

Sharing Life Stories

Colorado LifeSharing Community Newsletter

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Fall 2011

Where we are now ~ Where we wish to go

"Seeing Together" is the theme of 3 CLS Strategic Planning meetings this fall. The Board of Directors recognizes that we need to determine a plan of action now and set it in motion before major State funding cutbacks become a reality. Some questions addressed by the Strategic Planning Committee are: What brought us together? What is our purpose? What were the turning points of CLS? How will we face uncertain times in funding support? How will we adapt to this situation and not react? How can we keep the spirit of Camphill communities within our focus as our CLS community lives within the greater Loveland community?

The initial meeting set priorities. The next two are planned to focus on CLS Principals & Practices and our short and long term financial plans. A report of the final plan will be shared with our stakeholders: parents, donors, staff, and friends for comment and discussion. CLS is committed to continue providing those individuals involved (staff, participants and volunteers) in our residential and week-day programs, the quality of caring, guidance, and support unique to a life-sharing community.

~Nancy Jones, Board Chair

Host Home Providers

In July, Colorado LifeSharing held an informational meeting for people who are interested in becoming Host Home Providers. We are looking at ways that we can grow and expand our community to serve people in residential settings. A Host Home Provider is a person or family who provides a home to someone who has special needs. As a person centered provider, everyone's needs differ and some people do better in smaller settings such as a Host Home.

Host Homes Providers also help serve our community by providing much needed respite services for families or other care providers who are in need of time off. Host Homes also provide CLS with a safety net in the event that a resident needs to be moved from their current care setting in case of an emergency.



Top: Mollie and Liz pet a chick
Bottom: Annie smiles for the camera

Their Time To “Shine”

Flatirons Community Church of Lafayette sponsored a dance, “Shine”, for adults with developmental disabilities, that created much excitement at the Green House.

About one month prior to the dance, the Green House family made a special trip to Lafayette, Colorado to get fitted for formal prom style gowns. Lea chose a beautiful pale pink satin gown with glitzy beadwork on the bodice and an elegant flowing skirt. Annie chose a sophisticated black gown with a raised sequined floral pattern. The women were elated. Although their housemate, Mollie, wouldn't be able to attend the dance, she was able to share in their excitement. After some gown adjustments by a 'Shine' Seamstress, the gowns were zipped into

garment bags and carried gently on each girl's lap for the trip home to Loveland.

Finally, it was June 24th...the long awaited day! After donning their new formal wear, and getting their hair and make-up done by Sam,

Lea and Annie were ready to attend their first big dance. The Green House gals looked beautiful! Though the drive was long and the procession of vehicles to get to the curb seemed longer, time passed quickly as the ladies chatted and laughed with mounting excitement about the big dance. The sidewalk in front of the Flatirons Community Church was full of people! Hundreds of gorgeous participants and their caregivers were arriving to the sound of a growing crescendo of cheers from these amazing 'Shine' party volunteers. Tears welled up in my eyes...never before had I experienced such a beautiful and amazing sight. I choked back more tears as we were swept inside to the big party.

This party is called 'Shine' for excellent reasons! From the very first moments, this Hollywood style 'Shine' party unfolded - surprises full of joy and love awaited us all. We were met inside by two capable escorts, Jin and Michelle, who stayed by the women's sides all evening, ensuring their safety and enjoyment. Professional photographers were waiting to capture the beauty of

each person throughout the event. The evening was **full** of music, dancing, games, and surprises that seemed to unfold endlessly. Their evening even included a sit down catered Chick Filet meal around white cloth covered tables. At the end of the evening, the Green House gals were also gifted with backpacks full of goodies. Caregivers, like me, were also pampered with food, gifts, and massages.

Being disabled was not the focus at this 'Party'....being a human being, full of grace, dignity and value was **HIGH** on this party's agenda. The evening wasn't about being different...it was about having fun and feeling 'normal' and about having **a big dance party**.

Our Green House family would like to thank the Flatirons Community Church for this exquisite evening of love & happiness as well Lea's and Annie's families for their support and assistance. The Big 'Shine' Party is an annual event and we are already scheduling our calendars for the 2012 party!

~Sam Davies, Green House Householder



*“Are we going to go again next year?”
~Annie and Lea*



Annie & Lea at the prom.

CLS Family Welcomes Newcomers

Board Increases to 7

CLS is very pleased to welcome four new members to our Board of Directors ~ **Mark Gilford, Deb Douglas, Sarita Reddy, and Brita Jones.**

Mark, a Loveland resident, has been a long time volunteer for CLS, embracing the organization's vision of a "community united with participants of special needs and people who care for them". With his proficient technical background, he has, and still is, very involved in creating and managing with our staff, the CLS Web Site and marketing material.

Deb is also a long time friend and supporter of CLS. Deb has strong ties with the Camphill Communities in the US and provides insight for CLS into the philosophy of community that inspires our own vision. Deb shares her experience and creative ideas for our program expansions.

Sarita is a new resident of Loveland. As a past director of Georgia Options, an organization that provides outstanding person-centered care for adults with special needs, Sarita's expertise is very valuable to CLS. She feels that the "connection of CLS is her connection to her new community of Loveland". Sarita serves as our Board Secretary.

Brita has accepted the position of our Board Treasurer. She has been with the Home State Bank system for a number of years and now is Manager of the branch in downtown Loveland. She has been familiar with CLS and our residents, several who visit her bank regularly. When Brita was asked if she could recommend any Home State employees who may want to serve on our board, we were very pleased to hear from her!

We thank all of these outstanding professionals that have committed to volunteer their time and expertise to support the mission and goals of CLS.

Our Board of Directors is still looking for other members. If you have questions about how you may fit these positions, please contact **Nancy Jones, Board Chair: nancybjones@comcast.net.**

New Managers

After saying good-bye to Jon Robertson, our former Day Program Manager, CLS has hired 2 new managers to take his place.

Rebecca (Becki) Temple is our new part-time Day Program Manager. She has years 3 years of experience with this population and 2 years of experience with day services. She is looking forward to starting the Supported Employment program to give those who are able an opportunity to work in their community. We are excited to have her and her great ideas for enhancing our programming.

Michelle Ross is our new part-time Residential Manager. She has 13 years of experience in the field and is also a host home provider for 2 participants outside of our agency. We welcome her wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm as she enhances the quality of living for our residents.

We are thrilled to have both Becki and Michelle as our organization looks ahead to potential growth and changes. The two of them have jumped in with both feet, already making positive contributions.



Cheryl,
Courtney,
Mollie &
Sam



Mollie &
Lea

New AmeriCorps Members

Colorado LifeSharing is pleased to welcome 4 new AmeriCorps members into our community. Courtney Smith started with us last April, while the other three, Katrina Householder, Mollee Hubbard, and Amy Volweider, started more recently in July. They have already made enormous contributions to our house and day program, supporting existing staff to provide direct care, as well as thinking of new and creative artistic and cultural activities to engage our participants. They come from as far away as Indiana and as close as Greeley, Colorado. We are thankful they are all here and for bringing their unique gifts to share with our community.

Thank you to our CLS Supporters!

We would like to acknowledge all of the donors who have contributed to our community over the past year by giving their financial contributions, time, and/or in-kind materials. **We value each of you and your support of our community.** Thank you very much!



Liz and Seth
bird watching



Liz and Annie
waiting for the
bus



CSUnity Volunteer Group
Kathleen Adams
Joslin & Kyle Alexander
Rusty & Kara Alexander and family
Barbara Allen
Bruce & Helen Ambuel
Nancy Austro
Tito & Mary Ellen Balducci
Kathleen & Marvin Boeding
Cherry Britton
Bert Broekstra
Mark Brown
Tom & Barb Buell
James Damman & Acubalance, LLC
George Daranyi
Monica Daranyi & Stephen S. Wise Temple
Esteban Daranyi
Deb Douglas
John Ellis
Ellen Friedlander
Charlotte Friedman
Mark & Nancy Gershman
Mark Gilford
Mike Green & Carol Rankin

Susan Haas
Alex Hanson & Nancy Woodward
Ron & Karen Hindman
Chris Ingham
Messoumeh Irani
Brandt Irion
Terrance & Kathleen James
Irwin & Joanne Johnson
Brita Jones
Nancy Jones
Lynn Kincanon
Twylla Knake
Arthur Kompolt
Nick & Joan Kyle
Elizabeth Lewis
Ellie Linke & Douglas Blytheman
Mike Loughlin
Don & Alayne Macaulay
Gregg & Mary Martens
D.J. & Kimmie Mason
John McCluskey
Charles McJilton
Jeff & Kara Mixon
Mike Morris
Linda Morrison

Lee & Ines Oppenheim
Peter & Jen Orgonlini
Elena Price & Matthew Bertrand
Dale Quakenbush
Michael Reid & Tricia Grable
Sarita Reddy
Sean Reiland
Peter & Cook Rodgers
Michelle Ross
Warren Sill
Bruce & Dorothy Smith
Sam & Elizabeth Smith
Hobart Smith
Claus Sproll
Courtney Todd
Joel Todd
Wess Todd
Roberta Van Schilfgaarde
Kristin Vosburg
Kim & Kathleen Wennesland
Lee Worthington
Jon Youngblut
Beatrice Zaslow
Natalie Zaslow Price
Steve Zaslow

Volunteers Needed

Over the past year, CLS has benefited from a number of volunteers. Volunteers have donated use of their vehicles and their muscles to move our office and our residences. They've put up shelves, landscaped and made our living and work spaces more comfortable and usable. Individuals have volunteered their time to teach our participants new skills and provide companionship. We are always looking for new volunteers to help on a weekly basis or just for special events and projects. If you are interested in donating your time to help the CLS family, please get in touch with us at info@coloradolifesharing.org.

Ali helping Dana with
cupcakes



Sweet Partnership

This summer, CLS entered into a new partnership with Dana Brungardt and "B" **Sweet Cupcakes**. Dana is subletting our kitchen in the day program for her cupcake business. Besides getting a few samples now and then, our participants have been able to help her in the kitchen and learn from an expert. We are excited to have Dana and her company in our CLS family. You can get more information about "B" Sweet Cupcakes at www.bsweetcupcakes.com.

Mollee Meets Mollie

Every person's story is as unique as a fingerprint; filled with laughter and sorrow, triumphs and tribulations.

Mollie Hanson, a member of the Colorado LifeSharing community, is no different. She weaves her past experiences into her stories nearly every time she speaks and after spending nearly every day with her, it was easy to piece together this unique story. The themes of her story are her passion, volunteering, and love for learning.

One of the things Mollie cares most about is animals... just not the "dirty part" she includes. Petting, loving, and walking animals is something that Mollie would do every day if given the chance. After working on asking to pet animals before doing so, Mollie now greets every animal she

comes into contact with, with a friendly smile, petting session, and self-esteem boost for every animal, no matter how ugly, is beautiful in Mollie's eyes.

Another love of Mollie's is serving folks at Good Samaritan where she has several friends. Whether encouraging others to sing in musical therapy or playing bingo with residents, those around her are always smiling because of Mollie's ability to make them feel special and loved. Mollie defends friends when they do not receive prizes for bingo and loves to wheel her favorite residents back to their rooms when all the fun is concluded.

The last theme out of many in Mollie's story is her love for the library. Every week her enthusiastic, and often fast pace, leads the



group to the library, where Mollie deposits old books and movies and searches the library for more to learn about. During one library trip Mollie was determined to learn everything about Alzheimer's and collected a whole bag full of material on the subject. While some folks in the world end their learning once they've graduated from school, Mollie actively seeks out new subjects and is in a constant state of learning.

~Mollee Hubbard,
AmeriCorps Member

Loveland Garden Program



This summer, the CLS day program participants embarked on a new volunteer venture. They teamed up with the **Loveland Youth Gardeners**, whose mission is to cultivate skills, promote stewardship and service in young people through sustainable gardening and healthy living practices. On Fridays, throughout the summer, our participants volunteered their time working in their gardens. They learned about sustainable horticulture as well as social and job skills such as responsibility, teamwork and communication. We hope to continue this partnership next summer.

You can find the **Loveland Youth Gardeners** at www.lovelandyouthgardeners.org.