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Milestones:

Congratulations to the following staff who celebrated significant anniversaries with PCL since our Fall 2011 Newsletter.

20 YEARS

**Diane Beech-Reist
(ASP)**

10 YEARS

**Tara Babbage
(ASP)**

5 YEARS

**Lidia Leonowicz
(ASP)**

We're Growing!!

Parents for Community Living is pleased to announce that we have purchased a bungalow in Waterloo. This home will assist in meeting the changing needs of those we support who are aging, as identified in our Strategic Plan 2011-16. PCL will be selling one of our multi-story homes to assist in the financing of this purchase. Currently, plans are underway to renovate the home to meet fire code requirements and accessibility needs. PCL is also excited to share that two individuals we support have moved into apartment set-

tings within the community. One individual resides in an existing apartment at one of our homes and another young man has moved, with great excitement, into an apartment of his own. (See "Living the Dream" below). This frees up



**Monarch Place,
Waterloo**

spaces within our existing homes to admit three new individuals thereby increasing capacity. We couldn't move forward with this initiative without our funding partner. The Ministry of Community and Social Services has supported these initiatives by providing capital and annualized funding. We are excited with this growth opportunity and look forward in the next few months to moving into our newest home.

Our next newsletter will provide a progress report with additional details and pictures.

Living the Dream

Kristopher O. (Kris) is an active young man with a job, many supportive friends and a huge love and knowledge of countless genres of music. But Kris had one major dream that took some time to come to fruition. Kris wanted a place of his own.

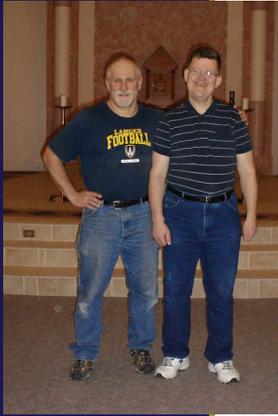
Kris started his journey with Parents for Community Living in their Respite program on Bridgeport Road. Kris's first permanent home with PCL was at Pastern Trail, a 24 hour supported living environment. His desire for more independence saw him move from Pastern Trail to Crimson apartment

and finally Westheights home, an Enhanced Supported Independent living environment. Kris has, for several years, been a valued employee at the Delta Hotel, where he transports clients to and from the hotel, to meetings and appointments, all over the city. Kris's love and knowledge of music has made him the DJ at PCL's annual Family Picnic, a job he enjoys very much. Over the years, Kris has fostered many meaningful friendships with co-workers, staff, friends and family. This winter, Kris's dream of a place of his own became a real-

ity. With support and encouragement from PCL staff, Kris finally found his own apartment. Kris's hard work, communication, respect and a passion to succeed have finally helped him reach his goal. Congratulations, Kris!!



The Story of David O.



Gary Howell and David at St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church

Three things that everyone needs to be happy ... a home of your own, meaningful work and friends..

By Gayle Rogan, SSP Blueridge Home

According to some research, there are three things that everyone needs to be happy ... a home of your own, meaningful work and friends.

David has been supported by PCL for approximately 17 years. Nine of these were at the Queen St. Apartment, two at Westheights, and most recently, six at Blueridge.

David's working career began at St. Louis Roman Catholic Church in Waterloo in 1992. For two of those years, David worked with his Dad, Nate, until Nate retired. In 1998, David went to work for St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church in Kitchener ... right across the street from

Blueridge home. At St. Francis, Nate came out of retirement to work with David, doing maintenance work, but was once again ready to retire in 2008. There was some concern around who would take over from Nate as this person would now be supervising David. Gary Howell was approached to take the position, but he already had a job teaching at Conestoga College. Gary finally did decide that he would like to retire from the college and take the position at St. Francis, but that couldn't happen until 2009. Nate was convinced that Gary was the right person to be supervising David, so he continued to work at St. Francis until Gary took over in 2009. During a short talk with Gary Howell, this writer learned that Gary

understands David's challenges, has been steadily working with David so that he is consistently successful at the tasks that Gary sets for him, and encourages David on a regular basis to learn new things and to master these as well. David has also worked as a volunteer on Thursday afternoons at Victoria Place Retirement Residence for approximately 11 years, and at the Kinsmen Center on Friday afternoons as a paid employee for the past 5 years. Along with his housemates, David considers Jim, the maintenance supervisor at Victoria Place, a long-time friend, and Gary Howell, at St. Francis Church, a new friend. How does David describe himself? "I'm a happy man!"

Volunteers are True Friends

By Karene Marin, SSP Stanwood Home

"Why do you like, Carley, Barb?" "Because she's my friend!" The answer is simple, yet powerful. The volunteers that come through our doors are so important to the lives of the individuals we support. For a short time each week, these individuals have a chance to meet with someone different, who is not their housemate, not their co-worker that they see every weekday, and not their staff. They are one of

the few people in their lives who they refer to as "friend" - and this friend is there just to see them.

Barb leads a full life, which can result in some anxious times for Barb. However; it doesn't matter what her week is like, every Thursday after dinner, Barb looks forward to her weekly visit with Carley when they go to the mall for her favorite treat—a cookie and pop. As soon as they get into the car, the first thing Carley says is "Where to, boss?" - and she means it. For an hour each week, Barb

is the boss. She gets to decide where to go, what to do, and she talks about whatever she wants with her friend. We are really grateful for Carley's dedication to volunteering with Barb. Volunteers often have busy lives themselves so it can be difficult to commit to visits on a regular basis. This is why we need to thank our volunteers for the work that they do. It is meaningful and appreciated by the individuals we support. Barb's life is one that has been truly enriched as a result.



Carley and Barb

Join Us For PCL's 7th Annual Golf Tournament



Kathy and Brenda's team take to the greens at PCL's 6th annual Golf Tournament, May 2011.

try Club, 400 Golf Course Road in Conestoga on Thursday, June 21, 2012. All proceeds from the tournament will go toward capital projects and special needs.

The Golf Registration fee of \$135 (\$90 for students) includes green fees, golf cart, lunch at registration, excellent dinner, silent auction, raffles, draws and prizes. Registration & lunch will be from 11:30-12:45 with tee

offs starting at 1:00 pm.

Last year the golf tournament raised approximately \$8800. Help us exceed that this year!!

Registration forms are available on the website www.pclkw.org, at head office, 30 Dupont St. E. in Waterloo or by phoning 519-742-5849 to have a form sent to you.

Your involvement enables PCL to continue to meet the needs of developmentally challenged individuals in the community.

Thanks for your support!!

PCL's 7th Annual Golf Tournament is set to take place at Conestoga Golf and Coun-



Christmas Party, December 2011

Great food. Fun carol singing. And a visit from Santa. What a terrific party!



Board Members

Sandy Milne (chair)
Trenny McGinnis (vice chair)

John Badham	Darren Becks
Tim Flannery	Jeff Harris
Ed Koenig	Timothy O'Leary
Daniel Paquin	Teresa Radford

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Facebook page, then "like" our page.**

MISSION

**To enhance the quality of life of individuals with
developmental disabilities by providing services
and family-like homes in our community**

VISION

**Every individual with developmental disabilities
lives with dignity as a valued member of our
community.**

Diane Beech-Reist 20 Years

PCL wishes to acknowledge Diane Beech-Reist for 20 years of service to those in our care. Although Diane has worked mainly at the Blueridge home, she has worked at the Crimson, Stanwood, and Pastern Trail homes as well. Diane has remained a constant in the lives of the gentlemen who reside at Blueridge, and has seen them through many of life's triumphs and tragedies. Diane has accompanied the gentlemen on vacation trips, comforted them through illness and the loss of parents and friends, celebrated their accomplishments and milestones, and opened her own home to the Blueridge men throughout these years. Also during this time, Diane has had and raised four children while working another full-time job. Congratulations, Diane!!



Diane with the men at Blueridge Home.

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Thursday, May 10, 2012, 6:00 pm
St. Francis Church Hall
49 Blueridge Ave., Kitchener

Spaghetti, Caesar Salad, Drinks and Dessert

Tickets: \$10
Available at Blueridge Home or at PCL head office, 30 Dupont St. E., Waterloo, Unit L2.

For more information call 519-570-1470 or 519-742-5849.

The Blueridge Gentlemen are planning a trip to Las Vegas this summer. Proceeds from the dinner will help offset the cost of sending support staff to accompany them.,

Thanks for your support!!



Thanks to everyone who bought
**Pamper Yourself For a Year
Raffle tickets.**

PCL sold 122 tickets, 10 of which were winners!!
\$10 from each ticket that we sold came back to PCL and that means \$1220!!
We hope to do this again next year.
Stay tuned!!

Thanks to Tommy Boland,
from St. David's School,

recipient of the 2011
The Kitchener and Waterloo
Community Foundation
France Anne Sweeny "Making
a Difference" Award,
who chose PCL as the recipient
of his award.

Thanks, Tommy!