

Kelowna and District Society FOR COMMUNITY LIVING for Community Living (KDSCL)



Support the United Way



Volume 2 Issue 5

Celebrating 55 Years of Service

October 2008

THANK YOU

To the following for continuing to make donations to our society:

- ♥ Kelowna ACT/UCT
- ♥ Telus
- ♥ Paradigm Mortgage Corporation
- ♥ Jean and Bob Hadgraft
- ♥ Cool Arts Society
- ♥ Those that made donations at the AGM!

KDSCL Annual Holiday Celebration

When: November 21, 2008
Where: The Ramada
Time: Doors open at 5 pm,
dinner at 6 pm.
Please contact Charisse at
250-763-4837 for more
information.

K D S C L C A R F
Accreditation Survey is
Nov 19-21, 2008. For more
information please contact
Leslie at 250-763-4839.

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KDSCL AGM Highlights

On September 29, 2008 KDSCL held their 55th Annual General Meeting.

The following four directors allowed their names to stand and were elected for a 3 year term: Jim Greenlay, David Paynter, Kelly Tompkins and Denis Gates. One new director, Arnold Soloway was also elected to the board. They join fellow board members Gail Meier, Chuck Hopkins, Rick Pushor and Richard Pringle in governing the society's activities for the next year.

At the inaugural board meeting, Gail Meier was reelected President, Rick Pushor, Vice President and Arnold Soloway Secretary Treasurer. The board would again like to thank David Low who resigned mid year due to family and professional commitments. David served as the KDSCL Treasurer for many years and is missed.

We would also like to thank everyone who attended and the following KDSCL staff for assisting with the preparations: Cyndy Omand, Heidi Deleurme and Susan Harney.

The AGM Report Booklet is posted on our website.

October is Community Living Month

Throughout the month of October communities across British Columbia will be hosting festivities to promote and celebrate the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in their communities, schools, neighborhoods and workplaces.

This year to celebrate Integrated Career Opportunities (ICO) has planned a reverse job fair.

ICO's mission is to help individuals we serve find the kind of employment they have requested. In order to help meet this goal, we have planned a reverse job fair with prepared portfolios and photos of all the people we are assisting to find employment. We are inviting employers from the community to visit our office and learn about our service and to view potential employees that might help them reach their goals. With the invitation we are sending a voucher that is redeemable at the time of their visit; we realize their time is important and the added incentive will express the sincerity of our intentions.

Staff Profile: Thomas Burd

By Jeremy Thompson, Lloyd Horton and Mike Varga

Thomas was born in the small town of Paradise Hill in Northern Saskatchewan. This was shortly after Noah's Ark returned to dry ground. There were 11 kids in his family, and Thomas was right in the middle of 5 brothers and 5 sisters. When he was young, Thomas moved to Edmonton, where he lived for 45 years of his life, periodically moving to Kelowna, and back. In 1992 Thomas moved for the third and final time to Kelowna, where he obviously resides today.



Thomas has 3 boys, each of which have grown to adulthood. The youngest is 21 and the oldest is 32 years of age. Thomas also has 4 grandchildren. Family is important to Thomas, and this is evident by the fact that Thomas became the principle caregiver for his parents, in their final years of life.

When Thomas was in his mid 40's he decided to go back to school. He ended up in the Criminal Justice program at Fraser Valley College in Abbotsford. Out of 150 applicants to the program Thomas scored 2nd highest in the entrance exam. That is definitely something to be proud about.

Before working at KDSCL, Thomas worked in the Health Care field since 1973 as a nurse and orderly. Thomas also spent some time in the geriatric ward where he was no longer sure where he fit in, although they still called him staff. When Thomas came to KDSCL in 1997 (then KDI), he never looked back. Since being with us he has worked in all departments (including Day Service, ICO, the Woodshop, and Richter house) either in relief or full time capacity. Thomas stayed on relief for the first year at KDI, until he got a permanent part time position in 1998, which led to a full time position in ICO a year later. After six years in ICO, Thomas made the jump over to the Day Service where he has been ever since. Thomas was known as the guy they could send anywhere.

People who know Thomas, know him to be a person who is very passionate about music. He loves all sorts of music, except perhaps rap. Thomas is also a very talented musician, and is willing to share it at work. When he plays the guitar and sings it's like a mix between Hank Williams and Christina Aguilera. Thomas also has a knack for humour, always able to make the people he supports laugh. It is very obvious to anyone who works with Thomas, that he cares deeply for the people he works with. Thomas loves his work, and it shows. His passion for his work has been inspiring for many staff who have come and gone through his years. A psychiatrist once said, "If a person wakes up and is happy to go to work, he's got it made". When referring to this comment Thomas said, "I've got it made."

The second annual KDSCL Staff Craft, Hobby and Bake Sale (including silent auction) is:

November 15, 2008 from 9 am to 3 pm at 555 Fuller Avenue.

Baking or silent auction donations are much appreciated however please come out and do your Christmas shopping and support KDSCL.

For more information to arrange donation please contact Johanna Poplawski at 205-763-4484.

HELPFUL COMMUNITY CONTACT INFORMATION

Central Okanagan

ABCD, 250-801-6130

ABCD supports people with disabilities and their families to strengthen their ability to access resources and create partnerships that assist them in sustaining full citizenship.

B.C. Special Olympics, Kelowna Branch, Primary Contact, Sandra Grills 250-765-7152

Providing individuals with an intellectual disability the opportunity to enhance their life and celebrate personal achievement through positive sport experiences.

Central Okanagan Access Awareness Team, 250-769-7467

Access Awareness Team is a coalition of community groups and individuals dedicated to raising awareness of barriers to access in our communities.

Community Information and Volunteer Centre (Operated through Kelowna Community Resources) 250-763-8008 ext 2 www.kcr.ca.

Referral source for community services

Community Recreational Initiatives Society (CRIS), 250-979-3941, www.coreinso.com

CRIS provides outdoors and wilderness recreational opportunities for persons with disabilities.

Cool Arts Group, 250-768-5548

Cool Arts provides fine arts opportunities to adults with developmental disabilities.

D & L Consulting, 250-868-0242

Behavioral consulting.

Handicapped Parking Passes (City of Kelowna), City Hall 250-469-8500, 1435 Water Street.

Disabled parking passes are available weekdays, 8am - 4pm weekdays. Application forms must be signed by applicant's doctor; cost of pass is \$10.70

handyDART, 250-762-3278

A transportation service for persons who have a disability that is sufficiently severe that the person is unable to use conventional transit service without assistance.

Health Services for Community Living, 250-868-7707

Health services for people who have developmental disabilities. The team consists of a nurse, occupational therapist, physiotherapist, dental hygienist and dietician.

Johnson Bentley Memorial Aquatic Centre, 250-768-4442

Kelowna Developmental Disability Mental Health, 250-860-5731

Mental health support for people who have developmental disabilities.

Kelowna Self Advocates, 250-763-9499 or 250-765-2040

Okanagan Advocacy Resource Society, 250-979-0201

Operates the Community Mental Health Advocacy Program for individuals with chronic mental illnesses and their families.

PLAN Okanagan, 250-860-2080

PLAN Okanagan is a non-profit, not direct government funded, family directed association that serves families and people with disabilities. PLAN Okanagan assists relatives of people with disabilities to develop a vision and plan for the future through one-to-one consultation with family mentors and in workshop settings.

Parkinson Recreation Centre (City of Kelowna), 250-469-8800

Sport & Recreation is committed to delivering a diverse, dynamic and accessible selection of programs and services.

Provincial

BCACL, 604-777-9100

BCACL is a federation working with partners to build community and to enhance the lives of children, youth and adults with developmental disabilities and their families by supporting abilities, promoting action and advancing rights, responsibilities and social justice.

B.C. Bus Pass Program (Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance), 1-866-866-0800 (www.bctransit.com/regions/kel/transitplus/bcbusp.ass.cfm)

A universal bus pass that allows for unlimited travel on your conventional transit system is available to seniors and persons with a disability on a restricted income.

B.C. Coalition of People with Disabilities, 1-800-663-1278 or 604-875-0188, www.bccpd.bc.ca

The BCCPD is a not-for-profit organization run by and for people with disabilities throughout BC.

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INDIVIDUAL SERVICE PLANNING

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The following is an overview of KDSCL's Individual Service Planning policy.

Individual planning is based on the belief that every person should have the opportunity to direct and lead a life that is personally satisfying, secure and productive.

The services offered by KDSCL are based on the goals, accomplishments, strengths, abilities, choices, needs and cultural background of the person.

Individual's Plans:

- Are based on the assumption that the person can make decisions about his or her life; unless it is proven they cannot.
- Make the person the center of the planning process at all times in order to increase his or her level of control.
- Recognize that the person's goals are most important and are to be respected to the fullest extent possible.
- Actively encourage the person to make choices, provide opportunities to carry out the choices & change them over time.
- Ensure that the widest possible range of services and supports available are explored and offered.
- Build teamwork and partnership between and among those who provide services and supports.
- Include the participation of the people the person chooses and in the case where the person is unable to articulate their choice; family, caregivers, social workers, advocates and friends.
- Develop connections within the total community.
- Include relevant social, psychological, work and health information.

Formal individual planning occurs before a person starts receiving services from KDSCL and once a year after. Halfway through the year the plan is reviewed. The first plan helps KDSCL gain a better understanding of who the person is and the type of service and/or support they want and expect from KDSCL. It also helps the person and their family or support network learn about KDSCL to determine if this is the best place to receive services from.

The person chooses who attends their planning meeting. Plans will identify overall goals and objectives. Upon completion of any planning session the goals will be put on a Goal Planning and Implementation Tool (GPIT) in order to ensure KDSCL staff are tracking the steps they take to help the person achieve their goals.

If a person and or their family does not want a formal plan, they must read and sign the KDSCL Individual Service Plan-Declined form each year acknowledging that they have been given the option to have a service plan of their choice and do not want one. The form also states that the person will "tell the appropriate person what services and goals I want from KDSCL. I understand KDSCL will write down my goals and what I need to do to reach my goals and track my progress towards achieving my goals and service expectations".

If KDSCL is unable to assist a service recipient to meet their goals, they will be referred to another service that is able to assist them.

Community Living B. C. (CLBC)

Headquarters: 604-664-0101
Kelowna Facilitators:
250-712-3609

Kelowna Analysts:
250-861-7255

CLBC delivers support and services to people with developmental disabilities, children with special needs and their families in British Columbia.

Income Assistance – Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance,
1-866-866-0800

Service Quality Advocate,
Outside Vancouver, call Enquiry BC, 1-800-663-7867 and ask them to transfer you to Service Quality Advocate's office at 604-775-1238.

The Service Quality Advocate's Job is to help adults with developmental disabilities and their families get good quality services.

Vela Microboard Society,
604-575-2588

A Vela Microboard is formed when a small group of committed family and friends join together with a person to create a non-profit society. Together this small group of people address the person's planning and support needs in an empowering and customized fashion.

Vancouver Foundation
(for family grants)
604-688-2204
www.vancouverfoundation.bc.ca

The Vancouver Foundation helps people give back to the communities they care about, in a way that is simple, convenient and lasting.

KDSCL CODE OF ETHICS, PRINCIPLES AND CORE VALUES POLICY

A Code of Ethics, Principles and Core Values are crucial to organizations and guide the actions of staff and volunteers.

PREAMBLE

KDSCL's philosophy is based on the belief that every individual has the right to work toward achieving a quality of life that leads to self-fulfillment and meaning. Achieving quality of life entails: 1. Exposure to opportunities. 2. Freedom of choice. 3. Participation in community life. 4. Self-directedness (control of one's life).

KDSCL believes that the following four concepts ensure that all we do maximizes the potential of each person receiving services to attain this quality of life. 1. Socialization. 2. Empowerment. 3. Inclusion. 4. Independence.

KDSCL established a Code of Ethics policy to guide the actions of staff, volunteers and directors.

POLICY

Employees, volunteers and directors are required to uphold and adhere to the agency's Code of Ethics. Employees will sign a statement confirming their commitment to uphold the Code of Ethics upon hire and annually thereafter at their performance appraisal meeting. Volunteers, including directors, will sign a statement confirming their commitment to uphold the Code of Ethics upon appointment to a position and annually thereafter in the month of September.

Any employee, volunteer or director who violates one of the agency's Code of Ethics will face corrective action. Retaliation against any person reporting a violation is strictly prohibited. Actions, including disciplinary, will be taken with any person engaging in any form of retaliation.

KDSCL Code of Ethics

The core values that serve as roots for our Code of Ethics are that staff and volunteers, including the Board of Directors will:

Show respect for each other and persons receiving services.

Act in a spirit of compromise and agreement. Each individual will hear and respect the other person's point of view and be open to constructive discussion.

Deal honestly with others. The value of honesty cannot be compromised. We will be honest without being hurtful.

Trust. Each of us will be non-judgmental on issues. We will be supportive of others and responsive in any time of need.

In addition to the above, specific guiding statements have been developed. All KDSCL employees and volunteers are required to sign a document confirming their commitment to uphold the policy. The entire Code of Ethics, Principles and Core Values document can be viewed on our website or a copy obtained by contacting KDSCL.

KDSCL's ANNUAL CLOSURES: MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2008/2009

Remembrance Day: November 11, 2008

Christmas Closure: December 25, 2008 - January 1, 2009
(Reopening January 5, 2009)

2009/2010

KDSCL In-service: February 13, 2009 (Closed all day)

Easter: April 10 and April 13, 2009

Victoria Day: May 18, 2009

Canada Day: July 1, 2009

Summer Shutdown: August 3-14, 2009 (Reopening August 17, 2009)

Labour Day: September 7, 2009

KDSCL In-service: September 25, 2009 (Closed all day)

Thanksgiving: October 12, 2009

Remembrance Day: November 11, 2009

Christmas Closure: December 24, 2009 to January 3, 2010
(Reopening January 4, 2010)

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 and/ or Service 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
- Administration, 555 Fuller Avenue, 250-763-4836 or 763-4837, Fax 250-763-4488
- Individualized Funding/Home Sharing, 250-763-4839
- Residential Supports

Website: www.kdscl.bc.ca

Disclaimer: In support of self advocacy, KDSCL includes the self advocate newsletter with our newsletter mail-out. The views and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the KDSCL but remain solely those of the author and/or editor.