



SSSociety

Spring 2010

Seniors Services Society Newsletter

Theatre In The Park Fundraiser—One Flew Over the Cuckoos Nest

This year's Annual Fundraiser at the Bernie Legge Theatre will be held on June 10th. See page 8 for more details!

Direct Fundraising Appeal

This year we have begun to raise greater community awareness of our need for donor support at all levels. It is imperative that we increase our Fundraising efforts and Donor Requests, or we will not be able to maintain the same levels of service and program delivery that our seniors have come to rely on. Donations at all levels are important to us! SSS has also been the recipient of several Legacy Bequests from Estates, and we appreciate the opportunity to honor the memory of those who have chosen to leave a lasting legacy fund with us. Tax donations are available upon request.

In an era of Government and Economic uncertainty, Seniors are especially vulnerable. We need your ongoing financial assistance to support older adults to stay connected in community, and to age in place with dignity. To direct your charitable donations to a specific program or to have information sent about Life Legacy programs, please call us at 604-520-6621 today. Thank you.

Notice of A.G.M. and Volunteer Recognition Luncheon

Tuesday June 22nd, 2010

10:30 am - Meeting Registration

11:00 am - AGM

12:30 pm – Annual Volunteer Luncheon

11th floor, Dunwood Place - 901 Colborne Street, New Westminster

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Thanks to our Funders

....for assisting us to support the independence and well-ness of New Westminster and B.C. seniors , through our programs and services.



**We couldn't do what we do without
YOU!**

**My office is here
to assist you with
provincial services and
information.**

Dawn Black, MLA
New Westminster

737 6th Street
New Westminster, BC
V3L 8C6

604-775-2101



Hello All,

It has been a very fast-paced 15 months serving Seniors Services Society as the Interim Executive Director.

I have had the honour and privilege of working with a great team. The Seniors Services Society staff members are hard-working and passionate about seniors. Further, I've met so many wonderful people from partner organizations dedicated to enriching and supporting seniors in our community.

Seniors Services Society will be left in the capable hands of Kara-Leigh Jameson who is stepping up to the role of the Director of Operations.

I wish the very best in the future to this important and vibrant organization.

Sincerely,
Alison Marshall

Who's New at the Zoo



Erin Carey is a recent SFU graduate, holding a BA in Psychology and Gerontology. Erin joined SSS in December 2009 as a temporary office administrator, but has since expanded her role into the housing department. She now plays a multi-functional role in the office, working three days a week in office administration, and two days a week as a housing outreach worker. Erin is excited to be part of the SSS team and is enjoying all aspects of her new job, from the “behind the scenes” work to working one-on-one with clients.



Anna Truong holds a BSW from UBC and has special interest in sexual health education, HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C, harm reduction strategies, and housing. Her resume includes Vancouver Crisis Centre, Carnegie Action Project, RainCity Housing and Purpose Society-HIV program. She comes from a large family of five girls and she is number two in that list. Anna recently migrated to Surrey from South Vancouver and is exploring the suburbs for the first time! She spends her weekends with her partner caring and walking her new Boston Terrier puppy, Molly. Anna is excited to join SSS as a Housing Outreach Worker!



IT'S A GIRL!!!!

Jill Ferguson, our office administrator, went on maternity leave at the end of December 2009. It is with pleasure that we announce the arrival of our team's youngest addition, Presley Taylien, born February 7th, 2010. She doesn't know it yet but she has gained a handful of loving aunts and an uncle here at SSS.

Congrats to Jill and Bryan!

Income Tax Clinic

Once again this year, Seniors Service Society participated in Canada Revenue Agency's Community Volunteer Income Tax Program. With the help of more than 20 volunteer preparers, more than 1000 taxes were filed. Thank you to those who generously gave their time and talents.

In addition to the tax clinic, outreach service was offered by two volunteers who prepared taxes for numerous house-bound individuals, Queens Park Care Center, Victoria Heights Assisted Living and Charington Place.

A reminder to any senior receiving GIS, that failure to file your 2009 tax return will result in loss of this income as of June 30, 2010. You will then have to re-apply to Service Canada, a process that can take several weeks. If you have not filed, please contact us at 604-520-6621 and we will arrange for this to be done. Filing of your taxes also enables you to receive the GST rebate.



Remembering Carol Martin

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved friend and volunteer, Carol Martin, on January 22, 2010. Carol was an amazing contributor to her community. Her generous spirit and vivacious personality will surely be missed. A celebration of life was held for Carol on February 13 at Sapperton Hall.



No-Me.S.S.
NON-MEDICAL Support Services 

Connecting Students With Seniors in New Westminster

**to help with light
housework, yard work,
personal shopping and
more.**

604-520-6621



Caregiving is demanding and caregivers need time off from their caregiving responsibilities to relieve stress and prevent burnout. Although there are different approaches to respite care the same basic objective exists: to provide the care recipient with planned temporary care to allow the caregiver relief from the daily responsibilities of caregiving.

Are you a caregiver needing a little time out?

Seniors Services Society newest program maybe able to help you out. Ask about our Caring for the Caregiver program. Call Alice or Kelly at Seniors Services Society 604-520-6621

Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity?

Our newest program Caring for the Caregiver is looking for volunteers to go in to the homes of caregivers to give the caregiver a little time out. If interested contact Kelly at Seniors Services 604-521-6621.



Seniors Transportation Program



Seniors Services Society's Seniors Transport Program has been turning wheels since late 2008. Since the programs beginning, our dedicated team of volunteer drivers assisted New Westminster seniors to access medical and dental appointments throughout the Lower Mainland. To date, the drivers have given 1,750 hours of service during 678 trips which helped 315 seniors. This vital program, which offers door to door service, fills a gap in the transportation services offered in the New Westminster area.

SENIORS SERVICES SOCIETY NEEDS MORE DRIVERS!!

In the short time that we have offered the program, demand for services has grown such that we are booking four to five drivers daily, and on occasion for two trips a day. Most trips are within the boundaries of New Westminster; however, due to the decentralization of some specialist services, clients have been taken as far as UBC, VGH and Eagle Ridge Hospital in Maple Ridge.

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEER DRIVERS!!

Housing Services

So much has happened in SSS's busy housing department, it's hard to know where to begin! Perhaps the most significant changes occurred within the very structure of the department. In March we said goodbye to Outreach Worker David Romer, who left us to join BC Housing as a Tenant Support Worker. Dave is already missed! However in his place we are pleased to announce that we lucked out in acquiring Anna Truong as our new Outreach Worker. Anna comes to us from the hard working team at Purpose Society in New Westminster, and you can read more about her in this letter's "Who's New in the Zoo" section.

In March SSS learned that like innumerable organizations across the province, we would not be receiving government monies from the Gaming Branch. The society normally used this money to pay the salary for our Executive Director, so the loss of this funding put our plans of hiring a new ED on hold. To fill the gap and keep SSS up and running while we search for a long term solution, our very own Housing Manager Kara-Leigh Jameson stepped up to fill the role on a part time basis as "Director of Operations" for SSS. Of course this major staffing shift had a trickle down effect, and to maintain service levels we promoted our Housing Program Coordinator Lindsay Milburn to "Acting Housing Manager". And to support Outreach, who have taken on half of Lindsay's client load, we hired our part time office administrator Erin Carey to perform Housing Outreach Light duties in addition to her regular role. After all these staffing changes, and shuffling some of our offices around to boot, we almost don't recognize ourselves!

Nevertheless, Housing Services has managed to continue to operate all programs at full service levels. From December 2009 to March 2010, our Housing Counsellor Hina Lal did intakes on 364 new housing clients. Of these, 109 were homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Outreach has also been incredibly busy during that period, and the THP program's 14 units of Temporary Housing were consistently full. The Temporary Housing Program (THP) has now entered its third and final year of operations, and as this newsletter goes to press, we are following up on a few exciting possibilities and opportunities for new directions and partnerships in order to keep the program going into Year Four and beyond.



Outside of normal operations, Housing has seen some great public success in the last little while as well. On March 4th, Elmer Cardinal, a past participant in the Temporary Housing Program, was the guest of honour in a half day event we put on entitled "Celebrating the Success of THP". Elmer, in conjunction with SSS staff, gave a presentation to local politicians, business owners, housing providers, members of the press, United Way funders and a group of Lord Kelvin Elementary School students, showing us all how the program helped him go from homeless to happily housed.



Finally, we'd like to extend our thanks to Douglas College Community Social Service Worker student Darlene Dumore for assisting the Housing department throughout her practicum here at SSS.

From all of us in Housing, all the best this spring!

Community Education

The agency has hosted several intergenerational student projects this Spring. During the first part of February, we supported a practicum placement for a Douglas College student. As a result of this placement, a wonderful new video was created that highlights the many services that the agency provides to older adults in the community. We appreciated the efforts of our student Darlene as she worked tirelessly to feature staff and volunteers as they provided agency services to seniors. Thanks again Darlene. The video will be a great attention getter at community events like wellness fairs and conferences. We had a chance to gauge the initial community responses at the recent IMBY Fair on May 1st at the Royal City Centre mall, and in addition to increasing attendance at our SSS information booth, many enthusiastic comments were made about the quality of the video. Thanks to Alice and Gary for the final edits, as well as for adding the music portion. The second student activity that took place this spring, was as a result of a competition sponsored by The Toskan Casale Foundation. The Foundation provides a Youth And Philanthropy Initiative for high school students, culminating with an opportunity to award \$5,000 to a local social service group that they have researched and then advocated for. We had been the charity of choice for 3 such groups. Although our student groups were not successful in their respective competitions, copies of their final presentations will be placed in our resource library, and these will also make for great examples of the intergenerational work we do for our stakeholders.



On March 29th and 30th our Community Education and Housing Services departments co-hosted a Building Managers Workshop (BMW). The 2 day workshop was well attended, with 21 participants representing housing providers and private business owners. The workshop was hosted by SSS's Lindsay Millburn, Housing Program Coordinator and Lynda Brind-Dickson, Community Education Manager. Our esteemed presenters included: Marg Gordon, CEO of the BC Apartment Owners and Managers Association; Haley Mousseau, Research Analyst at BC Non Profit Housing Association; Clemencia Gomez, Executive Director of South Granville Seniors Centre; Joan Braun Executive Director of the BC Center for Elder Advocacy and Support; Karla Scribner & Nigel Smith from Burnaby Mental Health & Addictions Services, Fraser Health Authority. Thanks largely to the efforts of Lindsay, the agency was also able to distribute the newly updated *Building Manager Resource Handbook*, a guide to assist housing providers with some of the unique housing stability challenges faced by an aging population. We received nothing but rave reviews from all participants, and the plan is to run these workshops on a regular basis to get the tools and tricks that can prevent evictions out into the community.

CEM is in the process of collaborating with the Support Services department, in the roll out and delivery of the UWLM Grant – *Caring for the Caregivers*. A series of 3 workshops will engage caregivers in identifying and developing a practical list of strategies to assist them in pro-acting around caregiver burnout. It has been reported that approximately 60% of adults over the age of 64, are directly or indirectly involved in a caregiving role.

CEM recently attended 2 seminars dealing with diversity training and Inclusive practices. One of these involved older adult trauma in immigrant & refugee populations. Materials relating to policy and procedures, in addition to sensitivity and awareness issues pertaining to older adults were discussed. The seminar was widely attended by other support agencies in the senior sector, and the handouts and resource material provided is now apart of our SSS resource library.



The spring 2010 Housing Counsellor Training course has just begun, and we are pleased to welcome 14 new community participants from 11 seniors serving agencies across the lower mainland. The participants will meet every Friday till then end of June, and as a result will return to their communities with more specialized tools and resource materials to assist older adults with their housing needs. We welcome the opportunity to assist inter-agency partners across the region, and last year we had the opportunity to provide an additional 16 agencies with trained Housing Counsellors.



Join us for a special fundraising
evening of



One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

Drama by Dale Wasserman. Based on the book by Ken Kesey.
Directed by Judi Price.

June 10th, 2010
Doors open 7:30 pm Curtain call 8:00 pm



Performed by the Vagabond Players at the
Historic Bernie Legge Theatre in Queen's Park in New Westminster!
Entrance at 1st Street and 3rd Avenue

Tickets \$50

Includes cake,
champagne, and a
\$30 tax
receipt!



Service
Canada



For tickets or
more
Information call
604-520-6621



All proceeds benefit Seniors Services Society

