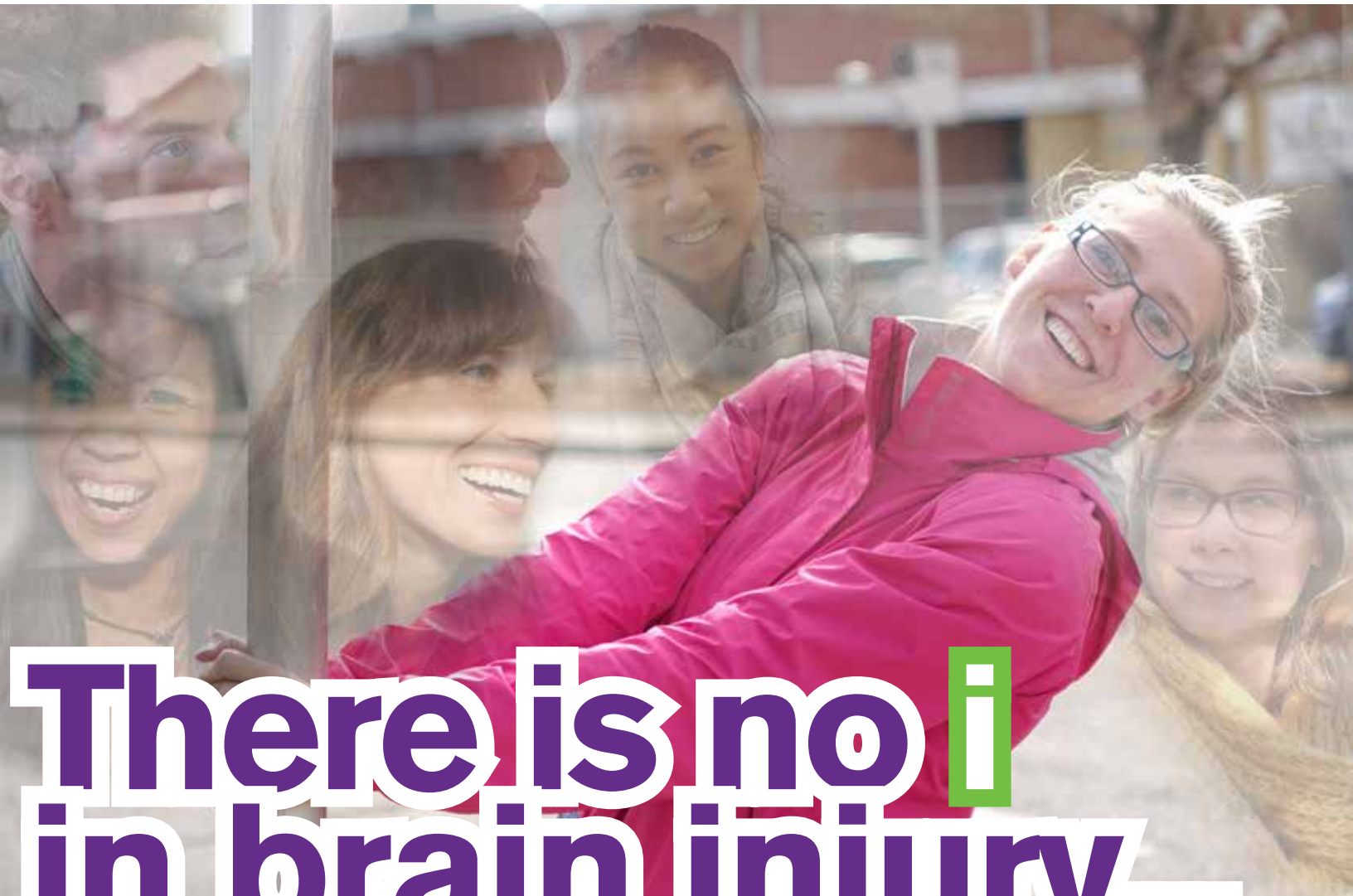


June 2016

rewire

the ARBI connection

arbi making life better
Association for the Rehabilitation of the Brain Injured



There is no **i** in brain injury...

We are all affected.

June is Brain Injury Awareness Month. Visit arbi.ca



Thea Jochelson, volunteer

Volunteer Q&A

Thea has volunteered at ARBI for over three years with four different clients. She heads back to school for speech-language pathology (SLP) in the fall.

Are you working now?

I am currently working as an SLP assistant. I work with young children with speech and language delays. I implement programs created by an SLP to help improve communication skills. It is lots of fun!

What was your prior focus of study, and how did you end up interested in SLP?

I heard about speech-language pathology while completing my degree in linguistics and I thought that it sounded like a very interesting field. I added a minor in speech-language sciences and started looking for work experience related to speech-language pathology, which led me to ARBI.

Do you have any specific memories that stand out?

One memory of particular significance to me was when I was working with my first client at ARBI. In one speech session my client was working on saying his name. It seems like a small detail that many of us take for granted, but when my client was able to achieve this it was really a touching moment. It was clear how meaningful this

achievement was for him.

What is the client/volunteer relationship like?

The client/volunteer relationship is one of support. The clients work very hard on their physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech-language pathology programs and it is so inspirational to watch. The volunteers are able to support the clients as they work, whether through physical support or simply by providing words of encouragement.

What kind of impact does time at ARBI have on volunteers' lives?

I think the largest impact on volunteers' lives is from the people at ARBI, especially the clients. Their motivation and positive attitudes are truly inspirational. For many volunteers, ARBI provides the opportunity to work with a population that they otherwise might not have had the chance to work with. The training and experience that ARBI provides also teaches the volunteers a number of new skills, whether it be working as a member of a team or learning effective communication strategies for working with clients with aphasia. (*Aphasia is a language disorder common after stroke.*)

Join our team as a volunteer!

Please visit arbi.ca, call Wendy at 403-217-4591 or email:

wendy@arbi.ca

ARBI invites you to our annual

STAMPEDE BREAKFAST

Come and join us for a free pancake breakfast (served courtesy our friends at the **Kinsmen Club of Stamped City**) and fun for the whole

family, featuring our special furry friends from PALS, a pop-up photobooth with *prints on the spot* from Hip Image, and live music!



JULY 13TH
9:00-12:00
3412 Spruce Dr SW

Presented by:



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**THE CALGARY GREEK FESTIVAL & ARBI
ARE EXCITED TO BE PARTNERING THIS YEAR!**

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A WEEKEND OF GREEK FOOD &
ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

SEPTEMBER 16-18

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
CALGARYHELLENIC.COM

Memorable moments

Stories from the front-line

The front-line team at ARBI is on the floor each day, supporting clients in their rehabilitation. This month, Erin remembers Tsegay's first time in the pool...

There are moments in life where you truly realize the opportunity and privilege granted you. A recent addition to the CIP Aquatics program provided one of those moments for me. Prior to joining us at the Talisman Center, Tsegay had *never been swimming*. Although his initial nerves were apparent, it was so exciting to be able to witness his reaction to such a foreign activity. A few weeks into it, Tsegay has moved from nervous/excited to just plain excited when it comes time to jump (and by jump I mean safely wheel down the accessible ramp) into the pool! For Tsegay, the support and gentle resistance offered by the water helps him to balance and walk more smoothly. Over the next several months we will be working on walking in the pool and strengthening his affected side through lots of low impact exercises!



SHOUT OUTS!

Sincere thanks to our friends and supporters who continually find new ways to give. Your support always seems to arrive at exactly the right time.

Thank you Rosallie and Will Boyd for the beanbags you made for ARBI 101 group. With the two different colours, we can play games and easily identify which team is which.

Thank you Dai and your brother Vy Luong for the trays of meats and buns!

Thank you Stacey and your family for the several trays of desserts to celebrate your graduation! The cheesecake in particular was described as memorable for all the right reasons.

Thank you Sue Frerichs for donating a laptop!

Thank you Valerie Lawton for donating the games to enhance our "cognitive exercises!" *Mastermind* and *Apples to Apples* have been doing just that.

Thank you Eagle Lake Landscape Supply for the Big Yellow Bags of soil for our gardens! We've spread it throughout our brand new planter boxes we made with lumber donated by the Cedar Shop. Thank you Cedar Shop!

Further, it was Doug Webb (ARBI board member) and a group from Phoenix Technology Services that made the planter boxes for us. Thanks guys!

Thanks Ryan Stawnychko and Cambium Woodwork for the quality lumber for our woodshop projects!

Finally, thank you to everybody who has donated to help former ARBI client Eddie get set up again after a fire burned down his home. You've raised almost \$3,000 so far. If you still want to contribute, please visit gofundme.com/HelpEddie2016

Thank you Rotary Club of Calgary

The Rotary Club of Calgary has a long history of supporting ARBI, going back to the construction of the main auditorium, which serves as the program hub today. That generosity was renewed again this year in the form of \$30,000 which was used to purchase equipment for the new occupational therapy room, to furnish and equip some new offices and to put a cherry on top, we had several photographs blown up to decorate the hallways and lighten the mood with smiling faces. Thank you, Rotary Club of Calgary, for your incredible support.



Mark your calendars

The McKinley Masters/ARBI Charity Classic is back!

Monday, July 25, 2016
Priddis Greens Golf & Country Club

For sponsorship opportunities please contact Lynn:
lynn@arbi.ca

We need CASINO VOLUNTEERS!

ARBI has an amazing opportunity to benefit (potentially up to \$70,000) and we need volunteers to work the shifts. Please email lynn@arbi.ca if you can help!



September 25 & 26 • Elbow River Casino



Stacey's progression

In the year that Stacey spent at ARBI before she graduated the On-Site program last month, people noticed a remarkable change in her demeanour. ARBI's social worker, Kudzai, touches on that below.

I remember first meeting Stacey at Foothills Hospital on unit 58. She was receiving rehab and was in the process of being transitioned on to Halvar Jonson (Centre for Brain Injury Inpatient Rehabilitation). Stacey was very shy when I first met her and most of the conversation was conducted only with her mom.

After Halvar Jonson, Stacey transitioned to ARBI. We worked together with her mom to ensure that Stacey had all of the right resources in place. The family initially struggled with some of the essential resources because they live just outside of Calgary. Homecare was unable to come out to them because of their location.

But, Stacey is blessed to have such a strong and supportive family that pressed on. Her mom advocated for her care day and night and by the time she was discharged from ARBI, through all the hardwork of the staff and family, Stacey was able to transition smoothly into a different program.

By the time Stacey left ARBI she was singing! She was no longer the shy young lady that kept her head down when I first met her. She was now a proud young lady that held her head up high.

Stacey is continuing her OT and speech rehab at home.



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info@arbi.ca

