



Annual General Meeting 26 October 2011.

Over 40 guests attended our 10th AGM. The Chairperson, Hilary Brooks and CEO, Jenni Werner, highlighted aspects of the Annual General Report 2011. Results of the election of two office bearers was unopposed: Chairperson Hilary Brooks and Vice Chair Dr Carolyn Dickie. The official proceedings of the meeting was followed by an excellent presentation by City of Wanneroo representatives, Fiona Bentley and Garry Prus sharing the projected future demographics and growth trends for the northern corridor. The information provided for participants to join a discussion "Our Vision for the Next 10 Years" - *What role can Community Vision play in the new growth corridor?*

Where would you like to see Community Vision in 10 years time?

How do we become more financially sustainable?

We thank our staff, volunteers, sponsors, partners and clients for sharing their viewpoints. Important directions and insights were shared and we look forward to future directions in 2012.

Community Vision wishes you a Merry Christmas and a most positive and happy New Year in 2012!
May all your wishes, goals and dreams come true...



As the year draws to a close, on behalf of staff and volunteers at Community Vision, I would like to sincerely wish all our clients and their families, and those who have supported the organisation in so many differing ways, a joyful and safe festive season and a peaceful, happy and abundant 2012. I thank one and all for your loyalty to Community Vision. We are looking forward with optimism and hope to deepening our understanding of and achieving more options to continue to serve and live our strap line "What matters to you, matters to us". As we approach the new year let us remember the words of Václav Havel: "Hope is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out."



Community Vision recently joined Givingwest- an organisation designed to inspire and transform "giving" in Australia. We are competing for people's generosity with many other organisations around Australia. We needed a heartfelt story. One of our client families generously shared their story about the services we provide to their wonderful daughter, Rachael.

Jodie Griffiths, Rachael's mum, shared her family's experiences with Community Vision.

Following are excerpts of what Jodie shared -

"Community Vision has fully embraced Rachael and although she has significantly higher needs than others, she has always been fully included and supported as a valued member of their programs. She has successfully been a part of the "Girls Nite In" group, regular "Discos" and even a "Cooking Class". Rachael's social calendar is so busy now - I can hardly keep up!!!

So now as I face yet another challenge of coordinating another year of school holidays, trying to juggle both my role of single parent and working mum and when I feel that I have exhausted all avenues and possibilities, I have turned to Community Vision. They have yet again been my light at the end of the tunnel. Rachael is very excited to have her own personal 'helper'. For the first time, together they are out and about in the community and I have had the weight slightly lifted from my shoulders.

With Community Vision's help, Rachael now has the chance to shine!! She has developed her independence, confidence, social skills and has made some lovely friends along the way."



We hope to have Rachael's story up on the Givingwest site within the next few weeks. It will remain on the website for at least three months, before we feature another human interest story. The public will be able to read more of Rachael's story on either the Community Vision or the Giving West sites very shortly.



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Our stories, Our lives

Our social media journey



There is growing interest about our facebook page. We invite readers to interact with topics and in building networks.

To visit our pages go to -

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Community-Vision-Inc-Perth-WA/217827091572498>



On our twitter account we have accumulated followers from around the world including—

- A 91-year-old author of several books, based in Montana.
- A fundraising organisation named "Men in Black" based in the Netherlands.
- A Perth based writer and activist who aims to improve legislation on aged care.
- A specialist holiday company based in England which aims to enable people with disabilities to further enjoy overseas holiday opportunities.

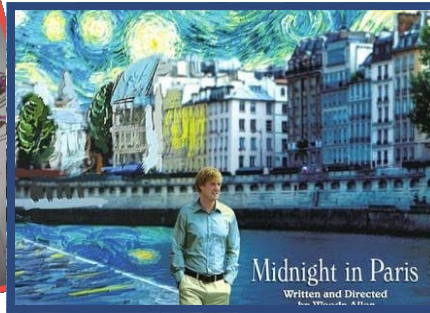
To find us on twitter go to Search—Community Vision Inc on twitter!



Our man-about-town Community Engagement, PR & Fundraising

Officer Peter Hall brushed shoulders with Royalty at the recent CHOGM State Reception. His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh asked Peter "Have you killed anyone in that thing?" As Peter sped down the red carpet, he replied good-humouredly "Look out Duke, here I come....I've been driving for many years and I am very competent!"

Community Vision held it's first movie fundraiser in November for it's Disability Services Garden Project. Staff, their families and friends came to watch "Midnight in Paris" and soak up the French atmosphere at Luna Leederville. Staff were dressed in French Maid outfits, we sold raffle tickets and people enjoyed platters of cheeses, strawberries and petit fours. Some people even wore berets!



A very big 'merci beaucoup' goes to those staff who donated items for the raffle: Kingsley staff for the 2 large hampers; Danielle, Jean and Marie for bottles of wine and chocolates. Also to Steph for baking the very popular French petit fours and to Monica and Mike for taking photos.



The Incredible Hank

A quietly spoken, gentle soul has graced our Joondalup office over the past months. Upon his return from a student exchange stint in the USA, Hank, an Electrical Engineering/Accounting Undergraduate decided to take a walk down the volunteering path. Community Vision quickly snapped up the young chap to join the Executive Admin team at Joondalup. Hank said he enjoys volunteering at Community Vision as he gains satisfaction in knowing that his organisation skills and attention to detail greatly helps the team. Hank, an already busy young man, who's favorite foods include grapefruit and barritos said he likes to squeeze in soccer and cycling into his schedule! He is also a young man who likes to challenge himself continually and is trying his hand playing the guitar...maybe one day he can treat us all to some finely crafted melodies!

Thanks for all your hard work, Hank!



We said goodbye to Gianni after 7 years of providing Community Vision's IT support. We thanked Gianni for his loyalty and commitment to Community Vision and wished him well for the future.



QUALITY EVALUATIONS

Veterans' Home Care was audited by representatives from the Department of Veterans' Affairs on 6th December. We received positive verbal feedback on all our processes. We are now awaiting a written report. Watch this space!

*Wilma Dougherty, Manager Aged Care Services,
Senior Regional Coordinator, VHC*



Family Day Care



"Positivity at Work with Hope and Optimism for Leaders in Children's Services."

Congratulations to **Family Day Care's Jan Hill and Helen Miles** who recently completed the above 2-day training course, conducted by Child Australia, in Malaga. This also included 3 one-hour coaching sessions over the phone.

Jan and Helen discussed their thoughts on positive workplaces, how they deal with situations within the workplace, their own goals, personal and professional, as well as completing a pre and post "Hope State Scale" and a "Life Orientation" test. Test scores were compared after the course.

Both Jan and Helen said they had enjoyed the course, in particular the survey of character strengths which they completed online. This showed them their top 25 individual character strengths. Helen said she found the content informative and relevant, saying "I have been using these strategies in the workplace and at home, with great results!"

Communicating and Connecting with Aboriginal Clients - 20 December 2011

A course in Aboriginal cultural awareness.

The very knowledgeable and engaging presenter, Tjupan Wanita Bartholomeusz, will take you on a special journey exploring the world through Aboriginal eyes. *Places are limited - please register to secure your place. For groups of more than 4 people, please call first to check availability.*

To register online, please go to http://www.wacosstraining.org.au/index.cfm/booking_398

Community Vision **Disability Services** have completed a whole-of-service quality evaluation. Quality evaluations are conducted by an independent panel contracted by the Disability Service Commission to review services and provide an objective assessment of compliance. The assessment takes into account the views of people with disabilities, their families and carers, staff and interested others.

I am very pleased to report some of the feedback from participants and families in the draft report:

- "The staff are....approachable....listen....deal with my suggestions....are flexible.....they do a good job."
- "We chose our CSP....he's the same age and it's a good match."
- "He's happy = I'm comfortable."
- "We know we can make changes to the program if we want to....its geared to the individual."
- "Kinship is fantastic...s/he really loves the night events, like the discos and group dinners."

Some of the Good Practices as noted by the Evaluators in the draft report:

- The innovative use of Open Space Technology as a method of collecting information and feedback to families.
- The positive and friendly rapport and atmosphere between participants and staff.
- Community Vision's flexibility to meet individual needs.

The way most families feel:

- Comfortable to raise issues, express concerns, make suggestions for improvements and ask for changes to their services.
- That they are listened to, valued and that there is no fear of retribution.

"It is encouraging to hear such positive comments and know that we are on the right road to supporting people with disabilities and their families. Thank you to all in Disability Services." - Tracy McNichol, Manager



The delights of growing your own vegetables

There's nothing quite like growing your own vegetables and flowers and we at Disability Services have had the opportunity to develop one of our garden areas from a neglected and somewhat unloved piece of land into an oasis of color and tranquility.

The road to get to this point has been anything but tranquil. We have finally transformed the garden and are looking forward to tasting the fruits (and veg) of our labor and spending quality time in the garden area along with the participants. Thanks for the support of Bunnings, Walton's Dingo Service and Daniel O'Dea's Tree Lopping Services plus the fabulous support of our staff and participants.

Bunnings very kindly donated three raised garden beds and seedlings of herbs and vegetables and with the dedication and green "fingeredness" of staff and participants these seedlings are starting to flourish, it is hoped that once the herbs and vegetables grow (if they are not eaten before that) that we can use these in our cooking groups, as there's nothing like home grown organic foods.

Disability Services would like to invite you to come along to our garden to relax and enjoy, or if you are feeling energetic to come and do some weeding!





A long awaited holiday in Bhutan has not disappointed the CEO!

In a land with little infrastructure and monetary wealth, there is a simple, complex, rich and diverse organisational system. The people in pursuit of a happy society, appear contented in the knowledge that their lifestyle is built on strong foundations including:-

- Collaboration and co-operation
- Sound governance
- Environmental conservation
- Improvement through education, healthy lifestyles and community service, and
- Promotion of culture and traditions.

These values are the cornerstones of a better world. The foundation pillars of Community Vision and Bhutan are surprisingly similar and inspiring!

Workshop: Architects of Possibility: On 5th December, Woodvale Day Centre hosted a stimulating morning designed to continue the 2011 Citizenship Day conversation about Person Centred Approaches. The workshop featured the Spark of Life philosophy developed by Jane Verity (Dementia Care Australia) and another very entertaining conversation with Heather Simmons.

In 2011, Community Vision made a commitment to adopt the Spark of Life Approach at the Woodvale Day Centre. The workshop shared the work of the Sunshine Club and the "Spark of Life" foundation five emotional needs: to be needed and useful, to have the opportunity to care, to love and be loved, to have self esteem boosted and to have the power to choose. It was agreed that if we are to keep the human spirit healthy and strong these five emotional needs are vital for everyone, regardless of age. Thanks go to Tania Butcher, Sue Armstrong, and Jenni Werner for the presentation that shared a video, discussion and some entertaining role plays.

Heather Simmons then challenged our concepts of Person Centred Care. Heather used a huge wealth of experience, stories and examples to weave the emotional needs developed by the Spark of Life approach with a set of four principles inspired by Margaret Wheatley author of many books challenging and helping people to work together more effectively and compassionately. Heather challenged the audience as carers, leaders and receivers of services that we

can be more responsive by using the four principles of meaning, hope, power and energy, in "doing the right thing" by ourselves and with others. Staff and volunteers loved to hear the stories shared because they illuminated what is good and what is important about being human. Heather referred to Vaclav Havel, the former president of the Czech Republic who passionately believed that hope is not a result of the condition of our lives, it is fundamental to being human.

The **Vision Strategies Group** conducted its annual evaluation on 13th December. Some actions were identified that will form part of the Vision Strategies Group directions for 2012:

- Making space and time for staff discussions around particular themes that strengthen the understanding of our Vision, Mission and Values.
- Finding ways for the Vision Strategies Group to be more 'visible' to staff.
- Creating staff 'dreaming' times to help shape the future directions of our services.
- Building structures to share and capture our stories.

We invite you to come along to observe or be part of the discussions.

The next meeting of the Vision Strategies Group will be on Tuesday 17th January 2012 from 7.30am to 9am at the Kingsley office. Breakfast will be provided.

Jean Garratt-Reed
Executive Manager, Community Services

Upcoming events

Mural Arts Project

(sponsored by the City of Joondalup): In February 2012, participants from Belridge Education Support Centre and Community Vision will be given the opportunity to develop their artistic abilities with Trevor Bly, WA-based artist and Fraser Gray from the UK. Their work will be shown at the Blend(er) Gallery, Joondalup. Trevor and Fraser will use the process for inspiration to create a mural for a wall overlooking Admiral Park, Heathridge.



As promised, the **Charity Couta Boat Classic** is on again in April 2012. Stay tuned for more news closer to the date!

Spreading the Christmas cheer



Our staff Christmas Function was held at the Botanica Bistro & Bar this year. The evening was hailed a success as staff enjoyed catching up with their colleagues. A jolly time was had by all.

Linda Williamson's team from KPMG has baked many cup cakes amongst other activities to raise money for an X Box and three games for our participants in Disability Services. Thank you ladies!



As this newsletter goes to print, our staff at Kingsley will be holding a dance party for people with disabilities. This promises to be the biggest and best dance party of 2011 with bubble machine, festive food and the best DJ from Rockingham (John Didik) providing the groove for their moves!! Special thanks goes to Party Plus, Joondalup for donating \$280 worth of balloons and lighting. Wishing everyone a fantastic night!!



On 9th December, Family Day Care held a year end celebration for their staff, Educators and partners. It was an enjoyable evening shared by all, recalling events from 2011 and sharing dreams and hopes for 2012.



Board and Executive members met at Bellafonte Italian Restaurant at Hillarys to review and celebrate the year's successes. It was also a time to acknowledge and farewell Board members Helen Carter and Zoe Coffey, and to welcome Siân Flynn to the Board.



Thank you to our wonderful volunteers for another year of dedicated service to Community Vision. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.