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***Inviting You to Make a Difference***

This package is an invitation to provide sponsorship to the Speaking Out Conference 2024, and to make a difference in the lives of people with developmental disabilities.

**Our Mission:**

Volunteers from 3 or 4 self-advocate groups in Southwestern Ontario will collaborate to determine timing and tasks to accomplish the Vision and Goals listed below.

**Vision:**

* To host fun conferences and retreats for families, staff and self-advocates that are both planned and presented by self-advocates, people with developmental disabilities who want to speak out for themselves.
* To foster development of self-advocate groups/events in Southwestern Ontario, where the leadership is by self-advocates.
* To offer opportunities to supporters of self-advocates to listen and learn about matters of importance to self-advocates.
	+ To encourage networking among self-advocates in Southwestern Ontario and beyond.
* To provide opportunity for self-advocates to demonstrate their contributions to their communities.

**What is the Speaking Out Conference?**

The Speaking Out conference is a unique opportunity for members of self-advocate groups, people with developmental/ intellectual disabilities, support staff and family members to meet and network with each other. Self-advocates are people who have a developmental/intellectual disability, who advocate for equal citizenship, acceptance and belonging in the community. Members of local self-advocate groups across Canada come together to learn new skills, speak out in their communities about issues that affect their lives, and help create understanding so that all people with developmental/intellectual disabilities may be treated with dignity and respect.

The conference promotes advocates’ knowledge about their rights, leadership and advocacy skills to enhance their abilities for active participation in their community. The workshops will be interactive and hands on. Participants will learn skills to take back to their community. This conference provides opportunities for self-advocates, support staff and families to come together and explore issues of importance to people with developmental/intellectual disabilities.

The Speaking Out conferences have been an overwhelming success since 2007.

Over the past 15 years, the members of the Speaking Out conference planning committee have hosted an average of 150 people, in 2023 178 people attended.

Since 2007, the Speaking Out conference has offered an exciting two day- two-night event for self-advocates from across Ontario (and beyond), to come together to learn, grow and network.

***Getting Involved***

We hope you will become involved by becoming a sponsor of this great event. We’ll make sure that you are well recognized for your support and generosity. The assistance you provide will be used to cover the cost of conference speakers and for subsidies for advocates to attend the conference.

 We have sponsorship opportunities to have your organization or business sponsor the cost of a classroom for the whole conference or sponsor a session at the Speaking Out Conference. Sponsors would receive their Logo on all Conference advertisement, Name included in the welcoming introductions as official sponsors, Signage outside the classroom door.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Classroom A | $700 for conference |
| Classroom B | $700 for conference |
| Session 1 | $ 200 |
| Session 2 | $ 200 |
| Session 3 | $200 |
| Session 4 | $200 |
| Session 5 | $200 |
| Session 6 | $200 |
| Session 7 | $200 |
| Session 8 | $200 |
| Session 9 | $200 |
| Session 10 | $200 |
| Keynote Speaker | $1’500 |

Please consider sponsoring the Speaking Out Conference and complete the form below.

Some Things We Need to Know!

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Please print) This is the person who will be receiving all related event mailings.

Corporate Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City and Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Type of Sponsorship: Please indicate with a X your choice.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
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* We have enclosed our cheque for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ payable to:

**Speaking Out**

c/o The New Vision Advocates

190 Adelaide St. S.

London, ON N5x 3L1

* Please send us an invoice
* We have sent our colour corporate logo electronically in a gif or jpeg format to: speakingoutconferences@gmail.com

If you have any further questions, please contact: Vicky Pearson Vicky.pearson@cll.on.ca

Or visit our website at speakingoutconference.com