

Progress Notes



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

December 2010

Staff Survey Results

Every three years DRCC conducts a comprehensive survey of all its employees. A small employee work group reviews/revises the survey tool and then tallies and summarizes the results. This year 318 of DRCC's approximate 500 employees completed the survey.

The results are truly heartening. Virtually everyone who responded indicated that they enjoy their work with the individuals we serve and also believe that DRCC is a good organization to work for. This is a great formula for the provision of quality services. We have employees who are committed to the individuals we serve and who believe they are part of an organization with a strong mission that values their efforts.

In addition to the overall positive feedback, employees also provided a number of suggestions for making improvements. We will be working to incorporate these ideas into our organization.

Another Difficult Legislative Session

Doesn't this sound familiar? The primary focus of the last two legislative sessions was working to resolve the state's budget deficit. And now, it's back again - bigger than ever. Current projections estimate that the projected deficit for the state's next two-year budget will be roughly five to six billion dollars.

So, what might this mean for services for persons with disabilities? Unfortunately, because the projected deficit is so large, legislators will likely consider reducing virtually every aspect of services. This includes basic services such as dental and physical therapy, rate reductions for residential and in-home services, increased co-payments for individuals and their families, and restricting access to services. Everyone will be asked to make do with less.

It is going to be critical to pay attention and advocate throughout the legislative session. Legislative alerts will be available through the ARC and other advocacy organizations. Contact your local legislator to make them aware of how proposed legislative proposals will impact individuals close to you.

Chili Cook-off

A team of staff and clients from **Woodland** and **LaVerne** once again participated in the 19th Annual United Way of Greater Duluth Chili Cook-Off. They did not come away with the prize but it was fun to be a part of the event – there is always next year.



From left to right: Richard, Lori, Adam, and Theresa

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Golf with the Stars.....	2
Big Fish Story.....	3
El Festival de Viernes.....	3
Employee Milestones.....	4
Employee Promotions.....	4
New Triggs.....	4
Eerie Rituals.....	5

Golf with the Stars 2010 a great success!

This year's event was held on August 20th at Big Lake Golf Club in Cloquet, Minnesota.

More than \$9,300 was raised this year. Proceeds from this annual event are used to support a variety of recreational and social opportunities for the individuals served by DRCC. This includes the purchase of recreational equipment, sponsoring social activities such as dances and game nights, and providing passes for community activities. Additionally, a portion of the funds are used for special circumstances such as purchasing clothing and other basic necessities for individuals or to purchase adaptive equipment



for individuals with physical disabilities.

We are so grateful for all of you who contribute each year to make this event so successful!

We would like to extend a special thank you to our committee members: Tony Mancuso, Kent Oliver, Dennis Ramberg, Alex Giuliani, Julie Seidelmann and staff members Mike Mills, Sandy DeZeler and Michelle Hooey.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GOLF CONTRIBUTORS

Aces on First & 29th	Lake Superior Zoo
ActivStyle Inc.	Licari, Larsen & Co., Ltd.
Allegiant Air	Magic Carpet Mart
API Electric Company	Mancuso, Tony & Mariann
Architectural Resources Inc.	McDonald's
Ayres Associates	MN Timberwolves
Beacon Bank	MN Twins
Big Lake Golf Club	Mr. D's Bar & Grill
Butler, Ken & Mary	N. G. Engineering
Campbell's Do-It Best	Nonprofits' Insurance
Clearis Consulting Inc.	Nordic Waste Services Inc.
Coldwell Banker (East West Realty)	North Shore Scenic Railroad
Comfort Suites, Canal Park	Northern Business Products
Corbin, David & Theresa	Northland Consulting Eng.
Curry Concrete Construction	Northland Plastic Surgery
D&S Development Inc.	Nursery Grown Trees
DECC OmniMax Theatre and William A. Irvin	Oliver Management Services Embassy Suites, Brooklyn Ctr.
DSGW Architects	Hampton Inn Lino Lakes
Duluth Dodge	Oliver, Suzanne
Duluth King Inc.	Oneida Realty
Dunbar Floral & Gifts	Oral & Maxillofacial Surgical
Grand Casino Hinckley	Osbakken, Janice
Grand Casino Mille Lacs	Poplar Hardware:
Grandma's Restaurants	Scott & Terry Lundberg
Great Lakes Aquarium	Perkins Family Restaurant
Hanson, Ron & Kathy	PreferredOne
Hermantown Amoco	Ramberg, Dennis & Kari
ICO	Reilly, George & Dadee
Johnson Brothers Furniture	Soderlund, Rick & Gail
Johnson, Killen & Seiler, PA	Sullivan Supply
Johnson Mertz Appliances	The Inn on Lake Superior
Just For The Season Gallery	The Shack
Krause Sheet Metal	Watercolors by Rosemary
	Widdes Feed & Farm Supply

Please plan on joining us next year. The date for next year's event is August 19, 2011.

HOLE SPONSORS:

HOLE-IN-ONE SPONSORS

Nonprofits' Insurance Agency

EAGLE SPONSORS

ActivStyle Inc.
API Electric
Duluth Dodge
Licari, Larsen & co., Ltd.
Reilly, George & Dadee

Birdie Sponsors

Clearis Consulting Inc.
ICO
Oral & Maxillofacial Surgical
Associates
Ramberg, Dennis & Kari

PAR SPONSORS

Architectural Resources Inc.
Beacon Bank
Butler, Ken & Mary
Coldwell Banker (East West
Realty)
Corbin, David & Theresa
Curry Concrete Construction
Inc.
DSGW Architects
Hanson, Ron & Kathy
Johnson Brothers Furniture
Johnson, Killen & Seiler PA
Oneida Realty
Preferred One

El Festival de Viernes

Friday Fest's second annual fishing contest was made into a fiesta at the DRCC cabin in July. While some avid fishermen cast off the dock, others enjoyed mariachi music, tacos-in-a-bag and lawn games. The night was capped off when everyone at the fiesta got a crack at piñatas. In August, about 100 people returned to Chamber's Grove for a Carnival. Just like last year, the highlight was the dunk tank. **Heather Peterson** from *IHFS-Duluth* gleefully reported, "It was fun. There were hot dogs, chips and punch there at the park, and I dunked **Michelle Hooey**." Artists like Duran Duran and the Bangles blared through the Copper

Top Church on a September night as people boogied at the "80's Dance". At the dance everyone voted and by a slim margin Beetlejuice was the selected movie for October's Halloween movie night. The last Friday Fest event of 2010 was a barn dance, where country music ruled the queue. While some of the events in 2011 will be favorite repeats, the Friday Fest Committee, lead by **Jeanette Curry**, are excited to try some new events. Here is a tentative schedule for the first half of the year:

- ✓ **January: Bingo**
- ✓ **February: Sledding**
- ✓ **March: Dance**
- ✓ **April: Arts and Crafts Ice Cream Social**
- ✓ **May: Pizza Train**
- ✓ **June: DRCC semi-formal Gala**



BIG Fish Story

On September 17th **Matt Carlson** and his staff **Hannes Honkola** decided to go fishing at Mott Pit in Mountain Iron. The pit is known mostly as a trout pit - but not that night. After fishing for 30 minutes the guys caught the fish. Hannes caught it and Matt helped net it. The walleye weighed in at a whopping 14 pounds and was 33 inches in length. It was the first walleye either one had caught at Mott Pit.



From left to right: Hannes Honkola, Matt Carlson.

Employee Milestones



The work of DRCC is carried out by its many dedicated staff. We are again recognizing employees who have reached a milestone anniversary between July 1, 2010 and December 31, 2010. 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.

30 YEARS

Randy Lehto started at DRCC on September 4, 1980 as a maintenance person. Throughout the years Randy has worked hard to assure that our homes are well maintained. He likes to go the extra mile to make quality improvements. Randy also enjoys his cabin, cutting wood, and reading. On January 1, 2011 Randy will retire from DRCC and will surely be missed.

20 YEARS

Joyce McIntyre has worked at *Thalassic* for 20 years. She is both a friend and care giver to the clients. She has used her spare time to create beautiful creative memory books to illustrate how things have changed over the years at *Thalassic*. We at *Thalassic* have witnessed Joyce put the needs of others before her own many times. She has opened her heart and extended herself to help her adult children, her grandchildren, her parents, and her friends when needed.

Abigail Stubblefield came to DRCC on December 13, 1990. As Accounts Receivable Coordinator, Abigail manages all the billing for the services DRCC provides. Outside of work Abigail enjoys her dog Carson, gardening, and backpacking.

15 YEARS

We have three employees who reached their 15-year anniversary during the second half of 2010.
Jackie (JD) Dold - Endion
Rex Hendrickson - Soft Hands
Michael Johnson - Jitney

10 YEARS

We also have several employees who reached their 10-year anniversary during the second half of 2010.
Renee Vandemore - Administration
Betsy Knutson - Winona
Tim Ohman - Maintenance
Tracie Reamer - Merrit
Sharon Forse - Administration
Jennifer Danielson - Meridian
Tabatha Carlson - IHFS - Lake
Deb Zupancich - Lambert
Paula Dalbec - Winona

Employee Promotions

DRCC is very appreciative of our staff and would like to recognize the following employee promotions over the second half of 2010.

*The following employees have been promoted to **Program Director**:*
Greg Vidmar - Aurora
Steve Moilan - IHFS-Range

*The following employees have been promoted to **Program Coordinator**:*
Lynne Thornton-Dewhurst - South Grove
Kat Hackey - IHFS-Range
Stacy McCullough - Northside



New Triggs

On September 10th, **DRCC Triggs** moved from 2418 Triggs Avenue to 3010/3012 Berkeley Road in Hermantown. It has always been our dream to move *Triggs* to a location that provided more space for the three young men that share the house. Earlier this year we began the search and found a newer side-by-side one-level home in the Hermantown area that meets the needs of the men.

We did some remodeling to the home - new windows, flooring and painting really made the home so much fresher! Each side has bedrooms, bath, kitchen, living/dining area and an attached garage.

For two of the clients, *Triggs* has been their home since they were youngsters. We knew the move would be somewhat traumatic for them. Staff did plenty of visits to their new home during the remodeling phase. Everyone seems to be settled in and enjoying their new home.

CONTRIBUTORS:

A special thanks to the following individuals and businesses who have contributed to DRCC over the past six months.

George and Dadee Reilly
Thomas and Julie Seidelmann
Brien and Nellie Mathews
Rick and Gail Soderlund

Andrew Stevenson
Knights of Columbus -
St. Lawrence Church
Minnesota Power Foundation

Thank You!

Eerie Rituals

DRCC Homes Jitney and Bishop Woods Continue Their Halloween Tradition

Late October is an exciting time of the year if you are interested in having a good time while exploring your dark side. Halloween provides an opportunity to dress up in scary, funny and sometimes strange costumes. Halloween also marks the beginning of the overeating season. These things make Halloween an enticing time to throw a party, which both DRCC *Jitney* and *Bishop Woods* do, and do well.

Jitney's Halloween party occurred on Friday, October 29th, beginning at 6pm. The clients there traveled more towards the frightening hemisphere of the costume world. The gentlemen at *Jitney* transformed themselves into a demon, a gorilla and Freddy Krueger. The fourth individual shied away from costumes of that nature, and decided to be the Cat in the Hat. Close to forty guests enjoyed sloppy joes, "worm brownies" and later in the night smores by the fire outside. There were several games played that

night, including; bouncy-ball guessing game (the answer being 746 bouncy balls in the container), pumpkin penny toss, and spooky bingo. **Dave Frankenfeld**, Program Director of *DRCC Jitney*, already has decided to continue the tradition with a 2011 party.

The theme for **Bishop Woods** sixth annual party was the "Halloween Hoe-down". The event began at 5pm on Tuesday, October 26th. The four ladies that reside at *Bishop Woods* all dressed in farmer's garb. Three chickens and a rabbit comprised a petting zoo. Unfortunately, bad weather prevented a horse from attending the party. Close to 100 humans attended the event, however.

A barbeque style dinner was provided, also with brownies formed into "cow pies". There was a costume contest, pin the tail on the donkey, and bobbing for apples. **Carrie Nelson**, Director at *Bishop Woods*, mentioned that, "It was a blast this year, and the ladies are already excited for next year."

Halloween is a night of mystery, a night of overindulgence, and most of all a night to masquerade as someone, or something else. And if you are lucky enough to attend these parties, you get to experience that for three nights.





728 Garfield Avenue
Duluth, MN 55802-2634
(218) 722-8180

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

MISSION STATEMENT

*DRCC is a non-profit agency
committed to providing quality services
to individuals and families across the
age and disability spectrum.*



DRCC Board of Directors

Kent Oliver, President

Wes Mattsfield, Vice President

Dennis Ramberg, Secretary/Treasurer

Alex Giuliani

Kathy Hanson

Tony Mancuso

Jessica Durbin

Julie Seidemann

Myron Stevenson

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