

# Progress Notes



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

July, 2006

## A “Close-Up” Look at the Nation’s Capitol

This spring, James Kuopus, a graduating senior from Eveleth-Gilbert High School, went on a week-long Close-Up Foundation educational trip to Washington, D.C. The Close-Up Foundation is a nonpartisan citizenship education organization that promotes participation in the democratic process through a variety of educational programs. Each year, more than 20,000 students, teachers, and others take part in Close-Up’s programs in Washington, D.C. According to one of James’ teachers, he is the first person with Down’s Syndrome to be chosen as a participant in the Close-Up program. A grant using funds from DRCC’s Golf Fundraiser helped make this week-long trip possible for James.

James’ week was packed with a sun-up to sun-down schedule visiting places such as: the FDR Memorial, American History Museum, Natural History Museum, Thomas Jefferson Memorial, Smithsonian National Museum, WW II Memorial, Abraham Lincoln Memorial, Korean War memorial, the Pentagon, Longworth House, Cannon



James in front of the Supreme Court.

House, the Supreme Court, and Union Station. Additionally the group discussed current political issues.

James kept a journal throughout the trip, one excerpt follows:

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*I sure liked my trip and my favorite place was the White House. I would like to thank my mom and dad for making this trip possible. Also thank Gloria for working with me out there, Polly Sorcan for getting the tickets to the White House for us, and Mr. Johnson for allowing me to go on this great trip. I will never forget this trip.*

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James plans to attend Hibbing Community College’s Culinary Arts Program this fall.

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## REACHING YOUR POTENTIAL

In March of 2004, DRCC began a new program supporting teenagers who require accessible housing. The individuals living at Bishop Woods have numerous diagnoses including; cerebral palsy, developmental disabilities and medical fragility.

**Shantel Fillman**, a smiley, adorable 15 year old at the time of her move to Bishop Woods was given the prognosis “poor”. Shantel had spent much of her childhood in and out of hospitals with pneumonia and other respiratory complications. Her use of a tracheostomy to breathe often complicated the illnesses she was susceptible to. Shantel’s potential was dependent upon her surviving another hospitalization. She did not get out much and schooling had

to occur in her home. She remained vulnerable to respiratory infections.

In spite of this, Shantel with her love of life never gave up. She continues to work on reaching her fullest potential. What this will be depends on Shantel and what she wants to become. She now is preparing to celebrate her 18th birthday and in September will reach a huge milestone – one year without a tracheostomy. You may be surprised to know that Shantel attends Hermantown High School, attended her junior prom this year and is spending part of her summer in sailing classes offered through Courage Center. Her physician will need to change the prognosis from poor to great!



## Pomp and Circumstance

—*Congratulations Terry, we are all very proud of you!*



Graduation is a special occasion for all high school seniors. We would like to recognize one of our high school graduates, **Terry Beehler**. Graduating from Proctor High School was a very proud moment for Terry. It was the culmination of years of hard work ending with ceremony and celebration.

As a senior Terry was recognized as a Student of the Week, an honor only a few selected individuals receive. He was recognized for his work with the football team as well as with the assistance he provided to fellow classmates. The Proctor Rails newspaper recognized Terry for his outstanding contributions to the

school and community. Terry looks forward to new opportunities as he moves forward. He is currently doing yard maintenance for the summer as he looks for permanent employment. He is also looking forward to moving into new home that he will share with another individual.

## 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 first 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.*

### 25 YEARS

**Michelle Hooley** celebrated her 25th anniversary in April of this year. In 1981 she began working part-time at *DRCC-Baldwin* as a direct-care staff. What started as an interim job, until she got her “real” job, has turned out to be a wonderfully successful career. Michelle brought with her a set of values and skills that were a perfect match for her newfound career.

She has been very instrumental in developing many of the homes DRCC currently operates. This is what she enjoys best – starting something new that will make a positive difference for others.

In her spare time Michelle enjoys spending time with her family, gardening, crafting, and cooking.

### 15 YEARS

**Deanna Herschbach** has been employed with DRCC-Aurora for 15 years and lives in Embarrass. Deanna has two grown children and grandchildren and is *DRCC-Aurora’s* gardener. Deanna plants the garden every summer and is our killer cook and canner. She makes a wonderful salsa with the garden’s fresh veggies. Deanna is a loving and caring employee and the clients love spending time with her!

**Duane Sauter** has been with DRCC since April 1991. He has worked at three DRCC programs on the Range and is currently Program Coordinator at *DRCC-Northside*. Duane is well known for his easygoing manner and sense of humor. He and his wife, Kathy, Program Director for *IHFS-Range*, are the live-in staff in the apartment attached to *Northside*.

**Kris Collins** has been with DRCC for 15 years and is the Program Coordinator for *DRCC-Aurora*. Kris and her husband Tim live in Palo, and have a son who is currently attending college. Kris enjoys the outdoors, four-wheeling, loves plants, flowers and long walks on her many acres of property. Kris is an outstanding employee and always has a smile on her face and is noted for her bubbly personality!

### 10 YEARS

*We also have several employees who reached their 10-year anniversary during the first half of 2006.*

**Beth Anderson**  
*Harbor 15*

**Jennifer Rue**  
*Merritt*

**Barb Bayly**  
*Triplex*

**Kathy Larsen**  
*Triggs*

**Elsa Erickson**  
*Soft Hands*



*DRCC is very appreciative of our staff and would like to recognize the following employee promotions over the first half of 2006.*

*The following employees have been promoted to **Program Coordinator**:*

**Stephanie McAdamis** - *Melrose*

**Adam Dargatz** - *LaVerne*

**Aryn Pitman** - *Bishop Woods*

**Amy Halverson** - *Rockridge*

# DRCC'S SEVENTH ANNUAL "Golf with the Stars"

Our Seventh Annual Golf event will take place once again this year at Big Lake Golf Club on Friday, August 25th. Those attending can plan on an evening of fun including dinner, silent and live auction, putting contest, ladder golf and of course nine holes of night golf.

The proceeds from this fundraiser are used for a variety of special needs /requests for our clients and families. Funds are used for a variety of needs including; special trips, clothing, medical supplies, adaptive equipment and other items not covered by traditional reimbursement systems.

**Again, the event will be held at Big Lake Golf Club in Cloquet. The event starts at 5:30 p.m. with a social hour, followed by dinner, an auction and golf. The cost for each golfer is \$40.00.**

**This includes dinner and golf. If you're interested in joining us for a fun-filled evening contact us at 722-8180.**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS! – DRCC's 7th Annual "Golf with the Stars" will be August 25th, 2006.**

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Dennis Ramberg

Kent Oliver

Tony Mancuso

Laurie Matthews

Ellen Quinn

Laura Weintraub

Angela Daugherty



## FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

For DRCC to effectively carry out its mission, it is essential that we have a complement of staff who are committed, knowledgeable, and caring. Without the staff who provide the direct support, we cannot provide services. We are very fortunate to have a tremendous number of staff who have been with DRCC, providing quality services, for many years.

In each of our newsletters, we recognize those staff who have reached milestone anniversaries (5 years, 10 years, 15 years, etc...). Each time we prepare the list it grows, and we are reminded that it is these staff who are making the services happen in the community. When we started our newsletter, we would include a narrative about each person who reached a milestone anniversary. Over the years, we have had to modify this, simply because we had so many staff reaching these milestones. Now it takes 10 years to be mentioned and 15 plus for a narrative. This really does not do justice to the efforts of the many staff who are reaching other milestones.

Below are a few numbers that give this some perspective:

- **68 (14%) of DRCC's employees have worked for DRCC for 10 or more years.**
- **167 (34%) of DRCC's employees have worked for DRCC for five or more years.**
- **249 (51%) of DRCC's employees have worked for DRCC for three or more years.**

This core group of staff gives our services a degree of stability and continuity that cannot be matched. Cumulatively, their work and commitment make DRCC's services what they are today.

## DRCC Annual Board Meeting

At DRCC's annual board meeting held on June 1, 2006 the following individuals were elected as Board officers: pictured left to right, **Mickey Ferguson, Secretary/Treasurer; Dennis Ramberg, Vice President; and Nancy Lane, President.**



The Annual Board meeting is a time when staff and Board members meet as a group to discuss the financial health of the organization. Auditors from McGladrey-Pullen presented DRCC's audited financial statement to the group. As in the past, DRCC continues to be a viable, financially healthy non-profit organization that consistently uses its' resources in a very thoughtful and fiscally responsible manner.

### *Thank You!* A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO DRCC DURING THE PAST SIX MONTHS.

*George and Dadee Reilly  
Marsha and William Driscoll  
Beverly McIntosh  
Judith and Gerald Bakken  
Charles and Judyth Babst  
Nick and Joan Ostapenko  
Bobbie and Jim Gimpel  
Warren and Marjorie Spannaus  
Mike Freundschuh, Non-Profits Insurance Agency  
Frank Gerard  
Michael and Marilyn Sullivan  
Margaret Bahl  
Clyde and Marion Craven  
Susan Rantala-Nelson  
Greg Kamp, Coldwell Banker East/West Realty  
Dave Corbin, Coldwell Banker East/West Realty  
Dennis and Kari Ramberg*





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## MISSION STATEMENT

*DRCC provides direct and supporting 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.*



## DRCC Board of Directors

Nancy Lane, President  
Dennis Ramberg, Vice President  
Mickey Ferguson, Secretary/Treasurer  
Laura Weintraub  
Tim Grundtner  
Laurie Mathews  
Kent Oliver  
Ellen Quinn  
Katie Bridges

*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.*