



WINTER 2021

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2.** Our WorkPlace Volunteers
- 2.** Portraits of Success
- 3.** Upcoming Events
- 3.** Vee's Corner
- 4.** Our WorkPlace Mural

Welcome to the first edition of "Hire Ground"! This newsletter has been created to inform the community about the work we do at OUR WORKPLACE and to inspire and support our clients. It will be available online and in printed form on a bi-monthly basis.

WHO WE ARE

Our WorkPlace offers job readiness support and training to clients with a variety of disabilities and life challenges. Clients take part in a series of unique job readiness workshops, including *Women in Progress*, *People in Progress* and computer courses. See **UPCOMING EVENTS** for workshop dates and how to apply. In many cases, confidence is regained by participants wanting to look for work who may not have been able to do so prior to coming into the program. In addition, participants benefit from the kind of one-on-one support offered by Our WorkPlace staff and volunteers that allows them to find work and restores their sense of self-worth.

If you'd like to contribute to future issues of "Hire Ground", please get in touch with Bre at Our WorkPlace at bres@ourplacesociety.com

MEET OUR STAFF

We are delighted to introduce you to our amazing staff at Our WorkPlace. Please be sure to say hello to:

Ashley – Manager.



ASHLEY

Ashley is a former journalist who has been working in employment services for the last 10 years. She is a mama to the sweetest boy and an avid crocheter.

Bre - Job Developer.

Former Coordinator of Volunteers at Our Place Society, and part-time Outreach Worker. She is an avid cat cuddler, enjoys quick-witted humour, and drinks far too much coffee.



BRE

Winnie - OWP greeter.

She's here most days to welcome people. Loves to play "tug" with her rope and sleep in the sun.



WINNIE

Paula - Job Coach.

Previously worked at the Men's Therapy Centre and has a background in Counselling and Social Work. Mum of two amazing girls, she loves to hike, laugh and do yoga.



PAULA

OUR WORKPLACE VOLUNTEERS

Clients of Our WorkPlace are supported by a team of volunteer facilitators, who deliver the 4-week People in Progress (PIP) and Women in Progress (WIP) workshops. The facilitators epitomize the Our Place Society's core values of creating a sense of 'hope and belonging' by setting up workshop participants for employment success.

The team is comprised of individuals from diverse backgrounds and experiences, ranging from coaching, nursing education, hospitality, public service management and more. Workshop facilitators guide and encourage participants to hone latent personal workplace-specific knowledge, skills and attitudes. Topics include self-care, teamwork, communications skills, recognizing boundaries, budgeting and workplace preparedness (including working in a team, resume-writing, etc.)

Creating a positive and inclusive learning environment encourages everyone to gain confidence and a sense of true purpose. The facilitators say they also gain a great deal from being part of the groups, with one commenting, "After guiding a session, I am always filled with hope and a deep recognition that although some participants have experienced life challenges and previous barriers to recent stable work, they have such potential and so much to offer future employers, and that I have so much to learn from each of them."

Hire Ground will be introducing you to some of our workshop facilitators in future issues.

PORTRAITS OF SUCCESS



Proud graduates of a recent People in Progress workshop!
L-R: Ameris Whitson and Doris Hatt

UPCOMING EVENTS

COMPUTER COURSE

MARCH 22 TO APRIL 7

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY

10.30 - 12.00

PEOPLE IN PROGRESS (PIP)

APRIL 27 TO MAY 21

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY

1.00 - 2.15PM

WOMEN IN PROGRESS (WIP)

JUNE 8 TO JULY 2

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY

1.00 - 2.15PM

DROP-IN

EVERY MONDAY

1.00 - 3.30PM

TECH CAFÉ

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY

1.00 - 4.00PM

To register for the groups,
please contact: **Ashley**
at ashleym@ourplacesociety.com
or call her at 778-817-0354.

Ashley will make an initial 'intake' appointment with you
and tell you more about the groups and what to expect.

VEE'S CORNER

"I've long argued that anyone who has struggled in life deserves a second chance to live up to their true potential." - Richard Branson

Volunteering at Our WorkPlace has given Vee insight into the challenges as well as the triumphs of the program's clients. Check back here for words of encouragement and inspiration.

Vee

WHAT OUR CLIENTS ARE SAYING

"Our WorkPlace has been a brilliant help to me when I desperately needed it. Thank you to you and your wonderful people for all the good you do to help those with challenges find meaningful employment, you really go above and beyond to help, and I really appreciate it. I am currently employed in the trades with a trade master who is training me and who is sensitive to my limitations and also aware of my potential and it's fantastic. I'm proud to say I'm employed and loving it!! I will continue recommending you to many in the vulnerable community that I am in contact with through my church and would love to be able to send them your way if I think they can benefit from your program and get on their feet again."

- Nathan

OUR IMPACT IN OUR COMMUNITY

At Our WorkPlace, success is defined in many ways, whether it is by helping a client to find full-time or part-time employment or encouraging someone to move on to further training, or by helping them find a place in our community through volunteering. Since January 2019, more than 1500 people have come through the doors of Our WorkPlace and of those, 54% are currently

employed. However, in view of the fact that 88% of our clients live with a diagnosed mental illness, for the majority, success at Our WorkPlace is measured by creating opportunities for our clients to find hope, develop their own voice, improve their self-esteem, and discover hidden talents and strengths they may not have known they had.



Local artist, Kira Chong, designed the mural in the Cooper Room training area at Our WorkPlace using the belief that we all have to act as our own heroes from time to time as the ultimate inspiration. Chong personalized the mural to include all of the names of past graduates from the program.