

“Creative Hands”: It’s one popular spot!

By Guy



Michel assembling a chair



Dan finishing a deacon's bench



Ron using a scroll saw

Recently I have been working at Creative Hands, talking to the other clients. It seemed that people go there for many different reasons. I wanted to find out more information about why people are sent to Creative Hands, so I interviewed my OT and this is what I found out.

Working in the shop is another way to do therapy. Many clients are not interested in doing paper work activities as a form of therapy. Projects done in the wood shop require planning, organization, sequencing and other cognitive abilities important for every day functioning.

Many of our clients have been effected by their injuries in terms of fatigue and low endurance. Working in the shop is usually a fun way to increase tolerances. Furthermore, they get a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment. The OT's job is to suggest projects that are a challenge and rewarding. At the end of each project, you can see how proud the clients are of themselves and their projects.



Deb showing off her masterpiece!



Robert in deep concentration on his project.

Creative Hands Receives \$10,000 Grants

We would like to thank The Community Foundation of Ottawa for its generous donations to Wings. In 2006, they made a \$10,000 donation to fund rehabilitation services for clients who do not have funding. More recently, they have donated \$10,000 to the Creative Hands workshop. This will allow non-funded clients to get memberships to work at the wood shop.

The Community Foundation is a public, non-profit organization created by and for the people of Ottawa. They “connect donors who care with causes that matter”. The Phoenix Network has been able to help many people as a result of their excellent work. Thanks!

Thanks Heather!

Our hearts go out to Heather and her family. Heather's father passed away recently. In a very thoughtful gesture, Heather's family has donated his tools to the Creative Hands workshop. We hope it gives comfort to the family to know that many people appreciate being able to use these tools to make their lives more meaningful.