

Kelowna and District Society for Community Living (KDSCL) Newsletter

website: www.kdscl.bc.ca



Support the United Way



Growing Together

Volume 2 Issue 10

Celebrating 54 Years of Service

September 2007

THANK YOU

♥ Archie Archibald for donating beautiful pictures for the home on Richter Street.

♥ Ron Cannon, MP and Linda Bauer, Constituency Assistant for working so diligently to ensure individuals received their passports.

♥ The ACT/UCT for their generous donation.

♥ Telus for their generous donation through their employee community program.

♥ The following individuals for making donations at the KDSCL AGM: David Paynter, David Low, Jim and Angie Greenlay, Nick and Virginia Pizio, Cyndy Omand, Johanna Poplawski, Heidi Deleurme, Ruth Dodd, Don and Joyce Fontaine and Mark Wengrowich.

Inside this issue:

- Staff Profile: Maria Ruiter 2
- Announcements/Training
- Employers Breakfast 3
- KDSCL AGM 4
- Vipond Golf Classic 5
- Who is KDSCL? 6
- Membership Application

OCTOBER IS COMMUNITY LIVING MONTH

Throughout the month of October, communities from 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.

The Kelowna and District Society for Community Living (KDSCL) has been providing services to people with developmental disabilities in Kelowna and the surrounding areas for 54 years. The Society was started by a group of committed parents, teachers, doctors and concerned citizen who wanted to ensure the education of children with developmental disabilities in preparation for a more independent lifestyle. The Society has provided numerous services over the years including housing, day activities, employment, skill development and community volunteerism. The Society currently serves over 160 people and their families in Day Services, Integrated Career Opportunities (ICO), Larry's Cycle and Sports, Kelowna Diversified Industries Wood Shop and in homes in their community.

To celebrate, KDSCL (555 Fuller Avenue) will be hosting two open houses:

☀ Friday, October 12th, 2007, we will be holding a free BBQ from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

☀ Wednesday, October 17th, 2007, we will be holding a "Come & Go Tea" from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

RSVP is not required however much appreciated. Please specify either the BBQ or Come & Go Tea.

For more information or to RSVP please contact Cyndy Omand at 862-8113 or 763-4484.

STAFF PROFILE: Maria Ruiter

By Susan Harney



What can you say about Maria? She joined the staff at the Richter Street home in June of 1997 and remains an integral part of the Richter family. She started in a day shift position and now works overnights. Maria also

worked in the KDSCL day service but remains a long time staff at the home.

Maria comes from a very large family in Holland. She is very devoted to her family and friends. She has two sons and a daughter. One son lives in Australia and her other son and daughter in Vancouver. Maria has one granddaughter who she loves spending time with whenever she has a chance.

Maria loves to travel. She has visited Australia, Mexico, Holland and traveled throughout Canada. Her next love is taking pictures. The individuals at Richter Street have wonderful photo albums and collages thanks to Maria's enthusiasm. They have recorded memories of many trips, activities and events over the past few years.

Maria is always ready for a new experience and really enjoys her job and spending time out in the community with the folks who live at Richter Street. She is well liked by everyone and can be counted on when something needs to be done.

On her days off, Maria volunteers at Cottonwoods, walks, sews, makes collages and works on her photo gallery. There is no grass growing under her feet as she is always on the go with her friendly smile and upbeat personality.

The only thing that I know that makes her nervous and anxious is writing tests for First Aid or for MANDT upgrades. She truly gets in a tizzy and worries until it is done. We all appreciate Maria and value her as a friend and co-worker.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* CLBC is providing a session on "Residential Options for Adults with Developmental Disabilities" (what is available, how are people being supported, and creative solutions), October 16, 2007 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Hollywood Road Education Centre, 1040 Hollywood Rd. For more information contact Barb Penner at 862-6924.

*KDSCL is cooperation with CLBC is excited to present an afternoon workshop for caregivers and families on Rights and Responsibilities. It will be held October 17, 2007 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the Ramada Inn (2170 Harvey Ave). A brief overview of rights will be presented by Aimee Morry (Provincial Self Advocate Advisor), Bill Downy (CLBC), Barb Penner (Residential Options) as well as others. We look forward to your attendance and participation in enhancing all of our understanding about individual rights.

* Change in venue for the annual KDSCL Christmas Party! The party is November 25, 2007 (Sunday) at the Ramada Inn (2170 Harvey Ave). Doors open at 4:00 pm and dinner is served at 5:00 pm. Tickets will be available for pickup November 5.

“Many persons have a wrong idea of what constitutes true happiness. It is not attained through self-gratification but through fidelity to a worthy purpose”.

Helen Keller (1880-1968)

KELOWNA SELF ADVOCATES EMPLOYER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

By Leslie Munro

“The Self Advocacy movement involves people from all over the world who are leaders on important issues that affect people with disabilities. One of these issues is the underemployment of people who have disabilities....the Kelowna Self Advocates appreciate those employers in the local community who have hired people who have disabilities. In many cases business owners in the central Okanagan have seen people’s skills and abilities. They have hired people who have disabilities, and are finding they can do the job... The Appreciation Breakfast may be a small event, but the appreciation felt by the Self Advocacy community stretches around the Okanagan and beyond.”

With those words, Master of Ceremonies Dale Froese welcomed employers to a breakfast September 18, dedicated to appreciating employers who hire people who have developmental disabilities.

In January 2007 B.C. Association for Community Living invited applications from Self Advocacy groups who wished to create an activity in the area of employment. Small grants were available through the “Pathways to Citizenship” initiative. The activity was to promote the employment of people with developmental disabilities, have contact with local employers, and to be held between April 2007 and December 2007. On in February the Kelowna Self Advocates met to discuss this initiative. The group decided that a proposal should be submitted for an “Appreciation Breakfast”. The proposal was written and submitted.

On April 13 confirmation from B.C.A.C.L. was received that the application was successful. Then the real work began!!! Darryl Harand met with the Mayor and asked her to be the keynote speaker. The Mayor agreed, and a date of September 18 was set. From May 25 – September 10 several planning meetings were held. Invitations were designed. The agenda for the Breakfast was agreed on, and the Self Advocates took on responsibilities for presentations. Since Dale was unfortunate enough to be late for one of the meetings, the group volunteered him to be Master of Ceremonies! Kelly Tompkins gave design direction for appreciation certificates. Darryl Harand and Leslie Munro gave their brains a work out while writing a press release. Allison McNeil reviewed the press release, and distributed it to local media. Pam Gerl worked her magic in gathering door prizes from local businesses.

Finally September 18 arrived. The Self Advocates arrived at the Coast Capri Hotel around 6 a.m. Pam Gerl had arrived even earlier, and ensured preparations were underway. Kelly and Mindy Tompkins greeted people at the door. Dale and Leanne Froese, and Darryl Harand mingled with people inside the room. Ryan Donn, a local songwriter, provided music which contributed to a great atmosphere. Dale Froese showed natural talent in the role of Master of Ceremonies. Mayor Sharon Shepherd gave a compassionate and information filled keynote address. Leanne Froese spoke about B.C.A.C.L. and introduced Meaghan Feduck who spoke about B.C.A.C.L.’s initiatives in the area of employment. Darryl Harand spoke about the history of the Kelowna Self Advocates. Pam Gerl and Leslie Munro had the fun of giving out door prizes.

Continued on page...4

KDSCL AGM

On September 17, 2007 KDSCL held the 54th Annual General Meeting. Directors completing the second year of a two year term were Denis Gates, David Paynter, Kelly Tompkins, Jim Greenlay and Chuck Hopkins. Relected to the board were Rick Pushor, David Low and Gail Meier. The board would like to thank David Fidler for his years of service. He did not seek reelection at this time.

Highlights of the meeting included:

- Bob Turik, the architect of our building replacement provided an overview of the project. Bob stated that though it has been a lengthy process, we are close to receiving final approval from City council. KDSCL would like to thank Bob for his persistence to ensure this project becomes a reality.

- Revised Bylaws were approved by the membership. The new bylaws include the removal of the KDSCL membership fee (**please consider joining the society, an application is at the back of the newsletter**), 3 year terms for directors and the consolidation of the Secretary and Treasurer positions. If you would like a copy of the new bylaws please contact Charisse at 763-4837 or via email at cdaley@kdscl.bc.ca.

We would like to thank everyone who attended and the following KDSCL staff for assisting with the preparations: Cyndy Omand, Heidi Delurme, Johanna Popolawski and Ruth Dodd.

Continued from page 3

Kelly Tompkins gave out appreciation certificates to all employers present. Many employers took that opportunity to speak to those present about the contributions their employees make. All too soon the Breakfast was over. Kim Calloway from Power 104 interviewed the Mayor and Darryl Harand. Employers expressed how much fun they had, and what a great event it was.

The goals of the Breakfast were met. Employers were appreciated. Ties between self advocates and the business community were strengthened. Through media, the larger community heard about the benefits of hiring people who have disabilities.

The following employers were invited to the Employer Appreciation Breakfast:

Abbeyfield Orchard City Society
 Freddy's Brewpub
 Home Depot, Westbank
 Canada Safeway, Bernard
 Canada Safeway, Dilworth
 Aramark
 Juniper Hills
 B.C. Cancer Agency
 Central City, Mission Meadows
 University of B.C. Okanagan
 Post Haus Pub
 Kelowna Golf and Country Club
 Cher's Gourmet Cup
 Big Brothers Big Sisters Renew Crew
 Daily Courier
 Interior Prestain
 Little Caesar's Pizza
 Save-On Foods
 Enterprise Flowers
 Kelowna Kia
 Napa Autoparts
 Advanced Precast
 Professional Warehouse Demonstrators
 Canadian Tire
 Quality Greens
 Kelowna Community Music School
 Sun Pointe in Rutland
 Kelowna Food Bank
 Okanagan College

22nd Annual Vipond Golf Classic

The 22nd Annual Vipond Golf Classic was held at the Kelowna Golf and Country Club, June 1, 2007. This event has raised \$275,000 for our society. KDSCL would again like to thank the co-chairs, Wayne Pawulski and Denis Gates, the sponsors, the individuals and businesses that donate and the participants.

We are indebted to the Kelowna Golf and Country Club Board of Directors, members and staff. Each year the members give up their golf course to allow this important event to occur. General Manager, David Walker and all the staff ensure the event's success by providing a welcoming, enjoyable day.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

PRIZE/ SILENT AUCTION PARTNERS

Bob Jude (Titleist, Cobra)
 Canoe Creek Golf Course
 Fairview Mountain Golf & CC
 Gallagher's Canyon Golf & CC
 Gary McCloy, Wilson Sports
 Grant Oben (Top Flite, Hogan)
 Greg Pidlaski Golf Enterprises
 The Eldorado Hotel
 Boston Bruins (Neil Schmidt)
 The Harvest Golf Club
 Calgary Flames (Misko Antisin)
 Edmonton Oilers (Dr.Black)
 Glen Rea, Capri Insurance
 The Kirkwood Group
 Nike Golf
 Larry's Cycle and Sports
 Lay Z Boy Furniture Galleries
 MOEN Canada Inc
 Osoyoos Golf & CC
 The Okanagan Golf Club
 Rivershore Golf Links
 Sundance Resort
 Sunset Ranch Golf & CC
 Brady Stoddard, Cleveland
 Terry Graham (Ping)
 Hugh Jarvin, Ice Wine
 Vancouver Canucks (Harold Snepts)
 Byland Nursery, John Byland
 Veranda Beach
 Victor and PMA
 Rob Roy

TEAM SPONSORS

All Rite Security	Monashee
Bennett Contracting	Manufacturing
Ltd	Okanagan Fire
Blonde' & Blonde' Ltd	Protection
BMO Bank of Montreal	P & D Logging Ltd.
Bylands Nursery	Pro-Fresh Marketing
Capri Insurance	Int.
Chaparral Modulars	Protech Consultants
Coldwell Banker	Ltd.
Dr. Robert Black	RD Capital Inc.
Geotility Systems	Sysco Kelowna
Corp.	Total Pet
Hegion Garden Service	Vector Projects
Interior Equities Corp.	Westlake Paving
Kelowna Industrial	Willow Inn
Plastics	Woody Investment Inc.
Leavitt Machinery	

FOOD AND DRINK DONATIONS

Ailments Prince Foods	Premium Brands
E.D.Smith	Santa Maria
Fazio Foods	Saputo
Gay Lea	Smucker Foods
Gourmet Baker	Specialty Bakery
La Cie McCormick	Sunrise Poultry
Maple Lodge	Whytes
Misty Mountain	Willowfield
Olyme	

WHO IS KDSCL?

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 bequeaths *Just be a friend!

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

Provides opportunities for individuals to develop skills and abilities that promote self-esteem and independence through productive meaningful activities in recreation and leisure, volunteerism and life skill development.

Business Services: KDI Wood Shop, 555 Fuller Avenue, 250-762-4915 and Larry’s Cycle and Sports, 123-1511 Sutherland Avenue, 250-762-4920

Provides opportunities for individuals to acquire knowledge and work skills in society owned businesses that enhance the person’s ability to secure gainful employment in a time limited placement or provide the person with meaningful activity. Enables the society to subsidize the costs associated with not-for-profit service delivery.

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

Provides supported employment opportunities for individuals to learn skills to assist them to secure independent and/or group employment by partnering with community.

Residential Supports: Provide a safe, respectful, healthy and supportive service to assist individuals to live interdependently in a manner conducive to their life style choices. Rental Assistance: Administers 16 apartment rent subsidies. Housing: Assist 5 individuals to live interdependently in their own home in community.

Special Events/Community Participation/Advocacy

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