

# PHILANTHROPY

**The Victoria Foundation & Black Press**  
Working Together – how philanthropy shapes our community

## GARTH HOMER SOCIETY:

# Building futures without limits

The mission of the Garth Homer Society is simple: to create opportunities for independence, growth and participation in the community with people who strive to overcome developmental and physical obstacles.

These powerful words are what drive the more than 50 dedicated staff members into action every day.

Today, as a result, the Garth Homer Society (GHS) is dedicated to delivering professional, individualized services to actively further the inclusion of the more than 120 adults it serves living in the Greater Victoria area. Services offered by GHS include Social Life Skills and Supported Employment. Social Life Skills Services works with clients who want to participate in their community by volunteering, joining recreation or leisure activities or developing their artistic abilities. Supported Employment Services works with those who wish to obtain paid employment.

The society is dedicated to delivering professional, individualized services to actively further

the inclusion of adults with developmental disabilities. Services include Social Life Skills, which works with clients who want to participate in their community by volunteering, joining recreation or leisure activities or developing their artistic abilities, and Supported Employment, for those who wish to obtain paid employment.

Support for charitable organizations is always a concern and GHS is no exception. On-going needs require on-going monies. Large or small, gifts to the society can make significant impact.

One such success story is that of Ashley Haagensen. Ashley is a young woman living with cerebral palsy and a client of GHS. Like many clients, it is important for Ashley to spend time on the computer, but being in a wheelchair makes working at a table quite difficult.

The solution was an adjustable table, but the question remained: How would purchasing this table be possible? The answer: Philanthropy.

The adjustable table and com-



*Photos contributed*  
**Greg Robertson enjoys painting as part of the ArtWorks program. Community donations help fund the Garth Homer Society's programs and services for its clients who are striving to overcome physical or developmental obstacles.**

puter upgrade project were funded through the Goodwill Fund held at the Victoria Foundation as well as by private donors. The addition of the workstation, three touch computers and eight new software titles is making a huge difference. Having an opportunity to use technological resources helps clients achieve greater independence.

Just ask Ashley. In a recent visit to the Centre, she demonstrated how she could use levers to easily adjust the height of the keyboard and the monitor. She now works comfortably at the computer, improving her typing skills and working on problem solving exercises.

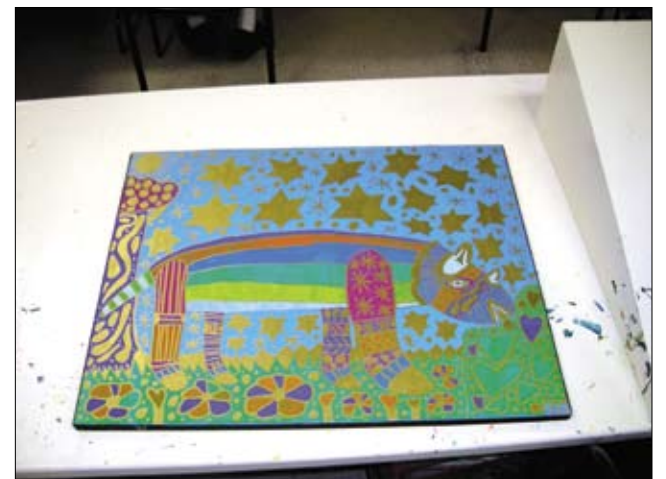
When asked about her initial reaction at the new table's arrival in the Computer Resource Centre, Haagensen said "Wow! Something that moves!"

"The other table was a lot harder to work with. My hands were often stuck and I would have to stop all the time to relax them."

Ashley's goal is to get an office job. She is currently getting experience volunteering as a receptionist at the Disability Working Centre, where her efforts and warm demeanor have earned her glowing reports.

In addition to funding items like the adjustable table, the Victoria Foundation and some of its donors support GHS programs such as ArtWorks, Pathways, CAT (Community Access Team), Discovery, DREAMS and more.

For more information about the Garth Homer Society, call 250-475-2270 or visit [www.garthhomersociety.org](http://www.garthhomersociety.org).



**Ashley Haagensen gains experience at the new adjustable computer station, made possible because of the Victoria Foundation and the community's generosity.**

The Victoria Foundation is helping donors to do good work.... forever.

250.381.5532  
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A charitable fund at the Victoria Foundation enables you to benefit the community forever with a permanent endowment. With investment earnings from your gift you can make grants to address community needs. Your gift - and its future earnings - is a source of permanent community capital. It just makes sense.

*Isn't it time we worked together?*

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