

St. Patrick's Day Celebration for Seniors

by Lina Zolotko, NAG's member



Lina Zolotko

I have been living in the Bathurst-Finch neighbourhood for four years, and for three of these years I have been volunteering for my community. During this time, I have been involved in many community projects, events and campaigns, and met lots of beautiful and talented people that live and work in the neighbourhood. They became my friends and colleagues.

At the Antibes Multicultural Festival in August 2011, I have met Ekaterina Blazhkova, an artistic director of the Alliance for Music Learning Inc. She is a piano teacher, musicologist and enthusiast of music learning and performances. I asked Ekaterina to help me organize a St. Patrick's Day concert for my clients.



As a community worker-in-training, I am working at the BOOST Program (Building On Our Strengths Together) of the Downsview Services for Seniors - one of the supporting partner agencies at the Bathurst-Finch Hub.



Irina Babuk

The BOOST is a program for stroke survivors and individuals suffering from other neurological issues, or who are frail. BOOST helps clients get back on their feet, improve their coordination, and develop their strengths with others. I decided that



a performance with kids in the main roles and with their teachers also playing, would be an opportunity not only to enjoy wonderful music, but also to foster cognitive and emotional recovering of the seniors. Together with Ekaterina, Irina Babuk (a violin player and teacher), and their students, we discussed

the concert's program and concept.

The event took place on March 13, before St. Patrick's Day in Northwood Community Center - a beautiful setting surrounded by nature. The young participants of the concert Albina Babuk, Emmanuella Dickson and Marina Mansurova successfully performed pieces on the clarinet, violin and piano in different music styles including Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, Shostakovich, Nino Rota and Schwarz.



Everyone warmly welcomed the youngest participant of the concert, five-year-old Mikhail Elinson and awarded her diligence with a loud applause. Marina played the violin and performed her own clarinet and dance improvisation on the theme of "The Hunger Games". Albina Babuk



not only plays the piano, but she is also a member of the Antibes Rhythmic Gymnastics. She performed a gymnastics free routine that was amazing.



Albina B.

Emmanuella Dickson showed her outstanding virtuosity in *Baba Yaga* by Tchaikovsky.

Irina and Ekaterina performed many duets sharing generously their great skills with us.



Marina M.

I strongly believe that the connection of generations through such events benefits children, youth, older adults and the community.