



*Artist in Residence - Health
Programming Recommendations
Journeys to Health, January-November, 2010*

The *Journeys to Health* community art project at the Four Villages Community Health Centre explored health in relationship to how people experience their lives day to day - whether it be dealing with poverty or violence, illness, access to the health care system, or their thoughts on what makes a healthy community. The project was part of the Ontario Arts Council's initiative to support artist residencies within health care settings. Artists Emmy Pantin and Jennifer LaFontaine worked with staff and community members to create digital stories, photography, audio pieces and installation art to share stories about their *Journeys to Health*.

Creating art is an effective way to bring the social determinants of health to life. The following recommendations for artists and health care practitioners will help promote a collaborative relationship between artists and health care workers when considering an artist residency in the health care sector.

- A collaborative model requires clarity about timelines and roles and responsibilities at the onset of the project and **regular communication** throughout.
- Make decisions with staff and artists together throughout the project. Dedicate time before any programming starts to **vision together**.
- **Listen to each other.** Everyone wants to see the project succeed - artists and health care staff will have different insights on how to best achieve the project goals.
- Explore how art making can fit into already existing services or bring people together with new programming. Work together to accommodate the needs of clients, staff and artists. **Be flexible.**
- Invest in the process of creating art. It is important to have champions among the management staff to facilitate **buy-in and resources** required for successful project implementation.
- Involving staff in the art making contributes to **organizational investment** in a community art project and helps staff better understand the benefits of art in the health care sector

