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## Families enjoy day at Wagon Wheel Ranch

Posted By BOB VAILLANCOURT, THE SUDBURY STAR

Posted 1 hour ago



Nicole Larabie, 12, and Brandi Duroucher, 9, get acquainted with a couple of the horses at Wagon Wheel Ranch Saturday during the developmental service worker appreciation day held at the ranch by Local 676 of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union.

BOB VAILLANCOURT/THE SUDBURY STAR

Eight-year-old Danica Servant admits she was a little nervous when she climbed aboard India at Wagon Wheel Ranch on Saturday, but the nerves soon settled down.

Then she went for a horseback ride around the ranch, which hosted about 70 developmental service workers from the Sudbury area.

It was the third annual development service worker appreciation day organized by Local 676 of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union for the more than 200 workers at Community Living Greater Sudbury.

The workers provide support for people with developmental disabilities in residential group homes, through day programs and by way of the family home program, said Fran Kelly, who helped organize Saturday's event.

The idea grew from the concept of having a staff appreciation day three years ago. That event was so successful, the tradition has carried on.

"Our goal is to recognize the important work that is being done by the 220 staff that work at Community Living," Kelly said. "We support 110 clients that live in our community."

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Many of those clients have more than one difficulty, Kelly said.

"It could be a developmental difficulty accompanied with a physical disability, or an emotional issue."

While the thrust of the group home and day programs are for adults, there are some services provided to children.

The 220 workers include 39 full-time employees, with about 80 who are listed as part time.

"We just want the community to be aware of the work we do and how important it is."

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Asked where she and her horse India went, Danica points to the rear fields and said, "way over there."

In addition to the pony rides, there was a feast of roasted wieners and marshmallows, homemade chili, cake, sleigh rides and a variety of prizes donated by local businesses.

"We're having tons of fun," said Stephanie Servant, 12, as she finished off a hot dog while waiting to go for a sleigh ride.

"It was lots of fun," added Danica, while she waited to go for a ride again.

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