



Lifetime Networks - Who We Are

Lifetime Networks was started by five families in 1998. These families had children with developmental disabilities and wanted an answer to the question “what will happen to my child when I pass away?” Families want unpaid relationships in their children’s lives. Connecting with people and making friends can be very difficult, in fact sometimes almost impossible! At Lifetime Networks we understand the importance of friendship as being one of the cornerstones to a fulfilling life. Through Personal Support Networks we develop and maintain lasting friendships; true reciprocal unpaid relationships.

Lifetime Networks also offers informal networks through continuing education, employment support, community inclusion, fine arts, photography, social cooking, evening socials and Best Buddies. Lifetime Networks does not have a referral process and can be available to anyone. We will listen to your needs and design supports specifically for you.

Pam ‘The highlight has been the wonderfully supportive environment that allows the unique qualities of my loved one to shine. Many thanks to this amazing organization.’

Irene ‘Thank you for your unwavering attention to individuals. You walk the talk of inclusion and of celebrating individual differences as a contribution to society, not a barrier.

Maureen ‘People at Lifetime Networks respect my decisions and choices big time!’

Through programs and opportunities, Lifetime supports over 300 families and individuals on the autism spectrum, or with FASD or mental health issues. These families and individuals experience reduced isolation and loneliness and experience an increased number of positive relationships in their lives through their connection with Lifetime Networks.

Lifetime Networks welcomes many volunteers and provides many volunteer opportunities for community members. In 2016 Lifetime Networks received 10 978 volunteer hours. The Best Buddies program alone provides 80 UVic students with the opportunity to befriend one of 80 community friends with a disability; that involves 160 volunteers and participants.

‘Best Buddies is not just a volunteer position for me, it’s become part of my life and who I am. My friend and I have been matched for six years now and our friendship is one that I will always cherish. While we enjoy hanging out just the two of us, we both also look forward to getting together with the whole organization, having fun at group activities with other buddy pairs. I am so grateful for all the opportunities, friendships, and wonderful memories I’ve gained through Best Buddies.’ Laura (UVic Buddy)

Lifetime Networks’ participants contributed 900 volunteer hours back to the community. Lifetime Networks partners with the Community Partnership Network, the Intercultural Association, Volunteer Victoria, Shelbourne Community Kitchen, Saanich Parks Pulling Together Program, Queerabilities, and many community living agencies.

Lifetime Networks is one of very few community living agencies in the province that does not have 'global government contracts', we are entirely fee for service. People work to pay for services, sometimes families or trusts provide payment, and some people have government dollars they use those to purchase supports. Lifetime Networks also fund raises to provide supports. This year the fund raising goal is \$178 000. to provide bursaries and scholarships.

We are very proud of this model because it gives people wishing supports purchasing power and puts them in the 'drivers' seat'. They are the customer and we are providing the support. If we do well we will continue to grow, if we do not do well individuals will take their dollars and go somewhere else. In 2012 the operating budget was \$300 000. Today it is 1.7 million. With the alternative 'global contracts' the dollars stay with the agency and the families and individuals do not have purchasing power.

'You were incredible in making my daughter's limited hours work'. Gina

'My daughter would not be doing as well as she is today without the support, activities, and encouragement she receives from staff at Lifetime Networks. They are skilled.' Karen

At Lifetime Networks, we ensure the continual gathering of feedback from the individuals supported, their families, our staff, volunteers and other stakeholders. We analyze this qualitative and quantitative data within our Management and Continuous Quality Improvement teams and use the information to set measurable Business Improvement Goals. We review our Business Improvement Plan annually, and it contains reports about diverse aspects of Lifetime Networks; these include Health and Safety, Human Resources, Finance, Technology, Accessibility, Cultural Competency and Diversity, Compliance, the Strategic Plan and the Satisfaction Survey.

We meet these Business Improvement Goals by assigning specific timelines and people responsible, as well as describing what the indicator for success looks like and where the evidence is found.

As well as reporting on these results in our Business Improvement Plan, we share these goals and results on our website, at our Annual General Meeting and in emails to our staff.

Lifetime Networks has wonderful staff and participants who are involved with many organizations:

- ❖ Community Living Practices Review Committee
- ❖ Shelbourne Community Kitchen
- ❖ Past Board Chairs: Community Living Victoria
- ❖ Second Wave and Inclusion Works
- ❖ CLBC South Island Community Council
- ❖ BC Family Support Institute
- ❖ Emerging Leaders Network
- ❖ Intercultural Association –trainer
- ❖ Community Partnership Network
- ❖ BC CEO
- ❖ Community Social Services Employers Association
- ❖ Association of Fundraising Professionals
- ❖ Professional Association of Therapeutic Riding International
- ❖ Queerabilites
- ❖ Inclusion BC

Awards Include:

Victoria Chamber Non Profit of the Year Award-Winner

Saanich Environmental Awards – Nominee

Urban Signs 'Follow the Signs' contest – 2nd place winner

Chamber Business Leadership Award – Nominee

Tides of Change Art Competition (Inclusion BC) – winner

BC Lights, Camera, Inclusion – winner

Reel Youth (sponsored by Red Cross to address bullying) – collaborative film creation

Quotes:

I feel like Lifetime Networks is there for us long term – Rebecca

My highlight has been the effort combined with patience in helping our loved one to find his way - Joan