

July 31, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Community Living Durham North had the great fortune of having Claude Haggerty as a guest speaker at our Annual General Meeting. We'd selected Claude merely because of his bio and the fact that his, is an inspirational story of belief, achievement and ultimately success. Community Living Durham North is an agency that supports people that have an intellectual disability to become valued, active, contributing members of an inclusive community. Given that Claude overcame a speech impediment to become a highly successful Grand Scale Illusionist, it seemed fitting to have him at our Annual General Meeting, as one of our main purposes is to assist people to achieve their dreams.

As Claude began his speech we realized that we could not have chosen a better speaker, unaware of who his audience would be, Claude had this uncanny ability to capture all of our agency's values and beliefs throughout his entire presentation. He spoke of isolation, being bullied as a child, the misfortune of living in several foster homes, the importance of having someone who believes in you and provides you with opportunities. He inspired us to dream, to develop a "bucket list" so to speak of what we want to accomplish in our lives. He reminded us of the importance of giving back – an area that Claude seems to have mastered through his charity work, the impact random acts of kindness have on people's lives, and finally he wowed us with illusions!

Claude made us think, made us laugh and he made us cry! Qualities of an effective motivational speaker. Our Annual General meeting was a huge success! People truly enjoyed themselves.

Community Living Durham North highly recommends Claude Haggerty as a motivational speaker. His is a story of triumph against great odds, along with some very impressive illusions that will have you thinking, "how did he do that?".

Sincerely,  
Tracy McGarry  
Manager of Community Development