



Jodi Nelson shares details on voting with CIP's Managers and Supervisors.

Getting out to Vote!

During the September 11th Managers and Supervisors Meeting, Jodi Nelson, Voter Outreach and Education coordinator for the Minnesota Secretary of State's office, came to make a get out to vote presentation. Jodi provided information about absentee ballots, early voting and same day registration. She also demonstrated the Automarck machine which enables persons with disabilities to cast their vote.

It was exciting to learn that nearly 90% of Minnesotans will be registered to vote in this election. That puts us first in the country.

We encourage everyone to exercise their right as a citizen and vote on November 4th.

Standing with and Supporting People with Disabilities

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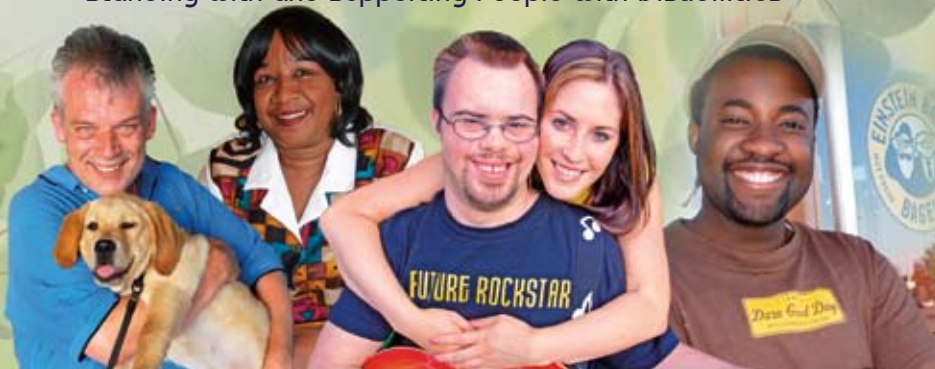
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InSight

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Telling the Story of Community Involvement Programs

I just marked my fifteenth year at Community Involvement Programs. I have seen it grow not only in the number of people we serve and our focus on personal outcomes, but also in the number of employees and the size of our budget.

This fall we are planting the seeds for a new venture that will play a vital role in securing our future and the quality and range of supports that we provide.

We are launching a new effort to develop our capacity to tell our story to families, friends and the community so that we can begin to secure additional resources to pursue our goals and dreams. To lead this effort, we have hired David Wheeler as our new Development Director.

David has a broad range of skills and experience that will serve us well. He will assist in telling our story and creating opportunities to contribute both time and money to augment and enhance our efforts.



**Development Director
David Wheeler**

Please welcome David and join us in this new endeavor. I know you will appreciate his energy and enthusiasm as we share our stories and create new ways for CIP to grow and support people with disabilities. Enjoy this first issue of our new newsletter!

Thank you,

John T. Everett, Executive Director

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Insight is published quarterly by the Community Involvement Programs. Your contact information is considered confidential and will not be shared. For further information please please call David Wheeler at 612.362.4412 or dhwheeler@cipmn.org.



Commissioner Opat receives Partnership Award

During our June 2008 Annual Meeting, Mike Opat, a Hennepin County Commissioner since 1993, received our Partnership Award. He has been an advocate for people with disabilities his whole life. Mike has a brother with a disability so he learned at an early age the challenge each family faces and the support and services they need.

Last year, during difficult budget deliberations, Mike continued to urge funding for those students graduating from school who need a program during the day. At the end of the budgeting process, the County Board agreed and added \$700,000 to the budget for day and community support.

When CIP and other providers were being required to register all their housing including our licensed adult foster care homes, it was Mike Opat



Mike and Kim Opat

who wrote a letter to the City of New Hope asking the Mayor and City Council to reconsider.

We are grateful that Commissioner Opat understands and supports those with disabilities. Thank you Mike.

Five Houses have been Renovated!

Thanks to Hennepin County's HOME Program and a grant from the City of Saint Louis Park, Community Involvement Programs has completed major renovations to five of its houses. These single family homes were part of the original group of properties used to create the first supportive housing program in the metro area over 15 years ago.

The Supportive Housing Program was developed by Jonathan Farmer, our former Housing Director who recently passed away, as a response to the needs of persons with mental illness who had few options for safe, affordable housing. Today, Community Involvement Programs provides supportive housing to 130 people.

Featured Artist: Linnea Johnson

Linnea Johnson of Crystal grow up in Ann Arbor, Michigan and moved to Minnesota in 1993. As a youngster Linnea loved to sketch, but soon found her niche with watercolor and acrylics, which she layers with considerable affect. Her themes are from nature and include flowers, lakes and other outdoor scenery.

Says Linnea, "I like to capture the essence of what I am painting, and I especially enjoy putting in the shadows. It really feels good to have developed my own style." Clearly Linnea has a gift that she enjoys sharing with others.

You will be able to purchase a thank you card next year that features one of Linnea Johnson's original watercolors. Please look for details in a future issue of INSIGHT.



Day Lilys - Summer 2008

Book Review – Regular & Decaf

Reviewer - Kay King

Andrew Gadtke's first book, *Regular & Decaf*, is an inspiring non-fiction read for young men and women, in their 20's, with a diagnosis of mental illness. Families, who have a member who lives with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder, will also gain insight, knowledge and hope.

Andrew and his best friend, Benji, are in their 20's; Andrew lives with schizophrenia and Benji with bipolar disorder. Both discovered their illnesses during college.

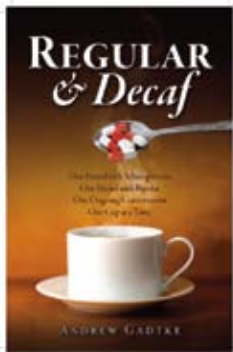
The two friends met over coffee to talk about their disorders. The book shares their conversations, one cup of coffee at a time, with a narrative thread by Andrew, between conversations, that tells his personal story of living with schizophrenia.

Andrew's story of hope and recovery is about finding meaning and purpose in his life, the importance of taking his medications and the love and support of his family.

He was motivated to write *Regular & Decaf* when "he went looking for this book and it wasn't there," as he struggled to learn more about his diagnosis. It's an insider's perspective... a conversation over a cup of coffee and just as approachable.

You can purchase Andrew's book only at www.regularanddecaf.com or at 800.707.4756.

Kay King is a board member and volunteer for CIP.



Made in the Shade raises \$15,700!



Amy Norsten, John Everett, Marsha Clairborne, and Shannon Krause getting ready to walk & roll!

Community Involvement Programs is one of several non-profits supporting people with disabilities that participate in Made in the Shade each year. Hundreds of members of the disability community met on Saturday morning, September 27th for the 13th Annual Made in the Shade fundraising event.

This "walk, run or roll" around Lake Calhoun directly benefits the people we support through the Program Participant Fund. We exceeded our goal of \$15,000 by \$700, which is our best effort yet.

For the past several years, Vince Hart has been our premier fundraiser, and this year was no exception. Vince is the receptionist at our Administrative offices.

Everyone who comes to the office during "Made in the Shade" season is presented with the opportunity to give, thanks to Vince's diligent efforts. This year, Vince raised \$1600 in pledges. We extend our sincere thanks to Vince and everyone else who contributed to Made in the Shade.

Employment Services Success Story

Betsy Killion owns a coffee shop in South Minneapolis. The Crosstown road construction and a lagging economy had been hurting her business; nevertheless, she was willing to talk to Robert Taylor, one of our Employment Representatives, about a job opportunity for one of our participants. Betsy was eager to make an employment partnership work. In December of 2007, Pam Iverson started working at Betsy's Back Porch Coffee, and has been a valuable employee ever since.

Increasing numbers of businesses are committed to becoming socially responsible employers. By hiring people with disabilities, employers get their business needs met as well as helping to build inclusive



Employer Betsy Killion and employee Pam Iverson share a cup at Betsy's Back Porch.

communities and neighborhoods. If you're in the neighborhood, consider stopping by Betsy's Back Porch Coffee at 5447 Nicollet Avenue in south Minneapolis. If you know of other socially responsible businesses that are looking for reliable employees, contact Robert Taylor at rtaylor@cipmn.org.