

# Working Progress

## News from NVSU and NVS

SUMMER/FALL 2007

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3

### NVSU Former Client Success Story

#### Michael “Chip” Rubenaker’s story:

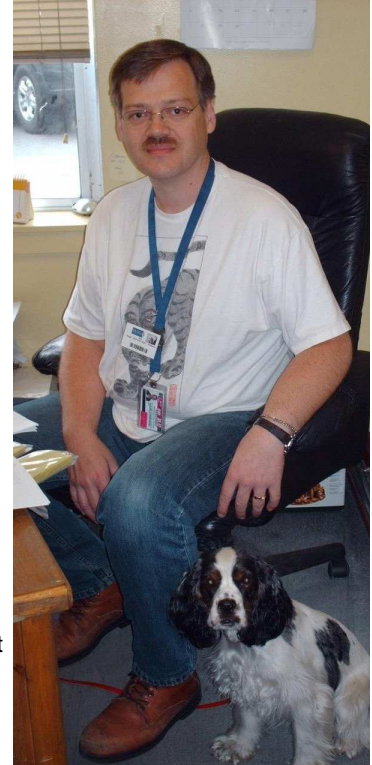
I thought I had a “normal” childhood – played baseball and guitar, rode my bicycle, and wondered why things worked the way they do. Most of my friends (they were actually my older brother’s friends) were interested in science, so it seemed like a natural path to follow.

School was usually boring – not much of a challenge. This may have been the reason I started playing chess in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. (Later, I was accepted into the University of Washington at age sixteen.) I received my first guitar during 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and my first electric guitar in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. By seventeen, I was playing with Heart and Steve Miller. Then my life changed...

When I was nineteen, I started having petite-mal seizures. Six months later, I was having grand-mal seizures and losing memory of two to three weeks at a time. This made college a little more difficult. My doctors found I had a calcified arterial-venous malformation in my left parietal lobe (high-price real estate).

Initially, my seizures were controlled with a single daily dose of Dilantin. Tegretol was later added, and eventually replaced with Depakote. This combination worked for many years. Last summer I began to have more and more seizures; at one point I began losing feeling in my right forearm, lost most of my ability to speak, and had 10 grand-mal seizures within 4 hours. Something was wrong! This is when I found Dr. David G. Vossler at the Washington Neuroscience Institute at Valley Medical Center, and he provided a unique solution. Not only was I epileptic, but I am also type 2 diabetic (my blood sugar level was 611)!

My epilepsy and diabetes were under control, now I needed to find work. Due to my medical problems, I had not worked for 3 years! Dr. Vossler suggested I contact Dr. Robert Fraser at the Neurology Vocational Services Unit (NVSU) at Harborview Hospital for additional assistance. I was skeptical, but decided to give it a try. NVSU was able to look at not only my education and skills, but also considered what factors might trigger seizures. I was enrolled into their Job Club, where topics such as ‘How do you introduce your disability to a prospective employer’, ‘How to look for a disability-friendly work environment’, and ‘How to build onto current skills’ were discussed. Job Club also provided guest speakers, usually a HR rep from a disabled-friendly employer. NVSU also has a skills assessment program set up with many employers. I now work for Skills, Inc. I started with a skills assessment period, followed by an offer of employment into their Outreach program. Two months later, Skills Inc promoted me to a Quality Assurance Inspector, where I inspect the anodizing, primer and paint finish per customer requested specifications. I enjoy working for a company that values employee diversity – none of this would have been possible without NVSU. Thank you.



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PHOTOGRAPH: SKILLS, INC. USED WITH PERMISSION

PHOTOGRAPHIC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: RUBÉN RIVERA-JACKMAN

OUR THANKS TO DAVID STRAND AT NVSU; CANDICE BAILEY AND CHERYL ROE AT SKILLS, INC. ; MICHAEL RUDENAKER AND ZIPPY.

FORMER NVSU CLIENT’S STORY: MICHAEL RUDENAKER. USED WITH PERMISSION

## NVS Annual Recognition Celebration Edgewood Garden Ballroom — Sunday, August 26, 2007



**Photographs:** Aliza Hauser (Top L & Top R) and Allison Bren (Center & Lower R and L). Thanks, Allison and Aliza!

**Top R:** Guest Tina Simmons accepts award from Bob Fraser for her mother, former NVSU client Jackie Houston. **Top L:** **Client** honoree Karl Kindsvater receives his award from Bob Fraser. **Center:** Plate at long table of food. **Lower L:** Guests Frank and Mary Montgomery, NVSU Staff Bryant Milliman and NVS Volunteer Angela Nefcy at the Raffle Table. **Lower R.:** Guests enjoy Afternoon Tea in Ballroom, Edgewood Garden.

**THANK YOU:** our gracious hosts Ilga Jansons and Michael Dryfoos, our guests and clients; Carol A. Sund ARC overseer with Ilga Jansons and pre-event food purchase/preparation; the "Kitchen Crew" Allison Bren, Aliza Hauser, Angela Nefcy, Jean Fennessy for the superb food; Stephanie Best and Pat Palmer for the fine music, NVS Volunteer Angela Nefcy for raffle; Dave Strand for set-up, bartending, and greeting guests. And thanks to Bob Fraser and Aliza Hauser, our great emcees. We couldn't do it without you!

## Thank You - Spring Fling Gala 2007

Auctioneer: Charles Beck, with his wife, Lourdes, assisting.

Venue, Security, & Parking : Han Nachtrieb, Scott Rusch, Jon Digel, Vince Gipson at Fred Hutchinson.

Dinner: Regina Kelley and Catering Staff at Fred Hutchinson

Beverages: Robert Fraser, Jayne Hintze, Ruben Rivera-Jackman, Carl Peterson, Cheryl Roe, Brenda Vander Lugt

Decorations: Cheryl A. Parmele and Jean Fennessy

Table Centerpieces: Carol Hiley

Auction Set-up: Carol A. Sund

Check-in/out Volunteers: David Strand, Aliza Hauser, Marin Engler, Jacque Blakely, Kelsey Ruiz

Name Tags for Board Members/Staff: Brenda Vander Lugt and Kathryn Majnarich

Auction Program: Bob Fraser, Kai Martin

Auction Bid Numbers: J.W. Murtha

Auction Invitation and Postcard, Design/Layout: Brenda Vander Lugt

Web Publicity: Chris Nefcy

NVS Administrative Support Staff: Roy Kristiansen, Bryant Milliman.

Honorees: Michael Rudenaker & Margaux Guidry

Speaker: Brenda Vander Lugt

"Thank You" to all of you who made the Spring Fling 2007 Gala Dinner & Auction such a success!

Space constraints and privacy concerns prevent us from identifying individual donors and donations

NVS is deeply grateful for your generous support. We really couldn't do it without you!

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### Spring Fling 2007 Guests & Individual Donors:

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Janet Bacon	Kathy Huson	David Reid
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Candice Bailey	Chris Johnson	Nancy Raymond
Joe Bailey	James Kenney	Ruben Rivera-Jackman
Chuck Beck	Kay Knapton	Cheryl Roe
Lourdes Beck	David Koepnick	Paul Roe
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Vi Blackburn	Ken Lindstrom	"Chip" Rubenaker
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Jacque Blakely	Kathryn Majnarich	Kelsey Ruiz
Cathy Brite	Lee Majnarich	William Serrahn
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## Thank You (continued)

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**Washington State  
Combined Fund Drive**

"Making a World of Difference Since 1984"

**NVS CFD # 74745**

Thanks to the generosity of our committed Board members and supporters, NVS is proud to announce that we have reduced our overhead ratio *again* this year.

Our "overhead" is a little above 18% -- it's plummeting because we're bringing our costs down while bringing more money in (our dollar matches are up).

Washington state, county and municipal employees and retirees will be able make a "world of difference" through contributing to their workplace campaigns again this year.

<http://www.cfd.wa.gov/>

Federal employees have their own campaign—the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Please ask your campaign coordinator for our CFC number.

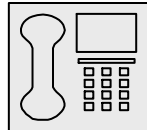
**Thank you !**

**JOB FAIR — OCTOBER 9, 2007**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE - OCTOBER 5th**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- Yes, I will be attending the Job Fair on Oct. 9th, 2007.
- No, I will not be able to make it, but please keep me informed of your next job fair and put me on your mailing list.



Please FAX to 206-744-9988  
 ATTN: Ms. Aliza Hauser at NVSU  
**OR**  
 email: [ahauser@u.washington.edu](mailto:ahauser@u.washington.edu)

**Our Thanks to the Emerald City Rotary Club, Neurological Vocational Services and Washington Vocational Services for your sponsorship and generosity.**

— NVSU (Neurology Vocational Services Unit)

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 Founder: Leonard W. Moen (1941-1988)

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NVS: **Helping people with neurological conditions gain independence, one person, one job, at a time.** Neurological Vocational Services (NVS) is incorporated as a non-profit entity, and has a 503 (c) 3 tax-exempt designation. NVS is responsible for fundraising, advising and program review for Neurology Vocational Services Unit (NVSU).

**NSVS Honored Associates 19867 — 2007**

Doug Calder, Richard Cook, Steve Crichlow, Sherri Dobbs, Jerry Galloway, Jayne Hintze, Elaine Jones, Oma McLaughlin, Robin Murphy, Carolyn Pavlov, Cheryl A. Parmele, Jan Pelroy, Pennie Pickering, Bill Shecket, Eltrina Simuel, Grace Webb, Fred Wise

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**NVS thanks these outstanding former officers, directors, and staff for their leadership and commitment to our organization and clients. Without you, NVS and the last 30 years would have been just a dream.**

**Transitions NVS / NVSU - Welcome New NVS Board Member**

Allison J. Bren is a Washington native who grew up in Walla Walla, WA. Ms. Bren is currently employed by the Wells Fargo National Special Needs Trust Group as a trust officer. A licensed attorney, she received a J.D. from Seattle University School of Law in 2006 and a B.A. in art history from Vassar College in 2000. Prior to law school, she worked in non-profit arts administration at Pratt Fine Arts Center and spent one year as an Americorps Museum Coordinator for the Kirkman House Museum in Walla Walla. Ms. Bren provides pro-bono legal services through the King County Bar Association Housing Justice Project and in her free time enjoys reading, gardening, holding dinner parties, rollerblading and spending time with her family and friends. Welcome, Allison!

**University of Washington  
 Rehabilitation Medicine  
 Neurology Vocational Services Unit  
 NVSU**  
 \*\*\*\*\*

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 NVSU/NVS  
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 Seattle WA

Mailing address:  
 NVSU / NVS  
 Harborview  
 325 9th Avenue  
 Box 359744  
 Seattle WA 98104

Phone: 206.744.9130  
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**Taliesen: Jacqueline Houston**

There is an ancient Welsh word Taliesen which means "shining brow."

Our dear friend Jacqueline Houston was not Welsh, she was African-American, but in my mind Taliesen is the word for her.

It brings forth her radiant image which -- I never tire of saying -- "lit up the room" and lit up our office where we were privileged to have worked alongside her for three or four of the last five years of her life.

The first loss for us was when she left our office to take a better job.

The final one was her death -- way before her time -- in May of this year 2007.

Bryant Milliman  
 NVSU  
 Seattle  
 June 10, 2007