



November, 2010

Message from the Founder

Universal Rehabilitation Service Agency (URSA) started as a dream in November 1985. We wanted to assist in welcoming all people with disabilities into the community. At that time, people with severe disabilities had no alternative but to live in an institution. With a bold new plan by the government, new community-based facilities were built and new philosophies were embraced. Since then we have never looked back! Once the move into the community was accomplished, each individual improved beyond anyone's expectations. There is no price we can put on "having your own home" and the quality of life that goes along with it.

URSA continued to follow our mandate and started services that were basically not available. Our next achievement was the development of residential and day services to persons with acquired brain injury. This was a task that took many years to complete, because so few services were available and the rehabilitation field was just learning appropriate program approaches and techniques for this population.

URSA continues to create or expand services to people most in need of support.

We have developed a third portfolio in our agency, that of services to aboriginal people with a disability. This experience has been rewarding, in that we have learned so much about a culture that has been ignored for many years.

Camp URSA has been another endeavor that we feel has enriched the lives of many Albertans. We continue to strive for self sufficiency at the camp.

We are excited to have expanded into services for children, hoping our philosophy and services will last throughout their adult years.

We thank and admire our many families who have been supportive over the years and who have represented their loved ones in a courageous and dedicated manner.

None of our achievements would have been accomplished without the tremendous commitment of our staff and volunteers, who are the backbone of our agency. Their contribution of love, support, compassion, understanding and knowledge, has enriched everyone who has passed through our doors.

Our various funders have worked in partnership with us to provide the highest quality of service possible.

The many projects that URSA has taken over the years were all made possible by community donations which provided a great deal of the capital to build our agency. We give our heartfelt thanks to personal and corporate donors who believe in our causes and share our passion.

Doug G. Hauser

Universal Rehabilitation Service Agency

Founder