

# Media Release

## LiveWorkPlay celebrates Engines of Success award winners and new United Way Ottawa funding agreement with 250 local supporters

**June 3, 2011, Ottawa** – Ottawa charity LiveWorkPlay paid tribute last night to employers that are inclusive of people with developmental and intellectual disabilities at their annual *Engines of Success* recognition banquet.

In addition, LiveWorkPlay announced that thanks to a new three-year funding agreement, the organization will receive \$42,500 in annual support from United Way Ottawa. Thanks to these funds LiveWorkPlay will provide increased opportunities for job development with local employers, job preparation for people with intellectual disabilities, and most importantly, facilitate connections between the two to initiate employment relationships and maintain their success.

“In addition to quality housing and loving relationships, a real job is always one of the top three things people with intellectual disabilities tell us they want,” says Keenan Wellar, a founder and co-leader of LiveWorkPlay. “With this funding from United Way, we will be able to help more individuals and employers come together. We know from our existing employment partners that all employees benefit when workplaces fully reflect the diversity of our community.”

Receiving *Ambassador* awards as self-advocates who represent LiveWorkPlay and its values in public ways to the community: Kyle Berthiaume, Emily Menard (elected Vice-President of People First of Ottawa at the tender age of 20) and Ryan Nevitt. Berthiaume took over the microphone and announced to thunderous applause – as his parents cried happy tears – his pending move to an apartment in the Ottawa community. He credited LiveWorkPlay for helping him find his newfound self-confidence.

*Good Life* awards were given to self-advocates pursuing their dreams and overcoming obstacles: Amanda Manuel worked for years to reach her goal of becoming a staff member at Tim Hortons, Heather McAdam overcame brain surgery and is pursuing her dream of being an office worker, and Chris Jones has been coping with the death of his mother while building his own small business caring for people’s pets.

The first ever LiveWorkPlay *Media Award*, accepted by on-air personality Derick Fage, went to *Daytime Ottawa* on Rogers television for their coverage of disability issues in a manner that is respectful of people with disabilities as fully valued citizens of the community. “We get to work with many great community agencies,” said Fage, “but the way LiveWorkPlay values people with disabilities always stands out for us, whether it is through interviews in the studio or at live events like this one tonight. We are thrilled to be a part of that.”

The *Legacy* award went to Marge McCabe, a lifelong disability advocate as well as a founder and retiring Executive Director of Families Matter Co-op. Also acknowledged was the chair of the board of LiveWorkPlay, Marlene Floyd, for having won a *Y Women of Distinction Volunteer Award* earlier in the week, as well as a provincial *Leading Women Building Communities Award*.

LiveWorkPlay is a charitable organization that supports a good life for people with intellectual disabilities. Based in Ottawa and locally-focused, LiveWorkPlay is part of a broader worldwide movement for positive change, promoting inclusion through self-advocacy, self-determination and citizenship. For more information including highlights from Engines of Success visit [www.LiveWorkPlay.ca](http://www.LiveWorkPlay.ca).

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