

LINCS:

Working Together for Better Services and Inclusive Communities

Halloween masks, painted wooden candle holders and hand rolled beeswax candles were just some of the things that people made in a crafts class that was held last fall. The class, which was offered by the Community Ventures Society and the Simon Fraser Society (two of the participating agencies in the LINCS Alliance), was held at Salisbury Centre in Port Coquitlam. Not only were some lovely things made during the two months of classes, but the participants and staff from both agencies also got to know each other and looked forward to getting together each week.



By working together, LINCS has been able to offer other opportunities like the craft class described above. There was a volunteer project with Volunteer Burnaby in which several agencies took part, and at Christmas, one agency helped another serve a special lunch at a seniors centre. A drumming class, called Round Rhythms: An Introduction to Drumming, was also offered. The daytime coffee house located at Place Maillardville continues to be a popular meeting place and hip hop dance class is in the final planning stages. These are just the first of many new programs to come.

About LINCS---

Learning • Innovation • Networking • Community • Services

Representatives of several community living agencies which provide day and employment services, as well as some community based services, came together more than a year ago to discuss ways that they could provide more efficient services by sharing resources. They saw this collaboration as an opportunity to meet the needs of people with developmental disabilities and families by offering a wider range of individualized and meaningful activities. It would also help to address wait lists, reduce redundancies of existing services and provide the means to address gaps where new or different programs are needed.

Participating agencies in the LINCS Alliance, which represents the TriCity, New Westminster and Burnaby areas are: *The Burnaby Association for Community Inclusion, Volunteer Burnaby, Community Integration Services Society, Community Ventures Society, Community Volunteer Connections, Fraserside Community Services Society, L'Arche Greater Vancouver, POLARIS Employment Services Society and the Simon Fraser Society for Community Living.*

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IMAGINE CONFERENCE -"Reclaiming Our Passion"

by Steven Braak

The auditorium was dim; there was idol chatter throughout as expectations were being imagined. Suddenly a drum sounded, the room went silent except for the distinguished pounding. Introductions, Welcome all. There were three speakers that captivated their audience and although no one fell to the floor, laughter was heard throughout the entire day.

The first speaker was Michael Kendricks who got people thinking about why we do what we do. He shared many experiences he has had and really brought the point across that it's the little things that make big differences.

Soups on! Lunch was served and live entertainment provided a fabulous backdrop to a buffet style soup and sandwich feast. Door prizes were drawn and a few lucky winners got to enjoy a relaxing massage. There were also a few items beautifully displayed. Then along came Greg Levoy. He spoke and people listened intensely (several purchased his book after...). He spoke about many different aspects as to being in the moment and stepping back and looking where you are. If you toss a stone into a pond you see the ripple effect briefly. Imagine all the stones laying on the bottom, it takes a lot to alter the pond.

Kleenex needed to be passed around as Cathy Anthony, on behalf of families everywhere, spoke to close the day. She praised everyone and gave a heartfelt Thank-you to all who have enable her son to experience life to the fullest and to all those whose profession was assisting people with special needs to achieve their goals.

Imagine if you will a desire to move the world. Individually, it appears impossible, some would attempt but if we all banded together..."*We'd have the whole world in our hands, Imagine that!*"

Connecting with the Community: "Thinkreferrals"

By Lisa Bourget

Back in August, Lois asked Salina and I to speak with two women from a local business group (who happened to wander into CVS). They saw our sign and Mission statement and surmising we were a charity organization wanted to learn more about us. We chatted about the agency; sharing the objectives of the programs and describing the wonderful people we serve. Caroline and Denise explained that they were representatives of "**Thinkreferrals**" a networking group for small business owners and were looking for a Coquitlam based charity to support.

Over the past months the management team has had the privilege of getting to know the members as we attend weekly meetings. They have been extremely generous in terms of financial support (for example, weekly coin drives) and in providing discounted services (i.e. printing business cards). At Christmas-time, "Thinkreferrals" 'adopted' one of our respite families and bought countless gifts for them—they filled a room. You could feel the excitement the group had in doing this and were genuinely committed to 'their family'.

On May 28th, 2005 "**Thinkreferrals**" will be hosting a charity fundraiser in the form of a bowling night at the Pocobowlodrome in Port Coquitlam. They have sold over eighty tickets and gathered countless door prizes. All proceeds raised will be given to CVS. It is an amazing opportunity to not only raise money but to network and connect with members of the community.

We are all extremely grateful to "**Thinkreferrals**" for their commitment to our society.



CLARICA Gifts \$500 to CVS

Jeff Roberts representing Clarica Financial Services Inc presented a cheque for \$500 to Community Ventures Society at a ceremony held at last Thursday's Thinkreferrals breakfast meeting.

This donation will benefit directly those individuals and families served by Community Ventures.

And how was it that Community Ventures Society came to the attention of the Community Grant Committee of Clarica/Sun Life?

It is another example of the power of **Networking**. Some of our good friends at Thinkreferrals were sharing some of the good news stories about life at CVS and we were invited to make a presentation to a committee member. A week later and Thinkreferrals hosted the presentation.

So, a big thank you to Jeff Roberts, our new friends at Clarica and that great bunch at Thinkreferrals.



Bill of Rights– Its About Your Life

by Yaulanda Hennessy

Rosemary Mailloux is holding Bill of Rights classes on Tuesday's from 1:00 till 2:30 pm.

In the Bill of Rights classes you talk about many kinds of Disabilities. You also talk about People's Rights.

Also we practice our parts for the video that we are doing to educate people who are considering joining C.V.S. and their families about Community Ventures Society attitudes and beliefs about people with Disabilities. Like for instance Community Ventures is not against any Nationality. Community Ventures Society believes all people white or any colour are the same.

Community Ventures believes that everyone deserves to be treated nicely and you are listened to and your ideas are listened to. That your ideas, what you believe, what you celebrate etc., as well as your traditions, as well as your race are treated the same.

Community Ventures also believes you have a right to believe in any god or goddess you want to believe in with out any one else trying to make you believe in what they believe in. Community Ventures treats people of all ages the same. Community Ventures treats men, women, boys and girls the same. Community Ventures treats men, women, boys and girls the same. Community Ventures Believes you have a right to choose who you want to love without any one putting you down. That means you can be a man and love a man or be a woman and love a woman or be a man and love a woman and they will not put you down.

You can vote for who ever you want to or believe in what ever you want to and they will not put you down. As well as treat all people with disabilities with respect. You can be in a wheel chair and they will not put you down. You can be developmentally disabled and they will not put you down. A developmental disability is where your body grows faster than your brain. It is not a disease it is a condition like Asperger's Syndrome. For instance a person with a developmental disability can be very outgoing and suddenly will go into their shell. It is a form of Autism. As well as they learn at their own levels as well. As well as they know about your life style too. Like where you went to school, your health conditions, which people you live with etc. so they know about your life...

Solar System and the *Blue Moon* by Yaulanda Hennessy

It was a beautiful evening. The Sun had started to set. The sky was a brilliant set of colours. As evening progressed into nite the stars started to come into view in the sky. My telescope was already set up—ready for me to look into our amazing wonderful Solar System as well as my camera and film were waiting for me to photograph the wonders I was seeing. I looked into the telescope and it was a breath taking sight I saw. The stars were even more spectacular and bright than with the bare naked eye!

The planets were even bigger and more detailed as they came into view. The planets were round and each of them had their own details. Some had gaseous vapor around them . Others had rocky formations.

The moon had craters. It was a bluish colour.

As the night progressed I peered into my telescope. As you know the earth is constantly moving or rotating. Though the Earth is constantly moving we do not feel it. That is why we have a different phases of the moon. And every certain number of years the Moon goes in front of the Sun then you get a Solar Eclipse. And if the moon lines up with the Earth and the sun we get a Lunar Eclipse.

They are rare but beautiful sights to behold. Who knows you may be the next one to behold these wonderful wonders of our wonderful beautiful Solar System—the Milky Way!

*****LOGO CONTEST*****

Background:

Representatives of several community living agencies which provide day services, as well as some community based services, came together more than a year ago to discuss ways that they could provide more efficient services by sharing resources. The group originally called themselves the Community Living Consortium knowing that they would chose a new name that would reflect, how by sharing resources, they could offer a wider range of range of individualized and meaningful activities.

The Consortium now has a new name and

It is looking for a logo to go with it:

The new name is

L • I • N • C • S

Learning • Innovation • Networking • Community • Services

The logo can be either hand drawn or computer generated, and it must photocopy well whether the original is black and white or coloured.

The type face does not have to be the same as the one that was used in this flyer.

If you would like to enter the logo contest, please submit your entry to

The Simon Fraser Society office by Friday, July 29, 2005.

The winner will be chosen, by the executive directors of the agencies involved, during the first week in September.

The person who submits the winning entry will win \$100!

For more information, please call Janet Wintermans at

The Simon Fraser Society office at 604-525-9494