UP Trust, 2 Catherine Grove, Lower Hutt.



A friendly game of Cricket at Sladden Park

