

imagine it - live it

the Communicator

Fall 2023



Cover Story:
Heaven's Heavenly Family

Summer Picnic

Rooted in Community

Message from the CEO

Happiest Place on Earth

Employment Services

Halloween Fun 2023

Photo Gallery

Puppy Love

Ode to Joy

National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

PotteryWorks & StudioSeventyThree

Summer Picnic Aug 26, 2023

Congratulations to the Norwood home for winning the 50/50 draw. We hope you enjoy your winnings.

Thank you to the Vancouver Rotary Club for their generous \$2500 donation to the picnic.

Thank you to all of the volunteers. We cannot do this without your help.

See you next year
— SAVE THE DATE —
August 24, 2024.



"Rooted in Community"

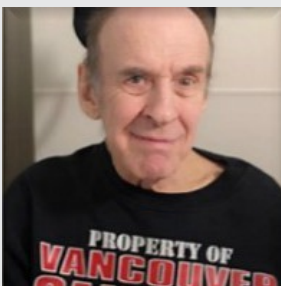
The Vancouver Football Club's driving purpose is to give back to the community. Ahead of their final game of the season on October 6th, players visited a CLS home to meet some of the people we support and our employees. They brought gifts, shared food and stories, and gained awareness of the community living population and the work we do. 32 people from the CLS attended their final game as guests on October 6th. We thank the Vancouver Football Club and their players for this experience and their connection to community.

<https://vancouverfc.canpl.ca/.../rooted-in-the-community...>

https://youtu.be/j74ZtIA_hQ4?feature=shared



In Memory



David Chappell

February 5, 1950
– August 20, 2023

We are saddened to inform you of the passing of David Chappell who lived at the Sardis home. David moved into the Sardis home in October 2020, and quickly fit in with his roommates, bonding over their love of hockey. David loved birds and would spend hours drawing and painting them and was always eager to show off his artwork. David's dry wit and sense of humour endeared him to the staff and all who knew him. He passed away peacefully on Aug 20th with his staff by his side. He will be missed by his roommates, friends and staff.



Caroline Herczeg

April 8, 1958 - August 15, 2023

In loving memory of Caroline Herczeg, we are saddened to announce her passing in August.

Caroline had moved into a long-term care home in Agassiz in May this year but lived for many years at the Norwood home in North Vancouver with her roommates, Leslie and Linda. Caroline's bright eyes and smile warmed the heart of everyone she knew. Caroline had a boyfriend, Ian who passed away several years ago. We hope she has reunited with him again and enjoying a cup of tea with him as they loved to do. Caroline will be sadly missed by her many friends, family and staff who supported her over the years.

COVER STORY

Heaven's Heavenly Family

Heaven has lived with Coreen and her daughter Olivia for many years. She has a wonderful, inclusive life with them. She travels to Whistler with them every summer and is a frequent visitor on the trails and beaches by their home.

Most recently Heaven and Olivia had the honor of walking Coreen down the aisle when she got married earlier this year. Her new partner is a welcome addition and brings with him so many new beautiful indigenous paintings to the home which further honors Heaven's culture. This was such a memorable and special day for Heaven and there is more to come as her cousin Jessica is getting married next year on Vancouver Island. She has found a wheelchair accessible venue as she said she will not have the wedding unless Heaven is able to be there.



Rebecca's Bookmarks

The first thing you want to do is preheat your oven to 425 degrees F. While the oven heats up, place parchment paper or tin foil on top of a cookie sheet. Make the shapes placing your beads to your liking. I made flowers.

Have fun mixing colours and playing with different combinations. Place in the oven. They take about 20 minutes to melt.

After the melted beads have cooled down, you can create a bunch of things with them. I made book marks. I used hot glue to glue paper clips to the back of the flowers. I am selling these book marks for \$2 each at the Administrative Centre.



Left to right: Annette Borrows, CLBC Manager of Employment; Jeremy Bekar, Mark's; Bobbi Hunt, WOW Award recipient and Abbotsford Mark's Manager; Jennifer Malin, Community Living Society; and Amy Saip, Community Living Society

Abbotsford Employer Wins CLBC WOW Award

Bobbi Hunt, Manager of the Abbotsford Mark's store, has been chosen as one of just four award recipients for the CLBC WOW Awards. Hunt was nominated by Amy Saip, CLS Employment Developer. Between the Abbotsford and Maple Ridge stores, Mark's employs 13 people with developmental disabilities. Mark's value people first and are able to see their worth by looking for ways to utilize their talents and skills. They showcase the benefits of hiring inclusively to their business and the community at large.

Congratulations Bobbi and thank you for your dedication to inclusion.

Message from the CEO

On August 26th, CLS hosted its annual picnic at the Scandinavian Community Centre. Attendees enjoyed games, food, photo booth, face painting, music and, most importantly, the company of others. Approximately 350 people attended the event from all over the Lower Mainland. It was a tremendous success, and we wish to thank the volunteers who help make this event a success each year. You can see photos of the picnic earlier in this newsletter. We also wish to thank the Vancouver Rotary Club Foundation for their generous donation to this event.

Accessible and appropriate housing for the people we support is important to CLS. To this end, CLS has developed a Housing Plan to guide the organization's decisions regarding housing priorities and required time, and resources. One of the goals in the Housing Plan is to develop an accessible home in North Vancouver to support people as they age. After a lengthy planning process, we are well underway with the re-development of one of our homes in North Vancouver, Ross Road. We will keep you posted on this development as it progresses.

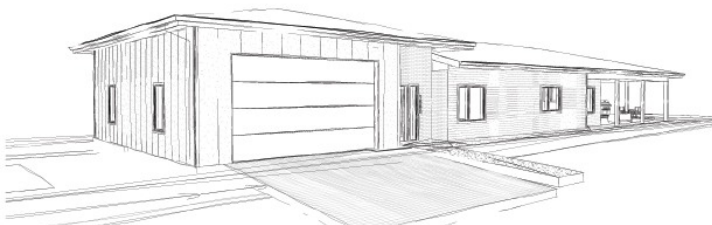
The CLS is committed to supporting people as they age. In May 2023 we connected with the National Task Group (NTG) on Dementia and Intellectual Disabilities. This connection has led to two additional exciting initiatives.

- In July and August, CLS hosted three focus groups to provide input into the development of Canadian Best Practice Guidance for Quality Community Supports & Care for Adults with IDD and Dementia and their Caregivers.
- In September, CLS co-hosted three days of training on Dementia and People with an Intellectual Disability, which attracted people from across the province. CLS was able to support 15 Leaders to attend the training. The training consisted of a two-day "basic" course and a third day for participants that wanted to become NTG-Canada Provincial Trainers. The trainers will be able to provide in-house training to CLS staff on this important and increasingly relevant topic.

Over the Summer, CLS also provided three training sessions for our Leaders to provide them with a solid foundation of knowledge on assistive and augmentative communication. In addition, the consultant who provided the training is working with some people supported by CLS to develop individualized communication strategies.

Lastly, and hot off the press, CLS just completed its 7th accreditation review with CARF. The official report will not be available for several weeks, however, we are expecting a full three-year accreditation once again. The eight surveyors (evaluators) who visited almost every CLS program and home were extremely impressed with the support being provided through all of the programs, homes and CLS staff. I wish to thank everyone who was involved for their hard work before and during the review.

Janice Barr, CEO



Happy Work Anniversary

3 – 5 years

Reshma Gajadharsingh
 Farhia Mohamed
 Shireen Syed
 Valerie MCGowan
 Karamjeet Kaur
 Maria Pasarivaki
 Alyssa Carter
 Stephen Wu
 Hayley Miller
 Adonis Pusdan
 Alyssa Nathoo
 Susan Lauzon
 Sarabjit Lally
 Amritpal Kaur
 Alyssa Borella
 Lun-Li Kuang
 Alireza Emami
 Amandeep Kaur
 Saeidreza Poursaeid Esfahani
 Catur Ningrum

6 – 10 years

Jade Braunwell
 Criselda Tejada
 Mearon Micheal
 Tara Dhakal
 Sandy Basi
 Christine Bateman
 Shu-Jen Yu
 Alanna Bellamy
 Christina Clarke
 Christina Montonen
 Kailee Matthies
 David Musa
 Parminder Bains
 Christine Jones
 Danyan Udoh
 Mostafa Al Hamdan
 Guadalupe Wilkie
 April Vance
 Elysia Bernard
 Joel Kvarnberg
 Susan Fawcett
 Caroline Sarich
 Natasha Hannan
 Katrina MacNeil
 Jagruti Raniga
 Sandeep Hans
 Kristian Reyes
 Nicole Phelan
 Edith Markser
 Diane Clark
 Catherine Sercombe
 Collin Stone
 Moninder Purewal

11 – 20 years

Gillian Rhodes
 Hayley Albus
 Victoria Pascoe
 Lan Gao
 Dale Eady
 Christina Gagno
 Victoria Ruppel
 John Whitaker
 Rita King
 Monika Madarova
 June Sheck
 Margie Miller
 Noel Blanco
 Marcia Scott
 Tara Walker
 Sharon Wesko
 Georgina Grant-Guillou
 Sirjana Shrestha
 Ausif Nawaz
 Jodi Leech
 Adelia Lamzon
 Fatemeh Sabokdast

21 – 30 years

Bill Wesko
 Mark Embacher
 Joanne Hauer
 Alla Melnikova
 Shima Ali
 Lynde Manning
 Hassan Hussein
 Enrique Villanueva
 Ian Mason
 Charlotte Casson
 Kevin Read
 Danielle Walsh
 Jacqueline Culliven
 Maria Sussi
 Shannon Cole

31 + years

Myella Mckenzie-Cook
 David Wiegert
 Inthirani Arul
 D'Alquen Jackson
 Julie Haddock
 Trudy Mcclughan



Florence Okumoh

Florence joined CLS in April of 2023 and is now Team Lead at the Rosewood home.

What is your favourite thing about working for CLS?

Working with CLS has many advantages, however what I love most is the training that is organized to develop staff, to make them better and improve productivity.

What is a passion or hobby of yours?

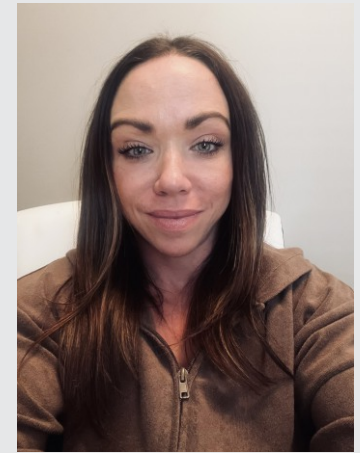
I love to help people but watching investigative movies is what I do in my free time to relax.

If you could meet one person (dead or alive) who would it be?

I would like to meet with Kathryn Kuhlman.

Where do you want to travel, but have never been?

República of Seychelles.



Jessie MacDonald

Jessie started working for CLS late August as the Manager of Supported Living.

What is your favorite thing about working at CLS?

I love that the focus at CLS is not only to offer support to individuals but also to employees at CLS.

What is a passion or hobby of yours?

I am passionate about anything outdoors: road trips, hiking, exploring with my kids, and fitness.

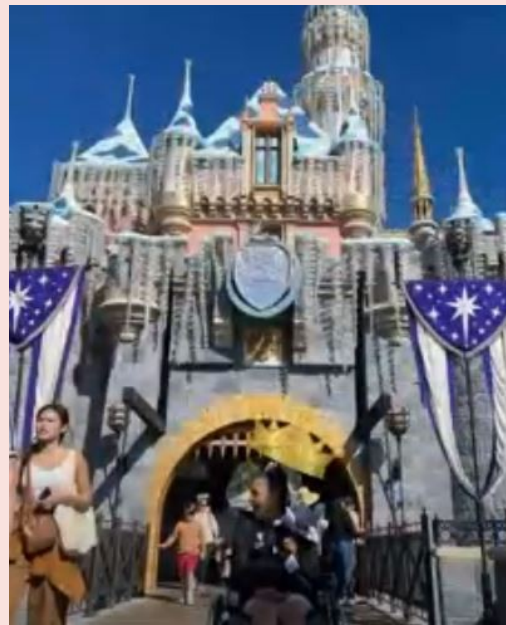
If you could meet one person (dead or alive) who would it be?

Alive: Jordan Peterson, Joe Rogan, Lex Freidman, Miley Cyrus, Jewel, Robert Greene
Dead: Ruth Bader Ginsberg and Queen Elizabeth II.

Where do you want to travel, but have never been?

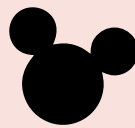
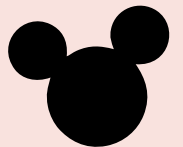
We love to travel, but have never been to Germany and have always wanted to go. Our next big trip will be to Thailand sometime in the future. Germany will have to wait.

HAPPIEST PLACE ON EARTH



Miranda recently went on vacation to Disneyland. This was her first time visiting Disneyland and her first time on a plane. She had such a wonderful time. I have never seen her so happy and laughing out loud, especially when she was on the rides. It filled my heart with joy that I had the privilege to go with her on this wonderful experience.

Nydia Soler Gomez, Team Lead - Maginnis



Silver Yeo was born on October 12th and weighed 8.9 pounds. Silver is the first daughter for Charis Lee who is the Manager of Staffed Homes.

We wish Charis and her new family all the best.



Promotions & New Appointments

Congratulations!

Anne Mamplata – Team Lead, Sidley
Florence Okumoh – Team Lead, Rosewood
Perpetua Agu – Accounting Analyst
Jessie Macdonald – Supported Living Manager
Hayley Albus – Assistant Coordinator,
LIFE and Team Burnaby Holdom
Ashley Ostiguy – Assistant Coordinator, PotteryWorks
Criselda Tejada – Team Lead, Day Supports
Miranda Or – Home Share Coordinator

Sandra Blair – Thompson – Payroll Administrator
Kim Lorenzo – Team Lead, Sardis
Sapana Patil – Manager of Staffed Homes
Tamera Friesen – Team Lead City Club
April Vance – Manager of Supported Living
Alan Kuang – Coordinator (Individualized Supports)



Employment Services & Impact 2.0

The employment rate of youth with developmental disabilities is extremely low. Inadequate transition planning and supports are often cited as a contributing factor. In fact, youth with developmental disabilities are rarely engaged in activities that build employment skills and abilities to function effectively in society, nor are they given the same choices for a career following high school as mainstream students. In 2023 CLS received a contract to participate in the IMPACT 2.0 program, which aims to address employment rates for youth with developmental disabilities. This University of British Columbia project partnered with twelve agencies across the Lower Mainland to establish evidence-based best practice for employment intervention activities, to see if employment outcomes improve.

In May this year, the CLS Employment Services team met with participants at a Parent and Youth Information and Application Session where everyone was welcome and were not excluded for any reason. As per our contract, 12 participants were then selected to participate in the 2023 program.

The next step was what we named “Employment Olympics”. This included 12 stations with a variety of tasks that the youth would complete. Tasks included: matching socks, setting a table, folding towels, sorting smallest to largest, alphabetizing, peeling a potato, etc.

Many, if not all, of the participants learned something about themselves, such as:

- “I learned I want to be in a helping job and wear a uniform”;
- “I want to work on a farm”;
- “I want to work at A&W”;
- “I want to work with animals”.

This was only the start of their journey and exploration of employment. Over the course of the summer every participant either gained employment or had multiple work experiences. We partnered with Tru Earth, White Spot, IHOP, Bik's Neighbourly Lawn Care, No Frills, Simon's Specialty, Tazmanian Comics, Bases Thrift Store, Thrifty Foods, and A&W (who hired 2 youth).

At the end of the program, we hosted a graduation ceremony where the youth, family and friends celebrated. Everyone received a certificate for their successful participation and completion of IMPACT 2.0. It was an evening of laughter, story telling and even some tears of joy. Two of the youth have transitioned seamlessly into the CLS Employment Services program and we are more than ready to accept the other participants into our services when they turn 19. We are looking forward to the new participants in 2024!

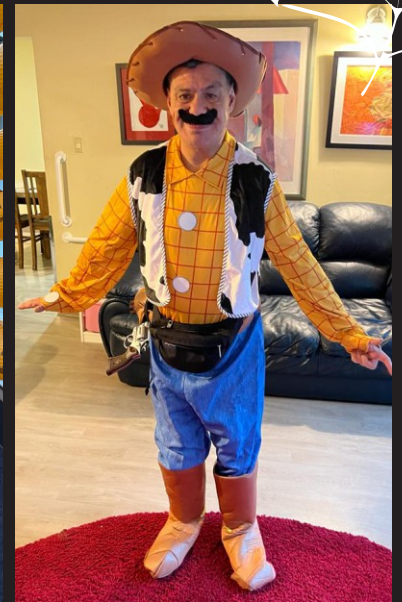


Happy Birthday

Holly house had a double birthday celebration at the end of August to celebrate with Linda and Don (Cowboy) on their 75th birthday's! Over 40 CLS staff, supported individuals, family, friends and neighbours gathered on one of the last hot days of the summer for hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, snacks and games! Linda and Don were reunited with their old roommate Shelly from the Nelson home, and friends from the Quadling B, Rosewood, and Frederick, Keith, and 12th homes. It was a great day!!!



HALLOWEEN FUN





Puppy Love

Jay is a proud volunteer for the West Vancouver BCSPCA. He looks forward to weekly visits to the animal shelter. Jay has an online fundraiser with the original goal of raising \$500, which he has now surpassed and is at \$575.00. Help Jay spread his puppy love.

You can donate at <https://champions.sPCA.bc.ca/participant/212/263#> .

Ode to Joy

Dave has always expressed how much he loves 'Ode to Joy' from Beethoven's 9th symphony. He would request it whenever we'd watch music on Youtube. We have been having fun playing instruments at Neville in a garage band format, for quite some time and Dave plays keyboards. So, I thought, I bet he could play the melody of 'Ode to Joy' on his keyboard. I asked him, and he said he was up for the challenge. We worked on it together for several years and just recently he played it all the way through. David is now refining the initial melody.

Wayne Adams - Counsellor



National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

On behalf of the Supported Individuals and employees from the 95th home, we joined with all Canadians to reflect "The National Day of Truth and Reconciliation" on September 30th.

In doing so, we are happy to share our Rock Garden theme "EVERY CHILD MATTERS". For the work of generations past, and the benefits of generations future, let's choose to create a more just, equitable and reconciled country for all.

Let's move forward!

Photo Gallery



A New Friendship



Marion connects with old friend Ross Chilton for coffee



Fun at the fair



Dorinda at Pride Celebrations



Dene & Tom refresh at the PNE



Ed at the Muslim Festival



Eastlawn Crew at Pride Celebrations



Keeping cool at the waterslide park



Kurt & Kenan enjoy a rest while out for a walk



Colleen takes care of her plants



Jay gives Max a hairbrush for his Big One



Lyndsey making Canada cupcakes



Krissy bakes delicious muffins



Neville garlic harvest



Ed & Christina on a visit to Harrison



216A Garden Box



A smile for a smile



Kevin learning how to prepare meals independently



Rylee shares her recent painting



We Deserve to Work wind up party



Rochelle giving some furry love



Cari makes a monthly donation to the kindness meter



WOC outing visiting the Navy Ships



Ed hosts a BBQ



Cari enjoys a day at the spa



FUN SHOPPING DAY

Joanne's fun shopping day



Sean paddle boarding for the first time, so much fun



Robert Bell

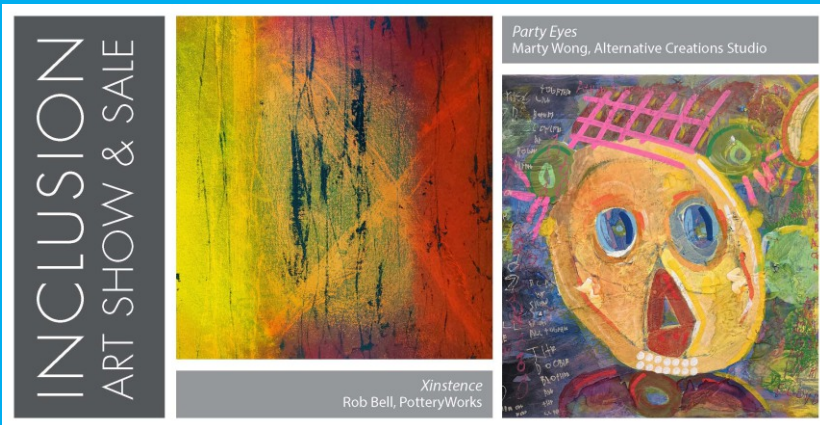
Rob Bell's "My Blended World" poster

The late summer at Potteryworks was a hectic time, but a rewarding one for the artists.

Rob Bell has been working diligently for over 20 years in our studio, and this turned out to be his summer of recognition. He had his first one-man show at the New Westminster Library titled "My blended world". Later that month, his work "Xistence", was chosen by the Inclusion Art Show committee for the promotional material for the 2023 show. Congratulations Rob, you earned it!

PotteryWorks exhibited at New Westminster Pride celebration and on top of having a wonderful time, we sold a lot of pieces to a lot of wonderful people.

July saw the close of the "amplified voices" show at the Italian Cultural Centre. Dan Tell, James Lash, Rob Bell and Linda Raudonus all had pieces exhibited and sold. They were all appreciated for their talents and achievements.



Rob Bell's Inclusion Show 2023 Rack Card

Linda Raudonus at "Amplified Voices"



PotteryWorks at New West Pride



Studio 73 has had a great quarter! We are thankful as always to Vancity for various opportunities to display our pieces in their branches. This time it was at the Newton location.

We are pleased to have Misha re-join the team! Her sunflower and daisy candle holders are beautiful and her seahorse received wonderful reviews on social media.

Langley Arts Alive was another success and we couldn't have asked for better weather! We purchased a prize wheel for our table and this proved to be a huge hit for people of all ages. It kept our table very busy.

We hosted art classes both inside and outside the store. Most recently we had a group who wanted to break for lunch, and with the PARKlet still outside, we set them up with a picnic table and they were able to enjoy some food from a local restaurant while taking in some rays. We hosted another mobile class for Belinda's Café. These are events created for people 55+ to socialize with neighbours and participate in art-related activities. We are grateful to Lyn Verra-Lay for including us in many different opportunities. She even got us painting "Fairy Houses" to display in our Fairy Forest. It was another way of getting community together and sharing art. Every year we attend State of Newton. This is a chance for the business community to come together to discuss any upcoming opportunities, and highlight the importance of Newton within the City of Surrey. This year was the 5th annual event and it was Stephanie's first time attending.

The most impactful event for us this quarter was during the peak heat. We put together care packages and handed them out to community members who are un-housed. It was no surprise to us that people would be both friendly and thankful. One take away for the team was people seemed equally happy to be seen and acknowledged. One man was brought to tears.



DONATE TODAY!

Your generous donations provide real opportunities for the individuals supported by the CLS to live life to the fullest.

You can contribute by sending cash or a cheque to:

Community Living Society
7th Floor – 713 Columbia Street
New Westminster, BC, V3M 1B2

Donation receipts sent to our office via cheque or cash will be issued for amounts in excess of \$10.

Donations via credit card can be made by visiting our website:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/m/5841/donation>

If you have any questions, please contact us at 604.523.0303 or

contactus@communitylivingsociety.ca

Thank you for your consideration.



JOIN TODAY!

Become a CLS Member

Date _____

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

There is no fee to be a CLS member. Memberships are renewed on an annual basis at or after the Annual General Meeting.

Members must:

- be 18+ years of age
- be interested in advancing the purposes and supporting the activities of the Society

Members cannot be:

- An employee or contractor of the CLS
- An employee of the government of the Province of British Columbia or Canada whose duties are concerned with the affairs of the Society.

If you would like to be a member of the CLS, please send this completed form to us:

By Mail:

7th Floor- 713 Columbia Street, New Westminster, BC, V3M 1B2

By Fax:

604-523-9399

By Email:

contactus@communitylivingsociety.ca