

History and Update of Chip and Dale Homes Inc.

(This document is intended for educational purposes only)

An Historical Perspective (updated in 2017)

Chip and Dale Housing Inc. was started as a Committee on Residential Services with the Regina Developmental Centre (RDC) in 1979.

RDC was an organization started by parents for their handicapped children. The feeling was that everyone was entitled to an education. Classes were held at the Grace Mennonite Church starting in 1976. Classes were later held in Grant Road, Argyle and McVeety Schools.

Chip and Dale Housing was changed to Chip and Dale Homes in 2011

Funding was provided by the Regina Board of Education, Regina Separate Schools, Indian Affairs and Buffalo Plains School Unit. The Regina Board of Education administered the funding until it took over the operations of the program in 1980. The Developmental Centre Program under the Board of Education grew from there.

Names to remember from the early years of the Developmental Centre Program include: June Mitchell, Claire Parker, Vi Downs, Jane Newton and Joan Hambley West.

In the years that followed (1980-81) a group of parents met and informal talks took place. These pioneers met in the basements of their homes before a group home was purchased. This group included Vickie Ireland (Wessner) and Wayne Wessner, Charlotte and Don Cameron, Dwayne and Susan Lennox, Gayle Miiller and Jack Vilcu.

CORE Services and Social Services were invited to the meetings. Tom Gillies was the main participant in those early discussions. Other government participants included Dr. Allan Hanson, Murray Nurse, Ron Hart, Bev Will, Archie Laroque, Les Talbot, Dick Baxter, Vic Taylor, Brian Tkachuk and Freda Laroque.

Chip and Dale Housing opened the first group home for children with multiple disabilities in the province.

These early discussions were regarding homes, staffing, wages, funding, policies and many other issues. After several months of meetings a proposal was submitted (December, 1981) to government.

Chip and Dale Housing Inc. was incorporated in December of 1980 with a total of \$160 in assets. In December of 1981 Chip and Dale Housing Inc. procured charitable and non-profit status. The first Board of Directors was:

Wayne Wessner (Chairperson)
 Gayle Miiller (Vice Chair)
 Don Cameron (Secretary Treasurer)
 Susan Lennox
 Jack Vilcu
 Merrille Charowsky

On April 16, 1982, the Hon. Dwain Lingenfelter announced the approval of Chip and Dale Housing Inc.'s first group home. Due to a change in government, the Hon. Pat Smith made the formal announcement on September 24, 1982. It would be the first group home of its kind in the province. It would serve children, some as young as six years of age, who had multiple handicaps.

In November of 1982 meetings were held with Saskatchewan Housing to discuss the purchase of a home. Provincial funding for the project was given on January 26, 1983.

Board Chairpersons

Wayne Wessner- 80-85, 89-90, 95-96
 Lorne Keisey- 86
 Bill Moyer- 87-88, 92
 Joanne Innes- 91
 Helen Renkas- 93
 Don Cameron- 94
 Murray Knoll- 96-06, 08-09
 Shirley Skinner- 06-08, 11- present
 Chester Stark 07-08

The board was now starting to meet on a weekly basis at the Pasqua Recreation Centre. In May of 1983 Saskatchewan Housing approved the purchase of a duplex at 271 Magee Crescent. The purchase and renovation cost was \$138,000. Funding consisted of a mortgage (72%), government grants (20%) and Chip and Dale Housing Inc.'s contribution (8% plus the furnishings). Chip and Dale Housing Inc.'s share of the costs was \$27,000.

With help of the following Chip and Dale Housing Inc. was able to meet its commitment:

Kinsmen Foundation (Queen City)	\$23,369
RAMR Annual Ball	\$5,268
United Commercial Travelers	\$1,000

Plus there were many private donations.

An option was taken on the purchase of the 271 Magee Crescent home for 30 days and an application was made to the City of Regina for discretionary use of the property. This actually took 60 days to obtain. This created many anxious moments as there was only a 30 day option on the property.

The Agency took possession of the home on July 1, 1983 with renovations starting in August of 1983. The official opening of this home at 271 Magee Crescent was on October 23, 1983. The first residents of the Agency were:

Catherine
 Joel
 Ginger
 Elexis
 Derek
 Jayson

There were many tough decisions in the early years like what kind of beds to buy or what kind of curtains to have in the bedrooms. This was a new experience for everyone involved. There were many good times at the Magee Crescent home. There were many parties and celebrations. The staff planned trips to Edmonton to visit the West Edmonton Mall. There were trips to Calgary, Banff, Camp Easter Seal and many local camping experiences. Everything that was tried in those early years was new and exciting.

Helen Renkas was the first Executive Director and she set the tone for the Agency with good management and an emphasis on providing a caring environment. Although Chip and Dale only had six residents in the beginning, it was well endowed with staff. The Agency had an Executive Director, a

Program Coordinator and a Domestic as well as direct care staff. All were located in the Magee home. Needless to say, the roles of the staff were quite different than they are today. For example, Bob Martinook, one of the first Program Coordinators, said that part of his job involved keeping the sock drawers of the residents in order.

The parents, board and staff had a lot of fun. In the early years there was the annual ball game

Executive Directors

Helen Renkas- 83-90
 Bob Scott- 90-93
 Kim Kenney- 94
 Bob Martinook- 94-05
 Denise Grad- 06
 Lucy Mazden- 06- present

challenge. A most memorable moment came when Wayne Wessner substituted a painted cantaloupe for a softball. For a number of years an annual golf tournament was held out at Sherwood Forest. Since 2007, an annual picnic has been held at Evraz Place. It has featured a delicious barbecued meal along with the musical entertainment of Joe Barnhart and his accordion. The picnic has provided an opportunity for the residents, their families and the staff and their families to get together and socialize.

There were many proud moments over the years, such as October 30, 1984 when the then Governor General Jeanne Sauve visited the Magee home. The purchase of the first van was also a big moment. It was aided by the support of the Soroptimists who helped collect Safeway tapes. These tapes were turned in for a percentage of the totals and returned as a donation. Enough money was raised to purchase the van and to license it for the next year.

The Agency purchased a second wheelchair accessible van in 1996 which was shared between 7th Ave and Brunskill. The proceeds of fundraising also paid for that van and a third accessible van in 2002. All residents in the other homes were transported in staff vehicles until the late 1990's when vehicles were increasingly leased from CVA. In 2005 the parents of the Huget residents contributed a lot of money toward the purchase of a van for that home. By 2010 the Agency had purchased vehicles for all of the homes and financed them primarily by taking bank loans. No money was available from the government to purchase vehicles.

Fundraisers such as steak nights, cookbook sales, raffles and working bingos were necessary to pay for the activities of the residents which included visits to the spa in Moose Jaw and trips taken on summer vacation. Some residents drove as far as Calgary and Banff, one even flew to Vancouver. Renting cottages at the beach and camping were other popular out-of-town activities in the summer.

The residents' families, their friends and occasionally Agency staff worked bingos regularly until 2007. Each bingo night required approximately 20 workers and the Agency could make up to \$2,000 per bingo. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of people like Dorothy Jessup and Don and Charlotte Cameron for doing all of the organizing for these bingos. The funds raised through bingo provided an enriched quality of life that the residents would not have otherwise had.

A lot of donations from organizations as well as individuals have been received over the years. This has enabled the Agency to pay for residents' activities, maintain its vehicles, purchase vehicles, furnishings and special equipment. The Kinsmen Foundation, St. Peter's Ladies and Men's Auxiliary, the Knights of Columbus and the Regina Corvette Club are just a few who have contributed.

Getting a home at Chip and Dale was a struggle for most families. Today families still have a long wait on the Co-Management waiting list for a home for their sons/daughters. However, prior to the existence of the Co-Management Committee (in 1996) parents had to lobby the government on their

own and seek out and convince an agency to open a group home. This struggle often took five years or more. In the case of the Langley home letters of support were sent to the Minister from the families, churches, friends and neighbors for many years. As well they met with MLAs and many others who could support their efforts. Since it was the first home in the province for people with autism there was also the jurisdictional question of which government department would provide funding for them.

The Nollet and Brunskill families banded together to fight a lengthy battle to get group homes for their sons. John Coflin, the then Executive Director of the RDACL (Regina and District Association for

Program Coordinators

Cathy Hauck- 83-86
 Bob Martinook- 86-94
 Denise Grad- 94-05
 Donna Schell- 96- present
 Kathy Fuchs- 05- present
 Tamara Jackson- 05- present
 Kim Leslie – 15- present

Community Living) and Theresa Savaria, Executive Director of the ARC (Autism Resource Center) were advocates for these families and supported them through their many meetings with the civil servants and politicians. At times it seemed like a dead end as the families were told repeatedly by government officials that there was no money for group homes and that, in fact, group homes would not be sustainable in the long run. However, both homes opened in 1996.

Up until around 2006 families of individuals moving into Chip and Dale were expected to furnish, decorate and maintain their son or daughter's room. In addition, in the earlier years some families were even made to contribute to the start-up costs of the group homes. For example, the families of the Langley residents had to come up with the funds to buy the materials as well as provide the labor to build the fence, do some kitchen renovations, build a deck and paint the interior of the house. One of the parents also did a lot of plumbing work in the home. They even put in a new paving stone driveway. They started to dig it by hand with shovels but as the digging crew grew weary, one of the parents decided that it was time to drive his front end loader in from his farm to finish the job.

The families of the Brunskill residents had to pay for the materials and do the landscaping and build the deck at their sons' new home. This involved leveling the clay around the house, putting in the drainage, hauling in topsoil, putting down the underlay and the rock, planting the trees and shrubs and building the deck. The families did all the work themselves. As an incentive the families were told that no one was moving into the house until all the work was done. They even had to pay for the back door leading to the deck because they wanted one with glass in it and that cost more than just a plain door.

Over the years there have been many parents who have contributed to the Agency by being a member of the Board of Directors, helping with fundraising or being active on committees. As each new house came into being it brought with it a new crop of enthusiastic board members. People like Bev Curran who drove from Moose Jaw and Marnie Novak who drove from south of Regina to attend meetings of the Board. This illustrates the dedication that the parents had to the Agency and its success.

The Board of Directors has always been predominately made up of the parents of the residents. Many of the earlier families were reluctant to expand the services of the Agency. They wished to retain that small, intimate atmosphere that Chip and Dale had. One of the founding family members expressed this by saying that in the early days the families and staff were very close, almost like an extended family.

Bookkeepers

Phyllis Gillies- 86- present
 Norma Trower- 05- present

However, over the years expansion did take place and with it came a more professional approach to providing service which included defined lines of communication, codes of conduct, and oaths of

confidentiality. Furthermore, with growth came other benefits such as a larger core of long term staff and a bigger pool of potential board members. The core of trained staff that evolved over the years along with a strong emphasis on staff training and the development of policies and procedures contributed greatly to the success of the Agency. The bar was set high and these standards have been evident in the day to day interactions of staff with the residents and have been supported by policy.

The Agency has moved offices a number of times over the years. The first office was in the basement of the Magee home. Then In 2005, after lengthy negotiations with the CLD, who claimed that they would never fund office space for CBOs, office rent money was obtained from them. This enabled the Agency to move out of the basement and into a newly renovated office space at the Food Bank. The office space was not private and was crowded with the three Program Coordinators sharing an office with the photo copy and fax machines. Although the offices at the Food Bank were far from ideal, the staff was overjoyed with the move. They were finally in an office building and one with windows.

*Chip and Dale office locations:
271 Magee Cres- 83-05
425 Winnipeg St- 05-12
75 Kress St- 12- 16
974 Albert St – 16 - present*

The next office move came in 2012. After a long, difficult search in a tight and expensive rental market, office space in a warehouse in the industrial park was found. Despite being right under the smoke stack of the upgrader, this office space seemed a 'step up' because it was self-contained, everyone had their own office and there were even some windows.

In 2015 we took over the _____ day program. This program had 6 participants at the time and continues to grow.

In 2016 the office moved into its current location at 974 Albert Street. This office has proved to be a great location as it is a central in the city. This move also allowed the office and the day program to be under one roof with room for expansion.

The Agency has had a lot of great, competent and caring staff over the years. Many of them have been very dedicated and some have stayed with the Agency for over 20 years. Many residential staff members have gone above and beyond to make life fun and special for the residents. There has been a culture of caring which is evident in the daily interactions staff have with the residents. For example, some staff members have taken residents into their own homes for Christmas when the residents had nowhere else to go and some have taken residents to their own cottages in the summer. Even the families of staff have welcomed residents into their homes or cottages

Over the years each new home has been opened with a great deal of pride. Chip and Dale has celebrated several anniversaries. There have been many joyous times, many sad times and challenging times as the Agency grew from its humble beginnings of one home.

Residential Services: The Homes & Residents

The mission of Chip and Dale Homes Inc. is to create and manage family-like homes for adults with intellectual disabilities. In the early years two group homes for children were opened but the government did not continue to expand this type of service delivery for children with disabilities. Chip and Dale has bought or built most of its homes. The homes blend well into their neighborhoods.

2714 Alfred Cres./271 Magee Cres.

The first group home operated by Chip and Dale was located at Magee Crescent and opened on October 23, 1983. The Magee home had an addition built onto it in 1996. This led to structural problems and the home was sold for \$290,000 in 2011. This money was applied as a down payment for a new home which was built by the Agency on Alfred Crescent and opened in 2011. The Alfred Crescent home is unique in that it contains an elevator, a Snoezelen (sensory) room and a spa. The new home cost approximately \$800,000, and that includes the elevator and special needs equipment.

Each of the 10 homes has an Agency owned vehicle. Four of the vehicles are wheelchair accessible.

Originally six residents with multiple disabilities lived at Magee but it was later downsized to serve five individuals. All residents require high levels of support and assistance with all aspects of daily living. All currently require wheelchairs for mobility. The home operates primarily with a shift model and a night staff who is awake. Two Team Leaders oversee the day to day operation of the home. The home has a Domestic who does cleaning and cooking.

None of the original residents live in this home anymore. All but two of them have passed away. The remaining two, Ginger and Jayson, now live in the Fairways West home.

Elexis passed away in 1989 and Carla moved into Magee. Ginger moved to Dalgliesh and Ian moved into her space. Derek passed away in 1998. Following his passing the home was reduced from six to five residents. Joel passed away in 2005 and Ryan moved in. Catherine passed away in 2006 and Amanda moved in. Ian passed away in 2009. Jayson moved to Fairways West in 2010. Katelyn and Jennifer moved into these two spaces at the Alfred Crescent home in 2011.

The residents currently living at Alfred Crescent are:

Amanda
Jennifer
Katelyn
Carla
Ryan

6205 Little Pine Loop/65 Langley Crescent

Langley was the first group home in the province for persons with autism.

This home was the second home for the Agency and opened in 1988. It serves three men who have autism. These men have some behavioral challenges and require close supervision and support.

In September of 2015 then men moved into their brand new home on Little Pine Loop. This home is designed to accommodate the unique needs of the men and will be appropriate for them in the future. There is also a suite in the basement for affordable housing for two individuals.

This home was purchased by the Agency. The home operates with two sleep-over Team Leaders. The residents of this home are:

Brent
Boyd
Donald

112 Dalgiesh Drive

Dalgiesh was the first group home in the province for children with autism.

Chip and Dale's third group home was opened in 1989 and serves three individuals with autism. These individuals present some behavioral challenges and require a lot of supervision and support. This home was purchased and is maintained by Saskatchewan Housing. The home operates with two sleep-over Team Leaders. It has a Domestic who cleans the home and does the cooking. One of the original residents, Lindsay, moved to Saskatoon to be closer to her parents and Ginger moved in. In 2010 Ginger moved to Fairways West and William moved in.

The residents currently living in the home are:

Nathan
David
William

7308 7th Avenue

The fourth group home of Chip and Dale Housing Inc. was opened in 1990. It was designed and built and is being maintained by Saskatchewan Housing. It serves six individuals with multiple disabilities. All residents require high levels of support and assistance with all aspects of daily living. All of the residents have some mobility issues and five require wheelchairs. The home operates with a shift model and a staff who is awake at night. Two team leaders oversee the day to day operation of the home.

Rhonda, one of the original residents of the home passed away in 1991 in a tragic accident at the home. Shawn moved into her space. Kenton passed away in 2005 and Janie moved in to the home in 2006.

The residents currently living in the home are:

Morganna
Jane-Anne
Gordon
Stephanie
Shawn
Janie

In 2013 Donna Wilkinson was hired as a Human Resources Manager. Donna returned to her Team Leader position and Shelley Grona then joined our team in 2015.

2219 Russell Place /146 Nollet Avenue

Chip and Dale's fifth home, Nollet, opened in 1996. It was the first home opened in cooperation with Regina's newly formed Residential Co-Management Committee. This home serves three men with autism who have some behavioral challenges and require close supervision and support.

Nollet was the first home that was rented by Chip and Dale. In 2012 one of the residents developed mobility issues and he could no longer climb the stairs to the bedroom area. As a result, a bungalow style home located on Russell Place was purchased by the Agency.

The home operates with two sleep-over Team Leaders. The residents in this home are:

Ian
Kris
Akio

Currently the tenant in the suite is:

Pam

6222 Brunskill Place

The sixth home of Chip and Dale was also opened in 1996. It was one of the first group homes in the province set up to serve only three residents with multiple disabilities. This home serves three men, two who are ambulatory and one who requires a wheelchair for mobility. All residents of this home require high levels of support and assistance with all aspects of daily living.

The home was built by the Agency. The home operates with two sleep-over Team Leaders. The residents in this home are:

Casey
John
Shawn

3684 Hazel Grove

Chip and Dale's seventh home opened in 1999. The Agency purchased this home. The home serves three individuals who present a number of behavioral challenges including sleep disturbances. All of them require a lot of supervision and support. Two of the residents have autism and the third resident has Down's syndrome.

The home operates with a shift model and a night staff who is awake. There are two Team Leaders. The residents in the home are:

Noella
Karleen
Jennifer

Almost all of the residents attend full time day programs at the Cosmopolitan Learning Centre.

2914 Huget Place

The eighth home of Chip and Dale was purchased by the Agency and opened in 1999. It serves three adults, one with autism and two who have multiple disabilities. The residents have a number of behavioral challenges and some mobility issues. All of them require a lot of supervision and support.

The home operates with two sleep-over Team Leader positions. The residents in the home are:

Allison

Colin
Joni

7308 8th Avenue

Chip and Dale's ninth home was opened in 2006. It was purchased by the Agency. It serves three adults, two who have autism and one who has Down's syndrome. These individuals present some challenging behaviors and require a lot of support and supervision.

Charles, one of the original residents, passed away in 2011 and Nathan moved in. This home operates with a shift model and a night staff who is awake. It has one Team Leader who oversees the operation of the home.

The current residents of this home are:

June
Nathan
Chuck

8271 Fairways West

The tenth home of Chip and Dale opened in 2010. It was built by the Agency. The main floor was used as the group home and two suites were developed in the walk-out basement. The wheelchair accessible suites were rented by two ladies who live in a supported living situation with support staff. It was the Agency's first home to contain an elevator and suites for supported living.

This home operates with a shift model but only one Team Leader and a staff who is awake at night. The home serves three individuals with multiple disabilities and one with autism. All residents of this home require high levels of support and assistance with all aspects of daily living and present some behavioral challenges. Two of them are ambulatory and two require wheelchairs for mobility. David was the last resident to move into this home in 2012. This delay occurred because the space was being held for a lady who required nursing care but the funding for that could not be secured.

Home Openings

Alfred Cres.(2011)/Magee - 1983
Little Pine Loop (2015)/ Langley Cres. - 1988
Dalgliesh Drive - 1989
7th Ave. - 1990
Russell Place (2012)/ Nollet - 1996
Brunskill Place - 1996
Hazel Grove - 1999
Huget Place - 1999
8th Ave. - 2005
Fairways West - 2010
Balzer Road – 2013
Balzer Street - 2015

The residents in this home are:

Ginger
Michelle
David
Jayson

The ladies currently renting the supported living suites in the basement of this home are:

Paige
Pagan

1805 Balzer Road

Chip and Dale's eleventh home was built by the agency and was opened in 2013

The home operates with one Team Leader and a staff who is awake at night. It serves three men. One has multiple disabilities and two men have autism. The residents of this home have some behavioral challenges and require a lot of support and supervision.

The residents of this home are:

David
Chris
Adam

Phyllis Gillies Retired in 2015

6225 Balzer Street

The twelfth home of the agency was built in 2015. This home was developed for four ladies who lived at Valley View Centre in Moose Jaw. When the decision was made to close the Centre these ladies wanted to move to Regina to be closer to family. This home was designed to be wheelchair accessible and has all the equipment that is needed. This house also has a suite in the basement for affordable housing.

This home operates with one Team Leader and is staffed as an awake house. The ladies are supported throughout the day by Chip and Dale and the day program.

Other Programs and Services**Supported Employment**

This is a small part time program for the three Langley residents. It began in 1988 to accommodate one of the residents who was having difficulty with his day program and was later expanded to include the other two residents of the home. The program is run out of the Langley home and has a ¾ time worker. The participants of the program are:

Brent
Boyd
Donald

Supported Living

This program was undertaken in 2010 and involves the recruitment and training of support staff for the two individuals who rent the suites in the basement of the Fairways West home.

The participants of this program are:

Paige
Pagan

Day Programs

Two day programs were undertaken in 2009-2010 for two of our residents who were experiencing difficulties with their day programs at the Cosmopolitan Learning Centre. The programs are run out of the residents' homes (Dalglish & Huget).

The participants of the day programs are:

Allison
David

In 2011 we started a day program for one individual at Alfred Crescent. In 2016 she started attending the day program part time.

The participant of the day program is:

Kaitlyn

On November 1, 2015 we took over a day program that was operated at 20 Sangster BLVD. This program had 6 participants at the time. In 2016 the day program moved to our new space at 974 Albert Street. This program space has much more room for the participants including a sensory room, TV room and a music room.

The participants of this program are:

Dustin
Trevor
Jordan
Lacey
Roxanne
Britney
Michelle
Mary
Michelle
Sherry

Kim Leslie is hired as Day Program Coordinator
In November 2016

Chairpersons Cont...

Shirley Skinner 11-14
Murray Knoll 14-17 (present)