

Progress Notes

DRCC

Providing residential and support services to persons with disabilities since 1971. December, 2003

• FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR •

Creating Homes

DRCC is in the process of developing two new homes, one in Hermantown and one in Virginia. This is an exciting (and somewhat anxious) time for everyone involved; individuals, their families, case managers, and our staff. Developing a new home presents us with an opportunity to create something new and wonderful for individuals and their families.

Exactly how do you go about creating a home? We all have a vision of what a home should be. For most people this vision includes a place where we are both physically and emotionally comfortable, where we are loved, where we can get recharged, where we are with people we like, where we can do things we like, and where we can safely keep our important "stuff".

Many people are involved in taking the vision and making it become reality. It starts with families and individuals conveying their hopes and dreams to those of us with the responsibility for carrying it out. Each step along the way is important – from finding the right roommates, to finding the right home, to selecting the right staff. Inevitably, there are a few bumps and hurdles along the way and we have to work together to successfully navigate them. Our goal is to have both new homes ready for everyone to move in between mid-January and mid- February 2004.



Michael Mills
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Fairview

The Fairview home is located at 306 North 14¹/₂ Circle in Virginia. Four women will share this two-story home. Three of the four women are currently living with their families and are excited to take this next step. The fourth woman is living in an adult foster setting and is looking forward to a new home.

The women are looking forward to sharing a house with their roommates and having the opportunity to learn a variety of new skills. Fairview promises to be a very active home with good participation in a variety of community activities.

Bishop Woods

The Bishop Woods home will be located at 4816 Oak Ridge Drive in Hermantown. For only the second time in its history, DRCC is designing and building this home. Four children who have significant physical and medical needs will share this new home. An additional bedroom has been incorporated into the design so the home will be able to provide short-term respite for one additional child when a family needs respite.

Accessibility and spaciousness guided the design of the home. Each child will have their own bedroom with plenty of space for their medical equipment and personal belongings. The home will have two whirlpool tubs, an overhead lift system to aid with transferring, and spacious living areas for the children.

Staff will be available twenty-four hours a day to care for and support the children. The staff complement will include an RN, LPNs, and assistants.

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drccinfo.org



drccinfo.org

DRCC has just launched its website - drccinfo.org Our goal in having a website is to make information available to parents, family members, and staff. We will have information on each program, upcoming staff training and registration, and information for applicants.

We would like to thank Diane Galazen, of Design 2Di4, for her very fine design work and Murphy-McGinnis Interactive for their programming and web hosting. Take a look at our site and let us know what you think.

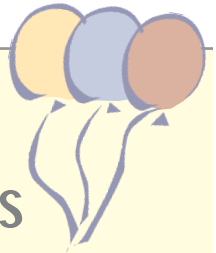


TRIBUTE

Scott Jones, 37, a long-time DRCC-Woodland client, died August 22, 2003 in Duluth. Scott had been with DRCC since 1984. He loved to bowl and compete in Special Olympics. He also enjoyed watching wrestling, racing, and the Jerry Lewis MDA Telethon. He was fun to be with and brought much joy into the lives of many. He will be greatly missed by his friends and family.



Employee Promotions



DRCC is very appreciative of our staff and would like to recognize the following employee promotions over the second half of 2003.

The following employees have been promoted to Program Coordinator.

Brent Harju - IHFS-Duluth

Jathan Barker - Mankato

Wish List



Many of the clients and families we provide support to live on very tight budgets. DRCC always assures that our clients receive gifts as part of the Holiday celebration. This year we add to our "Wish List" families we provide support to through our In-Home Family Support Program who are on limited budgets.

If you would like to help us make the Holidays a little brighter, donations to purchase gifts would be greatly appreciated. Your donation can be mailed in the enclosed envelope. THANK YOU!

Employee Milestones

The work of DRCC is carried out by its many dedicated staff. We are again recognizing staff who have reached a milestone anniversary over the last six months of the year. Without exception, the following employees have shown a commitment to the people they work with - staff and clients, loyalty to DRCC, and a desire to make lives better.

20 YEARS

Shelley Breitzmann started working at DRCC- Triplex in 1983 as a Program Assistant. She is currently a Program Coordinator. Shelly grew up around Lake Kabetogoma and attended Rainy River Community College and Moorhead State. She enjoys gardening, watching wildlife and home remodeling projects with her husband Al since their move to the country last year. Shelley has a great sense of humor, loves organizing parties and activities with the individuals at Triplex.

15 YEARS

Terri Koskinen left the cosmetology field to become a part-time Program Assistant at DRCC-Endion. From there she was promoted to Program Coordinator at the Fourteenth program. She has recently married Peter Koskinen, and they have blended their family of three girls and two boys. Work and family keep Terri very busy, and she still manages to spend time running in local races, including the half marathon, and she is also a board member on the Western Wisconsin Epilepsy Foundation.

Doug Davis is a Program Director with DRCC-Soft Hands. He has worked as Program Assistant, Program Coordinator, and, for the past four years, as director of the program. In his spare time Doug is a musician (he has played with several bands over the years including the Lou Orsoni Quartet and the Huckleberries), an author (he is co-author of *Badger Bars and Taverns* recently published by Amherst Press), a record collector, kayaker, and Wisconsin breweriana enthusiast (ask Doug what that entails). Doug has a grown daughter, and lives with his partner Louise in Superior.

Karen Stock grew up on a large farm near St. Joseph, MN. She has a lovely lake home on Grand Lake that she shares with her cat, Sugar, who is also a Triplex alumni. She works as a Program Coordinator at DRCC-Triplex. Karen enjoys the outdoors, snow-shoeing in the winter and walking the rest of the year.

10 YEARS

Nina Ford has worked for DRCC since 1993. She has been a respite provider for several DRCC clients. She has provided respite for one individual since he was six years old. Nina is also employed by Northwoods Children's Services as a therapist in their "Little Learners" program. Nina and her husband John live in Superior.



• DRCC'S FOURTH ANNUAL • "Golf with the Stars"

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE
5th ANNUAL "GOLF WITH THE STARS"
AUGUST 20, 2004

On August 15th DRCC held its Fourth Annual "Golf with the Stars" fundraising event. More than 50 guests joined DRCC for an enjoyable evening of activities including a social hour and putting contest, dinner, live and silent auctions, and the ever-challenging round of night golf. This year's event raised more than \$8,000.

All of the money raised is used to directly benefit individuals served by DRCC. This is particularly

important now, when some of the 2003 legislative changes have had a direct and significant impact on the personal spending money for a number of our clients and families. Effective October 1st, individuals are charged co-payments for their doctor visits and prescriptions. For most of the individuals we serve the co-payments are modest and will have a minor impact. However, for a small group of individuals, who have many

medications and frequent doctor visits, the impact is dramatic. DRCC plans to use a portion of the golf proceeds to help soften the impact for these individuals.

We want to thank everyone who contributed to this fundraiser. The event's success would not have been possible without the generous support from all the sponsors, contributors, and those who participated.



The winning team is pictured left to right, Gary Follmer, John Decaro, Joe Malley, and Larry Dyson.



The winner of the putting contest was Steve DeZeler.

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Golf Event Proceeds



Molly McGovern with her prized keyboard.



Kathleen Driscoll shows off her new camera.

Due in part to the proceeds of the DRCC's "Golf with the Stars" event, **Molly McGovern**, who receives support from DRCC's In-Home Family Support program in Duluth, was able to purchase a keyboard. **Kathleen Driscoll**, who shares a house with two other women at DRCC-Merritt, received money to purchase a camera.

Molly, who is nine years old, attends school at Hermantown Elementary School. Molly is very excited about her keyboard, as she loves music. The keys light up to assist her with playing songs. She has already learned to play a variety of songs. She enjoys playing for her many audiences!

Kathleen became interested in photography at UDAC. Part of her activities at UDAC include exposure to a variety of creative mediums including photography. Kathleen enjoys taking pictures of scenery, in particular Enger Tower and Lake Superior. She also enjoys taking pictures of friends.

Community Enrichment Week Kick Off a Success!

Lester Park was the sight for the kick off of Community Enrichment Week in Duluth. On Sunday, October 19th, Consumers and staff from DRCC, Trillium Services and RSI joined together to clean Lester Park. This week-long event is sponsored by ARRM (Association of Residential Resources in Minnesota). Throughout Minnesota providers held a variety of activities celebrating the contributions people with disabilities make within their communities. Bright yellow bags bearing the message "Working Together with People of All Abilities" were filled with garbage collected at Lester Park. ARRM anticipated that over 3000 bags would be filled with trash collected throughout the state. Two of the local TV stations were present, as well as a reporter and photographer from the Duluth News Tribune. Everyone had a great time and is already anticipating next year's event.





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MISSION STATEMENT

DRCC provides direct and supporting residential services to persons with disabilities. These services assure that each person exerts the greatest possible control over their life, and provides an environment in which each person has an opportunity to develop relationships with others.



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The Duluth Regional Care Center is a private, non-profit organization. Services are paid with a combination of funds from St. Louis, Carlton, and Lake County Social Services, the State of Minnesota and the Federal Medicaid Program.