



“An inclusive community that actively acknowledges and values the intrinsic worth and contribution of persons with an intellectual disability”



Day Options - Small Enterprise | Making & Labelling Jam

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Denise, Tracey, Tracy, Beverly & Miriam | Performing Arts

Latest News

This newsletter is written with some very mixed feelings, as it will be my last.

My retirement is now imminent and I shall complete my service to the clients and staff of HCO on the 24th of July. The new CEO, **Ms Kaz McMahon**, who has experience in Children's Services, will commence on July 22nd and we look forward to the contribution she will bring.

The last six months have again seen an increase in the number of clients we service and a pleasing increase in our income, which will result in a good surplus for the year, which places us in a strong position, heading into the full implementation of the NDIS.

We have been fortunate in that a service development application to the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion has resulted two clients in emergency respite now being funded for accommodation, which gives them a secure home, which will be "their place".

Special Welcome

A special welcome is given to two new staff in Head Office, one being **Felicity Brown**, who is our new Client Services Manager. Felicity comes with great credentials and is already proving to be a huge asset. In addition, **Andrea Gatenby**, who has shown significant competence, commenced as Rostering/ Payroll clerk providing support to **Judith Paech** the Operations Manager. It was also most pleasing to be able to extend the role of **Anna Los** to that of Co-ordinator, In Home Support. Anna is still responsible for Neighbourhood Links and the small programs. Her commitment to client outcomes is always evident and well received.

Final Word

The last 13 years have been both challenging and varied, but most of all, extremely rewarding, having experienced much joy through involvement in the lives of our many clients, all of whom will remain in my heart and in my prayers. It has been wonderful to know each one of them and to have witnessed improvements and developments in their lives, consistent with their aspirations and life choices. I regard it as a great privilege and thank the Lord for the opportunity to have served and shared in their lives. The support and care given by the staff during this time has been tremendous and special thank you is due to **Judith Paech** and **Judy Webster**, who for several years with myself, engaged in long hours maintaining the behind the scenes support during our time of growth.

Kind regards,
Aileen Dawson
Chief Executive Officer

Community Centre

We were thrilled to finally take up residence in the new Community Centre, for Day Options, with space available for meetings and the hiring out of the facility. The Centre was dedicated in April, and thanks and praise was given to God for the wonderful provision through the bequest of **Betty Sickle**, many years ago. Our sincere appreciation for the opportunity to lease these great premises through Hillview Lutheran Services to Disability and the continued hard work on the part of **Pastor Eric Leibelt**, the brother of Betty.

Art Group

Several of the clients, who were participants in **Lyn Milburn's** Art group, sold their paintings at the Purple Orange Exhibition again this year. Some of their exhibits are displayed in this newsletter. We were very sorry to have to say goodbye to Lyn, who has also retired. She has done an amazing job with the art group over the years. Michelle Jahn has now taken responsibility for the art group.



Aileen Dawson | Chief Executive Officer

The Bookstore

In response to the changing dynamics of Day Options programs and the forthcoming full implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme Hills Community Options (HCO) is developing a number of social and micro enterprises under what we previously called the Day Options Program. What HCO will achieve through doing this is an increase in the real choices people with a disability have when accessing HCO services.

In saying that, HCO is also looking at programs becoming self-funding and in some instances returning a surplus, or at the least meeting the real cost of programs. In doing this HCO will not only offer clients real choices but also ensure their programs are sufficiently resourced to meet the program and client's goals and objectives.

The two major social enterprises HCO are presently developing are the Community Centre and the soon to be opened Bookstore at 38 Hutchinson Street. The bookstore is an innovative project where we turn traditional Day Options programs on their head. Instead of people with a disability being supported with integration into existing community structures and programs we want the community to come to us to see the abilities of the people who will run and work out of this retail outlet.

The Hills Community Bookstore is about selling quality second hand books and craft/produce made by clients' accessing HCO services. The store is loosely based on the Hut Bookshop which operates in Stirling and they have been extremely supportive in assisting HCO with starting up this enterprise. While the store is not yet ready to open as a retail outlet we will be running some programs from there from mid-July.

It takes a large number of books to start an enterprise like this and so HCO is appealing for donations of books which we will sell at the store. If you have any donations of quality books you would like to make please contact John Simpson on 8391 1828 or drop them off at either the Community Centre or the bookstore. We all look forward to seeing you at the bookstore once it is opened and thank you in advance for your support.

John Simpson
General Manager Organisational Development



SA Cricket | Michael Kellet receiving his state uniform

Congratulations!

A big congratulations to Michael Kellet for being selected to represent South Australia at the Australian National Lord Taverers Cricket Shield in Queensland.

"Amazing Achievement"

Betty Sickel's Vision

Taken from The Courier Wednesday May 6th 2015

"After a 40 year battle Mount Barker woman Betty Sickel's wish for a place to support people with disabilities has finally come true."

Ms Sickle was blind, a double amputee with type 1 diabetes who bequeathed 20 acres of local land for the benefit of persons with a disability. Her dream was realised through the concerted hard work of Hill View Lutheran Services to the Disabled in partnership with Hills Community Options. Hill View have spent in excess of \$3.4m in delivering 4 accommodation units, Betty's House of Respite and the Hill View Community Centre. All are purpose built, architecturally designed and managed by Hills Community Options Inc. for the benefit of persons with a disability.

The key drivers of this remarkable achievement have been Pastor Eric Liebelt and David Schild both from Hill View, Aileen Dawson from Hills Community Options and Jill Marks when she was employed by Disability SA. There have been many others whose help has been instrumental in making this dream come true, and in fact too many to acknowledge here.

One of the most enjoyable aspect of this project has been ensuring the buildings and the management of them preserves a strong focus on supporting persons with a disability. HCO believes this has been achieved and will be maintained through the services it delivers using a Person Centred Active Support model. With the opening of the community centre we are reversing what is happening almost everywhere else. HCO is inviting the wider community to come and join us at the centre, to be a part of what is an innovative and energised way for persons with a disability to develop new skills and engage with their community as active and valued members of it.

While the community centre has only been operating for a very short time we can already see the benefits it is delivering for both clients and staff who regular attend programs. Everyone enjoys being able to access a high quality, fit for purpose venue and this is reflected in their positive attitudes and actions. In closing I would like to say thank you to everyone who has contributed to making Betty's dream a reality and ask that you come and visit us at the centre.

Neighbourhood Links

All of us wanted to say farewell to Aileen. Some of us said 'why don't we give her a bunch of flowers?'. Another replied 'what about one lovely flower



Neighbourhood Links Performing

each?'. As our ideas came forward we decided to develop them into a performance at the HCO mid-year concert. To the music of Gurrumul ...we set the dimly lit stage with a small table, pink cloth, candles and a beautiful bunch of flowers. To Simon and Garfunkel's song ...we flicked on our candles as the 'Sound of Silence' played. We swayed, twisted, circled and snaked our way through the music. Finally, one by one, into the microphone with flower in hand, we acknowledged Aileen's contribution towards making the Neighbourhood Links vision into a reality. Each gave their flower to Aileen....all of our single flowers making one huge bunch of teary 'thankyou's'.

Baby Talk

For the first half of 2015 there has been an abundance of newborn arrivals around Hills Community Options, so we would like to extend a big congratulations to the following staff and their families:

Gurpreet Lidher & wife Navraj on the arrival of their baby girl Avnoor;
Jils Tom & wife Simiya on the arrival of their baby boy Emmanuel;
Nima Bandara & Husband Harsha on the arrival of their bay girl Allira;
Mohahmed Qavi & wife Sameena Sultana on the arrival of their baby girl Zainab Sultana;
Suhkhchain Raike & wife Pardeed Kaur Dhaliwal on the arrival of their baby girl Hashreet Kaur Raike;
Koffi Kpade & wife Obdube on the arrival of their baby boy Samuel;
Tim Dawson & Wife Trudi on the arrival of their baby boy Toby;
Jaison Mathew & Wife Anija on the arrival of their baby boy Jordan.

We also have some Grandparents we would like to congratulate:

Judith Paech, proud Grandmother of Charlotte the baby daughter of Nicole & Pierre;
Chris Wright, Proud Grandmother of Ivy the baby daughter of Katrina and Mark;
Jim & Aileen Dawson the proud Grandparents of Toby the son of Tim & Trudi.

Mid Year Performance

Hills Community Options would like to thank all the contributing staff and clients for their time and effort that they put into making this years Mid Year Performance such a wonderful and memorable occasion. We would especially like to thank **Mark Taylor** for his continued contribution to hosting our performances and a extra special thanks to **Colleen Cooper** for her organisation and setup of the Mid Year Performance. The skilled performers did a wonderful job and we look forward to much of the same in the future.



Reflections

Charles Ringma," Dare to Journey with Henri Nouwen"

"Building community through loving service"

Community is not built by wishful thinking. It is not achieved by dreaming. It does not come about by simply longing for a place of friendship, meaningful relationships and solidarity.

Community, that fragile gift of commonality is built on deeds. It comes about when people are prepared to love and serve each other. It emerges when we are prepared to find meaningful common goals and purposes. It grows when we can find sufficient reason to **journey together**. And it becomes rich when it encourages diversity within unity.

We cannot have a life together unless it comes to expression through practical care and service. And it cannot be sustained unless we respond to the call to lay aside our pride, priorities and position and clothe ourselves with the garment of humility.

The secret of community lies not in its creative and enthusiastic genesis, nor in its moments of celebration and revelation, but rather in the daily rhythm of faithful service.

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