

Kelowna and District Society for Community Living (KDSCL) Newsletter

website: www.kdscl.bc.ca



Support the United Way

Celebrating 53 Years of Service



Volume 2 Issue 8

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THANK YOU

- ♥Scotiabank in Rutland for their donation.
 - ♥The Smith Family for their donation.
 - ♥Findlay's Quilt Shoppe for donating a sewing machine that is used to sew bandages for the Holly Rollers.
 - ♥Chances Gaming and Entertainment for holding a bingo fund raiser for our society. We also want to thank the winning table for donating the money they won, Christine Jones for coordinating the event and the kitchen staff for preparing a great meal.
 - ♥Bob and Jean Hadgraft for making a donation to match the funds raised at Chance's.
- Thank you again!

IT'S WHO YOU KNOW...

By Leslie Munro

When looking for work, many people attempt to look for jobs by answering newspaper ads, and going from business to business dropping off their resume (this method is called "cold calling"). Research shows that it takes an average of ten to twenty cold calls to land one interview, and seven to ten interviews to get a job. So if a person is relying on handing out their resumes to strangers, it could take 70-200 cold calls to get a job.

Approximately 60%-70% of the job market is hidden (the positions are never advertised). The fastest way to get to a job that is hidden is to have a connection to the person who is hiring. An employer is more likely to hire "a friend of a friend" than a total stranger. Sometimes that even means hiring someone who is less qualified than the total stranger. That is where the saying comes from - "It's not what you know, it's who you know".

Networking, or using personal connections, is the best way to connect with potential employers. *Continued page 3...*

JAZEL FUND RAISER

By Miki Hanna

KDSCL would like to thank Jazel Homes for hosting a successful Texas Holdem poker tournament at the Creekside Pub, December 2, 2006.

The turn out was great and they were able to raise \$1,823 toward the KDSCL building replacement fund.

♥Thank you to the following for donating prizes: Pritchard Drywall, Westbank, Starbucks Coffee, Rona Home and Garden, Power 104.7, Jazel Homes, Zeller's Westbank, Ace Building Centre, Trudy Balkenhol, Alex Hanna, James and Sandy Zeleznik.

♥ A big thank-you to all the associated trades and businesses for attending.

♥ A big thank you to the volunteers that were kind enough to spend their evening helping.

♥ A special thank-you to James and Sandy Zeleznik, Alex Hanna, Iona Dawson, Heather Williamson and the Creekside Pub for putting this wonderful event together.

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STAFF PROFILE: DARLENE HASS

Submitted by Wayne Major

Darlene was born in sunny Victoria on December 27, 1956. She is the oldest of five siblings, with three sisters and one brother. It was while growing up in Victoria that Darlene first got to know someone with special needs. Her girlfriend in elementary school had a cousin with Down syndrome and he used to come over to their house and hang out and play with them. "He was so fun to hang out with," Darlene remembers. "We would go bike riding with him. It was really cool."



In high school Darlene was involved in the drama club, (she still loves acting and performing); she was also on the track team and a cheerleader. After graduating from VHS in 1974, Darlene worked in the candy department of the Eaton's Store in Victoria. She worked there for a couple of years and then moved to Winnipeg where she worked in the Eaton's accounting department, putting in codes for the computer systems. But Winnipeg did not hold the future for her. At the age of twenty, she moved back to Victoria. It was a good move because that summer she landed a job that made a lasting impression on her. She met some College students who were working for the Greater Victoria Parks Board and she started working with them. Darlene spent that summer coordinating activities in the parks for children with Down syndrome. This work really appealed to her and set the groundwork for her future career.

Darlene met her future husband, Victor, while riding a bus on a skiing trip. They started talking and as Darlene put it they 'just hit it off.' This May they will celebrate their twenty-ninth anniversary. Darlene and Victor are an adventurous couple; they have backpacked around Europe; and they are planning to hike the mountain trail to the Inca ruins at Machu Picu. After they married, Victor's work took them to Cranbrook. While there Darlene joined the Kinsmen Club and became a member of their board of directors. It was in Cranbrook that she had her two children, Natasha in 1982 and Lucas in 1984.

Two years later, Victor took a business opportunity in Kelowna and Darlene moved to the Okanagan. Her first impression was not good. It was December and the clouds covered the valley for weeks while she tended her two small children. But she loves it here now and has no desire to live anywhere else.

While working in her husband's office in Kelowna she heard of a course offered by Leona Wilde teaching people to be Community Care Specialist. She went back to school in 1992 and started a practicum at KDSCL. She must have made an impression on the Executive Director, Joan, because she was hired during her practicum.

Since then Darlene has worked in every department of KDSCL. She remembers the days that she job coached for ICO with Clare Crane; when she worked at the woodlot on Ellis; at the residential house on Elm; and of course at Wedding Bells & Baskets. Darlene has also been actively involved with the Travel Club and has supported many people in travel destinations such as Disneyland, Mexico, Hawaii, and Alaska. Currently she is working at Larry's Bike shop where she is learning new skills of bike mechanics. Darlene has been with KDSCL for fifteen years and loves her job.

On the personal side, Darlene likes to work out at the gym, she regularly goes to Curves; and she loves to sing and perform, (she was a member of the Musical Actors and Singers of Kelowna, where she is still involved in staging and costuming). She has always been physically active. Her favorite sports are curling in the winter and golf all summer. Darlene has a soft spot for seniors and she loves to visit and talk to them.

Continued from page 1...

When a person looking for a job can initiate contact with an employer by saying “A friend said I should speak with you”, it immediately is the beginning of an open ended conversation. When a person looking for a job asks an employer “Do you have any work available”, it is the beginning of a closed ended conversation which most times ends with “No”.

So where do we find these connections? How do we find these people who will introduce us to someone, who will in turn know someone who is hiring (the friend of a friend of a friend)? We need to look at as many connections as possible: personal, organizational, and community.

Starting with the person who is looking for work, look at all the people connections in their life. It will be a long list. Family, friends, neighbours, past employers, former co-workers, services they use in the community, past teachers, classmates, church connections, clubs, etc. Each of the people on this list will in turn have another long list of connections. A never-ending web of connections exists.

We need to start tapping into this web, and reaping the benefits for people we support who desire to be employed. This newsletter is mailed or handed out to 319 individuals and organizations. Imagine the possibilities for connections that exist!!! There are some profiles below of people who want to work. By the time this newsletter goes out they may already be employed, but there are other people looking. ICO is currently assisting 28 people in securing employment. If you think you might have a useful connection, please fill out a form, and send it in.

People seeking employment:

Person #1 is seeking part time employment on the Westside. He is polite, helpful, and details oriented. He would like to work in a retail setting, or an organization where his sociable personality will be put to use. He has experience in light cleaning, stocking, basic computer skills, and has a good phone manner.

Person #2 is seeking part time employment on the Westside. She has a great sense of humour, and a gentle, assertive manner. She is seeking to gain experience, so is open to a range of employment opportunities. She requires employment that keeps her off her feet for the most part.

Person #3 is currently busy volunteering, and she works part time. She would like to have more work. She is interested in office work, and working with seniors.

Person #4 has a lot of experience working as a dishwasher in the food service industry. He would like to work as a prep cook. He has a quiet personality, but does work well as part of a team.

Person #5 has pursued post secondary education in the food services area. She took a “Kitchen Helper/Food Prep” course through OUC. She has her food safe certificate, and her first aid certificate. She would like to work in a restaurant or cafeteria kitchen on a part time basis.

Do you have any connections, or suggestions, that could help these people connect with potential employers? PLEASE contact ICO either by calling 763-9499 or by email at cpdl@kdscl.bc.ca. or by dropping the information off or mailing to 555 Fuller Ave, Kelowna, V1Y 7W8. **Any suggestions will be entered into a draw for a free lunch at a local restaurant to be drawn April 30, make sure you include your name & number.**

Budget Highlights for the Disability Movement

(Reprinted from portions of the Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL) Press Release)

- Introduced a Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) to provide families greater opportunity to save for the future financial security of a child with a severe disability.
- The proposed Working Income Tax Benefit and Disability Supplement will provide up to \$750 per year for low-income working single persons with disabilities and up to \$1,250 for single parents and couples.
- Proposed transfer of additional funds to provinces and territories for labour market programming and to increase employment-related benefits and services for vulnerable groups who have traditionally been ineligible for such supports because they were ineligible for Employment Insurance as a result of long-term labour force non-participation and exclusion. The impact on people with disabilities is not clear. Current federal programs and levels of funding are not adequate to address the over 55% of working-age adults with disabilities who are either unemployed or not in the labour force.
- The 'Enabling Accessibility Fund' introduced in this budget - \$45 million over 3 years is not sufficient to address extensive barriers to physical access that people with disabilities face in Canada. Nonetheless, the Government's intention to develop this new Fund in collaboration with provinces and community groups should help ensure it demonstrates innovative approaches to barrier removal that can be built upon more systematically in the Infrastructure program.
- 'Canadian Mental Health Commission' to implement the recommendations of the Senate Committee Report, Out of the Shadows at Last. For too long, people with intellectual disabilities have not been well supported by the mental health system. For many, their encounters with the system have resulted in long-term confinement and worse.

The detailed Federal Budget can be found at www.budget.gc.ca/2007/.



Mission Statement: To assist people with disabilities to reach their individual goals and to participate and contribute as equal members of the community.

Vision Statement: "Ours is one of welcome. Join us in building communities that support the diverse abilities of all people."

Ways to Help: *Become a member *Be informed and involved *Volunteer a few hours each week *Involve yourself in a Committee *Support people to be included in their community *Make tax deductible donations or bequeath *Just be a friend!

Services: KDSCL provides opportunities for people to learn employment skills, work (both volunteer and paid), participate in community recreation and leisure activities and live as interdependently as possible.

Contact Information:

Day Service, 555 Fuller Avenue and 925 Sutherland Avenue, 250-763-4484

Integrated Career Opportunities (ICO), 555 Fuller Avenue, 250-763-9499

Kelowna Diversified Industries (KDI) Wood Shop, 555 Fuller Avenue, 250-762-4915

Larry's Cycle and Sports, 123-1511 Sutherland Avenue, 250-762-4920

Residential Supports

Special Events/ Community Participation/ Advocacy

Administration, 555 Fuller Avenue, 250-763-4836 or 763-4837, Fax 250-763-4488

