



Spectrum News

June 2012

Person of the Month – Clement Chan



Coming Events

July 25 – Summer Picnic
Sep 10-13 – PATH Training
Sep 11 – Just Singin Around
Oct 9-13 – David Pitonyak
October 13 – Book Launch
November 5 – John Lord
November 28 – TASH
Jan 6, 2013 – New Year’s Tea

1. Who do you work with?

Clement: “Micael ‘Koosh’ and Uncle Danny,” (Andrei).

2. What is your favourite thing to do? Clement: “Puzzle”, “See Uncle Tom,” (his friend from Eastburn Community Centre) Jennifer Chan (mother) says, “He likes to be humorous, funny and silly. He likes to socialize.” [Read more of Clement’s story on the Spectrum News Blog.](#)

CELEBRATING



What do you remember from 1987?

That’s right, Spectrum Society for Community Living was founded in 1987 after Susan Stanfield, Patrick McDonagh and Ernie Baatz took a course at Douglas College on “How to Open a Group Home”. We initially approached the Vancouver region of MSS (Social Services) to ask about providing support to young people turning 19, but the region said they had no funding for new services in the community.





They suggested we go to Woodlands and apply to serve people moving out of the institution. In the Fall of 1987, we met the families of Jack, Virginia, Bill and Kathy, found a house in Vancouver, purchased this six bedroom house for \$180,000.00, and helped the four people buy furniture and set up their new home. Susan and Ernie became the first two staff of Spectrum in January 1988 and we hired Heidi Mannis and Bob Joyce as employees #3 and #4. In that first meeting at Woodlands with the families, we also met Mildred DeHaan, who was assigned to the families to assist them with the questions and concerns around moving out of Woodlands. She became a mentor to us as well, helping us understand the experiences that families and people who lived in institutions were carrying with them as learned to trust us as their new service providers. We are so grateful to Mildred, the families and Jack, Virginia, Bill and Kathy for their patience, kindness and guidance as we got to know them and our role in supporting them in the community.

The next 25 years flew by! Every year we have been privileged to meet new people and their families, to add great people to our teams and develop new partnerships in the community. In 1989, Aaron Johannes joined our leadership team and we have enjoyed our collaborative leadership and ever-changing opportunities for service to the community. Thank you to everyone for your contributions to and support of Spectrum.

We've posted some pictures from the last 25 years on [our Flickr site](#) – see the link on the Spectrum Home Page and click on the 25th Anniversary Gallery.

Accreditation and Quality Improvement



Every three years, we are visited by surveyors from the Council on Accreditation of Rehab Facilities (CARF), to review our services and how we are measuring our performance and making adjustments to improve our services. CARF sets standards for services that agencies around the world must meet. Our report is available on our website under [Newsletters and Reports](#).

This year's surveyors were from North Carolina and New Mexico and had many positive comments to share after they visited a sample of the people we support, both in their homes and out in the community. They also reviewed our administrative practices, human resources and financial activities.

Here is one quote from their report: *“On balance, Spectrum is an exemplary organization providing person-centred services in the Vancouver, BC metropolitan area. Throughout the survey process, it was demonstrated that the persons served are at the centre of service provision.”*

Thank you to everyone who participated in the planning and preparation for the survey and participated in the survey process.



Better Networks for Better Lives Project update:



About a year ago our agency, Spectrum, began a project that came out of our strategic planning sessions. Out those sessions – eleven of them with more than a hundred different stakeholders came this goal, #2 of 5:

2. Shifting to a more person-directed approach to service Spectrum Society will continue to shift its focus from agency directed to person directed services, with 40% of persons served directing their own services by 2013 in partnership with their support network.

We decided a good way to accomplish this would be to begin with a small number of folks who wanted to help us problem-solve as they worked towards their own goals of directing their supports, and work towards three things: finding out what was stopping people from directing their services, creating models and stories of success, supporting a small group of people to go viral throughout the agency and support a culture shift.

Of the dozen participants, about half already had actively engaged networks, or drove their own supports, which made our job one of documenting what is working (and refining what works less well). The other half of the individuals had requested a change in service, and support to help them become more person-driven.

In Better Networks Part 1 we learned a lot about how people's networks work, and how their supports both paid and unpaid can contribute to their autonomy and interdependence in the support of the gifts they bring to others. In Better Networks Part 2 I think we'll be learning about the implications for our leadership structures and some new ways of generating good questions and good conversations that matter.

The Better Networks For Better Lives Project has been led by Susan Stanfield and Aaron Johannes, but active leadership has been passed on to Ray Hunter and Jim Reynolds. Shelley Nessman will have a demonstrable role in Better Networks Part 2. Our project will be written up for publication by 2014 but if you have questions, feel free to call or email. [A longer version of this article](#) is available on the www.101friends.ca website.



Keeping in Touch!



We hope you enjoyed our Summer Newsletter for 2012. The articles are intended to keep you informed about what's happening at Spectrum. This isn't the only way we keep in touch, but we know a paper newsletter is one piece of the puzzle of ensuring good communication. Our online newsletters are published monthly and can be reviewed by subscribing to them so that you receive them by email, or by browsing to their websites. Links to the Spectrum News and 101 Friends newsletters are on our home page at www.spectrumsociety.org. As well, we are trying to keep up with the kids and their social media tools by using Facebook, Twitter and other social media tricks. If you are using these services, you can find links to us on the Spectrum web page.

We Appreciate Your Support!

Yes, I would like to support **Spectrum** and the people we serve to explore the community, make friends, and develop meaningful activities.

Name	Phone
Street Address	City and Postal Code
Email Address	Check this box if you do not want to receive our newsletters <input type="checkbox"/>

Enclosed please find my donation of \$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 **Thank You!**
 (Optional – I would like to make this gift in memory of _____)

MONTHLY GIVING CLUB: (Attach a VOID cheque)
 I authorize Spectrum to debit my chequing account on the 15th or 30th of each month in the amount of: \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$_____ **Thank You!**

EMPLOYEE MONTHLY GIVING CLUB: (One donation receipt at year end)
 I authorize Spectrum to deduct from my semi-monthly paycheques on the 15th and 30th the amount of: \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$_____ **Thank You!**



Express yourself. Build your network. Find your voice.