

Date: Fri, 23 Jul 2010 11:44:31 -0700
From: vincentbeyer@gmail.com
Subject: Final week for Peer Support Niagara Support Centre
To: vincentbeyer@gmail.com

Dear Friend,

It is with sadness that we have to announce the closing of the Peer Support Niagara Support Centre – effective July 31. After 6 months of operation, we simply could not raise the \$5,000 a month we needed to stay operational.

We'd like to thank each person who helped us along the way. Each person is so valuable in our eyes, as these were the people who dared to be associated with a mental health organization. Reducing the stigma of mental illness begins with involvement in a mental health organization.

It was these people who, not without difficulty, helped us formulate our final model of operation, which was: *to be a place of safety*. In the beginning, we tried to become all things to all people. We offered free coffee to everyone, allowing anyone free access to our premises, whether they were serious about recovery or not. But we changed how we did things. We gradually became a place that was ultra-sensitive to the physical and emotional well-being of its members. We crafted a list of *unacceptable behaviours*. If a member began feeling uncomfortable by the actions of another person, we would act on it immediately, and doing so, as diplomatically as we could. And, giving grace to those who showed a renewed commitment to abide by the rules. It was in this kind of atmosphere where healthy friendships developed, and where the most emotional healing took place. So, thank you to everyone who worked with us, painstakingly, to arrive at this effective model of operation. You are the true hero's in this endeavour.

We also wish to thank the 20 speakers who shared their stories (and those who allowed us to video-tape their talks). Speaking about mental illness paves the way to resolving mental illness.

We'd also like to thank those who donated used items to us, and those who employed us, in an effort to raise funds. We appreciate you very much.

We'd like to thank the various individuals who contributed financially to our endeavour. Thanks to you, we were able to last as long as we did. So, again, thank you.

Last but not least, we'd like to thank the landlord, and the recession. Because of the recession, when we weren't able to pay our rent, our landlord couldn't find anyone else to rent the building to, so he offered to let us stay free of rent. Thank you, Mark!

The final meeting at the support centre will be held Tuesday, July 27 at 7:00 pm. Our speaker will be Lisa Dent, 23, whose talk is entitled, "It's Not What Happens To You, It's What You Do About It.", based on a book she is writing, about coping with trauma. A small social will be held afterward. The Monday before, July 26, will be our regularly scheduled Emotions Anonymous meeting, at 7:00 pm.

We'd like to remind you that there is link on our website called "Support Groups". You can click on it to see other support groups operating in Niagara.

Thanks for your support, and until we meet again, keep searching, keep trusting, and keep smiling. ☺

Warm regards,

Vince

P.S. Presently, our centre is filled with used items, both commercial and household. You can help us by shopping at the centre, and telling your friends to stop by the centre for deals as well. We'll be open until the 31st. Thank you!

Vince Beyer

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Open daily 9 am - 9 pm.

www.peersupportniagara.org [Facebook Page](#) [You Tube Page](#)

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