



**Executive Director's Report to the Annual General Meeting  
September 28, 2009**

*“Meeting the Challenge”*

This year we faced a number of challenges, which we were able to meet, with determination and hard work from everyone in the organization.

- We had our second Accreditation Survey in October and were successful in obtaining another **three-year Accreditation** with CARF. Thanks to staff, Board members and other stakeholders for a job well done!
- We were saddened with the loss of three clients who passed away during the last year and shared in the sorrow of their loss. They will be remembered.
- We have continued to face the challenge of supporting individuals who are dealing with difficult issues while safeguarding roommates and staff. Through environmental and staffing changes we have made a positive step in this direction.
- We have had several new clients participating in our **Day Programs**. We were also able to provide respite support to a young man at the **25<sup>th</sup> Avenue** Group Home during the winter. He moved in to the Group Home in February. Having a 17-year old at the home has opened up new challenges for the staff at the home.
- We have been gradually getting the **new office and Day Program** building renovated. Clients and staff are especially enjoying the new Day Program.
- The **Therapeutic Riding Program** continues to grow and has become an excellent program for children and adults with various disabilities with a solid foundation of support from the Community.
- It has taken over a year for the repairs and renovations to **Rebekah Manor** to be completed due to the fire on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008. We are now up to full occupancy and things are settling down.
- We continued to accommodate the needs of clients while improving our buildings and equipment by renovating Orchard House and replacing tubs at 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Purcell Place. We also replaced two of our older vehicles with new vans this year. We also received a capital grant from CLBC, which we used to purchase an additional minivan.

- We concluded the 2008/09 fiscal year with a slight deficit, but have a net surplus of \$210,430. With the acquisition of additional property, we have improved our net asset position to almost \$555,000.
- After a number of years of waiting, we received a bequest in the amount of \$16,534. As per the wish of the donor, we are using the money to set up an Endowment Fund, which will benefit people with developmental disabilities.

We were able to meet a number of the challenges we faced this year. With economic and other pressures, new challenges are emerging that will be difficult, but we will continue to persevere to provide the best support we can to the people who rely on us to help them meet the challenges that they face.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Feltham  
Executive Director