



community **living** society

imagine it - live it

the Communicator

Spring 2025



Pottery Works

25 Years of Evolution



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Message from the CEO - Janice Barr



What a Week!

Person-Centered Active Support is the foundation of the way in which our staff provide support. The tenants of Person-Centered Active Support guide our staff to provide just enough of the right amount of support to enable people to take part in meaningful activities and relationships. This support philosophy was adopted by the CLS 9 years ago and forms the foundation of how we expect our staff to support the individuals we serve. From March 31– April 4, CLS was fortunate to have Julie Beadle Brown with us to provide training to staff at the first ever all staff event on March 31st. This one-day training session was followed by smaller leadership training sessions and onsite instruction with staff for the rest of the week.

Julie Beadle-Brown is one of the original authors of this support philosophy and has had many publications on Person-Centered Active Support. She is passionate about sharing this approach to enabling and empowering people with disabilities to have the best possible lives.

March 31st was a fantastic opportunity for all staff to meet each other, learn together, share stories and ideas, enjoy great food, and win some door prizes. As the event took place at an Indian event hall, and the CLS employs and supports many people of South Asian heritage, the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion committee saw an opportunity to engage in a fun question and answer session over lunch with some staff members from this community. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn and celebrate our diversity.

Overall, it was a fantastic week, and we look forward to the next all staff event.



Custom T-Shirts for Person-Centred Active Support Training

Last year, Alex learned how to design custom t-shirts and was commissioned by Max Sumner, Director of Programs, to make shirts for his team for the Person-Centred Active Support training session with Julie Beadle-Brown on March 31st.

Over a few months, Alex worked on multiple designs and customized shirts not only for Max's team, but also for several others, including one for Julie Beadle-Brown! In total, over 100 t-shirts were made for the training day, and he was very excited to meet Julie, who was able to thank him in person for her shirt.



Close to 70 CLS Sun Runners participated in the 41st Annual Sun Run on April 27th.

On a weekend that challenged the heart and spirit of our city, the Sunday sunrise illuminated the enduring strength and unity of the Vancouver community.

In support and solidarity with everyone affected by the devastating tragedy at the Lapu Lapu Festival, the Vancouver Sun Run donated \$10,000 to [United Ways Kapwa Strong Fund](#), directly supporting their vital efforts to help the community and all those impacted.



Employee Profiles



Danielle Walsh

What is your favorite thing about working at CLS?

All important life milestones happened while working at CLS. I met my husband, had my daughters. I met some great people and still maintain these lifelong friendships.

What is a passion or hobby of yours?

I like to build IKEA furniture. Is that a passion? I enjoy travelling and spending time with my family. I have 2 daughters, ages seventeen and nine. Recently the whole family went on a trip to Peru and visited Machu Picchu. I love my childhood movies and will be heading to Astoria this year for the 40th anniversary of the Goonies.

If you could meet one person (dead or alive) who would it be? River Phoenix.

Where do you want to travel, but have never been? Greece for myself. Japan for my daughters.



Helena Makola

What is your favorite thing about working at Community Living Society (CLS)?

What I love most about working at CLS is knowing that the work we do truly matters. Being part of a team that supports individuals with developmental disabilities to live independently and feel empowered in their communities is incredibly meaningful to me. The organization's commitment to inclusion, dignity, and respect aligns perfectly with my own values it's fulfilling to contribute to that mission every single day.

What is a passion or hobby of yours?

I'm passionate about reading, especially books that open my mind to different cultures and perspectives. It's a relaxing way to keep learning and growing. I also really enjoy hiking. Being out in nature helps me recharge, stay grounded, and feel more connected to the world around me.

If you could meet one person (dead or alive), who would it be?

Nelson Mandela. His unwavering fight for justice and equality, even after enduring so much hardship, is something I deeply admire. His strength, humility, and ability to forgive are powerful lessons. I would be honored to sit with him and hear his insights first-hand.

Where do you want to travel, but have never been?

I've always wanted to visit my province of origin Tanganyika. I'd love to explore Lake Tanganyika and see the region's natural beauty first-hand. I'm also curious to learn more about the area's rich lithium resources, especially in the context of their growing role in powering electric vehicles and shaping the future of clean energy.

Happy Work Anniversary

Congratulations to all celebrating work anniversaries from February - May 2025

3 Years

Jasdeep Mangat
Denise Lauinger
Kayla Balaz
Jedi Chu
Gurjeet Kaur
Rochelle Peralta
Navdeep Kaur
Lisa Shen
Manmeet Beri
Lise Tougas
Rachell Lacar
Day Lawal
Maria Consuelo Belmonte
Chi Nguyen
Nydia Soler Gomez
Trevor Forster
Alejandra Saldana
Lerma Macaburas
Annabel Salem
Kaylee Spaetgens
Natasha Kaloya
Desiree Johnstone
Joan Frias

4 Years

Braulia Jocol Garcia
Quinten Silcox
Darlene Robotham
Sadia Khan
Winta Gebru
Ruth Adogo

5 Years

Harrison Nguyen
Murray Campbell
Angela Mezzatesta
Alexis Binns
Cheryl Kumar
Allison Boyce

6 Years

Naz Jablonsky
Melody Kruppa
Mel Hawkes
Rinawati Qadeer
Tara Thomas
Amanda Davidson
Javi Sidhu
Johnny Dhaliwal
Jessica Beasley
Meron Aregy
Marlene Green-Holness
Mellany Hugo
Saveta Bikicki

7 Years

John Feng
Nikhil Roshan
Christopher Whittle
Sarahlyn Turay
Joseph Gosselin
Buki Akinwunmi
Tushar Kalange
Alyssa Minniss
Rachel Fehr
Robin Gibson
Harpreet Grewal

8 Years

Victoria Olaniyan
Marivic Alban
Inderjot Sidhu
Robert Smith

9 Years

Andrew Fernando
Gurjit Ghuman
Djenebou Dukuly
Kpanah Suwarly
Adam Johnstone
Gloria Aragones Aliaga
Antonio Kanu

10 Years

Romeo Banting Flores
Elvessa Pineda
Slavka Obretenov Bohac
Fariha Khan
Barbara Lago
Amy Liu

12 Years

Amanda Smith
Brett Carlyle
Leni Loconte

13 Years

Julie Baxter-Lee
Sylvia Park

14 Years

Lili Marian
Brandie McDonald
Ron Torres

15 Years

Kate Lund
Elena Unabia
Hamid Khatami
Henry Nagel

16 Years

Diane Ebner

17 Years

Terry Greenwood
Lila Johnson

18 Years

Simi Bate
Ali Fard-Behbahani
Ruki Lawal
Shu-Chi Wang

19 Years

Comfort Coker

20 Years

Chris Hopkinson

22 Years

Lorraine Lepine

24 Years

Shammi Singh

25 Years

Tony Maravilla
Charlene Francis

26 Years

Mobina Ali
Purnima Maharaj
Kristi Wilken
Paul Hetherington

28 Years

Laura Pedersen

29 Years

Marcele Herrera

30 Years

Dawn Mahovlich
Kasia Hislop
Wennie Tabobo

32 Years

Delia Fabros

33 Years

Tracy Quinn

35 Years

Elke Tilgner

Congratulations!

Promotions & New Appointments

Sarahlyn Turay

Acting Team Lead at Capilano

Blessing Otomewo

Team Lead, West 28th

Alan Kuang

Individualized Supports Coordinator

Tess Rodriguez

Human Resources Advisor

Raju Bhatta

Team Lead, Independent Living

Olu Oregbemi

Team Lead - Sidey



January 16, 2025
Elias Leonel
born to Braulia Garcia



February 14, 2025
Masa born to
Mostafa Hamdan



Preparing for a Brand-New Home

As written about in the last newsletter, Nelson home will be demolished and undergo a complete rebuild which is aimed to start at the end of 2025. In preparation for this major project there has been a lot of planning regarding the new build and what the design will be. It is important to the planning team that the new build reflect the individuals who currently live at Nelson as they would be the ones moving in once it is completed. To ensure this happens, James, Linda, Rob, Shelley and their families were invited to view the current schematics which could not be considered complete until their input was provided.

In February 2025 everyone was able to meet with the architects and begin to envision what their new home will look like. It is important to CLS that planning is done with a person-centred lens even when it comes to large renovation projects. It is imperative that the supported individuals are the decision makers when it comes to where they live.

We are excited to provide an update on the progress and development so others can share in the creation of a new home from start to finish.



Nice New Wheels

Jay got some new wheels and is super proud of them. Two days after getting his new wheels he attended the Vancouver Auto Show at the convention center. He learned the colour of his new wheels is a popular colour in the world of fancy cars. Jay gained some great attention from all the representatives at the exhibitions and was included in some photos by the them.



Sometimes Santa is Scary

John has always been fearful of Santa Claus and has tried on many occasions over the years to overcome his fear by getting a picture with him. He made many attempts by getting a picture with Santa in the background or sitting on Santa's chair without Santa. Before Christmas and after numerous attempts, John would get only as close as the line up. In December John was very brave and finally fulfilled his wish of getting in his first picture with Santa Claus in 26 years.



Anti-Bullying

On anti-bullying day, David took it upon himself to host a self-advocacy meeting to discuss bullying. He did an excellent job and sparked some great discussions.

David invited his friends to support him, they made signs and cheered him on.

Vinny held "vamos David" on a sign as David is currently learning Spanish.

David dedicated this meeting to his roommate Miranda who was in the audience with a huge smile and was super proud of him.



Love Your Community

On April 22, the Burnaby Day Supports team arranged a clean-up of Central Park and were joined by people from Holly, Rosewood, Frederick, Team Burnaby, as well as Janice Barr and Brenda Henderson. Armed with gloves, grabbers, bags and custom "Live, Laugh, Love your Community" hats, the team set forth through the trails and collected discarded items.

Many members of the group were thanked by the visitors to the park for their efforts. There was even an employee of the City of Burnaby who approached the group and thanked them on behalf of the City! In the end, they celebrated a job well done with a picnic and great sense of accomplishment. What was intended as a yearly event has now become a monthly plan to give back to the community.





A Perfect Match

Kevin and Melissa have been married since 2006. Although they no longer live together due to the supports that they need, they see each other often and talk daily. They celebrate every holiday and special event with each other. Here they are celebrating Valentine's Day.



A Night to Shine

Rebecca had an unforgettable night at the Night to Shine event! She danced with her friends late into the night, enjoyed delicious food, and celebrated with pure joy. The evening was filled with laughter, music, and unforgettable memories—a true night to shine!

Spreading the Love

The Waterfront Opportunity Centre attendees went to the Berkely Care Home to give out cards and gifts, and to spread love and joy on Valentine's Day. It was a great success, Jay and Lynn built a rapport with the Manager and have been in contact to make this a seasonal community contribution. Everyone got to hang out with the therapy dogs.



The Joy of Learning

Pierce and Jay completed a 7-week program in New Westminster. They really enjoyed learning and consistently getting up earlier to make the trip on Monday mornings. They successfully completed the program and received their certificates. They had a graduation ceremony at WOC where the team and some family members came by and celebrated their success. Both Pierce and Jay enjoyed the course so much. They are now taking a technology course at the North Vancouver City Library.

Bring On Spring

On April 5th close to 100 CLS employees and the children in their life enjoyed a *Bring on Spring* party at the Scandinavian Community Centre. There were crafts, games, food, music, face painting and of course the very talented Scruffles the balloon artist. It was a beautiful Spring day with the sun shining.





Eight Employed by Elections Canada

Matthew Takes the Leap!

Right after Justin Trudeau's resignation as Prime Minister, Matthew saw a golden opportunity. Having gained valuable experience in the last provincial election, he quickly submitted his application to Elections Canada, eager for meaningful and paid work.

A Call to Action

An email from Ready, Willing & Able, a federal employment initiative, soon followed. It called for applications to various positions at Elections Canada, including Information Officer (IO), Registration Officer (RegO), Deputy Returning Officer (DRO), and Central Poll Supervisor (CPS). The best part - they were hiring inclusively!

A Simple Application Process

The application process was straightforward: an online comment box to share your experience and interest, and a confirmation of Canadian citizenship.

Meet Our Hired Heroes

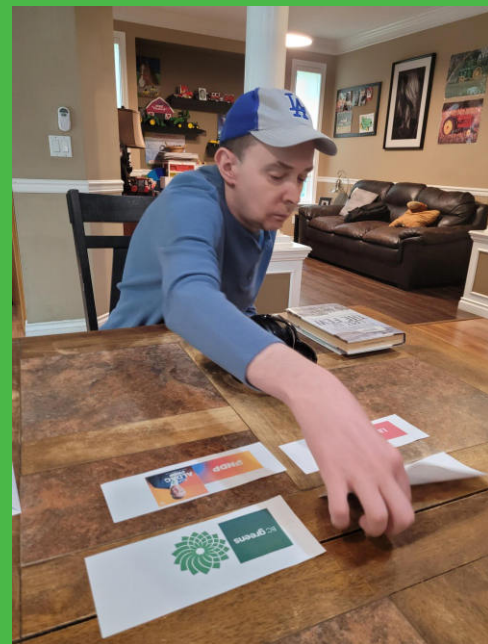
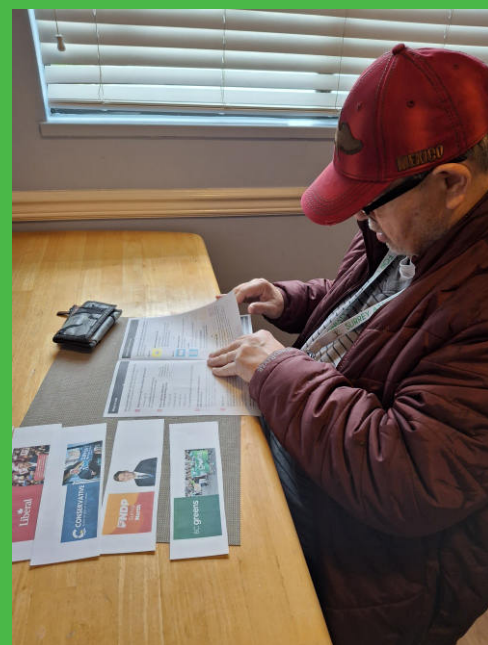
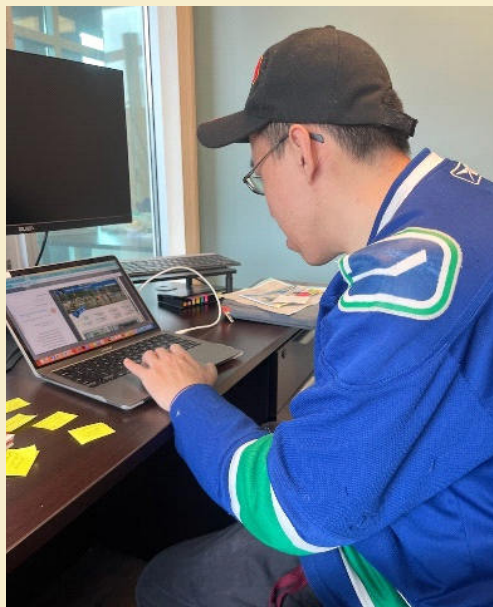
We were thrilled that Edward (pre-election support worker), Liam (DRO), Jordan (IO), Parker (IO), Joshua (IO), Callum, and Jason (ballot counter) were all hired to work in ridings from Maple Ridge to Richmond.

A Day in the Life of an Election Worker

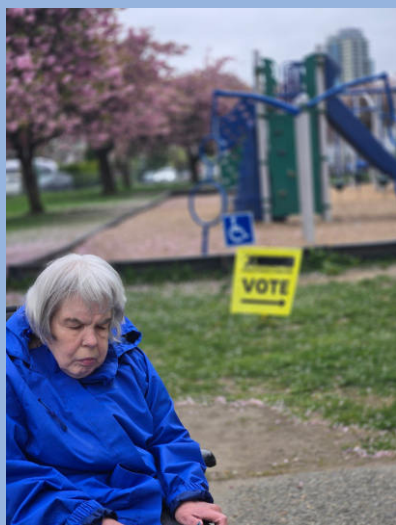
This incredible opportunity allowed many Job Seekers from the Employment Services program to take on important roles with immense responsibilities. Information Officers greeted each voter with a friendly "Hello, Bonjour," checked IDs, and directed them to the appropriate place or person. Workers like Liam confirmed voter identification and issued ballots. Election day on April 28th was long, starting at 6 am and often ending after 10 pm, once all votes were counted. Each DRO was responsible for reconciling the ballots given out with the votes counted at the end of the night.

Rising to the Challenge

Despite some people's challenges of interacting with the public, all participants performed admirably. They were energetic, grateful for the opportunity to earn a decent wage, and proud to contribute to something meaningful for Canada. When asked about his experience, Edward described it as "perfect!"



Voting Day



Music Connects Us All

Robert and Shelly have been enjoying their music program experience over the past couple of months. Robert actively engages and connects with new people in the program and particularly enjoys the Johnny Cash songs.

Shelly not only enjoys the music but also uses this program as an opportunity to reconnect with former staff members and peers, fostering meaningful social interactions that enhance her overall experience.



Reduce, Re-use and Recycle!

Vinny and David completed over 20 clothing donations in a few weeks.

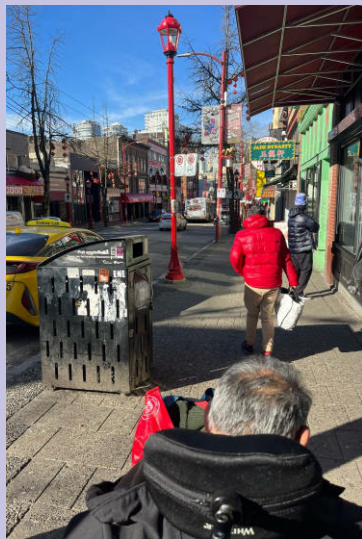
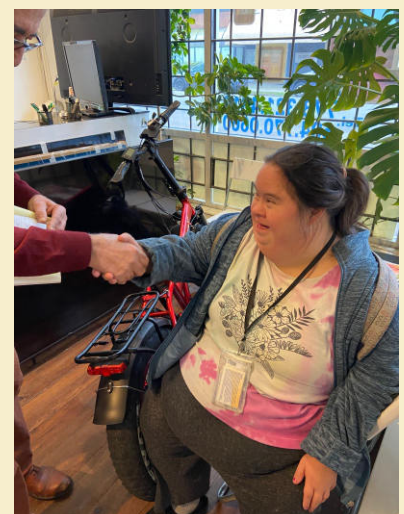
The two gentlemen go to the Downtown East Side in Vancouver up to twice a week to hand over donations to Insite. They are well known by members of the community and are sure to brighten up anyone's day with their warm friendly demeanors. Vinny and David have built the social roles on the North Shore of being "the guys that collect the clothes".

The Waterfront Opportunity Centre received an influx of enquires regarding donation drop offs. As the word spread fast, they got many donations from community members, CLS homes, parents of day program attendees, neighbours, and even local baristas.

In the most positive way possible, minus the clutter, the WOC office is starting to look like the storeroom at the Salvation Army.

Goal Accomplished!

Pierce set a personal goal to buy themselves a new cell phone. Pierce is very creative and artistic and loves Christmas - you will find Pierce wearing a Christmas shirt all year long. An opportunity came up for Pierce to have their own table at a local Christmas craft market in the community. They began researching craft ideas and over the course of a few weeks Pierce designed and crafted their own Christmas tree ornaments and decorations and sold them at the market. Pierce's decorations were a huge success and they made enough money to buy their own cell phone. Congratulations Pierce.



The Power of Planning Using a Calendar

This story is about David, a young man that found himself at a major crossroad in his life when he turned 30....

David moved to Lower Garfield in the summer of 2020, after living with his mother his entire life. The move was difficult for David in so many ways! He had to adjust to a new neighborhood, having staff to support him, and living life in a new home without his mother. The only anchor in his life, his mother, wasn't there anymore and he missed her so much... As the weeks turned into months, and then years, David became more comfortable with his living arrangement. His previously unstructured daily routine became more structured, his anxiety and agitation lessened, and he began taking more responsibility for his social life by inviting friends and family over. However, despite these positive changes, David still experienced anxiety about going out into the community. Leaving the familiarity and comfort of what he now recognized as his home was challenging.

Over the past year, David's staff noticed that he was more receptive to community engagement when outings were planned and marked on his calendar. Working together with David and using a method he enjoys, allowed him the control and responsibility to plan and follow through with community activities.

Now, David motivates his staff to take him shopping, recycling, and to pick up pizza. This level of confidence and community involvement for activities he values is significant for David, considering that not long ago, he lived in a world where things were planned and decided by someone else. Now, he can plan his own outings on his own terms. Lately we have been preparing David for a blood test at a clinic. It is amazing to see David preparing for this as previously this was very challenging. However, by using his calendar, he motivates himself for what is important to and for him.

Stories like David's are especially meaningful because they demonstrate that we cannot fully recognize and understand someone's potential based on their past experiences.

Despite the fact that David started with CLS during a turbulent time in his life, by working at David's pace and listening to his needs, we were able to facilitate the changes he wanted to see, in a way that gave him the control and motivation to succeed. David now enjoys a balance of indoor activities and community involvement. He shops, exercises in his yard, cleans up his neighbourhood while greeting his neighbours, and even manages his own banking.

Congratulations David!



PHOTO GALLERY



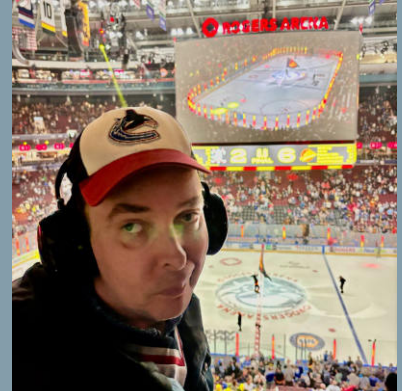
Pink Shirt Day



Jamie Visits PotteryWorks for the first time



Cheyenne at the Inclusive Adventure at Deer Lake Park



John enjoying the Canucks win



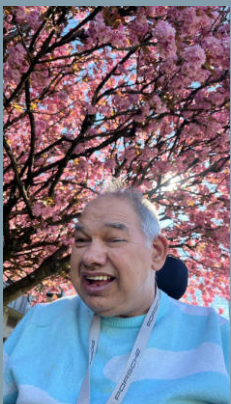
Loading up the Kindness Meter



A Day at Science World



Jonathan volunteering at Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House



Celebrating Spring

GALA CELEBRATION

AN EVENT HONOURING
CLS EMPLOYEES



On March 11th we celebrated employees with the largest yet Employee Awards Gala (140 in attendance). We were entertained with music by the Sons of Granville string quartet, and once again the food was fantastic at the Vancouver Golf Course. This is an evening that celebrates employees who have reached milestone years of employment at the CLS as well as 4 nominated awards. Congratulations to all recipients and all who were nominated for awards by their peers. This is a tremendous acknowledgement of your hard work and dedication to the CLS and Supported Individuals.

Woodlands Parents' Group Award for Vision, Courage and Creativity

This award is for employees who demonstrate sincere motivation towards Vision, Courage and Creativity in approaches to support. They consistently think outside the conventional mindset to get things achieved for an individual or group. They are aligned with the original inspiration, vision and courage shown by the Woodlands Parents' Group. The following employees were nominated for this award:

Angela Mezzatesta
Leni Loconte
Taranjeet Bhangu
Nick Herrera
Amaka Mbadike
Jance Del Valle

Tiziana Nolet
Sue Fawcett
Lisa Shen
Elysia Bernard
Trudy McClughan
Southern Team

This year's winner was Trudy McClughan

Trudy McClughan has dedicated 42.5 years to the people she supports and perfectly embodies the organization's mission, vision and values. Trudy's dedication to the people she supports is unwavering, reflecting her deep commitment to their growth and happiness. She actively fosters meaningful family connections and creates a warm, inclusive environment. Trudy's innovative problem solving and positive spirit inspire others, while her advocacy for the people she supports is both passionate and respectful. Trudy's remarkable leadership fosters a supportive atmosphere where everyone feels valued.



Community Integration and Inclusion Award

The Community Integration and Inclusion Award is presented to someone who consistently and significantly achieves success in a community inclusion and integration goal for an individual or group, specifically which engages them in a number of differing and creative ways.

The following employees were nominated for this award:

Michael Lewis	Ingrid Ferry
Maria Belmonte	Sue Fawcett
Nick Herrera	Noel Blanco
David Wiegert	Rijul Tuteja
Trudy McClughan	Slavka Obretenov Bohac
Trushar Kelange	Amaka Mbadike

This year's award was shared by
Michael Lewis and Nick Herrera.

Michael Lewis

Michael began his career at CLS in 2015 and is a dedicated advocate for those he supports. Consistently striving to help the people he supports reach their full potential, Michael fosters new community opportunities where possible. Last year, Michael initiated a volunteer program at St. Andrews Church, where people supported at Waterfront Opportunity Centre helped maintain a community garden that provides produce to those in need. This year, Michael continues to foster community inclusion and community contribution by encouraging clothing donation drives for the downtown east side, making it a valued routine for the people he serves. Michael serves as a role model to both his peers and the broader community.



Nick Herrera

Nick is the Acting Roving Team Lead for all the Community Inclusion Programs. Not only does he support people to be out in community, but he also encourages people to be contributing members of their communities. Nick takes time to plan with each person served new activities they may enjoy and empowers them to use their voices to direct their days. Each person is supported to have their choices honoured. For those who require some guidance to make decisions, activities are tailored not only to past interests but also through introduction of new adventures. Nick has worked diligently to lead his teams to find various ways to discover meaningful ways for the individuals they support to participate in and contribute to their communities. Examples include, attending community events that are important to their culture, such as the National Indigenous People's Day celebration, park clean up on Earth Day and participating in the London Drugs Stockings for Seniors, where each of the program attendees made cards and small gifts to local seniors' culture.



Person Centred Active Support Award

This award is presented to a team or an employee who has demonstrated through multiple examples of sustained active supports, attitude and passion, a commitment and embracement of the Person Centred Active Support philosophy and approach.

This year's nominees were:

Abby Sicat	Edith Markser
Lorraine Lepine	Anna Suwaji
Kailee Matthies	David Wiegert
Dennis Baylon	Val McGowan
Amrita Sharma	Hannah Robertson
Barbara Lago	Nick Herrera
Tushar Kalange	Sylvior Burungi
Janice Del Valle	Ron Torres
Keith 2 Team	Olu Oregbemi

This year's winner was Barbara Lago

During her time at CLS, Barb has made a significant impact at the Newmarket home by actively engaging the people she supports both in community and at home. Throughout the year, she has organized numerous outings, ranging from trips to local attractions like Stanley Park and Science World to seasonal events such as the Tulip Festival and pumpkin patch visits. She also creates enjoyable experiences at home. She supports the people living at Newmarket to hosts themed social events, providing opportunities for crafting and social interaction, which fosters a welcoming atmosphere.



TEAM Award

The TEAM Award recognizes a team in CLS that deserves special recognition:

- A TEAM that has gone above and beyond others to embrace and live the CLS values.
- A TEAM that has accomplished / achieved / reached a goal that has significantly enhanced and improved the quality of lives for individuals. These accomplishments / contributions support the CLS Mission, Vision and Values.
- The impact of this TEAM's contribution has enriched the supported individual(s), the CLS and the community.
- A TEAM that has demonstrate a true TEAM spirit.

This year the following teams were nominated for this award:

158A	Southern
133rd L/L	Community Inclusion Day Supports
West 28th	

The winner of the TEAM award this year was the Southern team.

In the past six years, the dedicated team at Southern has shown remarkable resilience and compassion. Despite the loss of five people over the years, they have picked themselves up and resumed their support with more passion and dedication for the individuals that continue to rely on them. Faced with evolving medical needs of the people they support, they have embraced rigorous training with unwavering determination. This team takes immense pride in providing extraordinary supports and embodies collaboration and unity.

Years of Service Awards

3 Years

Maria Elena Briones
Naveen Dhaliwal
Melanie Ma
Tajinder Kaur
Eloisa Bagaoisan
Izunna Dike
Jenny Madrid
Sapan Patil
Rachel Pearsall
Shagufta Jaria
Elizsa Mae Asa
Janeth Labunog
Randall Lim
Susana Vilareal
Monique Power
Taranjeet Bhangu
Moinya Sanfa
Maria Tejada
Arlynn Nobel
Ishaan Chander
Navansh Bindra
Joshua Arruda
Scott Baitz
Sybil Bayog

Halle Golding
Jazmin Minwalla
Flor Daroy
Braulia Jocol Garcia
Quinten Silcox
Darlene Robotham
Sadiah Khan
Winta Gebru
Ruth Adogo
Ana Suwaji
Jennifer Malin
Julie Sweeney
Yasmin Hussein

5 years

Val McGowan
Shireen Syed
Izzy Carter
Maria Pasarivaki
Stephen Wu
Hayley Miller
Titilola Babatunde-Alabi
Judy Wilson
Bee Murray
Daniel Bahng
Cindy Purdon
Aubrey Lussier
Brigitte Gagne
Prakash Jaiswal
Nick Herrera
April Ordenez
Kelly Williams
Melody Kruppa
Maria Leticia De Lemos
Mel Hawkes
Amanda Davidson
Sharon Lee
Johnny Dhaliwal
Jessica Beasley
Don Don Gaite

Sophie Rhodes
Naz Jablonsky
Marlene Green-Holness
Tara Thomas
Rinawa Qadeer
Javi Sidhu
Meron Aregy
Mellany Hugo
Nigel Dadswell
Dolly Motsumi

10 Years

Edith Markser
Nancy Aguilar
Gina Tolonics
Aaron McQueen

15 Years

Vikki Ruppel
Christina Gagno
Carol Lo
Joanne Lozano
Penny Palak
Diane Ebner

20 Years

Jodi Leech
Rosa Mejia-Gonzales

25 Years

Joanne Hauer
Mark Embacher
Alla Melnikova
Jackie Farmer
Mobina Ali
Purnima Maharaj
Kristi Wilken
Paul Hetherington
Musare Iya-Songa

30 Years

Danielle Walsh
Jacqueline Culliven
Anish Ahmed

35 Years

Inthirani Arul
D'Alquen Jackson

Thank you to our donors and supporters for 2024/25



Terry Greenaway
James Harris
Teresa Taylor
Bonny Munn
Estate of Phyllis Donalda Suais
Loredana Sanvido
Totem Classic thunderbird Club of BC
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Rotary at Work and Rotary International

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Interlink Realty Corp.
Tamera Friesen



Tom's surprise 60th birthday party



Vinny and David's joint birthday celebration



John celebrates turning 27





Continuing on with our quarterly release of the Anti – Racism Exhibition Art pieces, we are pleased to share Stephanie's gorgeous dichroic peace symbol. This was the artwork chosen by posAbilities Society, which they used as their winter greeting card.

We have been busy completing the 2nd batch of our large order of cheeseplates – 400 in total. We are so grateful to Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Association and PCI Development for their continued support!

We hosted our last class with Douglas College Training Group. Unfortunately, for the time being this program has been put on hold. We hope it will pick up again soon. This fact made the student's presentations a little more emotional. We were glad to be there to offer support. We had several large mobile classes this quarter as well. Including: an amazing team building group, a senior's group from Progressive Intercultural Community Services (PICS), a high school class from Walnut Grove Secondary and another one of Belinda's Café groups. The kiln did not get a moments rest, except when it was serviced.

Again, we recognized Pink Shirt Day and promoted artist James Groening's new design for 2025. We also invited the Executive Director of Newton Business Improvement Association, Philip Aguirre over for a photo. Jill attended her second Herstory Fundraising Gala, put on by the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre. It was a great evening and another great success raising close to \$250,000 this year. The fashion show at the end of the evening is one of the highlights. Women that utilize the services dance their way down the red carpet to a song of their choosing.

In March we said goodbye to one of our greatest supporters: Connie Kerr – Woods worked at Engineers and Geoscientists British Columbia for 10 years and we had the privilege of knowing her for 9 of those years. Her workplace commissioned a special glass piece in her memory to be displayed at the front desk where Connie greeted everyone with her radiant smile, warmth, kindness, and often a touch of humour. We will miss her dearly.



PotteryWorks

25 Years of Evolution

PotteryWorks started their spring season with a show of pottery and paintings “Portrait of My Heart”, at Crystal Mall in Burnaby. Photographer Akim Zongo was the star, selling two large pieces of his work.

Artist - Ryley Jensen Fisk, has another order from the Family Support Institute for her aboriginal design platters. Ryley has been producing her award winning, contemporary, aboriginal design platters for a decade now and they are unique and valued awards to receive. Ryley is a busy lady, she constantly has custom orders for her work. Ryley is part of our Colour Collective group of painters, and is an assistant at our Tuesday night hand building class.

PotteryWorks has been busy filling orders for our two biggest customers and collaborations, Great Wall Tea Company and Simon's Soap Box. Both businesses are growing and have given us great opportunities to grow with them. Great Wall Tea's new location in Lougheed Mall has become our strongest retail outlet.

We are excited here in the studio, as this coming June brings our 25th anniversary. We are planning a celebration open house in our studio. Also, we have started a coffee table book, a collection of our best pottery over the last 25 years. Stay tuned for more information.



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我手給心心 Portrait of My Heart

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Members must:

- be 18+ years of age
- be interested in advancing the purposes and supporting the activities of the Society

Members cannot be:

- An employee or contractor of the CLS
- An employee of the government of the Province of British Columbia or Canada whose duties are concerned with the affairs of the Society.

If you would like to be a member of the CLS, please send this completed form to us:

By Mail:

7th Floor- 713 Columbia Street, New Westminster, BC, V3M 1B2

By Fax:

604-523-9399

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contactus@communitylivingsociety.ca

Congratulations to Simran Kaur!
She was the lucky winner of the CLS Season's Greeting painting that was the inspiration for our card this year. Simran works on the North Shore at 28th and Norwood.
Congratulations Simran.