



Building Partnerships in Community



For the past eleven years Simon Fraser Society for Community Living has used summer student funding to hire staff to run a summer youth group for 15 to 24 year olds who have developmental disabilities. In the fall of 2010, some of these youth and their parents and caregivers came together to talk about extending the summer only resource throughout the year. It was an exciting visionary time of planning and interest was high! The group brainstormed about programs, activities and possible resources to provide the youth with opportunities to have new experiences and to develop friendships through community based activities.

The challenges included finding financial support to hire staff supervisors who would facilitate the group planning their own calendar of inclusive community events, as well as finding a community site where the youth could meet on evenings when they did not have a community outing planned.

We found a willing and committed partner in Port Coquitlam Parks & Recreation. Rob Sullivan, Port Coquitlam Community Services Coordinator, rolled up his sleeves and joined our team to find solutions; and did he ever help! On behalf of the City of Port Coquitlam, Rob agreed to provide both the staffing and the venue!

This group has been running every second Wednesday evening since November 2010 with approximately 20 – 30 young people attending. With support from the City of Port Coquitlam staff, the group develops the calendar of events, which has included movie nights, swimming, holiday crafts, bowling, a dance, and more. They recently developed the spring calendar of events which is now available for those who are thinking of joining. Registration and contact information follows.

City of Port Coquitlam staff understand that people who have disabilities are community citizens, and that

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the community, the individuals and their families are all enriched when city services provide hospitality and resources to all its citizens. We salute you, City of Port Coquitlam.

To register for the group, contact Rob Sullivan at sullivanr@portcoquitlam.ca or call 604-927-7925.

- Youth must RSVP to Rob Sullivan by the Friday before each event so that adequate staffing can be arranged.
- Transportation to and from all events and activities is the responsibility of the youth and their family.
- Individual support is not provided.
- Youth who require individual support are welcome to bring their own support person.
- Events end promptly – please pick up your youth on time.
- Youth are reminded that they must sign in when they arrive, and sign out before they leave.
- Youth are responsible to pay for any activities that have a cost.

Our Vision

We are moved by the dream of an inclusive community that enables, empowers, and encourages all people.

Employment First

"I was so blown away by what I heard from Sasha at the 2010 SFSCCL Annual General Meeting!" Lydia went on to describe what it was that surprised and moved her about Sasha's employment experience. "My husband and I have been working hard to ensure that our daughter Julia has a secure financial future. Sasha's story touched my heart and made me realize that having a job is not just about money, it is also about having a place to contribute. As I listened to Sasha describe his job at Mr. Lube, his excitement about going to work and the company Christmas Party, I understood that he has a feeling of belonging at his workplace. It touched me to hear that Sasha is a part of the work crew, he is important, and he has connections with people at work. I now have a lot to think about as I start to plan for Julia's future."



Sasha at work at Mr. Lube

What Julia's parents, Lydia and Jun, learned that evening is something that parents across the province are thinking about; their sons and daughters can find meaningful employment where they can contribute to producing goods and services and where they can develop relationships with workmates. They can contribute to the

economy and they can earn fair wages; they bring value to the employer and the work place and they are enriched by the experience.



Sean at work at Wendy's

Families promoting Employment First is a workshop series for parents of young people who have developmental disabilities and for our community partners, focusing on providing ideas, tools, and examples of how to profile, promote and support their sons and daughters towards employment. Simon Fraser Society for Community Living and Polaris Employment Services, with funding from CLBC, developed the workshops. With further funding from CLBC, we have partnered with the Family Support Institute to bring this workshop series to parents and community partners across BC. Resource Parents have participated in training to facilitate the workshops and are now offering them in communities across the province.

For more information on the Families Promoting Employment First workshops, see the Upcoming Events section of this newsletter on page 4 or contact Cathy Anthony at canthony@sfsccl.org.

If you are an employer and want to know how you can participate in our customized employment service, we will work with you to carve out specific tasks you need done at your work place that will fit the skills, abilities and interests of individuals we are supporting to finding meaningful employment. Contact Gail Goddard at ggoddard@sfsccl.org or Hope Taylor at hopet@polaris-employment.bc.ca.

Garden Initiative: We are Planting Seeds

Contributed by Cínthia Page

The Simon Fraser Society for Community Living is excited to join the Can you Dig It (CYDI) initiative!

With funding from the BC Social Venture Partners and Vancouver Foundation, posAbilities launched the initiative in 2010. They have invited MOSAIC and SFSCCL to join them this coming growing season and CYDI is expected to include up to 20 gardens throughout the Lower Mainland in 2011.

Are you interested in contributing to your community by planning and building new gardens in your neighborhood? If so, CYDI can offer you this opportunity! We invite individuals to create a food-growing garden at their house or ours and to coordinate community garden hubs that are open to their neighbours. By participating in one of our inclusive gardens, gardeners and volunteers contribute to social inclusion, empowerment and giving back to their community. They also have access to fresh organic produce for their families. In our gardens we grow food, and we cultivate relationships!



4 food-growing gardens

Port Coquitlam: Wellington St & Lincoln Ave - Salisbury Ave & Coast Meridian Rd - Jervis St & Lougheed Hwy

New Westminster: Royal Ave & 8th Street

For more information or to join us in the garden, contact Gail Goddard at ggoddard@sfsccl.org or call 604-525-9494. You may also wish to check out the CYDI website at <http://www.mapcl.org/CanYouDigIt/>

UBC Dragon Seed Connection Support SFSCCL Youth

Michael Lam, on behalf of the Dragon Seed Connection (DSC) presented Cathy Anthony, SFSCCL with a donation of \$300.00 to support activities for our Summer Youth Group. The DSC is a non-profit student organization that operates under the Alma Mater Society of the University of British Columbia. Michael and his team raised funds through their March 2011 DSC Solstice Cup Volleyball tournament. They had 9 teams participating.

In the summer of 2009, Michael worked for SFSCCL as a Youth Activity Worker with our community based Summer Youth Group. He was a valued member of our staff team and the youth he and his coworkers supported experienced a wonderful, fun filled summer. Michael's involvement and positive experiences with our summer Youth Group inspired him to want to make a difference and give something back to youth. The Dragon Seed Connection embraced his recommendation for SFSCCL to be the recipient of their fundraising efforts.



Michael commented in his letter to SFSCCL, "I hope our contribution will provide opportunities to enhance the lives and learning opportunities of the individuals that you and your organization reach out to. It was a pleasure fundraising for you and we hope to work with you in the near future again."

And to Michael and all involved in the UBC Dragon Seed Connection, your thoughtfulness and heartfelt gift to youth served by the Society is deeply appreciated. Your work and efforts are an exciting and inspiring example of service to the community and to others. Thank you!

Save the Date - June 28, 2011



» The Simon Fraser Society for Community Living **2011 Annual General Meeting**

When: Tuesday, June 28, 7:00 p.m.

Where: 1551 Salisbury Ave., Port Coquitlam.

David Roche, an Inspirational Humorist will be speaking at our AGM. David has transformed the challenges and gifts of living with a facial disfigurement into a compelling and uplifting message.

Stay tuned for further details.



Upcoming Events

» Morning Coffee Break for Parents

When: Thursday, April 28th, 2011 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Where: 204 Blue Mountain Street, Coquitlam.

Details: Please come and join us for a morning cup of java & muffins and a chance to connect and network with other parents who have children with extra support needs. Our Family & Individual Support Program staff will be on hand to provide information about school, accessing supports, recreation and summer opportunities and more.

Please RSVP to Rachel le Nobel at rlnobel@sfsccl.org or call 604-525-9494.

» Forum on Ageing: Adults with Developmental Disabilities & Their Families

When: Thursday, April 28th, 2011
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Please Note: The same sessions are being offered at alternate times

Where: Shadbolt Centre for the Arts
6450 Deer Lake Avenue, Burnaby, BC

Details: CLBC's Simon Fraser Community Council invites you to join the discussion... Create better understanding of the needs of adults with developmental disabilities and their families as they age. We welcome your input!

Please RSVP via email: Frances.Wei@gov.bc.ca or call 604-660-8124.

» Families Promoting Employment First (2 part series)

When: Thursday, May 12, 2011 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 19, 2011 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Where: 1551 Salisbury Ave., Port Coquitlam.

To RSVP, or for more info, contact Cathy Anthony at canthony@sfsccl.org or Rachel le Nobel at rlnobel@sfsccl.org or call us at 604-525-9494.

*** Registration Deadline: Friday, May 6, 2011**

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Letters & Information Welcomed:

Do you have a story or information to share with our readers?

Please contact our newsletter editor at newsletter@sfsccl.org.

Our Logo:

Two threads, representing the Society and the individuals we serve, flow and intersect, moving beyond boundaries together.

