

A Celebration of 35 Years

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Written by Susan Mizen, Executive Director

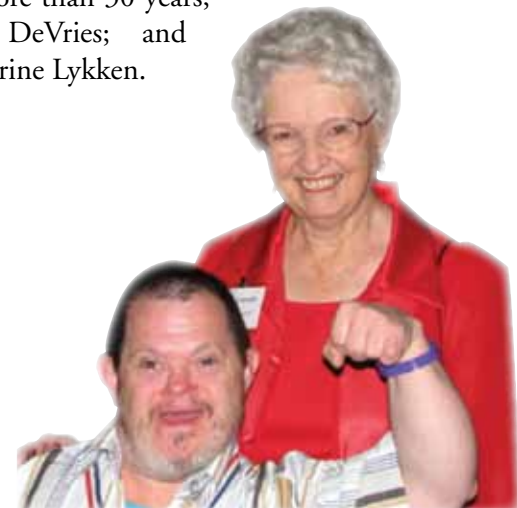


Horizons is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year. In my 29 years here, I have seen many changes—in our buildings and locations, employees and Board members, and quality and quantity of services. Our first office in Routt County was the basement of the first Big Country Realty Building in Steamboat Springs. We moved to Bogue Hall at Colorado Mountain College and the old junior high before landing in our current Central Office on Oak Street. Our first Rio Blanco County office was in Meeker in the basement of St. James Episcopal Church. Currently, Rio Blanco County services operate out of the White-man Building. In Moffat County, services were originally provided in Craig from the basement of the armory before moving to the Country Mall and then into the Mental Health Building. The latest addition to our administrative buildings and offices is the historic log church in Granby. With great pride, we now have a stable presence in four of our five counties.

When Horizons began in 1975, we had only three employees; we have since grown to 110 full and part time staff members. One of our first employees was Chris Collins, a Recreational Therapist who provided services to young children and adults in

their homes. Chris, who still lives in Steamboat Springs, became Horizons' second Executive Director. She is now the Executive Director of Alliance, a statewide association of agencies like Horizons. In the 1980s, Chris led the organization through a period of growth. Helping to lead that growth in our Adult Program was Michael Toothaker, our first Residential Coordinator. He oversaw the opening of client residences on Oak and Maple Streets in Steamboat Springs and our Victory Way Group Home in Craig.

Our Board of Directors has changed over time as well but has always included people with heart and a passion for our mission. Our founding Board included people who continue to be influential in our counties: Evelyn Tileston, Executive Director of Independent Life Center; Maxine Turner (pictured below), whose son Bruce Rule has been in our program for more than 30 years; Bob DeVries; and Catherine Lykken.



Horizons



The following examples illustrate how far we have come:

International Winter Special Olympics—In February 1977, the first ever Winter Special Olympics were held at the Steamboat Ski Area. The incredible way the community welcomed athletes into their homes for that extraordinary event set the stage for Horizons to be an important part of the community forever. Horizons' staff participated on the Steering Committee and helped prepare families to host athletes.

Adaptive Ski Program—In 1978, after the success of the Winter Special Olympics, Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation in partnership with Tom Collins, a Physical Therapist, and Liz Leipold, an Adaptive Ski Instructor, started the Horizons Ski Program. For 33 years, Liz has been the coordinator of the program which has been an integral part of our clients' lives. The program is now partnering with STARS and includes 40 skiers, snowboarders and snowshoers, 90 volunteers, and, of course, Liz!

Support of County Commissioners—In the late 1970s, Horizons was teetering on the brink of disaster due to lack of funding. The commissioners from Moffat, Rio Blanco and Routt Counties championed our cause and secured Energy Impact Grants for two consecutive years to support our programs. Without these funds Horizons might not have survived.

Horizons Dinner and Auction—In 1976, the Spaghetti Dinner and Auction was started by members of the Steamboat Springs Rotary Club under the leadership of Curt Weiss and Jack Black. The dinner was first held at Mazzola's Italian Restaurant in its original location on south Lincoln Avenue. With the help of Mazzola's employees, Rotarians cooked massive quantities of pasta, sauce and meatballs and served dinner to hundreds of people. The line



of people waiting to dine streamed out to Lincoln Avenue! Over its 29 year duration the dinner and auction became our signature event, raised more than \$500,000, and introduced us to many community members and friends. Eventually the event changed to a tropical theme and moved to several other venues. The last dinner and auction was held in 2005 at the Steamboat Grand.

Capital Campaign—In 1991, Horizons launched its first capital campaign. Karen and Mix Beauvais stepped up to lead the effort. Thanks to the success of the campaign and our participation in a bond issue, Horizons now owns the Central Office at 405 Oak Street and three apartment buildings on 8th Street that currently house three employees and four independent clients.

Routt County Mill Levy—November 2005 marked the passage of the Routt County mill levy for people with developmental disabilities. The individuals and families we help in Routt County will be eternally grateful to the voters.



Fire at the Country Mall—In November 2007, a devastating fire at the Country Mall in Craig destroyed the building that housed our offices. The support we received from community members, Moffat County United Way and the El Pomar Foundation helped us get back on our feet in record time. I am still amazed and proud that our staff, reeling from the magnitude of such loss, cancelled our Adult Day Program for only one day.

Continued Growth—In 2008-2009, there were more than 5,000 adults throughout the state waiting for services. The Colorado legislature approved new funding to assist those individuals. Our share of the new funding allowed us to help 13 additional people in four of our counties, increasing our adult program by 20% in one year.

The scope of our services has continued to grow and improve over the years. Our ability to make a difference in the lives of the people we help is evident in Jessica's story, *Support Equals Success*. We wish to thank everyone who, for the last 35 years, helped us enhance the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities in northwest Colorado. We look forward to a future even more successful—a future filled with hope and promise for those we serve.

Mark Your Calendars

Come help us celebrate our 35th Anniversary at our 1970s party and dance on September 10, 2010 at the Community Center in Steamboat Springs.

Watch for more information in your local newspapers.

Support Equals Success

Horizons is the only provider of residential support and services to adults who have developmental disabilities in the five counties of northwest Colorado. These services are custom tailored to fit the needs of every individual. Those who need comprehensive care live in group homes. Individuals who need less support in order to live independently receive help from our Supported Living Services Program.

Jessica has lived in Kremmling for 13 years with minimal help from local human services agencies. She had been on the state's extensive waiting list for more comprehensive help for many years. When Jessica lost her job after being injured and hospitalized, her situation became more apparent to the local agencies in Kremmling. They recognized that she might qualify for assistance from Horizons. It was determined that she was eligible for our services and once a funding source from the state was established, Jessica was enrolled in Horizons. She was assigned a Service Coordinator and Counselor to help her assimilate into our Supported Living Program.

Horizons' Service Coordinator Katherine Hartley discovered Jessica needed lots of help with things like housekeeping, organizing her finances, taking her medications and caring for her cats. Lack of adequate support had left her in a very vulnerable living situation. She lived in a 60 year old mobile home. It was cold, dark and in total disrepair. The roof leaked, the furnace was barely functional, and the lack of insulation made her utility bills unaffordable.

Katherine approached Kremmling business woman Chris Sammons, the owner of the mobile home park where Jessica lived. Chris was also concerned about Jessica's safety and well being, and she learned about an opportunity to acquire a mobile home in much better condition than the one where



*Photo courtesy of Tonya Bina,
Sky-Hi Daily News*

"Before Horizons, my life was a disaster. They have made a big difference in helping me fix my life and put all the bad things behind me. I don't know where I would be without Horizons."

Jessica Rose

Jessica lived. Ms. Sammons was offered the newer trailer at a very reasonable price providing the cost of moving it would be absorbed by the new owner. There was no possibility for Jessica to afford the cost of the move. Since this opportunity would only present once in a lifetime, Horizons worked with Ms. Sammons to make this huge improvement in the quality of Jessica's life. Chris paid the costs of acquiring the mobile home. Horizons' Resource Development Coordinator Kay Borvansky wrote a grant request to Mountain Parks Electric Operation Roundup, which helps individuals with issues surrounding their living environment and energy consumption. The Kremmling Community Church and several individuals who learned about Jessica's plight opened their hearts and wallets to assist with the cost of the moving expenses. The Animal Assistance League of Northwest Colorado generously offered to pay for the spaying, neutering and vaccinations for Jessica's cats.

The transformation has been incredible. With the help of Horizons' staff including Amanda Shipps, Katherine Hartley and her Counselors, Jessica's finances are in good order, her health issues have been resolved and she has a clean, warm, safe and efficient place to live with her two companion cats. She proudly welcomes visitors into her meticulously kept home. Jessica is no longer struggling to make it on her own. She now knows that help is there through Horizons, good people like Chris Sammons and the many residents of Kremmling who reached out to help one of their own.

COUNTIES *Up Close*

Grand & Jackson Counties

Services in Grand County have been enhanced by the start of Family Fun Days. These new gatherings encourage interaction amongst all family members and establish opportunities for networking and support. Indian Peaks Charter School graciously donated space for us to host a Valentine's Dance. YMCA of the Rockies donated space for a rollerskating party.

Moffat County

The Moffat County program has added a new group home in Craig. The house will be known as Apple House and will be home to six Horizons clients.



Apple House



Routt County

On May 21, 2010, Routt County staff and clients rode their bikes to our Oak Street Office for "Bike to Work" day. Harry Martin, owner of Steamboat Ski & Bike Kare, along with fellow mechanics Steve Novak and Chris Katers, tuned 30 bicycles and taught maintenance skills. The day was complete with a barbecue lunch and a lot of laughs.

Rio Blanco

Horizons would like to welcome Rose Cochran, our new Service Coordinator for Meeker and Rangely. Rose will work from our office at 685 Main Street Suite #1 in Meeker, Colorado.

Planned Giving

Planned Giving is the term used to describe a way to distribute assets to family members and organizations. There are several means to achieve this way of leaving a legacy, such as wills, gift annuities, charitable trusts, pooled income funds and life insurance.

Your legacy will support Horizons and the people who depend on us for care long into the future.

If you need more information on planned giving, please contact Horizons' Central Office at 970.879.4466 X 108 to speak to Susan Mizen, Executive Director, or talk to your accountant or attorney.





Contributed By Tarsha Ebern,
STARS Executive Director

The STARS mission: STeamboat Adaptive Recreational Sports provides recreational opportunities for people with disabilities, resulting in empowering and enriching the quality of life for its participants.

STARS serves clients not only from all over North America but also from countries as far away as England and Australia. Our participants include those with mild to severe cognitive disabilities, visual impairments and limited mobility. Athletes receiving services represent all ages from youth to adults and include special groups like The Wounded Warriors. This program was created to provide recreational opportunities for our country's veterans who have been disabled as a result of their combat related injuries.



Horizons and STARS have partnered to enhance the winter sports program that Horizons clients have enjoyed for more than 30 years. Volunteers receive additional training in adaptive assistance from STARS instructors. The Horizons volunteers can be easily identified as members of the STARS team by the uniform jackets they proudly wear. The generous support of Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation has enabled STARS to become the provider of adaptive recreational opportunities.

Our inventory of adaptive equipment is ever growing as we expand our programs to include the summer months, offering waterskiing, river trips, fishing, cycling and horseback riding. In addition to the healthy benefits of being outdoors and exercising in the beauty of the Rocky Mountains, STARS provides fun interaction with peers, offers hope and encouragement, and allows clients to create new friendships while improving self esteem and confidence. STARS has scholarships available to ensure that people who wish to experience the recreational activities we provide can do so regardless of their financial situation.

STARS was established in June 2006 and became a Federal 501(c)3 nonprofit organization in July of 2007. We are operated by nine actively involved volunteer Board members as well as three part time staff. As a non-profit organization, STARS welcomes financial or in-kind donations from individuals as well as businesses, service clubs and foundations. Our primary donors include Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation, DeSo Foundation, Yampa Valley Community Foundation, The Steamboat Wine Festival, Neale Family Foundation, Adolph Coors Foundation, Steamboat Springs Rotary, TIC (The Industrial Company), Yampa Valley Electric Association, HBB Foundation and Arthur Anderson Memorial Fund.

FOUNDATION
Support



YVEA Caring Consumers Foundation



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LIONS CLUB OF FRASER VALLEY



THE DENVER FOUNDATION
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Kay Borvansky is retiring from Horizons after 8 ½ years as the Resource Development Coordinator. She will take with her the friendship of clients, board members and staff, fond memories of fun events and activities, and the relationships created while writing grants, raising funds and networking with residents of the five counties served by Horizons in northwest Colorado.



After Kay's departure, Resource Development will become a team effort by combining the special talents of Rebecca Hanson and Deirdre Pepin. Rebecca, who has been our Volunteer Coordinator, will add Public Relations, Marketing and Fund Raising to her position. Deirdre will engage her skills as a teacher and writer to be in charge of Grant Writing and Publications while maintaining her role as part time direct care staff at two of our group homes.



As Horizons continues its momentum towards sustainability, our goal is to provide you with updates while conserving resources.

If you wish to receive information electronically, please send your email address to deirdrepepin@comcast.net. Thank you!

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OUR AGENCY MISSION:

*Horizons works in partnership
with families and communities
to expand opportunities for
individuals with, or at risk of,
developmental disabilities.*

HORIZONS' OFFICES

Central Administration Office

P.O. Box 774867 (Mail)
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970.879.4466 Phone
970.870.0334 Fax

Routt Family Services

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430 Yampa Avenue
Steamboat Springs, CO 80477
970.871.8558 Phone
970.870.8568 Fax

Routt County Adult Day Program

P.O. Box 774867 (Mail)
100 Park Avenue
Steamboat Springs, CO 80477
970.871.4800 Phone
970.871.6013 Fax

Moffat Adult and Family Services

P.O. Box 1483 (Mail)
439 Breeze, Suite 100
Craig, CO 81626
970.824.7804 Phone
970.824.2643 Fax

Rio Blanco Services

P.O. Box 2114 (Mail)
685 Main Street, Suite #1
Meeker, CO 81641
970.878.3196 Phone
970.878.3196 Fax

Grand & Jackson Services

P.O. Box 186 (Mail)
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Granby, CO 80446
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970.887.1141 Fax