Hope.Help.Home.

Community Living
VICTORIA

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

annual report 2014 | 2015

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Linette Baker PROGRAM MANAGER

Julie Hickey PROGRAM MANAGER

Mike Jensen PROGRAM MANAGER

Cathy MacDonald PROGRAM MANAGER

Sherri Water Chief PROGRAM MANAGER

1955
Our Society is established. Now known as Community Living Victoria,
it is dedicated to supporting people to have access to a full range of life choices.

60 Years of Service

Community Living Victoria supports people with developmental disabilities together with their families, support networks and the community by promoting full citizenship.

On December 16, 1955, a group of dedicated parents founded what is now called Community Living Victoria. Today, as the largest, not-for-profit, community living service provider on Vancouver Island, Community Living Victoria provides a range of support services to children, youth and adults with developmental disabilities, and to their families.

"The incredible loving and long-serving staff at our family member's home do so much above and beyond, to ensure a wonderful life for the people they support, with timely support for those struggling, and effective advocacy for those who need some assistance."

QUALITY OF LIFE MATTERS

All of Community Living Victoria's services focus on supporting people to have access to a full range of life choices. We are committed to the principles of community living. These include:

- Respect for the uniqueness, dignity and worth of each individual,
- Recognition of each person's need for self-determination, personal happiness and satisfaction, and for
- A meaningful life where their gifts and contributions are valued.

1972
Springwood opens, providing a home and work for 23 people in a rural setting.

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

60 Years of Making a Difference

This year marks the 60th anniversary of Community Living Victoria (CLV) making a difference in the lives of children, youth and adults with disabilities and their families. On December 3, 2015, the people we support, families, board members and supporters will gather to mark this significant milestone. We will have dinner, enjoy a live band and celebrate our rich history together.

Many of the people we support took pleasure in activities and holidays over the summer. Our ***Reach for the Sun*** fundraiser, administered by our Foundation, provided more than $8,000 toward summer activities and needed items for individuals. The wonderful weather allowed people so much outdoor time, and many enjoyed a holiday they otherwise could not have afforded. For others, your donation provided food, clothing, bus passes, grocery store gift cards, glasses and other necessities of life. The Foundation also hosted an afternoon of fun in the sun with a ***Welcome to Summer*** BBQ for the more than 150 people we support, staff, board members and community sponsors.

Joanne Finnegan
PRESIDENT

Ellen Tarshis
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Our Foundation is also celebrating its 20th year of raising significant funds for the people we support and increasing the profile of Community Living Victoria. Key events included the Cody Karey concert in November 2014 and the ***Vipond Royal Colwood Golf Classic*** held on June 12, 2015. This is the fourth year we have been chosen as the tournament's charity of choice, and we are grateful for this ongoing support. Our signature fundraiser, the ***2015 Concert for Hope. Help. Home.***, features two-time Juno award winner Chantal Kreviazuk. It takes place on November 6 at the McPherson Playhouse. Please support us by attending. Tickets are available at theconcertforhopehelphome.com.

Inclusion BC, our provincial advocacy organization, celebrated its 60th

Community Living VICTORIA

1984

The Parent Support program is established, assisting parents with special needs as they raise their children.

anniversary at its provincial conference and AGM at the end of May. The conference's theme, ***Keep Moving, Don't Stop***, brought together 700 delegates. People with developmental disabilities, their families, the organizations that support them, and leaders in the field gathered to continue the drive toward fully inclusive communities.

We are continuing to work on meeting the goals of our 2014 strategic plan as we enter its second year of implementation. One of our goals was to replace our McRae home as it no longer meets the accessibility needs of the people who live there. We have worked with Community Living BC (CLBC) and BC Housing over the past months to determine what we need, and we are pleased to report that a property has been purchased. We are hoping that ground will soon be broken and that a new home to replace McRae will be built by May 2016.

As many of the people we support in our Community Inclusion programs are aging, one of our goals is to reorganize our larger programs to better meet their needs and provide more accessible space. We also have younger adults being referred to these programs who have different interests, such as finding employment. We look forward to a planning forum in the fall with key stakeholders to provide us with some strategies and future direction for these programs.

Another goal of our strategic plan is to continue to enhance our youth services in both innovation and sustainability. CLV now supports as many youth (aged 13 to 18) as we do older adults (aged 50 to 64). This challenges us as the needs of the people we support are becoming more complex. We see many youth who are aging out of their current services and require more transition planning and preparation for adulthood.

Youth Services includes the ***Children and Youth with Special Needs*** program (CYSN) for youth experiencing additional challenges such as mental health issues, or involvement with the law or the street. This year CYSN provided 13 at-risk youth with up to five hours of one-to-one support per week. Forty teens were involved in ***Teen Community Connections*** (TCC), which provides after school and summer camps. Sixty-eight children and youth participated in various programs offered by ***Autism Services***, which facilitates social groups and summer camps. This year, 26 young adults participated in one of three ***InclusionWorks!*** groups. These family-governed groups focus on the transition of youth who have recently graduated from high school. By pooling their Individualized Funding dollars, these young adults are able to pursue their educational, recreational and employment goals. Some participants have now reached the three-year mark in ***InclusionWorks!*** and families are looking at future options.

"The heart of CLV continues to beat with the focus and vision of meaningful and inclusive lives for the individuals we support."

Last fall, we established a youth social group and also initiated a new

1986

The Family Support program is established, providing information, resources, advocacy and support to hundreds of families and individuals each year.

"CLV is responsive, respectful, open, realistic, honest and attempts to resolve any concerns in a timely manner."

self advocacy group, ***Advocates and Ambassadors***. This group focuses on being advocates and ambassadors for CLV. Currently, members are working on a video that we can use to assist the people we support in learning about their rights and responsibilities. The video will highlight the importance of living with dignity and purpose. Group members are filming themselves and others living and talking about their rights and responsibilities.

Members of ***Victoria Opportunities for Community Youth Leadership*** (VOCYL) have been very active this year. In addition to their many presentations on inclusion and diversity at local middle and high schools, they also wrote VOCYL, a book that will touch and inspire you. The book launch, held at the Horticultural Centre of the Pacific on June 11, featured group members presenting stories, poems and accomplishments from VOCYL. The event was well attended and the book well received. You can get a copy at our main office.

The 20th annual ***Canadian Association for Supported Employment (CASE) Conference***, held in Victoria in June, was a huge success. We were pleased to be a co-host along with other members of the BC Employment Network. The workshops and training focused on ensuring that equitable and diverse employment practices are understood and promoted, and the 300 participants, who came from all over Canada, included industry leaders, employers and employees.

Through ***Employment Services***, we participated in the national ***MentorAbility*** initiative, which pairs a potential employee with a local business. The individual participates in a full day of job shadowing with a mentor and has an opportunity to learn valuable skills needed for the job. Two people we support obtained employment as a result of this experience. We were proud to participate in this initiative, and four of our mentorship partnerships are featured in the MentorAbility booklet, which is on our website.

We continue to be involved in provincial committees and projects. We have representation on three key committees through our participation in the BC CEO Network: Supported Independent Living, Home Share, and Employment. We are also active members of InclusionBC.

This year, we focused on continuous quality improvement in maintaining our CARF accreditation, and implemented some of CARF's recommendations, as we strive to provide the best services we can. Our annual surveys of individuals, families and staff continue to show high levels of satisfaction with our services.

On May 20, 2015, we were pleased to present our ***Community Recognition Awards*** at our general meeting. We honoured employer, educator, and volunteer of the year, as well as individuals who have made a difference in the lives of people with disabilities. You can find the winners and their stories of inspiration on our website.

Each September, we present our recognition of service awards to staff at our annual general meeting. Many of our employees have been with us for a long time, and we are beginning to see a number of retirements each year. But we have also been recruiting younger staff and have retention levels that that exceed those of many organizations. Having familiar staff who know you has a profound impact on the quality of life of the people we support.

1989

Employment Services is established to support individuals in finding rewarding and satisfying jobs.

We welcome people back to community from Glendale Lodge, at the Maplewood, Wilcox and Lindsay Homes.

Joanne Finnegan leaves the board this September, having reached her maximum six-year term. Joanne served as president this year, and she managed that leadership role with skill and integrity. We are also saying goodbye to retiring board members Mike Chadwick and Jenna Proudlove. We have appreciated their input and commitment, and we will miss their perspective. We offer our sincerest thanks to the Board of Directors for their guidance and support and to our dedicated management team and employees who ensure that the people we support enjoy good lives within their community.

Our anniversary is an opportunity to celebrate how far we have come as a civil rights movement for social change and inclusion. We are grateful for and humbled by the work of our pioneering families, and of all the families, individuals and supporters who, over the past 60 years, have paved the way for a better life for everyone. So much to celebrate. Still so much to be done. We invite you to join us!

Please visit our website at www.communitylivingvictoria.ca.

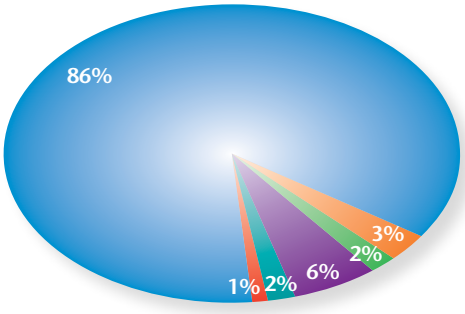
Joanne Finnegan, PRESIDENT

Ellen Tarshis, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"[CLV] workers provide us with alternatives that we had not previously considered and expanded our knowledge and understanding of the programs and resources available."

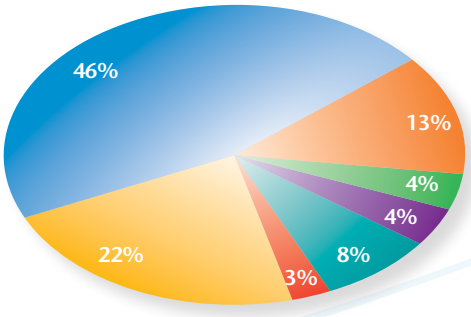
Financial Information 2014/2015

REVENUE



- Community Living BC – 86%
- Ministry of Children and Families – 3%
- Island Health – 2%
- BC Employment Assistance & BC Housing – 6%
- Donations, Grants and Bequests – 2%
- Other – 1%

EXPENDITURES



- Staffed Residential – 46%
- Community Inclusion – 13%
- Youth Services – 4%
- Supported Living – 4%
- Administration – 8%
- Community Services – 3%
- Host Agency/Homesharing – 22%

Our Services

Home

"Our family is truly very happy with the support and care our brother has received and continues to receive."

HOMES

We continue to provide support for 58 individuals in 14 community homes. Our homes are well established in neighbourhoods throughout Greater Victoria. We provide caring and supportive environments that help people to live as independently as possible.

We were saddened this year by the loss of two long-time residents. This created two rare vacancies, one of which has been filled by a family member of a senior parent. The other vacancy has opened up an emergency respite spot for someone requiring a placement.

The people living in our homes are aging, with 76% of them over the age of 50. Some people are experiencing dementia, along with declining mobility and activity levels, and require enhanced supports. We are pleased to have partnered with CLBC and BC Housing to replace another of our homes with an accessible place to live. The property has been purchased, and we look forward to an occupancy date of May 2016. Replacing our McRae home was one of our 2014 strategic goals.

HOME SHARE

Currently, 57 people are supported through our Home Share services. Home sharing is when a supported individual shares a home with a caregiver. This arrangement takes a number forms: some people live in suites in people's homes; others share a home as part of the family; and on some occasions, the caregiver moves into an individual's home to provide support. Whatever the situation, our Home Share services help people live as independently as possible in a setting that is specifically designed to meet their disability-related needs.

We have maintained an 88% retention rate of our home share providers, and only five contractors left us in 2014, mostly to accommodate the changing needs of the individual being supported.

Our coordinators work hard to ensure that the people who receive support have access to the resources they require. Coordinators also strive to ensure that home share providers feel supported and families of individuals in the program are comfortable with their family members' living arrangements.

1993
The Community Access Program divides into two; 18 people move to the new Satellite program.

1994
CLV creates and launches the first Community Living Day, now a national event!

SUPPORTED INDEPENDENT LIVING

The Supported Independent Living (SIL) program has continued to grow and enhance the lives of individuals over the past year. We have experienced a year of change as some staff retired and new staff joined the team.

We currently help 32 people to live in their own homes, with support ranging from two to eight hours per week. We also continue to manage housing subsidies for 29 individuals on behalf of BC Housing. Through our partnership with both BC Housing and Pacifica Housing, we assist an additional eight individuals to live successfully in subsidized housing at the Queen Street apartment building. Four people in SIL currently live in their own detached homes, and two live in their own condominiums. Common challenges faced by SIL participants include finding affordable housing, living within a fixed income (below the poverty line), and dealing with issues of aging, as many in the program are reaching their senior years. Other issues include finding a family physician and other health care providers willing to provide consistent care and to work within the limits of Ministry funding. Addressing landlord/tenant issues is also a challenge for SIL participants. Increasingly, people are experiencing difficulty in dealing with government agencies as they become more web based and less available for in-person discussions of benefits, issues and complications.

SIL remains focused on increasing independence and skill development and piloted a collective kitchen group this year, which helped people create economical and nutritious meals. We also formed a walking club and a monthly social gathering to discuss issues that are relevant to our community and independent living.

Thanks to all who donate to either our Reach for the Sun or Reach for the Stars fundraising campaigns and to all of our staff who participate in our 50/50 payroll lottery fund. The SIL program is one of the largest recipients of these funds, and because of your generosity we can assist individuals with costs such as food, medical supplies, work clothes and other necessities.

People in the SIL program have to be industrious, creative and persistent to meet their challenges. Despite this, we are always impressed with what they can accomplish.

"Living in her own apartment has given her a wonderful sense of independence while knowing there are friends and staff nearby. She really has matured and is stepping up to the new challenges."

SUPPORTED APARTMENT LIVING

The Supported Apartment Living (SAL) program remains a unique and vibrant option for independent living for individuals requiring more support than those in the SIL program. Ten of the individuals we support through SAL rent their own apartments and three own their own condos. The program

1995
The Community Living Victoria Foundation is created, to raise funds and awareness for CLV.

2001
The Supported Apartment Living Program is launched, assisting people to live in their own apartments.

Our Services, *continued*

"Our son enjoys a full social calendar thanks to the dedicated and enthusiastic staff."

provides daily staff support seven days per week, but program participants do not require staff to stay overnight. Located directly across from a local mall, the apartment building is situated in an ideal spot. It offers easy access to grocery shopping, banking, medical clinics, pharmacies and five main bus routes.

SAL participants are always working on enhancing their daily living skills so they can live independently. They are an active group and enjoy many diverse social events while maintaining their jobs and volunteer positions in the community.

We make a point of meeting for regular educational topics. Here are a few things the group covered over the past year: safety, household repairs and when to call the landlord, anti-bullying, food preparation, personal rights, random acts of kindness, care for the environment, and wellness.

In addition, we offer many social and community activities that play a major part in the lives of the people who are supported by the SAL program. Here are a few things we did this year that kept us busy: our annual Christmas party and summer barbeque; IMAX movies; dinner at community markets; pub nights; photo and coffee club meetings; Chinese New Year; and local hockey games. We took summer day trips to Vancouver, Chemainus, and local beaches, and went tubing on the Cowichan River. SAL participants get around!

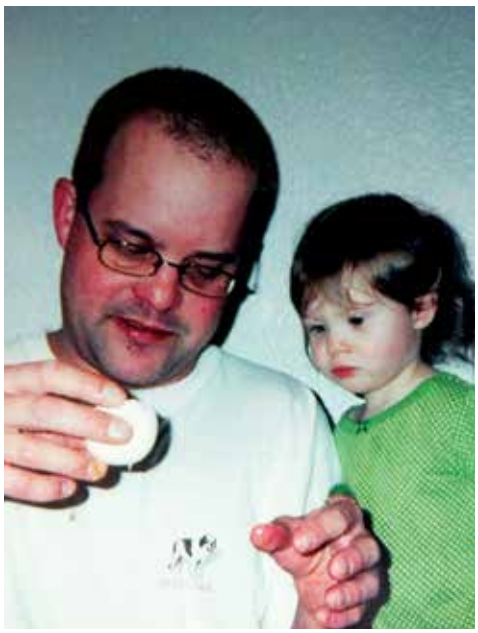
One very special addition to our program this year is the involvement of Janet Bavelas and her therapy dog Amy. They visit twice a month and enrich people's lives. They get us out walking and provide lots of opportunity for love and hugs from a wonderful, very large dog.

We look forward to another year of personal growth, friendship and independence for the people in the SAL program.

Community Support

PARENT SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Parent Support Program (PSP) provides long-term, in-home support to families headed by parents with developmental disabilities. The PSP is family-focused and provides training



and hands-on support. The program supports families in WestShore as well as in Greater Victoria.

The PSP focuses on areas such as child development and play, nutrition, home and street safety, and connects families with a wide variety of community programs. Families struggle with issues such as poverty and social isolation, and often have difficulty accessing information from community resources.

This year, we provided ongoing intensive support to seven families. Challenges they faced in dealing with parenting concerns included schooling, day care, medical care, behavioural issues and poverty. They also had difficulty accessing other community programs and dealing with government agencies. We assisted them in registering for disability benefits online and completing BC's online FOODSAFE program. We also assisted three families in receiving BC housing subsidies and arranged for seven children to attend summer camps (thanks to CLV funding and other community bursaries). As well, we advocated for five families so they could receive full- and part-time childcare subsidies.

We connected all of the families to at least three or more community resources such as dentists, public health clinics, a justice access centre, free tax support services, Persons with Disabilities (PWD) benefit application services, childcare and housing subsidies, mental health support and counselling, and food banks. Fundraising dollars were directed to parents to help them with summer camps, children's Christmas presents, emergency supplies, and grocery cards.

This year, the PSP focused on child safety and emergency preparedness. Families participating in the program reported a high level of satisfaction with the information they received on these topics.

FAMILY SUPPORT

Family Support continues to be in high demand from over 500 families and individuals, and remains a vital service in our community. We are thankful for a BC Community Gaming Grant that enables us to continue to provide this unique

"I value and appreciate the parent support meetings that are held regularly. [CLV] keeps us up to date on events and services available and the social interaction with other parents is great."

2005
CLV purchases the Cedar Hill Cross Road property, where our main office and many services are located.

2006
Teen Community Connections program is launched, supporting teens to make friends and develop social and life skills.

Our Services, *continued*

"My daughter has programs in place that fit her personality and her goals for where she wants to be in the next 5 years or so."

and important program.

We support families and individuals in many different areas of their lives and assist them in navigating the various systems they must use. We help families try to manage issues such as poverty, isolation and lack of supports. We also assist them in accessing grant applications, finding appropriate housing and dealing with a new diagnosis for their child. This year, we helped adults eligible for CLBC services through the process of applying for service, and we supported parents with and without a disability who are navigating the Child Protection system. Family Support continues to work in transitioning youth to adulthood. We partnered with Second Wave (a group of families who explore post-secondary options for their children) to deliver 10 Transition Information Sessions for youth and parents. Again this year, we received many requests from three school districts and the Children and Youth with Special Needs program in the Ministry of Children and Family Development to support families in meetings, provide advocacy and connect them to resources and services.

We partnered once again with Integra Support Services, Garth Homer, Recreation Integration Victoria and CLBC to host the 2015 Diversability Resources Fair. Attendance was lower this year, so we are evaluating how we can best deliver this resource information to families. Finally, we supervised three practicum students this year, who are completing their degrees in Child and Youth Care and Social Work at UVIC, giving them a valuable opportunity to really see the challenges faced by families.

COMMUNITY INCLUSION

The majority of our Community Inclusion (CI) participants have attended our CI programs for many years. Our two largest programs, the Community Access Program (CAP) and the Satellite program help 57 individuals to access the community, enjoy opportunities to learn new skills, try new activities and spend time with friends.

Many individuals in these programs are aging and experiencing decreased mobility and energy levels. They are also looking to engage with their community in a less focused manner, allowing for more freedom in their days. We have done some internal restructuring so that the Satellite program now primarily supports an older population. This has made the search for a more accessible location for this program a high priority.

CAP is now supporting many of the younger people who are referred to us. As a result, we have increased our employment support from 10 hours to 18 hours per week. We have also been able to continue to support one participant who obtained employment last year, and we are now supporting a second person with his employment. In addition, we are helping two other individuals find jobs.

We have also introduced a variety of new recreational activities and have reorganized groups so that supported individuals have better opportunities to spend time with friends and/or participate in activities with their peers.

Our Ralph Street program continues to provide support to six individuals, including some younger adults, in a

supportive one-to-one program for people with physical and developmental disabilities. This program continues to be a fun and active program with many community outings for which participants use local buses whenever possible. They also volunteer their time to give back to the community.

As part of our strategic plan, we will be hosting a forum in the fall to discuss restructuring our CI programs so that we can better accommodate the needs and preferences of participants. Part of this discussion will include identifying our space needs, as we will be looking for new locations for these programs.

HOST AGENCY

Our Host Agency service works directly with individuals and families who have chosen to receive Individualized Funding (IF) from CLBC. IF enables people to choose the supports and services they need from a range of possibilities within the community. This means that people can create services that suit their lifestyles and preferences.

Currently, 50 people have arranged their individualized supports with the assistance of our Host Agency service. Twenty-six of these individuals participate in one of three Inclusionworks! groups. Inclusionworks! is a family-governed support network that helps transition youth who have recently graduated from high school. These young adults pool their IF dollars to maximize their supports in order to pursue their educational, recreational and employment goals. Thanks to a grant received from the Vancouver Foundation, we contracted with an employment facilitator who has assisted these individuals in reaching their employment goals. As a result, 12 individuals are working in the community and one has created his own social enterprise. Our newest group, Inclusionworks! South Island, started in September 2014. This group is looking forward to working with the employment facilitator in the fall.

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

It was another very busy year for Employment Services (ES). We supported 50 individuals at employment sites throughout the community, including seven in new job placements. We hosted a first aid and a food safety course for employment participants to keep

"[CLV] staff have been incredible resources in terms of employment, family support and strategic advocacy. The organization manages well the balance of making self-advocate voices central, while supporting families."

Our Services, *continued*

"[Excellent] support in the work environment; the monitoring and feedback and dialogue with the employer."

their skills updated. We participated in MentorAbility month where we matched four individuals with mentor employers in the community for one day. Three out of the four participants eventually became employed in the same field of work they were mentored in!

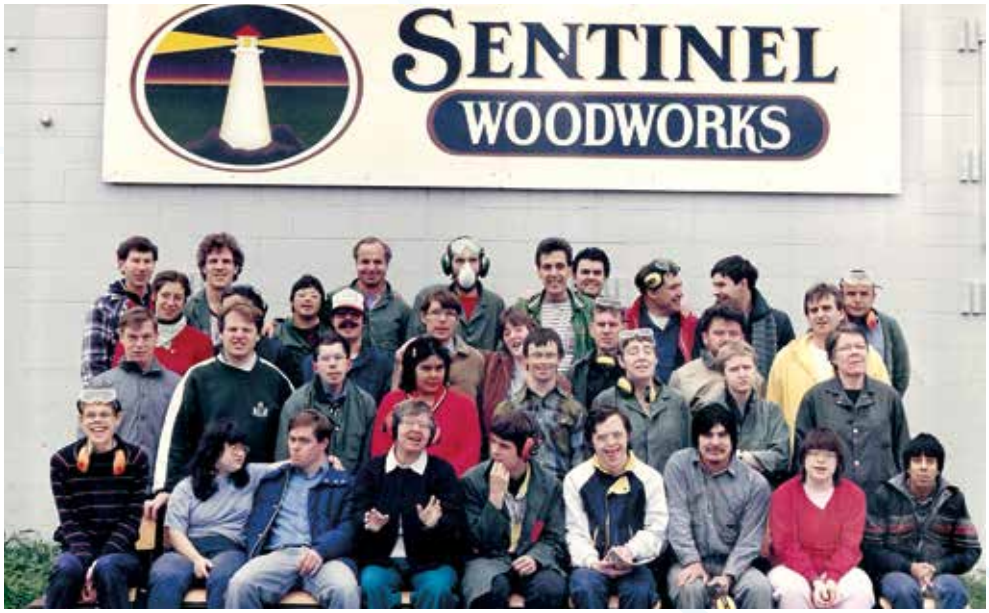
The staff of ES participated in nine training opportunities this past year to keep their skills and knowledge current. These included: Diversity and Disability; Job Development; Employment Specialist Marketing; and a Labour Market and Central Island Supported Employment Conference hosted by CLBC. We continue to participate in monthly employment meetings with CLBC and other service providers.

We solidified our partnership with GT Hiring Solutions and WorkBC and have helped three individuals find jobs through our employment program. We participated in job fairs sponsored by GT Hiring Solutions, which drew more than 1,000 individuals looking for employment.

We referred five individuals to Beacon Community Services' retail training program. Two are now successfully employed in retail, and three continue to volunteer at the thrift store to maintain their skills. This year we attended informational interviews at gaming houses to tap into employment opportunities in this major technology industry in Victoria. We were also pleased to present the Employer of the Year award to Marion Schubert, manager of Winners Tillicum, at CLV's general meeting in May.

We successfully co-hosted the Canadian Association for Supported Employment Conference at the Victoria Delta Ocean Pointe Hotel Resort. The conference featured over three days of workshops, keynote speakers, and a supported-employment market place. More than 300 people from across the country attended.

This year is looking just as busy for ES, and we are excited to explore all our new employment connections!



2009

CLV hosts the Canadian Women's Olympic Hockey Team vs. Team USA for an exhibition game at the Save On Foods Memorial Centre, a joint fundraiser for Hockey Canada and CLV.

Youth Services

Our tradition of promoting inclusion and celebrating diversity continues to reverberate throughout Youth Services. Youth Services continues to explore new and better ways to support children, youth and young adults with developmental disabilities in our community.

This year, we were invited to participate in several key strategic planning forums, which were aimed at increasing youth engagement and ensuring children, youth and teens of "diversability" are able to access youth-serving organizations locally. We look forward to participating in further discussions with community and government stakeholders in the fall, focusing on under-served areas such as WestShore.

Families needed resilience and perseverance during the teacher's strike from June through September 2014. On short notice, we were able to offer them relief by creating several camps in our Autism Services and Teen Community Connections programs. We were able to offer support that otherwise would not have been available given the specialized supports these children require.

This year, Youth Services saw more teens than ever before transition to adulthood. Through a forum, these teens and their parents provided valuable insight into the challenges that this transition presents for them. Parents also identified services they needed in place before their teen turned 19, such as earlier vocational training and employment preparation; travel training (mainly on BC Transit); increased skill development to be more independent; and improved coordination between schools, community agencies and families. Families want innovative programming solutions that match how these young adults want to live their lives and the goals they want to achieve as adults.

Our focus in Youth Services is to maximize teens' opportunities to explore and expand their interests and to build their skills for independence prior to age 19. Over the next year, we will continue to collaborate with other organizations and funders to create programming that addresses the needs of teens preparing for transition to adulthood.

TEEN COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Teen Community Connections (TCC) is a highly sought out program operating after school during the academic year and as a full day camp during spring and summer breaks. This year we supported 40 teens, aged 13 to 18, from 10 different

"The TCC support workers are amazing. I can't say enough at how they are working closely with our family in making our son's time at TCC a positive one."

"I don't feel alone with my son's autism spectrum. I feel like a great weight was lifted off my shoulders.. Without your staff, I wouldn't have known what to do or what supports are out there for my son."

Our Services, *continued*

schools in a variety of dynamic activities throughout the community.

In TCC, we deliver programming that captures teens' attention, is stimulating and expands their decision-making power as they prepare for adulthood. More and more, we are applying a citizenship lens that focuses on increasing the independence of the older teens within our programs. We know how important it is for teens to feel they are prepared and able to access opportunities for independence just as their peers do.

Our involvement in the Youth Program Quality Improvement (YPQI) initiative with over 20 other youth-serving agencies continues to inspire us to promote choice and decision-making capacity in new ways. It also allows us to inform other local youth-serving agencies about how to promote meaningful inclusion of children and youth in their programs. While we focus on teens having fun and staying safe, we also encourage them to challenge themselves as they explore the outdoors, their community and their identity.

AUTISM SERVICES

Autism Services provided 68 children and teens with opportunities to expand their interests, gain independence and build confidence. Forty-five individuals enrolled in one or more of our 19 camps. Twenty-five participated in four weekly social groups throughout the school year. And 27 accessed the community, building their skills for independence.

Our programming is always tailored to meet the specific interests of our participants and focuses on advancing their self-determination skills. We are continually exploring new ways of leveraging the interests and strengths of our youth. By putting them into situations that expand their worldview, they enhance their social, communication and life skills. Sailing, animal-assisted therapy and creative movement are a just a few examples of how we have diversified our programming this past year. Our partnership with BYTE Camp continues to increase participants' technical expertise with computers. Power to Be Adventure Therapy and Pacific Institute for Sports Excellence (PISE) remain important community partners, adapting sport in unique ways that builds confidence and capacity. Autism Services co-created a free series of PISE Family Fun Nights this spring to promote the health and well-being of families taking the time to play together.

We are pleased that 100 new children and youth have joined Autism Services since we started providing this service in 2011. However, 20 of the 70 participants receiving support in 2014 are aging out

of the program within the next two years. We want to attract at least 20 new children and youth to Autism Services in the next year, and we have strategies in place to meet this goal.

VICTORIA OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Victoria Opportunities for Community Youth Leadership (VOCYL) had an exciting and productive year as participants continued to live and share the message of inclusion and belonging. Over 28 youth, both with and without diversabilities, participated in leadership training opportunities, delivered inclusion awareness presentations and engaged passionately with their community, all while developing meaningful and diverse friendships.

VOCYL received donations from Variety – The Children's Charity, Coast Capital Savings and the Victoria Foundation, which allowed participants to continue working with students at two middle schools and five high schools. These ambassadors for diversability focused on the importance of inclusion, kindness, acceptance, legacy, equality and courage. They challenged students to act compassionately in their schools and taught strategies on how they can each help to make their community more welcoming for everyone.

This year, these exceptional young adults had tremendous success in creating of their book titled VOCYL. The book details the personal stories and accomplishments of the program and its members. Participants enjoyed showcasing this triumph at a special book launch held at the Horticultural Centre of the Pacific in June. The event was attended by many in our community.

VOCYL was successful in fundraising and connecting with our community this year through numerous events and activities, and looks forward to another prosperous year of friendship, advocacy and inclusion.

"[CLV] information presentations were invaluable in helping me find services that are available in the community for my daughter and in developing a plan for her after high school, both developmentally and financially."

MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

Hope. Help. Home.

YOUR FOUNDATION BOARD CELEBRATES A 'MILESTONE' YEAR

Rob Taggart
PRESIDENT

Incorporated 20 years ago, on October 3, 1995, CLV's past presidents included John Stevenson (first president), Frank Bourree (two terms), and John Stevenson (2009–14). We are pleased that they are still with us supporting the CLV Foundation board in 2015.

LOOKING BACK ON 20 YEARS

We have had many creative, fun and successful events in support of the important work we do, increasing both fundraising and awareness. Here are some of the events that we have organized over the years:

- Four Art Drives raising over $60,000
- Three Dinner Auctions with a fun theme of "Who's Going to be a Millionaire"
- Two Street Hockey Challenges with the Downtown Victoria Business Association
- Island Star Search
- Pops conductor Brian Jackson, "Up Close and Personal" piano concert and high tea at the Union Club
- "Spirit in the Sky" with the Canadian Snowbirds
- BC Ferries Media Charity Golf Classic raising $50,000
- The 2009 Canadian Women's Olympic Hockey Team vs. Team USA at the Save On Foods Memorial Centre. The theme was "Two Teams, One Winner," but both Team Canada and CLV won that night as we took home $66,667 and also raised awareness of CLV for 7,000 fans.

For the past eight years, our Foundation's Board of Directors has been busy bringing fundraising and community awareness together in an annual concert held in November at the McPherson Playhouse. These events provide wonderful entertainment and great value for all who attend. We have generated well over $300,000 to date with our concerts.

Were you there and do you remember these entertainers?

2007 – David Gogo

2008 – Luisa Marshall and Johnny Vallis

2009 – Ken Lavigne

2010 – Michael Kaeshammer

2011 – Holly Cole

2012 – Kuba Oms and Alex Cuba

2013 – Royal Wood

2014 – Cody Karey

THE FUTURE

60 years – so much to celebrate! Still so much to be done!

To read more, please see back cover.

LOOKING FORWARD – 2015 AND BEYOND

Our upcoming 2015 concert features two-time Juno award winner Chantal Kreviazuk. It takes place on Friday, November 6, at the McPherson Playhouse. We anticipate a sell-out, so if you don't have your tickets yet, go to theconcertforhopehelphome.com.

We are grateful to our many sponsors of these concerts. Without their support, they would not be possible. A notable mention goes to our 2015 Title Sponsor, DC Payments and to our Community Leaders, Le Spa Sereine, Peninsula Co-op and Megson FitzPatrick. A special shout-out goes to Heidi Barlow-Lee of HBL Events for producing such great events for us. A big thank you also goes to the Foundation's Board of Directors – your energy ensures that our events are always successful.

For the fourth time, we were the designated charity for the ***Vipond Royal Colwood Golf Classic***, which took place in June 2015. Proceeds are directed only to an agency that supports people with developmental disabilities. This year we saw an increase over past years, and we have been told to expect $60,000 for CLV! Hats off to Bruce Brown for his amazing work on this event. You are a true Champion!

We hosted a barbeque in June 2015 for the more than 150 people we support at CLV along with some of our sponsors, staff, board members and guests. It was a great day with lots of sunshine, fabulous food and many smiles.

Our two seasonal mail-out campaigns, ***Reach for the Stars*** and ***Reach for the Sun***, have raised over $8,000 so far this year. These funds go directly to the individuals we support to provide needed items and extras, as many of these people live in poverty.

This year marked some changes in our Foundation's board. We welcomed two new directors, Lindsay Harrington (Think Communications) and Mark Medgyesi (BC Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation). I also have completed my first year as president of the Foundation.

This year will see us engage more through our social media networks, increasing our reach and thereby our support for both our fundraising and awareness initiatives.

Let's empower our online friends to join us in the support of the 2015 Community Living Victoria concert. I invite you to follow us on Facebook and Twitter, and ask you to please use the hashtag #hopehelphome.

Rob Taggart, PRESIDENT
Community Living Victoria Foundation

"The workers have been instrumental in obtaining and accessing resources and developing a realistic and optimistic long range plan [for our family member]. They have acted as a resource, guide and cheerleader through a very difficult time for us."

The Future

Our vision for the future includes:

Ongoing advocacy will result in safe, accessible, and affordable housing options for vulnerable adults.

Employment Services will continue to grow and we will expand our range of services for both employers and employees.

Increasing Independent Living options will be explored to meet this growing need by people who are choosing to live more independently.

Our long term Community Inclusion services will be transformed to better meet the changing needs of older individuals as well as younger participants who want to explore new options.

Our WestShore presence will increase to meet the needs of a growing population. Teen Community Connections will expand to include the WestShore.

The Supported Apartment Living program will expand to meet the increasing demand for services.

Our new Advocates and Ambassadors group will develop positive outcomes as they learn about and share with others information about self-advocacy.

Enhanced use of social media will provide another way to inform, network with and link our CLV community.

Families and individuals will continue to guide us in determining the future direction and services offered by CLV.

Our Youth Services will continue to develop and offer families inclusive and responsive services.

Our fundamental belief in family support will not waiver as we continue to explore innovative ways to address this ever increasing need in our community.

Community Living VICTORIA

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

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