

Make A Difference

enVision Foundation's Spring
Event celebrates our community

Time and Relationship

The critical pieces to sustainable change

Different Abilities

Tearing up the labels that
intend to limit us



Community Connection



enVision Community Living exists to inspire
equality, inclusion and the value of all people.

The Director's Vision

Jeannette DeLong, Executive Director

At our recent Make a Difference fundraiser our guests heard the strong message of equality, inclusion, and the value of all people. This message is our vision statement. The fundraiser set out to honour people from all walks of life for taking steps to ensure these outcomes for all people.

Our honourees Sheldon, Natasha and Joel make a difference by their persistence to shatter the stereotypes that get placed on people who live with a disability or people who have different abilities. Each of them has a strong drive to fulfill their passion and their purpose. In the process of following their passion, they have moved others to open doors to opportunities, and to increase the understanding that we are more the same than different.

Our honourees Irene, Joy and Jim make a difference in another way. They all saw unmet needs in others and then took action to meet the needs. They did not just see a need for practical help, each one of them understands that the core need in all people is to be loved and to have a place of belonging. Meeting the practical needs of people has become a way to open the door to helping people in a way that really matters; helping to heal the wounds that come from rejection, isolation, and intolerance.

Our three Young Changemakers can give us hope for the next generation of difference makers. Brooklyn, Dillan and Marie are following their instincts when they see others in need. It's noteworthy that at their young age they are all aware enough to see the needs of others without someone prompting and pointing it out. Each one of them did not turn away when they saw a need. Each one had the courage to say "I can do something to help", and then stepped up to respond.

All nine of our honourees saw others as the same, and deserving of the same

things that you and I have. They saw the humanity of people first, and by their actions; by extending genuine care and concern for others, they have increased equality, inclusion and the value of all people.

Seeing the humanity of people takes an effort to make a difference, from an act of charity, to an act of valuing and building others up. Giving dignity and respect to people is the first step in building rapport and setting the stage for making a difference.

On the flip side when we see people in need as objects of pity, worthy of only basic needs to be met, and as different than you and I, we miss an opportunity to empower and influence people to have a good life. People should not have to "earn" a good life. Everyone is deserving of a good life. I'm not referring to a good life in material ways. I am talking about richness in relationships, in opportunities and in access to the same things you and I enjoy.

There are many people in our community who have been impacted by trauma, rejection and isolation. Every day when you do business, go to church, attend a social event, or participate in recreation, you are rubbing shoulders with others who are hurting and lonely. It's our actions or reactions that can influence whether the wounded person falls into despair, addictions or anti-social behaviour, or whether the person heals and flourishes; fulfilling their purpose as a contributing community member. So, be kind to people, be tolerant and understanding of the hurts of others, be welcoming when you see people on the sidelines, and make a new friend.



Jeannette DeLong



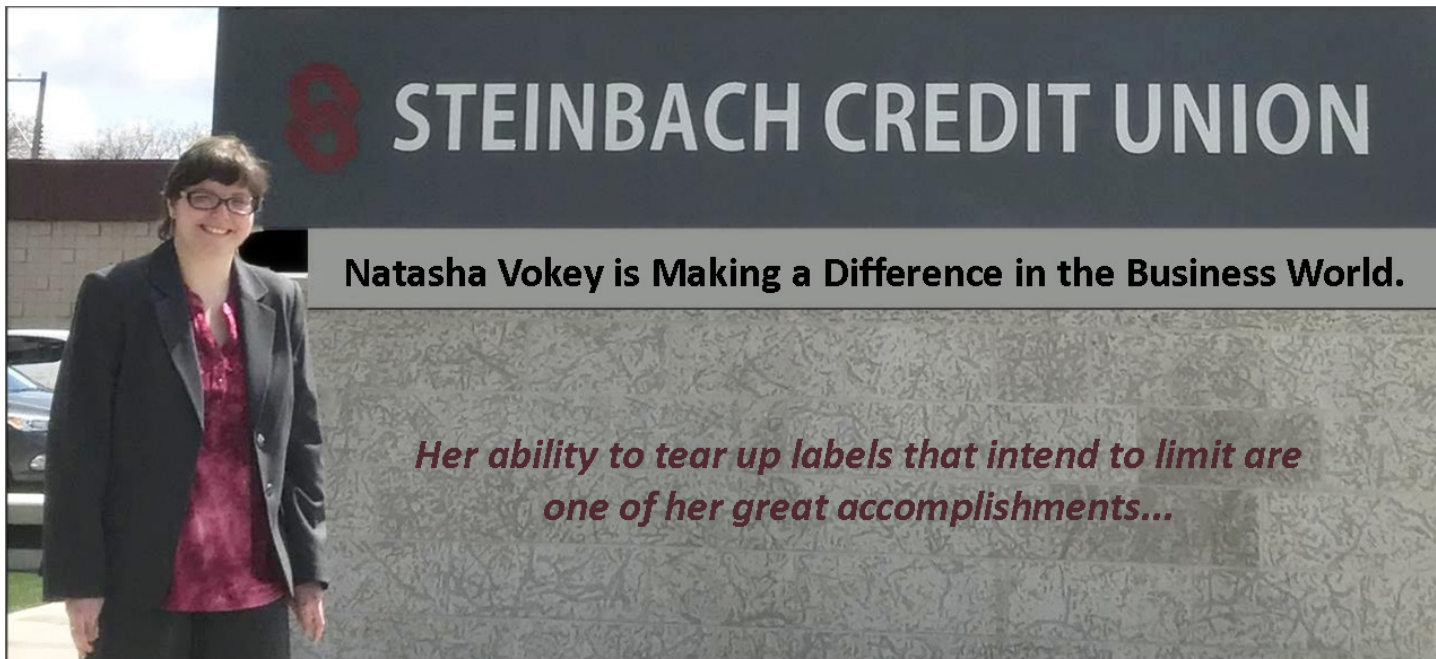
Jeannette DeLong, Executive Director pictured with the three Young Changemakers at our Make a Difference Celebration. Marie Maynard (beside Jeannette) Dillan Loeppky (front, left), Brooklyn Wiebe (front, right).



Our Social Media Family is Growing!

Our social media family is becoming a strong and confident way for us to market and communicate the affairs of enVision Community Living. In the last two months we have watched the number of likes to our page grow from 448 to 542; a remarkable climb in the social media world.

We have now added an Instagram account for enVision Foundation. You can find us @envisionclf. Please follow and continue to share all of our posts. Your sharing keeps the family growing!



People We Serve

Introducing **Natasha Vokey** - We All Have Different Abilities

"There are no disabilities," says Natasha, "only different abilities." A bold statement much like the life she lives out loud, but also a mantra she captured earlier in her life from a politician named Jim Flaherty. He was responsible for the development of the Registered Disability Savings Plan – an investment program for persons who live with a disability. She was so fascinated with his progressive perspective on "different abilities", that she took it upon herself to call the Prime Minister. This discovery was relayed to her parents through her teacher in grade eight, and sure enough the phone bill provided evidence that Natasha had called not once but twice and was on a first name basis with the operator. She is a straight forward kind of gal and she goes right to the top to get her answers.

Her ability to connect and contribute are what gets her up in the morning and her contagious energy leaves its mark on each one who crosses her path. She is an overcomer and she has achieved a great deal in spite of the obstacles of low expectations handed to her by

professionals early in life. Her different abilities have allowed her to stomp on the stereotypes that so often accompany people with different abilities.

You only have to spend just a very few minutes in her presence to know that she is thankful for every opportunity. She has played an important role, in her work and as a volunteer, helping others to feel connected as co-workers and with the public whom she serves. She has hidden talents as demonstrated in her work at Steinbach Credit Union. Her ability to connect and match numbers for the purposes of filing far exceeds what many of us could even hope to achieve. She is an encourager and cheerleader for others in all of her athletic pursuits. Although she is proud of her accomplishments, including female athlete of the year, she takes just as much joy in the accomplishments of others.

There are no wasted moments behind her. She believes in optimizing what she has been given and in every instance of her life she bears evidence to the notion



that all things are possible if you are committed and willing to do the work.

Her ability to tear up the labels that intend to limit is one of her great accomplishments and it is a message she carries with her, no matter what she is doing or to whom she is speaking. She is a shining star to all of us, because in one way or another we are all overcoming something.



Marilee Arthur



Make a Difference Celebration

This year's spring event demonstrates how we all can be difference makers in our community.

Friday, April 12, 2019 marked the beginning of what is sure to be many more Make a Difference Celebrations. The Emmanuel Evangelical Free Church was the location where everything began promptly at 7 pm. Let's Celebrate set the mood with a transformed stage that glittered from top to bottom. Fundraising and Promotions Coordinator, Marilee Arthur, drew everyone in with a pre-recorded introduction intended to share the story and inspiration behind the evening's event. "An event where no one wears a label and everyone is celebrated for making a difference in our community."

Kevin Geisheimer, the master of ceremonies, directed the evening's affairs, calling Jeannette DeLong to the stage early into the program. Her comments gave the audience a sense of perspective and ultimately helped attendees to understand how

their vision statement was the criteria for selecting honourees; to inspire equality, inclusion and the value of all people. Local celebrities, Corny Rempel, Mayor Earl Funk, Michelle Sawatzky-Koop, Paul Dyck, Steph Pattyn, Violet Moore and Paul Reimer read beautiful tributes prepared for each adult honouree and Young Changemaker, followed by inspiring video footage from Lucky35 Studio that tracked the impact of how each honouree has made a difference in our community. Michelle Sawatzky-Koop sang and played an inspiring musical selection entitled, Be One.

Attendees were welcomed to a reception following the program where they enjoyed beverages and dessert. The motivation for all of us to be difference makers could be sensed and heard in the various conversations shared during the reception.

Highlights from our event...



Jeannette DeLong, Exective Director, shaping the audience's perspective for the evening's ceremony.



Paul Dyck, coach and the manager of the Steinbach Pistons, pictured with Joel Friesen, one of this years nine honourees.



Corny Rempel honouring Natasha Vokey as one of this year's honourees for making a difference in our community.



Violet Moore, reading the tribute for one of our honourees, Sheldon Friesen.

Events

What's Happened... What's Happening



Values Training-The Empty Seat February 21, 2019

Wendy Humphrey, Director from enVision Community Living, is pictured here speaking at the Values Training in February. enVision offers Values Training to employees several times each year. At this point in the presentation, Wendy is challenging all new employees to assist people we serve in building natural relationships with those around them in community. She reinforces the idea that we all want to be needed and wanted. She drives home her point by introducing that concept of the “empty seat.” We all need to create the “empty seat” and consistently ask ourselves who can we invite to that empty seat at the coffee shop, or over to dinner.

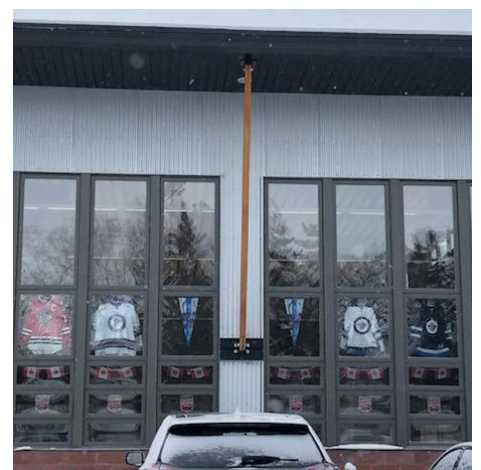


Meaningful Moments Training April 29, 30, and May 1, 2019

enVision Community Living had the pleasure of hosting Cara Milne from April 29th to May 1st at the Mennonite Heritage Village. Cara is owner of M-Powered Planning Ltd., a business that promotes positive and valued roles for people with disabilities. She delivered her presentation 3 times to an audience consisting of enVision and other agency staff and family members. Cara also did a presentation to self-advocates. In total, 340 people (231 enVision staff, 9 family members, 55 self-advocates and 45 people from other agencies) heard simple yet sustainable techniques to open doors of opportunities for people we serve to build relationships and experience inclusion in community. A sense or feeling of belonging happens when you are noticed, known and missed. Cara talked about same time/same place, empty seat, take pictures and eat meals together, an invitation and opportunity to engage and belong.

Hometown Hockey March 9, 2019

enVision Community Living took the Rogers Hometown Hockey Challenge seriously. In support of local hockey programming, enVision was happy to promote the community and the inclusion of all in this family fun event.



People First of Canada Steinbach Branch

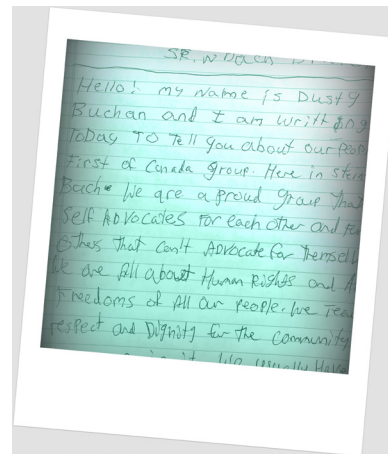
Hello! My name is Dusty Buchan and I am writing today to tell you about our People First of Canada group here in Steinbach. We are a proud group that self-advocates for each other and for others that can't advocate for themselves. We are all about human rights and all freedoms of all our people. We teach respect and dignity for the community and everyone in it.

We had a nice young man named Cam come and talk to us about our finances and he gave us some skills to achieve our financial goals. He also talked about ways we could save and/or budget for retirement and showed us some accounts for saving for the future. This was a time to fellowship with one another and to really grow, mature and succeed. We can fight for what is right and what we believe needs to change to better our lives and flourish in what makes us happy.

Jackie, one of our advisors also helps us with our group by doing a number of fundraisers to help raise money. We are proud, honoured and happy in what we do. I always say the sky is the limit in all things. We want to see more and more people with disabilities live in the community and out of institutions. We have closed a few institutions in Ontario. They are an institution-free province.

Our gang in Steinbach is meeting once a month on the last Wednesday of the month at the MPRC, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. We used to meet at the Legion Hall. We are hoping to get more people to join our group.

Thanks for giving me a chance to share about our People First group in Steinbach. It is greatly appreciated. I hope you have a great one and hope you enjoyed my little article about our group.



2018 Foundation Fundraiser a Huge Success!

In 2018-2019, the enVision Foundation raised funds for vehicles to be used by Eastman Employment Services and Kindale Industries. This Fundraising Campaign was a HUGE success! Launched last Spring by the previous fundraising and promotions coordinator, Jo-Anne Dalton, Steinbach and surrounding areas, brought it home for a big finish in December; raising more than \$70,000 in one month.

The 2019 Ford Explorer will continue to service the needs of those who work at Kindale Industries, volunteering and community connections, as well as the flyer distribution process. The 2018 Ford F150 is an integral part of the lawn care program offered through Eastman Employment Services that provides employment to local residents. Plans are underway to explore increased use of this vehicle in the off-season.





Michelle Sawatzky-Koop
and Joy Neufeld



Mayor Earl Funk
and Irene Kroeker



Kevin Geisheimer,
Master of Ceremonies



Jim Harms
and Paul Reimer



Michelle Sawatzky-Koop
singing, "Be One"

Embracing our differences because everyone belongs.

The purpose of enVision is rooted in relationship and belonging:

- Living, working, learning and celebrating in a community of belonging.
- Mutual care, respect, and consideration between all people.
- Welcoming the transformation as we embrace the diversity of gifts and contributions from each community member.
- Recognizing that we need each other and are better together.



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If you would like to receive your copy of enVision's Community Connection newsletter by email, please notify our Fundraising Coordinator at marilee@envisioncl.com

For all information on all registered charities in Canada under the Income Tax Act please contact the Canada Revenue Agency at www.cra-arc.gc.ca/charities