
❖ Ottawa Rotary Home ❖

July 2005

NEWSLETTER

NOW IS THE TIME TO MAKE GENERAL BOOKINGS FOR THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS.

Many parents have recently called about booking their child for visits this fall and winter. We are now set to do so. We'll be happy to book you with an initial set of 25 days of respite for the school year 2005-2006. You may spread these days out at regular intervals, or use them for a longer visit. The respite days should suit the needs of your child and your family.

As always, the duration of your child's visit is flexible. However, we do aim to offer all of our families a complete weekend of respite, so we prefer that the duration of a weekend visit be at least from Friday afternoon until Sunday afternoon.

GENERAL GUIDELINES ABOUT MAKING A BOOKING FOR YOUR CHILD

Bookings can be made by calling Rotary Home at 236-



3200 from Monday to Friday between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM.

Recommended admission times are between 3:00 and 4:30 PM.

Recommended discharge times are between 1:00 and 3:00 PM.

Our license to provide respite to you depends on you arriving at the agreed upon times for your child's admission and discharge.

Please call as soon as you are aware of the need to cancel or change your plans. This will enable us to provide relief to a family on the waiting list.

Keep in mind that the Rotary Home will be closed over the Christmas Break from December 24th to January

FUN SUMMER HAPPENINGS AT THE ROTARY HOME!

RoHome is a busy spot for the children and teens this summer! Each week of the summer is filled with activities, and we are planning a number of outings. Hats and sunscreen are good things to pack for any of the weeks. We will inform you in advance of any trips where your child might spend money, or any activities where a swimsuit or paint-shirt are required.

Here are the activity themes for 2005:

FAIRY TALE WEEK

MAGIC WIZARD WEEK

UNDER THE SEA WEEK

COUNTRY WESTERN WEEK

NATURE & SCIENCE WEEK

HAWAIIAN WEEK

WORLD FEST WEEK

**LOOKING FOR
REGULAR RESPITE FOR
THE SCHOOL YEAR ?**

**CONSIDER OUR
REGULAR PLANNED
RELIEF PROGRAM.**

A popular alternative to making general bookings is to apply for our **Regular Planned Relief (RPR) Program**. Here are the highlights of this program:

The RPR Program runs for the **school year**, from September until mid-June.

Your child will be booked to visit Rotary Home **once every seven weeks**.

You'll receive a **set schedule** of your child's bookings for the whole school year.

Your **child's visit** will be from Sunday evening (or Monday afternoon) until the following Friday morning. Your child maintains his or her usual school day routine.

You will be permitted to book **some additional days**. For example, you may add a weekend to the start or end of a RPR week.

Only four children a week are booked for this program. The rest of our beds are reserved for general bookings.



**CALL TODAY
to apply for the Regular
Planned Relief Program.**

**Gina will be finalizing the
schedule soon.**

You must re-apply for the RPR Program even if your child participated last year. New families are encouraged to apply.

**EVERYBODY LOVES
SUMMER!
WE'RE ALREADY
LOOKING AT SUMMER
2006.**

It may seem incredible, but at Rotary Home we begin making plans for next summer even before we put away this summer's toys! Summer is our peak period for requests for respite. Demand for respite for Summer 2005 was so heavy that this summer was completely booked last January! Next summer our goal is to offer days of respite to more families than we did this summer.

We understand how important a summer break is to you, but Rotary Home wants to accommodate as many families in our community as possible. In response to the increased demand for summer respite, your child will be eligible for **one full week plus one full weekend of respite for next summer**. That's in addition to the 25 days of respite you may have already booked during the school year.

Shortly after this letter is mailed, we will accept bookings for **Summer 2006**.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Here are some suggestions that may be useful to you as you pack and make arrangements for your child's stay at Rotary Home.

Transportation arrangements must be made before your child is admitted, please advise us of the times. Include regular bus driver's name and telephone number if known. Please ensure your child has enough money to cover Paratranspo costs.

Appointments: Parents must be responsible for taking the child to and from medical/therapy appointments. The counselors are not permitted to use their own vehicles to transport children.

Illness: Children suffering from any infectious illness (e.g. cold, bronchitis, tonsillitis, and stomach flu) will not be admitted to the Home. Should a child develop an infectious illness while here, the parents or emergency contact person will be asked to take the child home in order to prevent the spread of illness.

Careplans: In order to provide the best possible care for your child, careplans must be updated at each visit. Please let us know of any recent surgery, new telephone numbers, change of address, etc. Confirm medication instructions, especially when dosage differs from the label on the bottle.

PLEASE LABEL ALL CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT SENT TO THE HOME.

Use a **laundry marking pen** to put the name or initials on clothing labels or the soles of socks. Please limit the amount of clothing you send, as we do the laundry nightly. If items not belonging to your child are sent home to you, **please let us know** so that we can try and return the items to their rightful owner. The use of a full name is becoming important as we have many children with the same initials. It might be worth your while to purchase woven or iron-on cloth labels.

Adaptive/Therapeutic devices: Please give us as much information as possible regarding the use of orthopaedic equipment. ie: the length of time worn, inside or outside of clothes, tightness of straps, etc .

Visiting: Please avoid calling or visiting the Home during mealtimes (8-9 a.m., 12-1 p.m., and 5-6 p.m.) and change of shift (7:30-8:30 a.m. & p.m.)

If your child is here for an extended period of time, by all means feel free to come and take them for outings, but please don't stay for a visit here for longer than an hour or so. Remember...this is your rest!

Toys Toys Toys: Please limit the number of toys you send with your child - we have lots!

Summer Sun: During the summer months, please be sure to send sunscreen and a hat.

If you are sending in completed clothing lists and food containers for lunches - thank you! They are a wonderful help!

Remember to send the following toiletries with your child:

- small bar of soap
- toothbrush
- toothpaste
- deodorant
- shampoo
- hairbrush
- skin lotion
- sanitary napkins
- diapers

For children who wear diapers, we normally check/change 7 X per day, so please be sure you send enough to cover the whole stay.

Rotary Bag: we would like to suggest having a bag or suitcase that is dedicated for stays at Rotary. This bag can contain toiletries as well as clothes that are only used while staying with us. Remember, we do laundry each day so you do not need to pack many clothes. Preparing your child for a stay will be quick and easy—just grab the pre-packed bag and away you go!

WELCOME NEW STAFF!

Welcome to five of Rotary Home's newest Staff members.

Stephanie Wiener and **Patricia Bradshaw** have accepted positions as Full Time Registered Nurses. Stephanie has been working at Rotary Home as a Casual Counsellor and Recreation Counsellor while finishing her BSc. in Nursing and we are happy to welcome her and Patricia to the nursing staff.

Jenna Derocher and **Jill Cook** have joined the team as Casual Child Care Counsellors.

Amy Givogue is a university student who will be working every week of the summer as a Recreation Counsellor.

NEW POSITIONS

Permanent Part Time. In order to meet our staffing needs we have added 2 new permanent part-time counsellor positions to the home. We welcome **Vesna Zahirovic** and **Lindsay Jenkinson** into these positions.

Nurse Manager. As the home grows so do the demands on our Executive Director. The nurse manager position was developed last year as a part time position to focus on developing and maintaining standards of care in the home. The position has grown in it's responsibilities and became a full time position this past April. **Lauri Cox** who has been our part-time nurse manager is now in the position full time.

NURSE'S CORNER

Updating Careplans: Don't be surprised if you receive a call from one of our friendly nurses in the next few months. We want to ensure that your child is receiving the best care during his or her stay, so our nursing staff will be contacting families to update careplans and obtaining a medical history for those children with complex needs.

Staff training: As the care requirements increase for some of our children, so does the need for staff training. We will be identifying these needs and developing a new training program so that each and every staff is confident in the care they deliver. High quality care mixed with lots of love is our recipe!



*Have a Great Summer
From all our staff!*

Gina St. Amour
Executive Director

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FIVE AND MORE CLUB

Congratulations to the following staff members who have given five or more years of service to the Ottawa Rotary Home.

Barb Doherty

Full Time Child Care Counsellor

Geoff Cousens

Full Time Child Care Counsellor

Ines Nolasco

Full Time Child Care Counsellor

Natalie Janssen

Full Time Child Care Counsellor

Paul O'Shaughnessy

Casual Child Care Counsellor

GET CONNECTED

Have questions? Want to see some funny pictures?

Visit our web site!

www.rotaryhome.on.ca

Watch out for these new features coming soon.....

Parent's Forum

Looking for some support?
Have questions? Want to exchange ideas?

Visit our parent's forum where parents can chat. Just follow the "Parents" link from our home page.