

Connections

What's Inside

- Employee Spotlight: Daryle Sherman
- Holiday Party
- Employer Luncheon
- Transformation at Work Forum

Planning his own *journeys*

Nestled amongst the farm fields of Ladner and with views of the mountains, sits Delta Community Living Society's 'House Four'. Within this aptly named home, there lives four people, and one of those people is Randy Wallis, who has lived here since 1998.

Prior to coming to live at House Four, Randy had always been an active member of his community. He enjoyed bus rides into Vancouver, biking on local trails, swimming, and camping with his family. His gentle-hearted nature was always clearly visible throughout his lifestyle journeys.

However, over time, due to a variety of reasons, his community involvement had decreased for Randy, while at the same time; Randy had been struggling with his verbal communication. It was then that strategies were developed so that Randy could enhance his abilities, with things like listening to short stories, which then lead to comprehending many novels.

This was coupled with Randy's consistent use of flash cards which showed to be an immense asset to expanding his verbal communication skills. With time, effort, and practice, Randy's knowledge of language and the use of his vocabulary had sky rocketed.

With time, relationships grew, trust continued to be built, and Randy developed

his sense of community involvement once again. An established time frame was implemented that included "to and for" healthy transitions for Randy. There was also a primary focus on connections and building relationships with natural supports, along with staff's promise to listen, understand and respond to Randy's own perspectives.

Additionally, with organized structure and routines that have allowed flexibility, Randy has continued to regain, and advance, his independence. Randy can be seen with a delightful smile and his composure is one of sureness. With the family members, community connections, along with a collaborative team all working together to fulfill these mindful and personalized support plans for Randy, he will continue to achieve his personal goals.

With goals and plans confidently in place, Randy is able to continue to express his love for music, which he has always enjoyed, particularly country music. In addition, Randy has regained the enjoyment of long bus trips, sky train and sea bus rides, even the occasional ferry ride, along with camping at Cultus Lake for past three summers.

Randy continues to try new things and plan his own journeys and in the near future it is anticipated that he will be organizing a train ride to Whistler. With the amount of growth that has been seen over the past years, there is no telling what else Randy Wallis will dream, plan and achieve.



Delta Community Living Society

People who value people



Going the Extra Mile

Daryle Sherman
Program
Coordinator,
Ladner Connections
Community Support Centre

Daryle has been with Delta Community Living Society (DCLS) for almost twenty years, beginning as a house manager, then transitioning to the position of Recreation Coordinator, where he stayed for seven years, and now, for the past four years, Daryle has been the Program Coordinator for Ladner Connections Community Support Centre on 48th Avenue. In addition, Daryle also runs and plays in a highly popular music program every Wednesday afternoon out of Ladner Connections, and on winter evenings, every second Friday night, he operates a free, everyone welcome Coffee house, where you can get a warm beverage and listen to great live music.

What is your role at DCLS/Ladner Connections?

Well I guess you could say that I am the "Big Cheese" or the "Boss man", but in all seriousness, on my DCLS business card it says 'Program Coordinator'. Basically my role is to ensure that everyone, the staff and the people we support, are keeping organized. I try to adapt the program to suit all of the participants and staff.

What do you like best about your job?

That I get to do a variety of things. I like to be in the middle of things. The best thing I like are the people we support and the staff of DCLS. It is all the different people, all working out ways to help everyone feel happy and to be successful. It [my job] makes it possible to have that ability.

What's the most challenging aspect of your job?

The most challenging aspect is how to satisfy everyone all

the time. How do you fulfill all the expectations when they come from so many different people? We get caught in trying to make it work for everyone. The participants need to be happy and so do the staff. I think of it like a garden, I need to use fertilizer every year to keep my garden doing well, and to keep Ladner Connections going well, I need to always add new things to keep it going well too.

What do you like most about the people you support?

The thing I like best about the people I support are all the different personalities they all have. They are all very accepting of people initially, unless you do something to cause them to lose trust in you. They are like family to me. And so is the staff. It is like they all are like relatives of mine.

Where do you plan to take Ladner Connections in the coming months?

I want to continue to build resources for the participants at Ladner Connections so they really enjoy their daily lives, including the staff. Also, I want to continue to build confidence. I want to continue to make this a place where all participants can access and look forward to being here. To continue making it a place where the people we support and staff can get inspired, and to continue to be inspired on a daily basis.

What makes you go the extra mile?

I think it must be genetic. I don't know how to be any other way. My motto in life is, "Let the sun shine in".



Louise from Restwell Mattress Factory receiving their certificate of recognition



Solutions *luncheon*

Honoring Diversity and Inclusion in the Workplace

Wednesday the 26th of October marked the first ever Employer Luncheon at the Delta Golf Club that was hosted by DCLS's Solutions Employment Services to say "Thank You", to the thirty employers who embraced diversity and inclusion in their workplaces and to celebrate Community Living Month. The employers represent over 26 new jobs for individuals with developmental disabilities that have been created over the past three years by the staff of Solutions Employment with the assistance of many DCLS leaders across the organization. Attendees enjoyed hearing from Chief Jim Cessford, Delta Police Department, and Bernadette Kudzin, Delta South Constituency Assistant; both presenters provided insight to their experiences with the staff and people supported by Solutions Employment Services. There was also the RBC cheque presentation from Heidi Schwartz in the amount of \$10,000.00 towards DCLS's new Job Specialist initiative.

Transformation at Work: Reinventing Day Services – TAKE 2

DCLS is a founding member of the BC Employment Strategy Network; which includes nine other community living service providers across BC along with Community Living BC and British Columbia Association for Community Living. The BCEDSN works together to pursue and champion the employment agenda across British Columbia.

Two years ago the BCEDSN hosted the first Transformation at Work forum which was held in Vancouver; participants began to look at how to re-invent day supports for individuals with developmental disabilities by compiling information, ideas and recommendations from Community Living groups, families and persons served from across BC.

In November 2011, the transformation has become further apparent; over 150 people attended a follow up forum on Transformation at Work – Reinventing Day Services Take 2. Attendees included staff and persons served from Community Living agencies, along with funders, educators, speakers and employers who have demonstrated inclusive hiring practices. The two day forum, held on the 17th and 18th of November at the Burnaby Hilton, included presentations on labour market trends, building on existing foundations, learning from employers, sharing strategies and strategic partnerships, funder's perspective and at the end of the second day, the session wrapped with reflections and plans for next steps as the transformation of day services continues to evolve and move forward.

Annual DCLS
Holiday Party

A holiday party to *remember*

The Holiday spirit was riding high on December 9th, as DCLS hosted its annual Holiday Party in Tsawwassen at KinVillage. The great turnout, of 227 people, allowed for friends, family and staff to have a great evening sharing a turkey dinner that included all the trimmings, whilst sipping on hot apple cider and eggnog.

Adding to the occasion was a jolly man in a red suit, who captured everyone's attention, as Santa Claus made an appearance to hand out candy canes, while the DJ continually played music in the background which kept the dance floor packed, with one and all making merry the whole evening through.





Board of Directors Spotlight

Robert Krause,
Delta Community Living
Foundation President

A Foundation built on Twenty-five years of service...

It was originally Robert Krause's interest in finding an organization that would involve long term planning for his daughter, Krissy, that led him to Delta Community Living Society (DCLS) back in 1986.

But it was his dedication to support individuals with developmental disabilities that has kept him actively involved with DCLS for the past twenty-five years.

After beginning his relationship with DCLS, Krause then joined the DCLS board in 1986 where he spent nine years working in various capacities within the board, and then in 1995, he helped to establish the Delta Community Living Foundation. The Foundation was developed to enhance public awareness of individuals with developmental disabilities, as well as to help DCLS realize its mission and vision through the ongoing provision of financial resources and advocacy.

These financial donations to the Foundation are then used to sustain several of the subsidized services that DCLS provides for adults with developmental disabilities, including its Group Life Skills Program, Recreation Program, Delta Family Alliance Network and Studio 19 Art Program.

Krause is firmly committed to the Foundation and its cause, and he encourages others to get involved as well, as the Foundation is currently interested in having new members join. Having new members join will continue to assist the Foundation with its ultimate objectives, which, as Krause says, "...are to increase awareness of DCLS and its mission and goals."

To anyone who has an interest in joining the DCLS Foundation, Krause says that no experience is necessary and that, "...you just need to have a strong interest in Community Service and to be self-motivated."

Krause believes that there are many people out there that could bring great things to the Foundation, and after all, as Krause has done himself, he says of the DCLS Foundation, "You just need to be willing and able to commit some time."

If you are interested in joining the
Delta Community Living Foundation
please contact Anita Sihota at
604.946.9508 for more information.



Another successful survey!

From October 26-28, 2011 the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) conducted an on-site review of all DCLS operations to determine whether the organization qualifies for accreditation for the next several years. Accreditation is critical to DCLS, as it gives the families and individuals we support confidence in their selection of our organization as a quality service provider, and demonstrates to families and the wider community that DCLS is continually striving to improve its efficiency, fiscal health, service delivery and overall customer satisfaction.

I am pleased to announce that DCLS was awarded the three-year accreditation, the highest level for a fourth time. On behalf of the Board of Directors I would like to thank all of the people we support, families, partners, and our dedicated staff. For more information and to view the full report please visit www.dcls.ca

Wayne Stoilen,
President



Delta Community Living Society

People who value people

Contact Us

If you have any questions about Delta Community Living Society and its programs and services, please contact our Resource Centre, or email the appropriate individual.

Delta Community Living Society Resource Centre
1 - 3800 - 72nd Street, Delta, BC V4K 3N2
telephone: 604.946.9508
fax: 604.940.9683 | e-mail: dcls@dcls.ca
website: www.dcls.ca

Executive Director Anita Sihota: asihota@dcls.ca
Director of Community & Residential Services Tara Asquith: tasquith@dcls.ca
Employment Strategy Manager Annette Borrows: aborrows@dcls.ca
Family Services Manager Si Stainton: ssainton@dcls.ca
Finance Manager Alison Betts: abetts@dcls.ca
Human Resources Manager Catherine McGuire: cmcguire@dcls.ca
Maintenance & Projects Manager Gord Jackson: gjackson@dcls.ca
Technology & Resource Manager / Privacy Officer Patti Ellis: pellis@dcls.ca

Board of Directors

Delta Community Living Society (DCLS) is committed to the highest standards of governance and accountability. Members of the Board are volunteers from the community and family members of people with developmental disabilities, who share the values of DCLS.

President Wayne Stoilen | Vice President Brenda Nagata | Treasurer Robert Hopper
Directors Don Boyle, Paul Brooks, Ralph Davis, John Grimwood, Barb Helmer, Ian Taylor, Julian Thorsteinson, Jill Wallace