

Parkland Community Living and Supports Society 2006 Annual Report

Parkland Community Living and Supports Society is a registered non-profit society serving developmentally disabled children and adults from Central Alberta, Nunavut, and the Northwest Territories in the Canadian Arctic. The agency's mission is: "To improve the quality of life of disabled children and adults through individual choice, rights, and dignity".

In support of Parkland CLASS's Mission Statement, the following values serve as a philosophical reference to guide the Board of Directors and all agency staff in the development and the delivery of community services:

- a) Citizenship which is based on the principles of individual value and worth, individual rights, and equality which recognizes the physical, mental, social, and spiritual needs of the disabled;
- b) Choice which empowers individuals to make real choices about real options in life, including where they will live and what they will do;
- c) Support which implies that every individual, regardless of their disability, is entitled to receive those technical, personal, and financial supports which are necessary to live as independently as possible within the community; and
- d) Equality of Opportunity which ensures that all disabled individuals have equal access to those aspects of life which are often taken for granted including, wherever possible, an education, employment, their own homes, friendships, and social interaction with others.

Changes in society's attitudes and the promotion of the rights of the disabled have enabled a growing number of disabled individuals to seek an inclusive life in the community. As a result, the demands for new community services have risen over the past decade.

In response, Parkland CLASS has been proactive in developing new and innovative services. This report outlines the agency's recent accomplishments, its strategic direction, and its future goals.

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Phillip Stephan

Parkland's Senior Staff and management teams work towards the achievement of the goals and objectives that are outlined in the agency's "Three Year Strategic Plan". The Executive Director's report provides a summary of activities and accomplishments that have advanced a number of key strategic goals over the past year.

Parkland School has recently launched a new way of working with its most challenging students. The majority of students have Sensory Processing Disorder which impacts their ability to process information. In response, the school has invested substantial funds into Sensory Integration specialized equipment and the school gym has now been transformed into a sensory therapy room. All students are scheduled for two sessions every day.

Sensory Integration supports the development of motor and social skills and the ability to learn through complex adaptive behaviors. It involves a range of techniques including deep massage, heavy muscle work, and the use of the vestibular for movements such as swinging, rocking, jumping, and tumbling. Sensory Integration stimulates the sensation of muscles and joints thus giving the brain information about location and force. This system has proven to be very effective in facilitating student progress and development.

Parkland CLASS has introduced Servant-Leadership as its fifth foundation business model. Servant-Leadership views the Director, Manager, or Supervisor as servant to their subordinates. The objective is to respect and value the contribution of all employees within the organization. There are ten attributes of effective servant-leaders which include Listening, Empathy, Healing, Awareness, Persuasion, Conceptualization, Foresight, Stewardship, Commitment to Staff Development, and Building Community.

The agency has also introduced a new housing model in response to a variety of housing needs. This new home design incorporates a three bedroom wheelchair accessible main floor level with a private entry apartment-suite on the lower level. The apartment utilizes unique landscaping features that incorporate large windows and abundant natural light. A show home was developed for viewing by private and public guardians. Based on interest an affordable housing application has now been submitted to the provincial government.

Parkland CLASS continues its involvement in Latin America through six self-advocacy projects that were developed by Parkland's southern partners. These projects range from the establishment of a self-advocacy group in the largest institution in Argentina, the creation of a consumer owned business, and a pilot project for an independent living model. Through Parkland's Latin American activities 500 families and individuals have been empowered, 1400 frontline staff have completed a 10 month training program, and 3,600 professionals and community members have attended sensitization workshops.

All the above activities continue to demonstrate Parkland CLASS's strong commitment to disabled individuals and their families, whether they reside in Alberta, the Canadian Arctic, or in Latin America.

Development Goals. For the purpose of this report, I will comment on a number of the more important activities that will be pursued over the next one to three years.

Over the next year, the agency will obtain land that will be used to construct a new office building. The current office building will be renovated and turned over to Parkland School for classroom space. The school expansion plan will also include the development of a large wheelchair accessible playground that will serve disabled children from across the city. This playground is being financially supported by Ronald McDonald Charities.

Parkland School has been selected as the site for a Canadian pilot project to introduce a new computer based education system call TEACHTOWN. Four years in development, TEACHTOWN is a scientifically designed service for children with autism and other developmental disorders who exhibit significant difficulties learning through traditional teaching methods. The program uses computer based “applied behavior analysis” to facilitate learning. Student progress and program effectiveness will be monitored by an independent consultant. This is a very exciting initiative that demonstrates the school’s very strong commitment to providing quality education programs.

The Board is redefining the membership base of Parkland Community Living. Our desire is to increase accountability to the families, guardians, and individuals who we serve. As the organization continues to grow, the Board is particularly sensitive to the need for developing and maintaining a positive link to these groups. Therefore, over the next year we will develop two membership categories comprised of governing members and associate members. We will also increase our communication with guardians and self advocates so that they have input into the development and improvement of services.

Parkland’s involvement in Latin America will continue to expand this year. The agency has existing partnerships with four significant Argentina organizations - the ITINERIS Foundation, the Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina (AMIA), the Asociación Desarrollamos Capacidades (AMAR), and the Cottolengo group of institutions which provides residential care to high needs individuals throughout South and Central America. New partnerships are also being developed with key organizations in Peru and Bolivia.

Over the next three years Parkland will pursue four separate streams of international activities. These activities include a continuing focus on Argentina; a emerging focus on Peru and Bolivia; formal participation with three European NGO’s to develop a framework for international cooperation; and the possible development of a formal twinning relationship with an organization outside of Latin America. Through pursuing all of the goals that I have mentioned, Parkland CLASS will continue to ensure that it is a positive contributor to the advancement of the status and rights of disabled individuals.

the following Program Development, Agency Development, and International Development goals were established.

The Board will review its strategic goals and outcomes at the October, 2007 Board / Senior Staff Retreat, at which time they will update the agency’s three year strategic plan.

Program Development Goals

- Acquire land to build a new office building and to develop a wheelchair

accessible playground. In the long term, the agency will turn the existing office over to the school for future classrooms. (Fall 2008)

- Utilizing the new housing model for adults, solicit support from “Alberta Seniors” to construct six to ten new homes that will provide accessible housing and ILS apartments. (Fall 2008)
- Investigate alternatives to the current Community Bridging Program in an effort to decrease some one to one supports, while at the same time increasing community capacity and natural supports. (Fall 2008)

Agency Development Goals

- Implement the Servant – Leadership model throughout the agency starting with the SMT and Administration Team, and moving on through the various levels of supervision down to the agency’s frontline staff. (Fall 2009)

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moving towards a company wide “Intra-net” system. (Fall 2008)

- Develop a series of full color agency brochures modeled after the format

International Development Goals

- Become involved with the World Bank and Inclusion International to

- Investigate the potential to use the HOMES Data Collection System as a foundation for managing consumer service files, case management, and outcome reporting. (Winter 2008)
- Develop a new transportation model, and increase the fleet capacity in response to the increasing needs of adults in service, the declining number of Parkland’s accessible vans, and the limited transportation alternatives available within the community. (WINTER 2008)
- Formalize a program ends policy in response to the growing “Behavior Supports Services” that are being provided in both the children and adult services areas. (Winter 2008)

and material utilized in the agency website. (Winter 2008)

- Develop a revised Guardian Handbook and increase the agency’s connection with guardians. This process will involve a guardian satisfaction survey and the development of new policies. (Spring 2008)
- Investigate the various issues related to the agency’s use of WCB and seek

- Maximize a smoke free environment in Parkland CLASS by developing and implementing a tobacco use reduction strategy which considers the health risks associated with smoking and second hand smoke, and the principles of consumer choice. (Fall 2009)

expand Parkland’s international reputation and to work with these groups to advance the objectives of

the 2006 United Nations Convention on Disability. (Fall 2009)

- Establish an International Development Fund using direct contributions and fund raising initiatives. Proceeds will be used to match contributions from CIDA, The World Bank, The World Health Organization, and The Wild Rose Foundation. (Fall 2009)
- In partnership with CIDA, undertake a remote aboriginal / disability rights initiative using the ITINERIS Education program in the Jujuy Region of Northern Argentina. (Fall 2007)
- Deliver the ITINERIS Education Program to 30 new organizations and

parent groups that operate within a 300 kilometer radius of Buenos Aires, Argentina. (Fall 2009)

- Complete 6 self-advocacy initiatives in Argentina in partnerships with the ITINERIS Foundation, AMIA - the Asociación Mutual Israelita, AMAR - the Asociación Desarrollamós Capacidades, and the Cottolengo group of institutions. (Fall 2007)
- Develop and undertaking a Bolivian distance learning project in partnership with the Ann Sullivan Center of Peru, and the ITINERIS Foundation of Argentina. (Winter 2008)
- Co-sponsor the Second International Ibero-American Conference on Intellectual Disability with AMAR – (The Asociación Desarrollamós Capacidades). This conference will take place in Buenos Aires in October, 2009. (Fall 2009)

PARKLAND SCHOOL REPORT

Parkland School has four main program areas: the MDH (Multi-dependent Handicapped) Program, the Regular School Program, the Challenge Program, and the Augmentative Communications Program.

MDH Program

The Parkland School MDH Program provides education, life skills training and physical support to multi-dependent handicapped students.

The program addresses the speech, physical and occupational therapy, communication, hearing, vision, behavior modification, sensory stimulation, and medical needs of students.

Target population was twelve (12) full time multi-dependent handicapped students who were served in 2006, ranging in age from 8 to 19 years.

Accomplishments and Outcomes:

- Parkland School received \$15,000 through the Central Alberta Health Initiative (SHIP) to employ a sensory integration consultant.
- Incorporated REACH and Sensory Integration recommendations within each student IPP.

- Initiated a new computer program in the MDH classroom which utilizes switches for independent use by students.
- Installed Sure-Loc self tightening restraint straps in all of Parkland's wheelchair buses.

Program Goals for 2007:

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- Work with REACH consultants to explore additional switch access activities.
- Increase program options within the classroom computer program.

Regular School Program

The Parkland School - Regular School Program focuses on the basic concepts of education and essential living skill development. Various classes promote the student's academic, non-academic, personal, and physical development.

The regular school program is delivered both within Parkland School and within the community on a regular basis.

Target population was thirty-five (35) full-time & two (2) part-time trainable, dependent, and multi-dependent students who were served in 2006, ranging in age from 6 to 21 years.

Accomplishments

- \$40,000 McDonal new accessible playground.
- Expanded the community pre-voc program by adding Save-On Foods to the expanding list of job sites.
- Purchased more sensory integration equipment to expand opportunities as recommended by special consultants.
- Mandatory exercise program was successfully implemented with help from the REACH consultants.

- Used SHIP funds to implemented ten sensory integration diets developed by specialized consultants.

Program Goals for 2007:

- Continue to fund play therapy and sensory integration consulting using AISI and SHIP funds.

- Implement the REACH Technology computer program for three autistic students as the first pilot of this program in Canada.
- Implement new AISI project - play therapy delivered by a specialized psychiatrist.

Challenge Program

The Parkland School Challenge Program uses computer technology to supplement regular academic classes and to enhance the students' capabilities in the areas of language arts, reading, and mathematics.

Target Population was twenty-five (25) trainable, multi-dependent and dependent students who were served in 2006, ranging in age from 8 to 20 years.

Accomplishments and Outcomes:

- from "Computers for Schools" to upgrade classroom and Challenge Lab hardware.
- All students now work independently at times on individualized computer programs.

Program Goals for 2007:

- Continue to search for innovative educational software to support and

improve the quality of the challenge program.

- Enable all students to use computers for leisure by using games as well as educational software.

Augmentative Communications Program

The Parkland School Augmentative Communications Program uses computer systems and technical devices to develop communication skills for non-verbal and multi-dependent students.

In addition to developing alternative communication skills, students access innovative software, hardware and other technologies to advance living skills.

Target Population was twenty-six (26) multi-dependent, dependent and trainable students with very limited, or non-existent, communication skills who were served in 2006. Students ranged in age from 6 to 16 years.

Accomplishments and Outcomes:

- Ongoing creation and modification of Augmentative Communication devices and programs to meet the diverse needs of all students.
- Expanded the Boardmaker picture strips and schedules, and increased the usage of technical talkers.
- Trained student aides and parents regarding the proper use and troubleshooting of communication devices.
- Continued to utilize the DTHR speech therapist and the REACH team to develop a multi-disciplinary approach to communication.

Program Goals for 2007:

- Continue to educate parents about technical equipment and encourage them to purchase similar equipment to expand usage in all environments.
- Work with Glenrose Hospital (I Can Center) to identify new technological devices.
- Continue to upgrade computers and programs to successfully expand our ability to provide communication for all students.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES REPORT

Shauna Mayes, Manager

Children's Services provides supports to families and disabled children through a variety of programs and services. Supports are delivered in the community and homes of families and proprietors.

Children's programs conform to the Canadian Accreditation Council of Human Services. Services are delivered under the direction of families, guardians, and the Region 4 Child and Family Authority. The agency also delivers Children's Services under the authority of various aboriginal band councils and Territorial Government agencies from the NWT and Nunavut.

Parkland's Children's Services include the Family Support Program and the Supported Home Placement Program.

Family Support Program

The Family Support Program provides in-home assistance for families to cope with, and manage their child's needs.

The program provides the family with support staff, in-home parental relief,

full participation in the home, family, and community.

Target population was thirty-nine (41) children who were served in the SHP (Supported Home Placement) Program during 2006.

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Target population was thirty-nine (41) children, and their families, who were served in 2006.

Accomplishments and Outcomes:

- Successfully expanded and operated the children's summer leisure and recreation program with very limited funder support.
- Implemented bi-monthly orientation seminars for all family support staff using a PowerPoint presentations.

Program Goals for 2007:

- Prepare the program for compliance to a future Children's Accreditation standards review which will occur September, 2007.

Supported Home Placement Program

The Supported Home Placement (SHP) Program allows disabled children to live in the home of an individual caregiver or family.

Children require out-of-home placement for a variety of reasons including school attendance, family breakdown, chronic illness, or high behavioral needs. The program provides accommodation, combined with family support and nurturing that is provided by the caregiver.

Children have the opportunity to grow and experience success in a safe and healthy environment that is conducive to skill development, empowerment, and

and formal home studies have been completed.

- Eight out of thirteen relief homes are licensed for child welfare children placements.
- All regular proprietorship homes that are funded through child welfare are licensed through Region 4 and re-licensing has occurred for all homes.
- Developed a Parent Guide power-point presentation for families and Social Workers in the NWT, Yukon, and Alberta. This presentation describes all programs that Parkland provides.
- A parent from the NWT made a video of her experience placing her child within Parkland, and she has offered to be a liaison to parents in the NWT who require services.

Program Goals for 2007

- The program is preparing for a Children's Accreditation standards review which will occur September, 2007.
- Ensure that core training is completed for all proprietors and spouses by December, 2007.

Child Specialized Behavioural Management Services

Specialized Behavioral Management Services have been part of the children's program since 2004. The program provides support to children who experience

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behavior challenges, their families, and frontline staff.

Specialized Behavioral Management is accomplished through the completion of formalized assessments, staff training, family support, and the development of behavioral management strategies. The primary objective is to increase and enhance the quality of life of the child.

Target population was thirty-five (35) children with a variety of behavioral concerns or needs identified.

Accomplishments and Outcomes:

- The program's behavioral specialists have provided staff and proprietors with training in sensory strategies, autism, occupational therapy, augmentative communication, and data collection.
- Acquired new behavior management resources including "Picture This" and "Writing with Symbols" sensory toys and activities.
- Consulted with Charlotte Vehus and Billy Moore homes in the NWT to

develop new behavioral procedures for their accreditation requirements.

- Developed a visual strategies course that is delivered on a regular basis for all adult and children's staff and proprietors.
- Social stories were developed for the children within this program to teach children how to deal with home visits, grief, death, starting school, and anger.
- Social stories were developed for children within the Rae Edzo area to assist them in understanding death.

Program Goals for 2007:

- Develop a broad consumer behavior database to support further development of the Specialized Behavior Management Services.
- Develop and implement a behavior management workshop for all agency employees as part of their mandatory training requirements.
- Access regular consultations with an occupation therapist from Calgary who has expertise in working with difficult behavioral challenges and sensory needs.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES REPORT

Teresa Chase, Senior Program Manager

Residential Services provides direct supports through agency operated community homes that offer living arrangements with two or three individuals sharing a home. As an alternative, supports are also provided in proprietor homes or the apartments of individual consumers.

All Adult Residential Services conform to Alberta Council of Disabilities Services (ACDS) - Accreditation Standards. The Children Residential Program conforms to the Certification Standards of the Canadian Accreditation Council of Human Services (CAC).

Residential programs are operated under the direction of the families, guardians, indivi-

Residential services are provided through Parkland CLASS's Adult and Children's Residential Programs, the Children's Relief Program, the Adult Proprietorship Program, and the Individual Life Styles (ILS) Program.

Adult Residential Program

The Adult Residential Program provides housing and accommodation, combined with personal support staff. The resulting service model fosters inclusion within the community.

Single family homes are most often used with three individuals sharing the cost of accommodation and staffing. The adult's needs are met while independence, empowerment, and participation within their home environment are maximized.

Target population was ninety-nine (99) dependent and multi-dependent adults with various disabling conditions and needs who were served in 2006.

Accomplishments and Outcomes:

- Completed ACDS re-accreditation audit with compliance being found to all accreditation standards.
- All individuals who requested Person Centered Plans have now had them completed.
- Two new accessible homes were built to replace aging properties and successful moves occurred.
- Developed program framework for Specialized Behavior Management Services.
- Accepted 18 new referrals from PDD due to an agency closure, and all of these individuals were successfully transitioned.

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the Citizen's Action Bus.

Program Goals for 2007:

- Update individual Person Centered Plans as required

- Develop and implement a new personal profile package.
- Research the use of alternative assessment tools including the new "Supports Intensity Scale".
- Research the development of a data collection system that utilizes the "HOMES" Program.

Children's Residential Program

The Children's Residential Program provides a home-like atmosphere for developmentally disabled children who require permanent out-of-home placements due to school attendance, family breakdown, or chronic illness.

The program provides accommodation, combined with personal support staffing. Children experience success in a safe and healthy environment that is conducive to their learning.

Target population was fourteen (14) dependent, multi-dependent, and medically fragile children with various disabling conditions and needs who were served in 2006.

Accomplishments and Outcomes:

- Licensing for all the agency's children's homes was secured under the new Child, Youth, and Family Enhancement Act.

Program Goals for 2007:

- Develop and implement a new consumer personal profile package

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Children's Relief Program

The Children's Relief Program offers temporary care and supports to disabled children through short-term stays at agency operated children's residences.

The relief program offers families an opportunity to temporarily divest themselves of the daily demands of a special needs child and assists in maintaining strong family units.

Target population was nineteen (19) dependent, multi-dependent, and medically fragile children with various disabling conditions and needs who were served in 2006.

Accomplishments and Outcomes:

- Increased relief opportunities for children and reduced the waiting list in spite of an increasing in the number permanent placements .

Program Goals for 2007:

- Continue to work cooperatively with current parents to accommodate and manage their relief requests.

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provides support to adults who do not require any live-in supports. Disabled consumers generally live on their own in an apartment or basement suite.

Staff support for ILS individuals range from (8) eight hours to (88) eighty eight hours per week.

Target population was eleven (11) disabled adults who were served in their own homes during 2006.

Accomplishments and Outcomes:

- Completed ACDS re-accreditation audit with compliance being found to all standards.
- Introduced an ILS program service delivery guide.
- Received one new referral from PDD due to agency closure, this individual was successfully transitioned.

Program Goals for 2007

- Investigate creative alternatives to address the lack of afford housing.
- Complete the development of an ILS Program Orientation Manual.

Adult Proprietorship Program

The Adult proprietorship program allows disabled adults to live in the home of an individual caregiver or family.

This service provides accommodation, friendship, and support provided by the caregiver in a family orientated or roommate focused environment.

Target population was eighteen (18) trainable and dependant adults who were served during 2006

Accomplishments and Outcomes:

- Completed ACDS re-accreditation audit with compliance being found to

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- Received two new referrals from PDD due to the closure of a local agency, and these Individuals were successfully transitioned.
- All individuals who requested Person Centered Plans have now had them completed.
- A training manual for spouses of proprietors has been completed.
- Implemented a “Life-Facts” program to assist individuals in understanding relationships and sexuality issues.

Program Goals for 2007:

- Update the Adult Proprietorship Program Orientation Manual.
- Implement a new consumer personal profile package.
- Increase communication between the agency and proprietors.
- Implement the new training requirements for spouses of proprietors.

Adult Specialized Behavioural Management Services

The Specialized Behavioral Management program is a newly developed adult program after funds were secured from PDD in 2005. This program provides support to adult individuals who experience behavior challenges, their families, and frontline staff.

- Staff and proprietors have been provided with training in sensory strategies, augmentative communication autism, occupational therapy, and data collection.
- Developed a database to track renew dates for psychotropic medication and various planned approaches to Behavioral Management.
- Developed a new PRN Protocol that ACDS has highly recognized and has

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family support, and the development of behavioral management strategies. The program goal is to increase and enhance the quality of life of the individual.

Target population was forty-five (45) adults with a variety of behavioral concerns or needs identified.

Accomplishments and Outcomes:

- ABA (Applied Behavioral Analysis) program was introduced for two children being home schooled.

ment and a behavior and medication correlation chart.

Program Goals for 2007:

- Continue to develop a consumer behavior database.
- Develop and implement behavior management workshops for all agency employees as part of their mandatory training requirements.
- Plan monthly consultation with an occupation therapist from Calgary experienced with difficult behavioral challenges.

ADULT DAY PROGRAMS REPORT

Janet Lundquist, Manager

Day programs are alternatives to full-time employment and generally focus on individual access to generic community activities and services. Supports are also provided for group activities which foster the development of friendships and peer relations.

Day program supports are provided in the community as well as through an agency-operated facility, the RELAX Crew Clubhouse. Adult Day Programs operate under the direction of families and / or guardians, consumers, and the Persons with Developmental Disabilities Central Alberta Community Board.

A segment of the agency's adult day program services involve providing relief and respite care to families who are caring for a dependently disabled adult son, daughter, or sibling in their family home.

Adult Day Program Services include the Community Bridging Program, the Adult Respite Care Program, and the RELAX Crew Program.

Community Bridging Program

The Community Bridging Program provides staff support to individual

consumers to facilitate out-of-home community activities that are based on the individual's likes, interests, and abilities.

The program provides a structured alternative to employment, if desired, or it supplements the individual's lifestyle. Personal supports are provided so that individual needs are met and community participation is maximized.

Target population was fifty-five (55) adults who were served during 2006.

Accomplishments and Outcomes:

- Maintained the Community Bridging model with a one to one staff to consumer support ratio.
- Developed positive relationships with other not for profit groups

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- mented.
- Gained formal accreditation through ACDS with full compliance to all standards.
- Initiated Person Centered Plans for the Community Bridging Program.

Program Goals for 2007:

- Continue to explore strategies that will enable the Bridging program to meet the CET standards that promote community inclusion.
- Investigate opportunities to sustain Day Prog
- Develop project for shared day program supports.

Adult Respite Care Program

The Adult Respite Care Program offers temporary care and support to disabled adults through short term out-of-home stays away from their family, or through providing the family with in-home staff.

Respite care offers families an opportunity to temporarily divest themselves of the daily demands of caring for a disabled adult. This contributes to the maintenance of stronger families.

Target population was eleven (11) trainable dependent and multi-dependent adults who were served in 2006.

Accomplishments and Outcomes:

- More families are aware of the Adult Respite Care Program and therefore demand is increasing.
- Negotiated a shared support concept on an individualized basis with PDD for Respite Services.
- Completed Home Safety Checklists for all respite providers.

Program Goals for 2007:

- through the Adult Respite Program.
- Explore alternatives to the traditional respite program.

RELAX Crew Program

The RELAX Crew Social Club is a consumer directed social, leisure, and recreational organization which gives members increased opportunities to develop and expand friendships with other disabled individuals who have common interests.

experiences.

Target population was two hundred and seventy-eight (278) members who were affiliated with various agencies were served in 2006.

Accomplishments and Outcomes:

- Participated in various activities in support of the 2006 Adult Consumer

Conference. Parkland also hosted a BBQ for conference delegates.

- Worked with other agencies to continue to support the self-advocate initiative.
- Developed additional volunteer placements within the Relax Crew Clubhouse.
- Hosted an Abuse Protocol Workshop for self-advocates and RELAX Crew members.
- Offered additional cultural opportunities for members.

- Continue to work with regional service provider groups to promote meaningful programs and activities for all members.
- Explore options to alleviate the specialized transportation issues for RELAX Crew outings and day trips.
- Develop an external use protocol for the RELAX Crew clubhouse, taking into consideration the additional resources that will be required.
- Expand RELAX Crew activities to include additional types of educational opportunities.

Program Goals for 2007

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES REPORT

Dan Verstraete, Director and Ed Hatcher, Program Manager

Parkland CLASS is very active in the development and delivery of services for disabled adults and children from the Northwest Territories and the Nunavut Territory. These services include residential placements, adult and children proprietorships, ILS placements, and training at the request of the NWT Government.

Services are delivered either in Central Alberta where 29 high needs children and adults have relocated, or in the Inuvik Region of the Northwest Territories where 13 adults are being served in two residential projects.

The services that support northern adults and children in Central Alberta have been previously reported. The services that are located in the north include the Charlotte Vehus and Billy Moore Group Homes, which are located in the community of Inuvik, NWT.

Charlotte Vehus Group Home (CVH)

The Charlotte Vehus Group Home provides medically based residential services for high needs medically dependent adults.

This service combines a rehabilitation model with a medical support model. Target population was eight (8) high needs medically dependent adults that were served in **Parkland CLASS Annual Report**

- The health authority has extended the agency's contract for another year pending a tendering process.
- PRO-Act has been taught on site to all staff including both the restraint and prevention programs.
- Abuse recognition and reporting training has been delivered onsite. The northern service manager has been trained to be trainer.
- The development and pilot of a new

Accomplishm

- Parkland CLASS is actively involved as a member of the Inuvik Regional Health Authority's placement committee.

- service was developed and is available to perspective consumers and families who are seeking service.
- A wheelchair accessible van was purchased and has been delivered to the Charlotte Vehus Home.

Program Goals for 2006:

- Continue the Basic Skills Training Program for all staff and introduce the addition of regularly scheduled staff development meetings.
- Introduce the Servant Leadership business model to all northern staff.

addition of scheduled staff development meetings.

- Re-negotiate a five year service agreement with the Inuvik Regional Health Authority.

Billy Moore Community Group Home

The Billy Moore Community Group Home provides residential services to moderately disabled adults. This service fosters inclusion within the community while consumer participation and choice are maximized in their home environment.

Target Population was five (5) moderately disabled aboriginal adults who were served in 2006.

Accomplishments and Outcomes:

- Eight northern staff are currently enrolled in the Basic Skills Training program.
- PRO-Act has been taught on site to all staff including both the restraint and prevention programs.
- Abuse recognition and reporting training was delivered onsite. The service manager has been trained as a new trainer.
- Development and piloting of a new consumer service audit completed.

Program Goals for 2006:

- In consultation with Band Councils and local Elders, identify appropriate cultural opportunities and facilitate consumer participation.
- Continue the Basic Skills Training program for all staff with the

In October 1999, Parkland's Board of Directors established a strategic goal – “To become a recognized international NGO with the goal of advancing the status and rights of intellectually disabled adults, children, and their families in developing nations”.

In October 2004, the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) facilitated a Pan-American conference in Montreal to establish a universal declaration on intellectual disability. Through the Montreal Declaration, international organizations and others were called upon - “to collaborate with States, persons with disabilities, family members, and NGOs to dedicate resources and technical assistance to ... support the full participation in society of persons with intellectual disabilities and integrated models of community services”.

In late 2006, the United Nations issued its “Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”. Through the UN convention there is a renewed emphasis on international cooperation and support to achieve meaningful change and the further advancement of disability rights.

Parkland CLASS has advanced its strategic goal and supports both the Montreal Declaration and the UN Convention through three separate avenues of international activities. These include the ITINERIS Education Program, the Parkland-Argentina Self-advocacy Initiative, and through formal international conference presentations. This is a cumulative report of Parkland's activities.

**The ITINERIS Education Program
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with four of Argentina's most significant
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CLASS and the ITINERIS Foundation of Argentina. Since 2000 The ITINERIS project has supported the advancement of disability rights in Latin America.

Orione.

This has been accomplished through the development and delivery of a unique family and frontline staff education program. This 10 month course challenges negative beliefs and values that limit community inclusion. These negative views are replaced with new values that support equality, increased human rights, self-determin
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The desired results of the self-advocacy initiatives are to empower individuals in self-determination and optimizing their personal control over their lives. Self-advocacy is preparatory to increasing community capacity so that disabled individuals will move from a marginalized economic and social status to become valued participants within their own communities.

The particip
ITINERIS education program include parent and sibling groups, service providers and frontline staff who support disabled children and adults.

**Parkland Argentina
Self-Advocacy Initiatives**

Six self-advocacy initiatives are being developed and undertaken in partnership

- nership base to include four national organizations as primary partners.
- Supported the initial development and implementation of six self-advocacy projects in Argentina.
 - Supported the expansion of 2 parent groups in the Rosario and Santa Fa provinces of Argentina.
 - Supported the Moron - Sun Flower parent organization in a disability

rights education program that is taught to university students.

- Presented at two international conferences (The Montreal Summit and The Inclusion International World Congress).
- Delivered two workshops in Buenos Aires on the development of non-profit organizations. Sixty Argentine NGO's were in attendance.

Program Goals for 2007:

- Continue with the implementation of the six self-advocacy initiatives that are occurring in Argentina, utilizing the agency's four primary partners.
- Become formally involved with the Inclusion International organization, and expand Parkland's contacts with other developing nations.
- In partnership with CIDA, undertake several family and institutional training projects in the Jujuy region of Northern Argentina.
- Building on the initial Jujuy projects, develop **Parkland CLASS Annual Report** training p
- Investigate Bolivian joint ventures with Peru's Ann Sullivan Foundation.

Conference Presentations

As a result of its involvement in international development, Parkland CLASS has been invited to present at a number of conferences in North America and abroad.

Parkland's rationale in participating in international conferences is two-fold. Firstly, it provides an opportunity to share the fundamental values and beliefs that are critical to both community inclusion and the advancement of the status of disabled children and adults.

Secondly, it provides an opportunity to identify future international partners while at the same time encouraging other North American service providers to

become involved internationally in support of the Montreal Declaration.

The following represents Parkland's key international conference addresses:

- Service Delivery in a Cross Cultural Context at the AAMR (American Association on Mental Retardation) International Conference, in Orlando Florida, 2003.
- Supporting Disability Rights in Latin America at the YAI International Conference, in New York, New York, 2004.
- AIMIA (ASOCIACION MUTUAL ISRAEMIA Argentina) International Congress, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2005.
- The ITINERIS Project – Promoting a New Paradigm of Intellectual Disability, at the Asociacion AMAR Desarrollamos Capacidades' Ibero-American International Congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2005.
- International Partnerships Advancing the Status of Intellectually Disabled Adults in Latin America at the International Summit for the Alliance on Social Inclusion" in Montreal, Canada, 2006.
- The Advancement of Community Services and Individual Rights at the 2006 Foro Pro Congress - Jornadas Prestacionales - 25 Years of Building Together, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- Organizational Growth and Development within the Non-Profit Sector, at the University of San Andreas, Faculty of Economics, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2006.

- International Partnerships Supporting the Montreal Declaration, at World Congress of Inclusion International, Acapulco, Mexico, 2006.