

Kelowna and District Society for Community Living (KDSCL) Newsletter

website: www.kdscl.bc.ca



Support the United Way

Celebrating 53 Years of Service



Growing Together

Volume 2 Issue 6

September 2006

THANK YOU

KDSCL would like to thank the following individuals and companies for continuing to donate to our organization. Everyone listed has made prior donations! THANK YOU!

- ✦Paradigm Mortgage Corporation
- ✦Bob and Jean Hadgraft
- ✦David and Laurie Paynter
- ✦Don Wilkins
- ✦Sara Lige and the Cool Arts Society

Announcement

Erik Bekker & Lorna Headly were joined as husband and wife September 23, 2006. Congratulations to both.

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POST HAUS FUND RAISER

The Post Haus Pub held a very successful fund raising Texas Hold Em poker tournament to benefit KDSCL. The money raised went to the KDSCL building replacement fund.

KDSCL would like to thank the Post Haus staff for their hard work and the following for donating prizes:

- * John Einerson for a beautiful painting.
- * Pushor Mitchell for a wonderful basket of goodies.
- * David Fidler (Classic Gallery Framing) for a beautiful framed picture.
- * Empower Business Solutions for a beautiful basket.
- * Miki Hanna for a comfy blanket.
- * James Glosuher, Towing and Recovery for a free tow.
- * Kane's Harley Davidson for a long sleeved t-shirt.
- * Home Depot for a \$25.00 gift certificate.
- * Ester Low for an IPOD.

The remaining donors will be published in our next Newsletter!

COMMUNITY LIVING MONTH

Since the closures of institutions in BC in 1997, October has been designated Community Living Month both nationally and provincially. Individuals living in large institutions for the disabled were moved back into their communities and have since celebrated community living throughout the month of October.

This year, we also celebrate the United Nations' *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*. This convention clearly recognizes equal value, rights and contributions of all people with disabilities and their families to an extent never attained before in international law.

KDSCL has been providing services to individuals with developmental disabilities in Kelowna and the surrounding areas since 1953. We work hard to ensure people with disabilities are included in our community.

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STAFF PROFILE: SHANE MILLIGAN

Submitted by Lisa Milligan and Scott Dionne



Shane Edward Neill Milligan was born on November 7, 1969, in Kelowna, B.C. Shane was raised and grew up in Kelowna, with his mom, Wendy Milligan.

At an early age, Shane discovered that if he worked a little, he could make money. Throughout his early teen years and early 20's, Shane's interest and experience with automobiles led him to areas of employment in gas service stations, auto body work, various odd jobs at dealerships, and used car sales.

In the fall of 1993, Shane enrolled in the Special Needs Worker program at Okanagan College and it was in this program that he met the love of his life but just didn't know it. After completing the Special Needs Worker program in 1994, Shane became employed at KDSCL as a relief worker. For the next few years Shane worked in all divisions, as well as providing support to individuals one on one. He also provided support to individuals in the evenings playing pool, going to the movies and other social events. Shane began to build relationships and friendships along the way.

In 1998/99, Shane became a full time employee of the society. In the year 2000 when certain recycling stations closed down, Shane moved from Tutt Street recycling to the new Metro location. Through supported employment at ICO, Shane and a group of hard working guys were the first to be employed at Metro in this capacity. After putting in many hours at Metro, Shane was transferred to the wood shop where he is currently working. Well, that's what he says he's doing!

Being transferred to the wood shop, Shane has had the privilege of working with experienced woodworkers such as Jim Batsch and Leighton Cato. Shane is now able to pass his knowledge of woodwork and sales to his current co-worker, Scott Dionne. Shane has many responsibilities in the wood shop, such as making sure he is on time and as well, getting along with his current co-worker. In the short time that Scott has had the privilege of working with Shane, Scott has been very forthcoming with information regarding Shane. He states how well (for a guy), Shane can multitask. Shane's humour and friendliness are a co-workers dream come true. However, Shane's personal hygiene and softball skills are a co-workers nightmare. Scott also enjoys how Shane gets the urge now and then, to clean up the wood shop. Seriously though, Scott feels that Shane has built positive relationships with "the guys" in the wood shop based on respect and fairness. Shane is a very loyal employee and is willing to lend a hand to any woman in the society. Shane is very handy.

During the last 12 years Shane has been employed at KDSCL, he has seen many changes not only in the work environment but in his personal life as well. He finally settled down, married one woman, and has two beautiful daughters, Grace 5 1/2 and Sophie 16 months. Shane is adamant that his grey hair is not fatherhood related. Shane does have a long term goal for the wood shop, and that is to convince Charisse to have the next business meeting at Burger King. Joking aside, it's obvious that Shane works hard and enjoys what he does. He is well known in the community, has made many friends and acquaintances along the way, and is respected by his co-workers. We all wish him continued success at KDSCL.

SPOTLIGHT ON EMPLOYMENT: Integrated Career Opportunities

Submitted by Susan Batsch

EMPLOYEE SHOWCASE



Brad Grills is this issues choice for ICO spotlight.

Brad was originally from Surrey. He moved with his family to Peachland and now resides in his own apartment in

Kelowna. Brad is very active with Special Olympic Power Lifting and has had many opportunities to travel around Canada, and recently returned from Brandon, Manitoba where he won Gold. Brad is a great athlete, a team player and role model for others.

Brad entered service with KDSCL in February 2003 for support in securing paid employment. Brad has worked successfully in jobs at Metro Waste Reduction, Illegal Dumpsite for the Regional District, and has assisted on the ICO yard crew.

On September 8, 2004, ICO partnered with Aramark Canada Cafeteria at UBCO and Brad began work as a bus person. Brad has excelled at his work and has been given additional tasks and responsibilities. He has achieved a good working relationship with coworkers and management and has become a valuable asset to the Aramark team.

In September 2005 Brad was offered the position of part-time dishwasher and proved himself capable and took on more responsibility. Brad is now a full-time employee with Aramark and independently employed. Congratulations Brad! Keep up the good work.

EMPLOYER SHOWCASE

ICO's employer to spotlight this issue is **ARAMARK CANADA LTD** at Okanagan University College. Paul Johnson, Food Service Director of Aramark UBCO Cafeteria, contacted ICO's Community Placement Developer to enquire about supported employment and the possibility of partnering to provide a part-time employment opportunity. ICO was more than happy to work with Aramark. A match was made with Brad Grills becoming the first employee to work as bus person in the cafeteria. With a support team comprising of ICO staff and Aramark co-workers, it was not long before Brad was successfully working independently.

With the continued support from the wonderful Aramark team of staff and management, our partnership has expanded to include two bus persons, one bottle recycler, a relief dishwasher, a stock person and a now independent full-time dishwasher.

Aramark is a prime example that employing an individual with a disability enables the company to diversify its workforce and become more reflective of the community at large, and by freeing staff from performing job functions, current staff resources are maximized.

ICO would like to salute Paul, Darren and all of the great Aramark employees who have welcomed us and made us part of their work family. Thank you!

GOODBYE

It has been a privilege and a great pleasure to work within our community with such dedicated staff, service recipients and employers over the years. ICO and supported employment will always have a special place in my heart and I take with me many fond memories. I will look forward to seeing you out and about in the community. Continue the good work.

Susan Batsch, Community Placement Developer

KELOWNA AND DISTRICT SOCIETY FOR COMMUNITY LIVING

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING SERVICE FROM KDSCL**A CHARTER OF RIGHTS**

AS AN ADULT WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY AND AS A CONSUMER OF SERVICES, I HAVE THE RIGHT TO.....

- Be treated as an adult human being
- Be treated in a fair way
- Be treated with respect
- Not be teased, called names or hurt in other ways
- Have friends
- Go out and have fun
- Have someone to love
- Get married
- Have children
- Take care of my own money
- Have control in my own home

Laws that protect me (like the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms)

- Not be discriminated against for things like being female or male, the country my family comes from, my skin colour, my religious beliefs, who I choose to love or my disability
- Get fair wages
- Get the same things as everyone else who does the same job (for example, coffee and lunch breaks, medical benefits, vacation time and maternity leave)
- Get the same medical services and care as other people

Make informed choices and decisions in my life

- Make decisions and choices based on my feelings, beliefs and what is important to me
- Be told enough things to help me decide (make an informed choice)
- Take chances (risks) once I know what might happen
- Decide what I do on my own time
- Decide what I do with my own things
- Decide how I plan for my future (what goals I set and what I want to talk about when I plan)

- Choose to live on my own or with others
- Decide who comes into my home
- Choose the services I use
- Have choices when I use services, including where I live, who I live with, what I eat, what changes happen in my home, what work I do, when I go to the bathroom, what doctor I go to, what my doctor does to me, and many other things
- Make mistakes
- Change my mind
- Decide to stop using a service
- Choose when I need support

Support

- Get help, if I need it, with things like finding a place to live, making a budget and learning what I need to learn
- Have staff and other supporters (like my family and friends) who treat me nice (kind, polite and with respect)
- Have supporters who are helpful
- Not be told off by supporters
- Hear good things, not just bad things, about myself from supporters
- Have enough money from the government to buy the services and support I need
- Get help with taking care of money (from my guardian and others), if I need it
- Get help with taking care of money (from my trustee and others), if I need it
- Have a say even if I need help making decisions

Speak for myself and be listened to

- Speak my mind and give my opinions
- Talk about my rights
- Show my feelings
- Make complaints if I am not happy
- Say “no”
- Disagree with people
- Have people listen to me when I talk
- Have people try to understand me

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RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING SERVICE FROM KDSCL continued....

Access

- Get services in my community
- Have good special (accessible) transportation, if I need it
- Use seating for people with a disability on regular transportation, if I need it
- Get around easier if I use a wheelchair (for example: ramps, curb cuts)
- Be part of and have access to the community (things like jobs and recreation)
- Go to school and to get the training if I need to learn new things

Privacy

- Spend time alone, if I want
- Have people get my okay to go into my locker at work
- Have people knock or get my okay before they go into my room at home
- Use the telephone without someone listening to what I am saying
- Have the choice of going out without telling others where I am going
- Have things my doctor knows about me kept between us, unless I need help to understand

Safety and protection

- Feel safe when I use services
- Feel safe when I am out in the community
- Not be hurt, attacked or have my things taken from me
- Learn how to take care of myself

This Charter of Rights was made by people with a developmental disability who use services, at the 1994 Opening Doors Conference put on by The Vocational and Rehabilitation Research Institute, 3304-33rd Street, N.W. Calgary, AB Canada T2L 2A6.

Responsibilities

As someone receiving service from KDSCL,

- You have the responsibility to Contact the Community Ling BC to request service
- You have the responsibility to respect volunteer and staff privacy and human rights
- You have the responsibility to provide the staff with complete and accurate information about your wants and needs
- You have the responsibility to request additional information when you don't understand
- You have the responsibility to provide supplies and equipment required for Home Help/Maintenance
- You have the responsibility to contact the office if you will not be available to receive services
- You have the responsibility to inform the staff if you feel you might have difficulty taking part in any particular service offered by the Society
- You have the responsibility to speak to staff if you have a concern or complaint.
- You have the responsibility to be respectful and courteous
- You have the responsibility to stay home when ill until you are healthy again

(Approved by the Kelowna Self Advocate Caucus August 2005)

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KDSCL is celebrating Community Living month this year by:

* Honoring those individuals, businesses and volunteer placement sites that have partnered with us in making inclusion a reality for people with developmental disabilities by inviting them to join us on October 6, 13 and 20, 2006 for a BBQ lunch from noon until 1:00 pm at 555 Fuller Avenue at which time we present them with lovely bouquets of flowers provided by Flowers Canada, through their regional representative Creations by Mom and Me.

* Participating in the Community Living awareness and information fair at the Parkinson Recreation Center October 13 from 5 pm - 9 pm.

* Participating in Homeless Awareness week Block Party on Leon Avenue, October 22, from 11 am to 3 pm. If you are interested in volunteering at this event, please contact Miki Hanna at 763-9499.

KDSCL AGM

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Submitted by Susan Batsch

On September 25, 2006, we held our 53rd Annual General Meeting. Directors completing the second year of a two year term were Rick Pushor, David Low, David Fidler and Gail Meier. Reelected to the board were Denis Gates, David Paynter and Chuck Hopkins. The Board welcomed new directors Kelly Tompkins and Jim Greenlay. At the inaugural meeting, director Gail Meier was reelected President, David Fidler, reelected Vice President and David Low reelected Treasurer.

We were very fortunate to have City of Kelowna Councillor, Michele Rule attend and provide an overview of the City of Kelowna Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities, which she is a member of. Councillor Rule also answered many questions from those in attendance. We would like to thank her again for taking time out of her busy schedule to speak to our members.

Special Olympics British Columbia made quite an impression at the National Summer Games in Brandon, Manitoba. The games were held from July 17 - 23, 2006.

We are proud of the showing of Kelowna athletes as part of Team BC. You make Kelowna proud:

- * Glen McIntyre: Athletics
- * Brad Grills: Power Lifting 1 gold, 2 silver
- * Casey Miller: 10 Pin Bowling 1 gold
- * William Richardson: 10 Pin Bowling
- * Tanya McIntosh: Athletics
- * Kelsey Wyse Swimming: 5 gold

Athlete Oath "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

Congratulations to all athletes, a job well done.

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 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