

THERAPEUTIC TOUCH AWARENESS WEEK OUTREACH: BUILDING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Here are some outreach and partnership highlights from our group discussion at the January 28, 2021 Therapeutic Touch Awareness Week workshop.

- Consider basic technology like the telephone to connect with people and groups, for audio presentations and/or for distant Therapeutic Touch®, etc.

Bell Connect is a program designed for this purpose. It links people into a conference call. Your host organization may already have it, inquire. This may be especially useful where internet connections are not stable.

- Build on the resources in the Member Downloads/TTAW Documents of the TTNO website, including the Power Point you can adapt.

Suggested partners to contact and potentially build relationships for outreach and possible events:

- the **Volunteer Coordinator** of your favourite organization
- your local library and/or a local book club (in conjunction with your library)
- local essential service providers, healthcare workers, paramedics, fire, police, etc.
- your local high school (see the TTNO website for the list of Ontario high schools offering the Specialist High Skills Major: Health & Wellness Program – look for a list in the TTAW section of the TTNO website under “High School Majors...”)
- parents or teachers, or older students in home schooling organizations
- Wellness Fairs hosted by any organization, including colleges, high schools/public schools or for National Hospice Palliative Care Week or National Nursing Week
- local universities or colleges - staff or students in medical or social services programs like counselling, paramedic, firefighter, social work, esthetics, veterinary technician, pastoral or spiritual care programs etc.
- community recreation programs, or community arts organizations, artist’s associations
- Family Caregiver support groups – families supporting each other as they live with challenges like autism, dementia, addictions, palliative support at home, depression, home schooling, parenting or families who are curious and actively looking to learn new and exciting things
- Professional service organizations like hospices, Cancer support, Seniors organizations, the Ontario Caregivers Association
- Service organizations like Rotary Club, Lions Club, Church groups – pastoral care volunteers
- Consider sharing some of your outreach with local media and journalists – or include them directly as participants in your event. Check out the Press Release found in the TTAW Documents and Spokesperson Biographies.

What community partner to choose? Start with **you**, and your own **compassionate response**. Who do you know? With what organizations or groups do you share an interest? Who do the people around you know? Where do you perceive a need for support? What is your first move? Ask, talk to and learn from your peers.

Since Therapeutic Touch transcends technology and works from a distance, your outreach and event may be as close as a phone call away. Enjoy the opportunity to offer something as rare and as valuable as an introduction to **Therapeutic Touch: Activate Your Inner Healer**.