

Profile: Community Enrichment – Grant MacEwan College

By Raylene Manolescu, Supervisor, CE

Community Enrichment is an independent living and personal development skill training program offered at Grant MacEwan College in the Faculty of Health and Community Studies. For over 30 years the program has offered supports and services in the Edmonton community to individuals with a physical disability or brain injury.

Self determined goals for the acquisition of independent living skills and areas for personal development provide the foundation for an individualized course of study. Students attending Community Enrichment can expect to participate in a combination of classroom activities and individual study while working towards the completion of their goals. These activities can range from participation in courses such as budgeting, apartment management and personal safety to communication skills, self advocacy and career development. Most students attend the program for 2

years to take advantage of all the courses offered by Community Enrichment. Near the end of their second year of students begin to



consider planning a trial residency in the Independent Living Suite or plan for a move to a more independent residential setting. At this time participants also begin to look for alternate meaningful day activities including employment, volunteering, or furthering their education.

Students completing the program had this to say *“They helped me achieve my goals. It is an excellent program, the whole staff was wonderful.” “They listened to me and whatever goal I had they followed through and taught me how to do it myself.” “I feel more confident in the things I do everyday and have better self-esteem.”*

For more information visit www.MacEwan.ca/communityenrichment call (780)497-5121 to attend our next information session.

Regional Groups

Anyone who has been affected directly or indirectly by a brain injury or would like more information can attend. Please call your local Service Coordinator. See Page 12 for listing.

High Prairie, Slave Lake and Peace River: Contact Darlene or Sandra for dates at (780) 523-4218 or 1-888-523-4218

Grande Prairie: Don't miss the GoGo's Group which has started up in Grande Prairie. Call **Carey and Maria** (780)532-0477 Toll Free: 1-866-532-0477.

West of Edmonton: Call **Tannis** or **Dee** at (780)712-7560 Toll Free: 1-866-712-7560 .

Edson: *The first and third Wednesday of every month at 1:00 pm, Edson Royal Canadian Legion.*

Hinton: *The first Tuesday of every month 1:00 - 2:30 pm at the Royal Canadian Legion.*

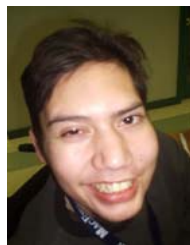
Drayton Valley: *1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 1:30 pm (except stat. holidays) - Drayton Valley Royal Canadian Legion.*

Jasper: *Monthly, 2nd Thursday, 11:00 am Community Outreach Services Building.*

Tribute to Carlos

Gone but not Forgotten - Carlos Gutierrez

By Michael Pyska, Service Coordinator



This summer the NABIS family lost one of our dearest and most active members. Our friend and fellow group member, Carlos Gutierrez's health failed, and he passed away at the age of

24. Carlos is remembered for his sparkling wit and keen insight into the small pleasures of life. He was beloved by his many friends and respected for his depth of courage and heart in dealing with the challenges he faced in his young life. Carlos will continue to be an example for many of us – especially his peers - who have been touched by the experience of brain injury. For several years Carlos lived in his own suite, supported with his daily needs by the excellent staff at Gravelle apartments. We will remember his passion and ambition to make others laugh, and in doing so making the world a little brighter place for us all. We will miss him very much and remain thankful for the time we spent with him. We extend our deepest condolences to his family and friends.

Thank you, Carlos! We will remember you always.