



**Executive Director's Report to the Annual General Meeting
October 02, 2008**

"Facing the Challenge"

The last year has been a busy one for this organization. There were many challenges that we faced and successes that we celebrate.

- We have continued to strive to meet **Accreditation** standards and will be going through the Accreditation Survey in hope to obtain another 3-year Accreditation with CARF.
- Staff, family and friends went through a difficult time of seeing a client go through a serious illness and eventually pass away. A touching memorial service was held with the sharing of stories and memories.
- CDSCL took on the management of **Rebekah Manor**, a 26-unit Housing project for Seniors with low income in December 2007. In April 2008 a fire destroyed eight of the units. Fortunately no one was hurt. Tenants were displaced for a month and a half while the mess was cleaned up. It has been a difficult time, but life is returning back to normal.
- The Board of Directors has finalized a 3-year **Strategic Plan** to guide us through the challenges and opportunities to come. We are appreciative of our dedicated volunteer Board members who give up a lot of time and energy for the organization and the people we serve.
- We continue to deal with an **aging population** and the increase in health-related issues and onset of dementia that come with it. We have been struggling to help individuals deal with difficult issues and find it a challenge to provide support to these individuals while safeguarding roommates and staff. We have been able to increase staffing supports in several areas from our operating budget and have received additional funding for hours in one of the residential homes.
- We have been able to provide support at 25th Avenue to an individual living with his family during the day. We have also welcomed several new clients at the Day Program.
- We purchased a **new building** for the Administration Office and Day Activity Program, and finally moved in at the end of July after many delays. We continue to work on renovations, but are enjoying the new building.

- Although the **Therapeutic Riding Program** Director has moved out of the area, the program continues to provide positive experiences for people with various disabilities and challenges. The program has achieved financial sustainability, which we will endeavor to maintain.
- We continued to place an emphasis on **staff education**, providing a number of in-service opportunities for employees as well as running our 8-session Community Living Skills Course for new employees in conjunction with the College of the Rockies. Training in Medication Delivery and Implications and workshops on Dementia and Aging will help to prepare staff for dealing with the increased needs of the people we support. This is in addition to providing ongoing training for the various certificates that employees are required to hold.
- We have been able to increase supports to people we serve while maintaining a **positive financial position**. We concluded the 2007/08 fiscal year with a slight deficit for the year, but are still maintaining an operating surplus of almost \$36,000. With the acquisition of additional property, we have improved our net asset position to over \$430,000.
- We have invested a substantial amount of our cash flow in addressing Fire and Building regulations with the installation of a Sprinkler System at the Orchard Apartment, Fire Suppression Systems in our Community Housing homes and a new Septic system at Orchard House.

Through all the challenges that we face as an organization, one thing remains unchanged – the excellent support given to people we support by our dedicated, hardworking employees. We cannot express our appreciation enough for the work they do.

There will undoubtedly be more challenges to come. We will continue to explore ways of better meeting the needs of people we support while reaching out to others in the community with disabilities and special needs.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Feltham
Executive Director