

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

We work with **people** when they are at their most **vulnerable**, including those who have sustained a brain injury, and those who are suffering from chronic pain, depression or any of a number of other serious challenges. We are **humbled** by the enormous amount of **trust** that is bestowed upon us, and we treat that trust with tremendous **respect**. There is no greater calling than to help a neighbour in need. It is indeed an honour to **serve**.

The clients we serve did not expect to have to endure such challenges, nor did they ask to experience such tribulations—to be taken out of school or work, to lose the ability to walk or run ... to forget their own child's name... Despite these devastating losses and shattered dreams, we know our clients can overcome. We've seen them do it. A true measure of one's strength is how they rise to master the moment. Our clients are champions. Somewhere deep within their determination, they pull out the resolve and the unyielding effort that's required to succeed. It starts with awareness, then taking that first step, and before long, they are learning new strategies and skills, solving problems in new ways. Hope, faith, strength—these are pillars of rehab. If our clients have trouble accessing these qualities from deep within, we know that it is our role to help them find them.

Dreams and futures may at first seem lost, and doors may seem closed, but with the wonderful programs and services we've developed, and the compassion and collaborative efforts of all our staff and colleagues, new possibilities emerge and new paths are forged. With all sincerity, the clients we serve and the families we support are why we are here. Our mission is to serve, and we are honoured and proud to serve with all of you in such a meaningful way. We're a team in every sense, and we look forward to the great challenges and triumphs that tomorrow brings.

As always, with much joy and thankfulness,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arden".

[Arden McGregor, M.A., C. Psych. Assoc., CBIST](#)

Christine Willman, RN, ENC(c) Nurse Case Manager

When her son suffered a traumatic brain injury at the age of 3 years, Christine Willman's life changed in an instant. She found herself suddenly thrust into the world of lawyers, specialists, funding issues, meetings and therapists. Christine was a registered nurse working in critical care at that time, and she was already an expert on trauma and its aftermath.

Throughout the following eleven years, her passion for patient advocacy and rehab grew, and her compassion and understanding for clients and families deepened in a way possible only through personal experience. As her nursing expertise continued to expand, Christine found herself increasingly drawn toward a career in case management. Her motivation and dedication resulted in a position as the Paediatric Nurse Case Manager for Paediatric Trauma at London Health Sciences Centre. With her desire to work in the community increasing, she went on to work in case management in the private sector, before joining the Brainworks team this month! As Brainworks' Nurse Case Manager, she serves the London and St. Thomas regions, and areas of Southwestern Ontario. We are proud and excited to welcome Christine to the Brainworks team!



You are welcome to view Christine's complete [biography](#) on our website, or contact her directly:

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Brainworks Office Centennial: See us at *Doors Open!*

Brainworks' head office is 100 years old this year and you're invited to help us celebrate! Built in 1910, the red brick building at 79 Ridout Street South, London, was at first the home of Jose Gaste, a prominent cigar manufacturer in the early 20th century. The building received a City of London Heritage Designation in 1991.



To celebrate its centennial, Brainworks is opening its office to the public. The slate roof, double verandahs, Romanesque arch, cut glass entrance, curved bay window, stained glass and stonework are all interesting features. The wood paneled library is one of the most beautiful rooms, and the stained glass bay window on the second floor is best seen from inside. Following Jose Gaste, owners have included a former Mayor of London and the Roman Catholic Diocese of London.

We hope to see you at Doors Open: September 18-19, 10 am to 4 pm

To read more about this event, please see [Doors Open London](#)

For more information about our involvement, please contact:

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Brainworks is Reaching Out to the Community

We Go Where You Are,

To be client-centred, we have to go where our clients are ... and our clients are everywhere, throughout the community and all over the Internet.

We're very much a part of our community. Together, we've faced challenges, collaborated to resolve issues, shared ideas, and basically helped one another any way we could. For all the special gifts we've received from our community, it's always been very important for us to give back.

As part of this endeavour, we have recently sponsored several community events, such as the Brain Injury Association of Windsor/Essex Taste of the Caribbean fundraiser, the Brain Injury Association of London and Region's annual conference, the Sarnia-Lambton Brain Injury Association Conference and the Addiction Services of Thames Valley Inaugural Gala. We've sponsored sledge hockey tournaments, golf tournaments, and community leagues. And we've worked to facilitate the distribution of bicycle helmets to keep children safe.

We've communicated our message in area magazines, newspapers and local radio. Our staff were published in both the spring and summer editions of Rehab Matters, the national magazine of the Vocational Rehabilitation Association. In May, we participated in a comprehensive discussion on brain injury and sleep on the "Brainwaves Show", a radio program on AM 980 in London, dedicated to brain injury issues. All of these are available to read / listen to on our web site.

In keeping with our very important goal of getting the most accurate and updated information out into the community, we've embarked on widening our presence on the Internet, Facebook and Twitter. With so much inaccurate and misleading medical information out there, we took on the role of providing solid, clinical and professional education wherever we could. We're also thrilled to announce that our staff have also been selected to present at the Toronto ABI Network Conference in November 2010.

For each step we take forward, we plan to invite the community to join us, to walk with us as we move forward, crashing through barriers, planting seeds and opening doors—putting our arms around one another and ushering in a new tomorrow. We look forward to having you along for this amazing journey.

