Ability Online Celebrates 15 years with its Volunteers, Sponsors and Patrons

Ability Online holds its annual Recognition Evening and welcomes two new Patrons to the organization

TORONTO, ON – February 22, 2007 – Ability Online, a free online friendship and skill development network for children and young adults with disabilities and chronic illness, tonight celebrates its 15th year of incorporation and hosts its annual Recognition Evening. The organization will also formally introduce its "Ask Anything" Homework Guide program.

Formed in 1991 as a small online bulletin board, Ability Online is today a vibrant Web-based network with members from around the world, and a place where young people with disabilities and illnesses, and their parents and caregivers, can meet others like them to share hopes, fears, dreams and experiences. It offers a place where people can be themselves, without fear of being judged or bullied.

"This is a celebration year for us at Ability Online. We have re-designed our Web site and introduced two new programs for our members," said Elizabeth O'Neil, Managing Director for Ability Online. "Tonight, we celebrate our 15th year, and also recognize the hard work and dedication of our volunteers, patrons and corporate partners – without whom none of this would be possible."

Tonight, the following Ability Online volunteers are being recognized for 10 years of service: Sarah Evans, Mike Grimaldi, Ward Kennedy, Will Mackenzie, Nancy Maxwell, and Megan Ware and volunteer Gord Campbell will be recognized for 15 years of service. As well, Ability Online salutes its patrons: Dr. Douglas Biggar, Johnny Bower, Ron Ellis, Audrey King, Silken Laumann, Dr. Arlette Lefebvre, Cynthia Preston, Ann Rohmer, and Tonya Rouse. In addition, the organization will induct two new patrons: City TV's David Onley and Peel Regional Police Chief Michael Metcalf.

Also featured at tonight's event is the formal introduction to Ability Online's new "Ask Anything" Homework Guide program. Speakers from the Blog Squad, members of the Sir Ernest MacMillan Senior Public School in Scarborough who have served as program testers, will share their experiences and what the program offers. The new program will provide members with homework help with the aid of tutor volunteers from Mentor College in Mississauga.

For more information, or to offer support for Ability Online and its programs, please visit www.abilityonline.org.

About Ability Online
Ability Online is a registered charity that provides a national online friendship network with global reach for children and youth with disabilities or illness, as well as their friends and family, caregivers, and related health professionals. The program provides 24/7 access to a protected, monitored and bully-free online environment that promotes the well-being of its members. In addition to online support, we also provide opportunities for information sharing, skill development and peer mentorship. Membership is open to anyone, and is free of charge. Ability Online currently has 3,300 active members sharing experiences and finding support through the power of the keyboard.

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