

Inside this issue

Page 2-3

CLBC Introduces Integrated Service Delivery Model

A Message from Fernando Coelho

CRTC Offers Video Relay Service to Canadians

Page 4-5

The Story of Our Art Show Alternatives' News

Page 6-7

Families Matter

'Becoming Bulletproof' Sure to Engage VIFF Fans

Page 8-9

Norman Gives Back

Summer Blast

Annabelle Davis Excels

Community Connections

Page 10-11

Upcoming Events

'Purposeful Purchasing'

Choir Debut

Gone Fishing!

Page 12

Awards and Recognition



imagine!

Art Show Celebrates 10th Anniversary with Style Introduces fundraiser and more

Contributed by Monique Nelson

It's the 10th anniversary of posAbilities' INCLUSION Art Show, and to celebrate, we have extended the show to unfold over two days this year. Beginning on **October 22 at 6pm**, we will host a semi-formal **Art Showcase Fundraiser**, a networking soiree that will feature the top 10 original paintings from each of several art studios and independent artists for sale.

Some of these artists have been participating in the Art Show for all or the better part of the past decade. This evening is an opportunity to celebrate their achievements and passion for art, while fostering relationships between artists, civic and business leaders. Proceeds will be used to seed future art shows. Our goal for this event is to develop a more inclusive arts community with a wider variety of exhibition opportunities for the artists we support.

The fundraiser includes a silent auction, unique giftware, live music, wine and other refreshments. For the first time, we will be co-creating a group art project on site and auctioning it off at the end of the evening. The planned activities will conclude at 8pm,

with guests welcomed to continue mingling until 9pm.

We invite you to join us and dress up in black and white for the occasion. Become a patron of the arts for only \$20 if you purchase your tickets in advance by calling 604-299-4001 or online through Eventbrite (the service fee is included in the price) inclusionartshowcase.eventbrite.ca.

A limited number of tickets will be available at the door for \$25. This showcase is an event that you won't want to miss!

The festivities continue the following day at Heritage Hall and are in keeping with the traditional art show format - only longer! Doors will be open from 1pm to 8pm and will include refreshments, door prizes and lots of opportunities to mingle and purchase art. For our regular guests, you may be wondering what time is wine o'clock? We have it scheduled at 4pm.

Continued on Page 2

Mark Wolack, an artist with Alternative Creations Studio, puts the finishing touches on this painting.

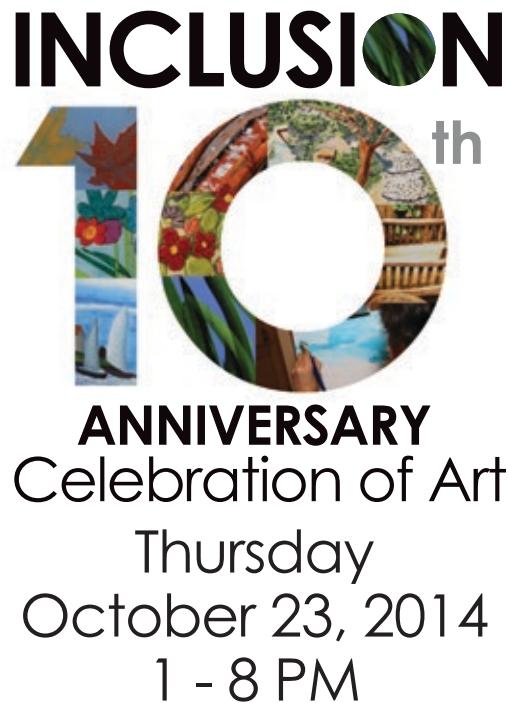
Do you have a story for our quarterly newsletter or website?

Staff writer/editor: Aamir Sheriff

Email: communications@posAbilities.ca or call (604) 299-4001 ext. 235.

INCLUSION ART SHOWCASE FUNDRAISER

Wednesday
October 22, 2014
6 - 8 PM



Art Show Celebrates 10th Anniversary with Style

Continued from Cover Page

Artworks for sale will include the usual constellation of finery, from paintings to pottery, glasswork, photography, illustrations, jewelry, cards, craft items and more. For details, visit www.inclusionartshow.com, like us on facebook and follow our news. **Admission is by donation** for the **Celebration of Art** on **October 23** and everyone is welcome.

To volunteer or lend a hand with fundraising, please email artshow@posAbilities.ca or call (604) 299-4001, ext. 270. Donations of silent auction items and door prizes are welcome.

SECTOR NEWS



Community Living BC Introduces New Integrated Service Delivery Model

Contributed by Aamir Sheriff

Community Living BC is in the process of developing an integrated service delivery model, which puts the person with a developmental disability at the centre of assessments and planning. This is an important part of improving services for people with developmental disabilities over the long term.

There are two components to this process:

- 1) A **Navigator** is a person who will help families to access services effectively. Navigators would be the single point of contact for families, and their role is to help coordinate planning and access to the range of services and supports available to them.
- 2) A **Common Assessment Platform** is a web-based application that will provide a central place for gathering and sharing assessment information by those involved in planning for and supporting an individual.

The navigator project is focused on supporting individuals who are transitioning in the following categories: a) children/youth transitioning to adult services and b) seniors over the age of 55 who require support.

This new model will be rolled out in five communities, which will serve as "early implementation sites." These sites will run for 18 months to test the new integrated service delivery model before it is implemented across BC. The Burnaby community will focus on the 55+ age group and specific services and supports for older adults. If you are a Burnaby resident over the age of 55 with a developmental disability and require help in navigating your service options, you can get access to a navigator. You can do this by calling 1-855-356-5609, or by asking your CLBC contact or health authority for a referral.

For more information on the new Services to Adults with Development Disabilities program (STADD), visit www.sd.gov.bc.ca/pwd/isst.html or call 1-855-356-5609. Also check out our blog post for more information: <http://posabilities.islandnet.com/clbc-new-integrated-service-delivery-model/>.



A Message from Fernando Coelho

As the weather cools down and the days get shorter, we'll be turning our attention to the business meetings, special events and conferences that characterize Fall in our sector and which you will be reading about in this newsletter. The first of these is our Annual General Meeting which will take place on September 22, 2014. The Annual Report and Outcomes Management Report are presented for adoption by members at that time, after which they may be released to all

stakeholders. Look for the reports on our website publications page and a condensed version of the Annual Report in video format. This is a good way to get a sense of the year's highlights as well as action items that we will be undertaking to ensure that our services are responsive and continually improving.

This year, we are also hosting an Employment Celebration following the members' meeting. There is a lot to celebrate, with 63 new opportunities being developed over the past year! It will be a pleasure to have persons served, their employers, families and an array of community supporters in one room. We are certain that this will lead to even more opportunities for others, and I congratulate the Employment Services Team and their Manager **Kalena Kavanaugh** for their success.

Growth in employment services was matched by growth in behaviour support services and community connectors as well. Together, we are enriching our communities by enhancing and expanding our services. We now have three employment service teams dispersed throughout the Lower Mainland, additional children's behaviour support services on Vancouver Island, and an adult behavioural support team to serve the entire North Okanagan and Shuswap region. Last but not least, we introduced community connectors, a Building Caring Communities initiative. These practitioners of Asset Based Community Development have been highlighting the assets and gifts of individuals and communities throughout our organization and putting them into play. Our community inclusion and residential programs have also continued on their respective paths, harvesting the outcomes of their planning processes and enjoying new ways of being involved in their neighbourhoods.

As always, I am extremely proud of our employees, who continue to be one of our most valuable assets. Without their strong commitment to the individuals we support, and their willingness to trust, we would not have been able to achieve the successes that we have had to date. Their commitment to collaboration and their fellow team members has resulted in daring actions to pursue our organization's vision. Combined with their strong ethical values, our employees' focus on meaningful integration and contribution is fostering improved quality of life for our persons served.

At posAbilities we know, and continue to demonstrate, that a shared vision motivates and empowers a team and that the exponential synergies that can be garnered through collaboration should never be underestimated.

Sincerely,

Fernando Coelho,
Chief Executive Officer



Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission Announces Launch of Video Relay Service in Canada

Contributed by Jordana Fridman

A new change is coming in the way in which persons who are deaf or have trouble hearing can communicate with others. The CRTC announced that customers in Canada can have access to a **Video Relay Service** (VRS) starting next fall offered at no charge. VRS is a telecommunications service that links people with hearing or speech difficulties to an operator who will then analyze the sign language and communicate it verbally to the person on the other line. This service makes it easier for those who do not understand sign language communicate with persons who do via a middleman. Available in both English and French, it uses internet-based videoconferencing which will require a standard high speed internet connection (from any internet service provider) and a device (computer, smartphone, or tablet). This new service is a great improvement in inclusive accessibility.

VRS users will also be able to call 9-1-1 in case of an emergency during the service's operation hours. The calls will go straight through to an interpreter who will then connect to first responders. At the moment, the hours of operation are not likely to be 24/7, however the finalized schedule is yet to be determined by the VRS administrator. One benefit of VRS is that it allows consumers to fully express themselves with body language instead of limiting themselves to communicating via text.

The VRS will be organized and implemented by an independent administrative board that will have a Telecommunications Service Provider (TSP) representative from Bell Canada, a representative from the Canadian Association of the Deaf (CAD), and the last one is yet to be determined by the first two.

The VRS will be funded by telecommunication service providers through the National Contribution Fund. Telecomm companies that make over \$10 million a year in revenues will help this fund with an annual funding cap of \$30 million.

For more information about the VRS service in Canada, visit: <http://crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/2014/2014-188.htm>.

The Story of Our Art Show

Contributed by Jodie Bergeron

Throughout the ages, it is art that survives time. From cave drawings to ancient jewelry; from architecture to clothing; from tools to weapons and so on ... it is the artist and craftsman who prevail. It is through their work that we can see glimpses into their world; into their era; into what is now our history. Art is the same on a personal level as well. It allows you to see into the eyes of the artist.

"Art is an avenue for people to open up and show their passion." Says

Amy Glass, a volunteer on posAbilities Art Show organizing committee since its inception. Amy continues to be fuelled by the positivity of the event. Experiencing this passion makes you think of what the art is about. It's about communicating through art, each person's vision and feelings.

The Art Show provides an opportunity for artists with diverse abilities and challenges to not only express themselves through their work, but to also display and potentially sell their art. The idea to host this show and sale was conceived by Kathy Fournier, a woman who many of us remember with great fondness. She was instrumental in getting the Art Show off the ground and continued to be its driving force for many years.

The range of styles and the level of talent the artists bring to the show is incredible. The artwork is a wonderful mix of as many different styles as you could possibly imagine. This is a venue where stories can be shared, not just by the artists themselves; by families, friends, co-workers, and passersby alike, in an atmosphere of convening and conversation. The art is both a backdrop and an inspiration. It's enjoyed by the artists and the general public who appreciate their art and what the show represents.

Another great thing about this Art Show is that it is fun! There is an air of excitement. Every year there is a lineup of art-buyers - waiting to rush the door when the show opens. There are people walking around looking at the art, there are artists walking around with big grins on their faces – proudly showing off their "Artist" tags to me. There are groups gathered talking together. There are people walking around offering up little treats and snacks. There are a lot of people here who have wandered off the street, many artists, family members of the artists, and many volunteers are either working or vying for their next purchase of art. It's busy – even chaotic. The colors are as explosive as the air is electric.

The centre of the hall is spaced with lattices filled with art of varying sizes and shapes – mostly paintings. Many are masterpieces – destined to decorate the walls of my home and everyone else's homes or offices. The border of the Hall is lined with tables. There is a table set up with wine, a table set up to serve yourself water

or juice. Many of the tables around this border are used by independent artists selling their cards, purses, jewelry, ceramics, boxes and anything else that you can imagine – all handmade. Many other tables are representatives from other organizations who also have artists selling their wares. The biggest corner is used by one group who makes pottery – really beautiful ceramics and pottery. One of the pieces I purchased and now have hanging in my home is a little plate with a fish painted on it – by Nadolie Giddons. It's one of my favorite things and I always smile when I look at it.

When I began reflecting on the past decade of the Art Show, I was trying to write about its history.

Then I realized that it is really more of an evolution. I don't mean the advancement of the show; but rather, the progression of the artists. As you walk around the room, you bear witness to several evolutions towards becoming a recognized artist. For many, this is the first time they see their pictures framed and hanging in a professional setting – they are identifying with being artists. Individuals who shyly wanted to remain anonymous now want to advertise they are the artist behind their work. You can see the individuals taking on a more serious persona as they realize their work is worth something. The artists beam when people tell them that they like their work and feel validated when people purchase their creations.

These artists now belong to a group of peers that all share a commonality. They start to exchange ideas and thoughts and gain a new confidence. They LOVE talking about their art. Framing the art inspires many artists to create more art which is of better quality. In some instances, families see their relatives in a new light at the show, seeing abilities that they hadn't realized before. Jotti Leihl is one of the artists, and she comments that her favorite activities include doing different art projects. The highlight of the art show for her is when people buy her art. She is proud of her family's appreciation for her work and the ideas behind it.

As a long-time volunteer on the cash table at the show, I have had all kinds of interesting experiences with customers. One time, a lawyer came up to make his purchase and excitedly showed me the two pieces he had chosen. One was a mask entitled "Mr. Grumpy" (whom the lawyer obviously identified with ...) and the other was a beautiful painting of a bird. He asked for the biographies of the artists so that he could place their stories beside the art when he hung them up in his office. He was thrilled with his purchases and happy that he dropped in that night.

That sentiment has been the general feeling of everyone who has come through my cash table over the years.

I hope that you will be inspired to become part of the show's evolution by joining us at the Showcase or the Celebration. Look for me at the cash table – I'll be expecting you to share a story about the treasure you've found.



Jodie Bergeron showcasing a small collection of jewelry.



The artist shown here with his card collection is Justin.

ARTISTIC POSSIBILITIES



Alternatives

Ramping Up Their Brand

Contributed by Jordana Fridman

Not only do they have an eye for colour, a talent for design, and the energy of hummingbirds, but they also have hearts of gold. Welcome the designers at Flipside Creative Inc. Every year in July, the team of designers works for 24 hours non-stop (unless they sip coffee or eat a donut here and there) to help non-profits and charities with their branding – free of cost. This one day event called Give-A-Day Createathon, saw Flipside re-brand Alternatives' brochure logo and studio statement.

In addition to helping Alternatives, Flipside and their team of Createathon partners (12 marketing designers in total), custom built two websites, designed an ad campaign, created a communications plan and wrote a social media proposal, to name a few of their tasks. How is that for working a full day and night on no sleep? We could not be more grateful for their work. Thanks Flipside, you're doing great things for the world. For more info, check out their funky website at www.flip-side.ca.



Mark Wolack and Cindy Mateush gave the team at Flipside a painting called 'Through the Rabbit Hole' to thank them for their work.

Alternatives Wins 2014 East FEAST Grant

Contributed by Justine Chubb



The Alternatives team presented the "Art Outside Of Ourselves" initiative at East FEAST Vancouver on June 1, 2014.

On June 1st, members of the community gathered at Britannia Community Centre for [East FEAST Vancouver](#) – a micro-funding event that supports local artists. We were treated to an afternoon of musical entertainment, delicious appeties and desserts, and a series of art project proposals. Along with the two other finalists, Alternative Creations Studio pitched their proposal "Art Outside of Ourselves" and we are pleased to announce that it was selected as the winner by popular vote!

This exciting new initiative will provide opportunities for artists with diverse abilities from Vancouver and Valence d'Agen and Auvillar in the South-west of France to take an imaginative journey. This exchange of art will be used as a tool to communicate and discover the shared artistic passion between the different communities and cultures. Local artist [Cheryl Fortier](#) (also the mom of Alternatives staff member, Shannon) will lead workshops where participants will create "mail art" which will be exchanged between artists from both countries.

Thanks to the Britannia Community Arts Council, the \$1,000 funding will go towards running the project. Our ultimate hope is that this first collaboration will lead to more projects, long-term partnerships and grow to more global cities. Thank you to everyone who came out and showed their support! We look forward to presenting at next year's East FEAST event to share the work that comes out of this project.



Still Creek Garden Unites Community

Contributed by Mohana Lochan

Alternatives is excited to embark on an art project at the Still Creek Community Garden. We are collaborating with the community gardeners, members of the *Can You Dig It* project, artists at the studio and students from POWER alternative school to create mosaics and planning murals to add creative visuals to the garden.

Our first mosaic workshop at the studio was very successful and we were happy to invite people to join in and make art together. We had 15 visitors come to our studio on July 7 to work together in groups to share ideas, design a mosaic around nature and insects, and create seven mosaics with tile and wood. The mosaics will hang on the garden fence. We will continue



to work on making mosaics, then design a nature mural to paint on the fence. Please stay tuned for upcoming workshops at Alternatives. If you or anyone you know is interested in participating or would like more information, please call Alternatives at (604) 322-0585.



On June 4th, Rose Mar hosted a "Make-up with Rose" workshop at the HUB on Main Street. She shared her creative make-up artistry with several others eager to learn from this talented fashion diva. The event included snacks and a movie playing in the background - "Pretty Woman" featuring Julia Roberts. The women got their hair and nails done while waiting for make-up. This event not only exposed some amazing talents but also fostered some new friendships. A good time was had by all who attended.



The Caramel POD's annual summer picnic was a huge success this year, with about 75 people in attendance. This year, the picnic was held at Blue Mountain Park in Coquitlam. Everyone came together to enjoy some great food and bopping music, and lots of fun. The theme of the event was Crazy Hats, and you should have seen some of the hats! We ended off the day with the smashing of a piñata - which everyone enjoyed!

Families Matter

Contributed by Monique Nelson

As a mother of two school aged children and posAbilities Family Resources Coordinator, I look forward to fall and all of the events and learning opportunities that it brings. It's time to establish routines, meet new teachers, see old friends, try out some new extracurricular activities and get excited about learning. Along with all of that change, comes a good measure of challenge and increased stress too.

Going back to school also means that new relationships need to be formed and emotions can run high, particularly if family members are struggling with anxiety or have additional support needs. Not to mention the rising costs of outfitting students and the uncertainty that arose around the labour dispute between BC teachers and the provincial government. During times like this, a little extra support and knowing where to turn for resources can help pave the way for a smooth transition.

posAbilities and Laurel Behaviour Support Services host parent support groups and engage in training and special events to support families, particularly in times of transition. We also maintain a wide variety of resources that can be accessed via our staff or online. The following groups and activities are starting up in October:

Triple P® – Positive Parenting Program,

Suited to caregivers of young children up to the age of 12.

Group Stepping Stones Triple P® Triple P is for parents of children who wish to learn a variety of parent leadership skills that promote positive interactions with their child. "Stepping Stones" is a program designed for parents with concerns about their child's difficult behaviour or whose children have a diagnosed developmental



Mark your calendars for Stage Door's upcoming live stage show **"Bollywood Bonanza"**. The show will run on **November 18, 19, 20, 25, 26 and 27**.

What do we have in store this year?

"Unlucky in love and dating, a woman explores another culture to help her with her marriage quest".

Come enjoy the Stage Door Troupe's rollicking escapade as we travel abroad looking for love, and find plenty of laughs as a result. "Come get your spice on!"

Save the Dates: 'Becoming Bulletproof' Sure to Engage VIFF Fans

Contributed by Monique Nelson

posAbilities, Burnaby Association for Community Inclusion and Kickstart Disability Arts and Culture are pleased to announce that we are once again sponsoring a superb film during the Vancouver International Film Festival to further promote inclusion in the arts. 'Becoming Bulletproof' is tentatively scheduled for a private screening for our organizations and guests on **Wednesday, October the 8th** at 12:15 pm in Vancouver.

In addition, the film will be screened twice during the festival, which runs September 25-October 10, 2014. The tentative dates are October 6 and 9. Please note that the VIFF film schedule and details about the private screening and accompanying events are subject to change, as detailed planning is currently in progress.

We encourage you to save the dates and visit our website or www.viff.org for details as they become available. You won't want to miss this festival!

Film Synopsis

'Becoming Bulletproof' is the story of A.J. Murray, 29, who has cerebral palsy and lives with his mother, Cynthia, who takes care of him fulltime at their Atlanta home. To their great surprise, A.J., who has always dreamed of acting in films, is invited to participate in a camp designed to help build a community (rather than paid "staff and clients") to support friendships between people with and without disabilities. Zeno, as the group is called, is the brainchild of brothers

Continued

disability (for example, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, down syndrome, autism, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder etc.), The program is delivered over the course of nine weeks. This involves six (2 hour) interactive sessions that actively train skills in behavior strategies and three (15-30 minutes) individual telephone consultations. It is facilitated by Behaviour Consultants from Laurel Behaviour Support Services who are accredited to deliver this course. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Sareth at 778-945-1435, or email laurel@posabilities.ca.

The registration deadline is September 30, 2014.

Maple Ridge

Dates: Wednesdays (6 sessions) beginning October 01 - November 26, 2014.
Time: 6:30pm to 9:00pm, doors open at 6:15pm.
Place: Ridge Meadows Association for Community Living, head office: 11641 224th Street, Maple Ridge.
Notes: Sorry, there will be no child care available.
Cost: Free. Registrations are open to MCFD-referred families only.

Burnaby/New Westminster

Dates: Thursdays (6 sessions) beginning October 09 – December 4, 2014.
Time: 6:00pm to 8:30pm, doors open at 5:45pm.
Place: YMCA of Greater Vancouver
2055 Rosser Avenue, Burnaby.
Notes: Free child minding is available with registration (spaces may be limited), note that the volunteers have no specific training in special needs.
Cost: \$200 per person. Couples who are primary caregivers attending together, \$300. Open to the general public.

Vancouver Parents Transition Group

Parents supporting parents of youth and young adults, ages 14-30.

An education and support group for parents of youth with disabilities who are transitioning to adulthood. The group meets once per month and features guest speakers who provide information and support to families on a variety of topics. The next meeting is on Wednesday, October 1st at 6:30pm at the Britannia Community Services Centre, 1661 Napier Street (off Commercial Drive) in Vancouver. Everyone is welcome. Details will be posted on the website www.vptg.ca.

Will and Pete Halby and their wives Vanessa and Ila, who have worked for over a decade with disabled people to help create a more inclusive world. Each year at Zeno film camp, participants make a movie that is used in screenings and events to fundraise for all their other camps that take place during the year. To date, Zeno has made films in a variety of different genres. This year they are aiming to make a film with high production values, authentic costumes, real Hollywood sets, and a honed script. As Will Halby explains, "It's about making an awesome movie, not a statement." Weaving between 1890s period drama and behind-the-scenes realities, the documentary 'Becoming Bulletproof' follows A.J. mastering lines, pushing through take after take, and showing up on time in costume. As A.J. grapples with these high expectations and grows and gains in spirit, he becomes part of a vibrant community of friends working together to produce a lasting artwork. Through the production of 'Bulletproof' we gain a moving vision of what a more inclusive, creative, desegregated world might look like. By the end of the documentary, audiences will be aware of

Senior Parents Support Network

Focus on issues related to the aging of persons served and their parents.

This group meets monthly at posAbilities head office in Burnaby and features guest speakers, round table discussions and shares information and resources in a relaxed setting. For info or to RSVP, please contact Monique Nelson, mnelson@posabilities.ca or call (604) 299-4001 extension 270. The first meeting of the fall season will be on October 2, from 10am-12noon. The doors open for refreshments and networking at 9:30am.

Featured online resources:

Anxiety Resources for Children - www.anxietybc.com or visit the Kelty Mental Health website for a wide variety of resources for parents and youth keltymentalhealth.ca/resources

Autism Society of BC Community Groups

www.autismsbc.ca/our-programs/community-groups

BC Children's Hospital - Family Services - support, information www.bccchildrens.ca/YourVisit/Familyservices/Familysupportgroups.htm

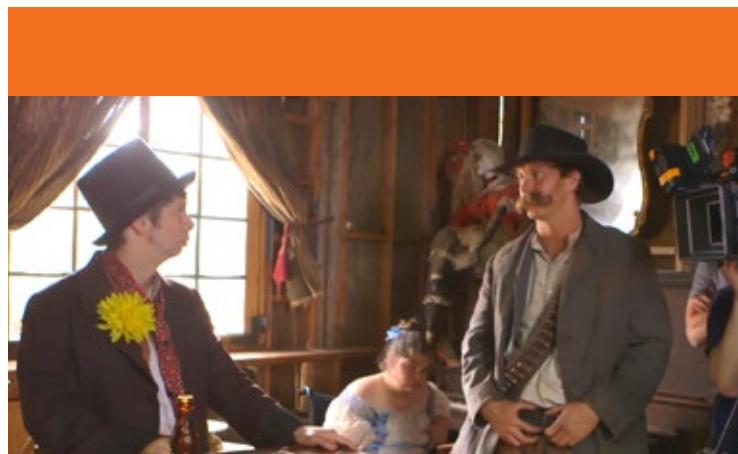
Family Support Institute of BC – parent support, advocacy, resources: www.familysupportbc.com

FamilyWORKS – A group for families whose sons and daughters are seeking employment. Various chapters are established throughout the Lower Mainland. www.familyworksbc.com/familyworks-chapters

Inclusion BC - parent support and advocacy www.inclusionbc.org

Laurel Behaviour Support Services - behaviour consultation, education, training www.laurelbc.ca

Check out integrated and adapted programs at your local Community Centre or any number of organizations: Challenger Baseball, Blazing Soccer Dogs, Special Olympics, Canucks Autism Network and more, listed here: <http://laurelbc.ca/WP/our-services/parent-team-training/resources/>



the frustration and isolation of too many disabled people, forced to live so much on the margins of society, and they will also question why we rarely see real disabled actors on stage or on screen.

To learn more about Zeno film camp, please visit <http://becomingbulletproofmovie.com/Splash/SuperFilms%21.html>

To watch the YouTube trailer visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q9nDIOJRFxg>



Norman Gives Back to Canadian Army Veterans

Contributed by Asia Hollingsworth

Norman Chow had a long and vibrant career with the Stage Door Troupe. Now, as he enjoys his retirement years, Norman continues to seek out meaningful ways to keep himself busy and remains very active in his community. One of Norman's newest and most gratifying ventures is his ongoing volunteer role at George Derby Centre, a community based care facility in Burnaby for Canadian Veterans of the Armed Forces.



Honouring Michael Dixon

April 4, 1952 – July 7, 2014

With deepest sympathy, we announce the passing of Michael Dixon. He will be greatly missed by his housemates at Evergreen House, family, many friends and staff. A 'celebration of life' took place on Wednesday, July 16, 2014 at Aegis in Michael's memory.



Summer Blast Provides Fun and Friendship for 31 Campers

Since 1999, the Summer Blast day camp has been creating friendships and fond memories for campers aged 8-18. Youth are encouraged to make friends and develop new skills while exploring a wide variety of community attractions. Experiences include visits to the Telus World of Science, Vancouver Aquarium, Playland/PNE and various community parks and recreational venues. It's amazing to see how quickly the campers bond and to watch the friendships grow. We thank Variety the Children's Charity, the CKNW Orphan's Fund and the Ministry of Children and Family Development for their ongoing support.

To learn more about camps like Summer Blast or Spring Fling, please contact Amy Glass at (778) 945-1434 ext.304. To register for upcoming camps, please contact your MCFD social worker, as a referral is required.

So here's a "Salute" to Norman. Keep up the great work!



Building Caring Communities Launches New Website

Contributed by Joe Erpenbeck

Building Caring Communities has a mission to build more connected neighbourhoods where people are known and have relationships with others.

The initiative is trying to do two things:

1. Build unpaid networks of support (friends) around people, and connect individuals to activities and associations in their neighbourhoods.
2. Grow and thicken the ties of connection wherever it goes.

While this initiative focuses on building personal, face-to-face relationships, an online presence is important too. The website provides a platform for storytelling, issuing invitations to convene people who have shared interest and sharing resources. It's also handy as a profiling tool and allows us to get the word out about the power of this initiative. We are striving to reach as many individuals and communities as possible.

The drive to engage our communities online started with the creation of a Facebook page, profile on partners' websites and an introductory video, which you can check out here: <http://tinyurl.com/p3co2fp>. In the video, Josh Rimer sits down with the three individuals from the Building Caring Communities team to learn more about who they are, what they do and their insights on how focusing on the assets in our communities can bring about profound changes.

Very soon, you be able to browse the site here: www.buildingcaringcommunities.ca. The website will be a great place to learn more about our work, to immerse yourself in stories told by our community connectors, and to discover other ways that you can support our initiatives and make a difference in your neighbourhood!"

For more information on how you can get involved with Building Caring Communities, please contact Joe Erpenbeck at (604) 365-9113 or email joe@buildingcaringcommunities.ca.

Government Grant to Fund New Community Garden in Surrey

Contributed by Hemant Kulkarni

posAbilities' Can You Dig It community gardening initiative is very honoured to have received a grant for \$20,400 from the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP). This grant will support a new CYDI project titled "Harmony Park & Garden - Working, Playing & Growing Together". With the support of various community partners, a new intergenerational food growing garden will be built on the grounds of Kiwanis Park Place (KPP), a seniors' residence in South Surrey.

This accessible community garden will provide KPP residents with fresh organic produce, a safe and rewarding place to volunteer and immense benefits with respect to physical and psychological wellbeing. The garden will also provide a space where residents may share their wisdom and experience with children from Crescent Elementary School, which is adjacent to the proposed garden site. The garden will be a space where individuals of all ages with diverse backgrounds and life experiences can connect with their neighbours and foster social inclusion; thus growing more than just food!



Annabelle Davis Excels at the Special Olympics National Games

Contributed by Sherri Crane

Annabelle Davis has been a proud member of Special Olympics for 30 years. In that time, she has been a steady and skilled athlete that gives 100% every time. She competes at the regional, provincial and national games in a dozen different sports.

This year she trained extra hard and was one of only two 10-pin bowlers from the Vancouver region selected to represent the organization at the National Games that were recently held in Vancouver and Richmond. She achieved her personal best, earning a gold medal for her all-round performance, 1 team gold, 1 individual silver medal, and a 4th place in doubles. Annabelle also earned an Athlete Achievement Award for her years of dedication and good sportsmanship. She says the Special Olympics changed her life by helping her build self-esteem, courage, fitness, friendships and cultural appreciation.

Soon, she will find out if she gets selected to go to the World Games in Los Angeles in 2015. Fingers crossed, and we wish her all the best!

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Garden Village Block Party a Huge Success!

Contributed by Monique Nelson

Over 260 neighbours gathered at George McLean Park in central Burnaby to celebrate the summer solstice and to get to know each other on Saturday, June the 21st at the community's inaugural **Block Party**. Organizers gained financial support for bringing the community together by applying for a small grant from the South Burnaby Neighbourhood House. The grant provided seed money for food, supplies and some light entertainment. All were amazed by the turnout, which included a large number of seniors, young families and supporters from posAbilities. As the saying goes – 'a good time was had by all,' while also bringing about a sizeable donation for the local food bank from party guests.

The idea for a block party began with collaboration between Caroline Dagg and Monique Nelson, who both live in the same neighbourhood as Craig, Jason and Dennis, persons served through Altesse House. As the idea took root, the organizing team grew to include more of our staff team, their families and other neighbours.

The organizers reached out to residents in several local housing developments, faith groups, schools, businesses and service organizations. We stretched the entertainment budget by inviting the talents of our friends and family members, while approaching schools and service clubs to help us with some games. The potluck picnic format was perfect for a crowd of any size, and the music and entertainment were enjoyed by kids of all ages.

On the big day, the sun came out and guests arrived on site early, eager to dig into lunch, and hungry for community. Hundreds



of people came throughout the afternoon with their arms filled with potluck items, lawn chairs and food bank donations. It was wonderful to see and rewarding for all involved. Seniors and neighbours within a few blocks radius of the popular park enjoyed the tasty treats, live music, games, hanging out and the sheer joy of watching what seemed like hundreds of tiny tots playing all around.

Several guests offered ideas for next year's gathering, suggesting that we were onto something meaningful which bears repeating!

The event volunteers were awesome! Our thanks to **Sari Wattum** (playing music and floating to wherever needed), **Amy Chan** (face painting, hooking us up with a balloon artist), **Caroline's niece Sadaf** and 'the kids' who posterized the area, and many other staff members, family members and persons served who came out to join us.

We also would like to thank and acknowledge the support of the South Burnaby Neighbourhood House. Great things happen when we all work together!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Modified First Aid Courses with Pacific First Aid	September 23 and 24 from 10am-2:30 PM	Pacific First Aid Ltd. - 1170 Glen Drive, Vancouver, BC	posAbilities Employment Service along with Pacific First Aid Ltd. has created a modified and unique hands on Emergency First Aid Training Course for person's with diverse abilities. More details can be found here: http://www.posabilities.ca/modified-first-aid-courses-pfa .
Caramel Coffee House Socials	Wednesday, September 24 11:30-1:30 PM	318 Keary Street, Upstairs	Make friends while enjoying live music and dancing. Admission is free, the venue is wheelchair accessible.
MetamorFest	Saturday, September 27 12-6 PM	Mount Pleasant Neighborhood House	Fun, family friendly festival, offering 3 stages, numerous musical performances, art installations, interactive games and attractions, a silent auction with some amazing offers and goodies, as well as great food. Free!
posAbilities Annual Career Fair	TBA (end of September)	Haney Place Mall - 11900 Haney Place, Maple Ridge, BC	Here is your chance to learn about exciting careers in the field of community living with posAbilities. Job seekers who bring their resume will be interviewed on site!
Walk Now for Autism Speaks Canada: Vancouver 2014	Sunday, September 28 from 8:30 am onwards	Science World / Olympic Village	Walk Now for Autism Speaks Canada is a fun-filled, family friendly event and the single most powerful force to fund vital research, raise money to support family services programs and initiatives, and heighten awareness about autism and the issues facing the local and national autism communities. Click here for more information: http://tinyurl.com/lhlna68
Community Resource Fair	Saturday, October 18th, 11 AM – 3 PM	Haney Place Mall - 11900 Haney Place, Maple Ridge, BC	Visit representatives of community social service agencies, community groups and businesses providing resources and information to children, families, youth and seniors on safety, policing, health and wellness and much more.
4th Health and Wellbeing in Children, Youth, and Adults with Developmental Disabilities Conference	Wednesday, October 22 - Friday, October 24	The Coast Plaza Hotel and Suites, 1763 Comox St, Vancouver, BC	This conference will provide educational and informative updates on psychiatric, behavioural and complex health components specific to individuals with Developmental Disabilities, and showcase best practices in the field. Hosted by UBC, see website for details: http://interprofessional.ubc.ca/HealthandWellbeing2014/default.asp
INCLUSION Art Showcase	Wednesday, October 22 from 6-8 pm	Heritage Hall - 3102 Main St, Vancouver	Tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased at www.inclusionartshowcase.eventbrite.ca . More details can be found here: www.inclusionartshow.com or call (604) 299-4001 local 270.
INCLUSION Celebration of Art 10th Anniversary	Thursday, October 23 from 1-8 pm	Heritage Hall - 3102 Main St, Vancouver	Entrance is by donation. More details can be found here: www.inclusionartshow.com or call (604) 299-4001 local 270.
First Annual Job Fair for Persons with Disabilities	Thursday, October 23 12:30-3:30 PM	Firefighters Banquet and Conference Centre	This Job Fair is exclusively for job seekers living with a disability. It will feature employers committed to a representative workforce, as well as service providers. Hosted by the Neil Squire Society.
Stage Door Halloween Dance	Friday, October 31	Heritage Hall - 3102 Main St, Vancouver	The most popular dance hosted by Stage Door is just around the corner. Buy your tickets for \$10 by calling (604) 872-1252.
Stage Door's Live Stage Show: "Bollywood Bonanza"	November 18, 19 and 20, November 25, 26 and 27	Heritage Hall - 3102 Main St, Vancouver	"Unlucky in love and dating, a woman explores another culture to help her with her marriage quest". Come enjoy the Stage Door Troupe's rollicking escapade as we travel abroad looking for love, and find plenty of laughs as a result. "Come get your spice on!" Tickets will be on sale soon!

'Purposeful Purchasing' with Pacific First Aid

Contributed by Anita Parti



2013 kicked off a fantastic pilot project for individuals participating in the posAbilities Employment Service programs. This project was the result of a partnership between [Pacific First Aid](#) and posAbilities. The two organizations teamed up to create a streamlined standard

First Aid course tailored to individuals with developmental disabilities. This course, which is usually a one-day eight-hour course, was modified to span over three days and divided into core pieces. The class had a 100% success rate with all students receiving their First Aid Certificates. Not only was the class a success, another one was added in April 2014 with a total of 6 students, and the next round kicked off in July. All of the individuals who have participated have embarked on their job search and this certification has made them more employable.

What is “purposeful purchasing”? Making purchases with the intention of achieving specific results in terms of a community’s social, human, cultural, structural, economic or environmental capital is called “purposeful purchasing.” – *David LePage*

By choosing to purchase from Pacific First Aid, PFA in turn chose to make a purchase of their own. This purchase involved the hiring of an individual from our Vancouver employment program. Judy was actively searching for a cleaning position, when her Employment Specialist suspected that she would be a great fit for Pacific First Aid. Judy was introduced to Bryan, the owner, who brought her in for an interview. Judy had herself completed the Standard First Aid and was excited about this potential opportunity. After doing extremely well on her interview, it became clear that this was a good match!

Judy now works twice a week at Pacific First Aid. Her duties include general clean up, equipment maintenance, and checking and putting together the first aid kits. The staff at PFA has welcomed her to the team and is very supportive. Judy’s first job has been a life-changing experience. The idea of purposeful purchasing is beneficial for individuals, communities and most importantly, for companies such as Pacific First Aid.



Richmond Life Skills Choir Debuts at Annual Picnic

Contributed by Irena Flego

After several months of weekly practices, the newly formed Richmond Life Skills Choir performed for the first time at the RLS annual summer BBQ, which was held at Minoru Park. Out of more than twenty songs they have in their repertoire, they chose three, including 'Yellow Submarine' and 'Yesterday' by *The Beatles*. While talented piano player Tim Tang was on the keyboards, our singers sang their hearts out. They were confident and relaxed, as if they have been doing it all their lives. Based on people's warm reception and comments, the performance was a great success. The choir will continue with their regular practice on Thursdays, and more community performances are in the works under the guidance of dedicated group staff.

Annual Picnic was a Great Success!

The annual picnic at Central Park was a tremendous success drawing together persons served, families, staff and friends! A big thank you goes out to the members of the Picnic Committee for all of their hard work leading up to and during the event. A special thanks also goes out to all persons served and families who volunteered their time and brought delicious food, and to the staff teams for ensuring that a good time was had by all!

Gone Fishin' - Marty and Jim in Action

Contributed by Ellen Manlulu

In June of this year, Marty and Jim participated in Fishing Forever, a recreational fishing program for persons with diverse abilities. This event was sponsored by Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC and held at a lake in Abbotsford. All the fishing equipment was supplied to the participants, and lunch and snacks were also provided.

Jim and Marty made some new friends at the event, with other participants as well as some Freshwater Fisheries staff. Both of them also had one-on-one fishing lessons with one of the volunteer fishing instructors. They were able to catch two trout each and were very pleased with their accomplishments. They brought the fish home and were very proud to show off the results of their day at the lake.



CONGRATULATIONS

On behalf of our organization, I would like to recognize and thank the following employees for their years of service to posAbilities.

Your dedication to persons served, your peers and our stakeholders is much appreciated.

Sincerely,



Fernando Coelho, CEO



5 Years of Service

Gurjit Gill
Bahman Khosravi
William Upton

10 Years of Service

Devinder Aujila
Rouhangiz Farhoudi
Michael Fuchs
Harkaran Sandhawalia

15 Years of Service

Edward Amin
Karen Cusmano
Tami Dalparado



Congratulations to Staff Award Winners

The **Believe, Empower** and **Inspire** awards recognize posAbilities team members for going above and beyond their role to help us achieve our mission. Congratulations to the most recent winners, honoured on Thursday, July 10th.

Terry Greenwood – Inspire

Lorraine Hicban – Believe

Kavita Kamat – Empower

Editor's note: The Recognition Committee meets twice a year to review nominations and to honour recipients of the Believe, Inspire and Empower awards. To learn more about the recognition award criteria, please read Procedure: Recognizing Outstanding Contributions by Employees. To make a nomination, complete the Employee Nomination Recognition Form (ShareVision --> Employee Services --> Printable Forms --> HR-General) and email it to awards@posAbilities.ca.



Employment Service Staff Participate in DSRF Fundraiser

Contributed by Kalena Kavanaugh

The annual Bocce Ball Fundraiser took place on August the 16th in beautiful North Vancouver, bringing about awareness for Down Syndrome and further support for the services that the Down Syndrome Research Foundation (DSRF) offers. Shown in this photo is team "bocceAbilities!" Four of the posAbilities Employment Service staff members took up the challenge: Manager, Kalena Kavanaugh (holding the team mascot Cabot), along with Employment Specialists (left to right) Anita Parti, Melissa Tobin and Liane Lowden.

The fun-filled day consisted of a wonderful lunch, great music, four scheduled games of Bocce Ball, a silent auction and many door prizes. The team also enjoyed meeting the awesome families, friends and supporters of the DSRF.

The DSRF has become a close partner of our Employment Service in recent months, as the two organizations have worked together to educate small business owners about the benefits of inclusive hiring.