

Community Partnership #7

<p><i>Partnership Title:</i> EmployABILITY Gala Event for Persons with Disabilities</p>	<p><i>Partnership Type:</i> Persons with Disabilities</p>
<p><i>Description of Proposed Partnership:</i> Hold an evening gala event and dinner to recognize and celebrate Durham employers, employees with disabilities, service providers in the community, volunteers and local media for their efforts in removing barriers towards the employment of persons with disabilities. Event will be highlighted by a keynote address from a prominent guest speaker. <i>Related TOP issue</i> – Gap in services for those with disabilities is growing; and many who are able and willing to work face serious barriers in achieving their employment goals; employers do not have ready access to a pool of disabled workers, and lack knowledge of what assistive technologies are available.</p>	
<p><i>Role of Local Board:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • participate in planning and event coordination. • co-fund the gala. • advertise and promote the gala event (before and after) as part of an ongoing awareness and education campaign. 	
<p><i>Projected Outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • skills, values and perspective of those who are employed with a disability will be showcased. • best practices, innovation and lessons learned in the workplace will be communicated through exhibits and presentations, including the successful application of assistive technologies for persons with disabilities. • a minimum of 3 exhibitors who supply assistive devices to accommodate persons with disabilities in the workplace, and a minimum of 5 community agencies that provide services to the disabled will attend the gala event. • 10 qualified success stories or nominations for awards will be received. • 3 “EmployABILITY”, awards and 1 each in categories of innovation, volunteer citizenship, media and accessibility will be granted. • award recipients and success stories will be publicized via the Internet and local media channels following the event. • coverage of event will appear on radio and cable and in newspapers across Durham Region. 	
<p><i>Key Partners:</i> <i>Community:</i> Durham Region Employment Network, Member Agencies. <i>Media:</i> Metroland Publishing, CHEX TV, Rogers Cable TV.</p>	
<p><i>Projected Participation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Projected Outcomes. 	
<p><i>Projected Timelines:</i> December 2007-March 2008.</p>	
<p><i>Potential Products:</i> N/A</p>	
<p><i>Completion Date:</i> March 19th, 2008</p>	
<p><i>Status:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • about 250 people attended the gala event on March 19th, 2008 at Tosca Banquet Hall in Oshawa, which featured keynote address by Hon. David Onley, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario. • awards granted in employABILITY, innovation, volunteer citizenship and media categories. • Metroland This Week feature story March 28th, 2008. 	