



PROMOTING COMMUNITIES WHERE EVERYBODY BELONGS

ChristianHorizons



ONWARD Huddle

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Huddle Topic:

The true colors of the Belongathon: This year we are excited to gather anyone and everyone to participate in an event in which we all TRULY BELONG. The Belongathon is all about raising awareness and supporting people with developmental disabilities in Canada and around the world.

Together, we will:

- RAISE awareness of the value of people with disabilities and communities where everybody belongs.
- RAISE awareness of barriers to accessibility and belonging.
- RAISE funds for really important things like the building of a Community Center in Ethiopia, Family Camps, affordable housing, and more.
- Lastly, we will be RAISING FUN!!!!

In this event, everyone can take part. Simply registering and coming out is showing your community how to create inclusive, accessible spaces of belonging. This goal aligns with our Onward Strategic Plan outcome, *"Equipping Communities"* to be welcoming of all.

I am sure that we have all encountered circumstances where a person whom you support found it difficult to be part of their community, whether that was due to community attitudes, physical barriers, or cost. It is difficult to navigate around such situations. Our hope is that as the Belongathon GROWS each year, so does the community's awareness, and as a result, the barriers to belonging continue to be knocked down.

Lets show everyone the power of belonging by welcoming everybody to raise awareness, funds, and fun at a belong-a-thon close to you.

Conversation:

1. In what ways can we all contribute to growing the Belongathon?
2. What are some typical hesitancy people may face when considering joining? How can we encourage or help them to overcome any barriers?
3. What other ways can you encourage the community to be more welcoming of people with disabilities and embrace their involvement and contributions?

Linking our Onward Deck of Cards:

We want to support people to make new connections and continue to jump over barriers that once stood in the way of people with developmental disabilities being truly part of their communities. **Deck of card question:** How have people who use our services experienced belonging this year?

Team Challenge:

At your team meeting talk about some barriers that may deter somebody from participating in the Belongathon. What creative ways can you support someone to overcome such a barrier and be involved in the Belongathon this year?

This month: Have your team plan fun, creative ways to use some of the Belong-a-thon resources to promote the Belong-a-thon ([Resources - Belongathon](#)). Or, choose one of the “Creative Fundraising ideas” that excites your team the most and see how much funds your team can raise (Link: [Creative Fundraising Ideas - Belongathon](#))!

Going Deeper:

When you think about what an inclusive and accessible community would look like, what comes to mind? What are some things that our communities are already good at, what could we be doing better?

