

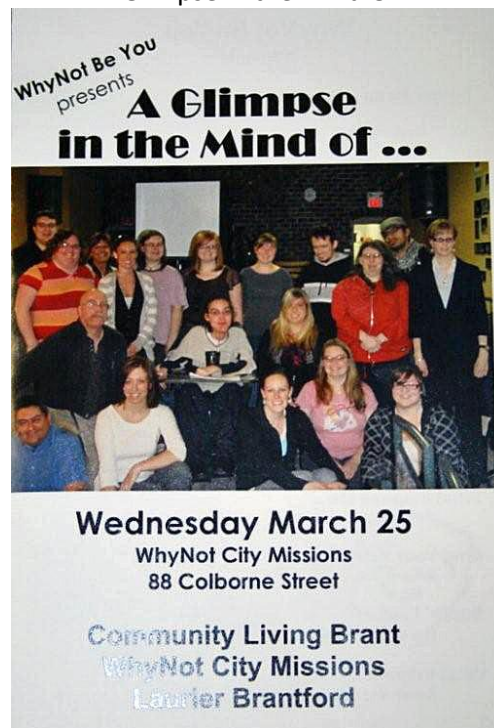
Why Not Be You Theatre Forum

Why Not City Missions, Laurier University Brantford and Community Living Brant shared a passion to create a diverse and accepting community in Brantford.



A partnership began back in May of 2008. As we came together and talked about what was needed by [Wilfred Laurier University](#) students enrolled in the Community Research and Participation course, [Why Not City Missions](#) Youth and people involved with Community Living Brant, the more we realized we all had the same inspirations and dreams; to be respected, encouraged and feel that sense of belonging. Knowing there needs to be tremendous change in our community today; we decided to create a Theatre Forum to share our message.

Why Not Be You Presents:
A Glimpse in the Mind Of...



The evening included the performances created by all the members of our group and dinner. It was hosted on March 25, 2009 and open to the community. This event was free of charge with just a donation to the food bank. The group put together skits of real life challenges, inspirations and fun places to go. We threw in some fun commercials as well, advertising products to bust your moods and products to grow your hair and create a balance in family life.



The final event was our friendship recipe and this depicted what each one of us brought to this experience which contributed to the success of this partnership.

The evening was phenomenal, turnout was standing room only. Dave Levac, our M.P.P., gave a warm welcome to all and expressed his commitment to this community. The meal was fantastic and the enthusiasm was amazing. The audience stated there needs to be more of this in communities- more coming together. The powerful message translated throughout the evening - we are all people needing people, plain and simple. The barriers can be removed with encouragement and support.

The following week we came together to regroup and talk about the experience. There was not a dry eye in the house. It was truly a rewarding and motivating experience for all. We exchanged emails so we could keep the communication going and we have plans on how we can continue to work together to educate the community, to continue to dissipate those barriers and create a community with a strong sense of values and commitment. We are presently working on training in diversity and plan on having a diverse group of trainers in the New Year to continue to spread the message.



A special thanks to Darren Thomas, Co-ordinator of Community Service Learning from Laurier for keeping us motivated during this project, to Laurier Students for their openness and creativity, to Why Not City Missions for their dedication to the community, to Professor Robert Feagan from Laurier for stepping outside of his comfort zone and to folks involved from Community Living for your ongoing dedication in making this project meaningful and rewarding. The memory of this project will live on and the relationships that have developed will continue and we will work together to create the difference that is much needed in this community.

Alone we can initiate change; together we have made a powerful impact on people's lives.