

Eric Jensen grew up in small town Saskatchewan, one of three sons in a lower-middle class family. During his youth, he loved to explore the outdoors, and took particular interest in the earth. From an early age, Eric was fascinated by rocks, fossils, and the environment and this interest would play a leading role in his future.

At the same time, Eric grew up defending the "underdog". Whenever opportunity arose, he involved himself in helping those less fortunate than himself. He became involved as a volunteer, setting up a snack shop at his high school to raise funds for the Red Cross.

Eric had always expressed dissatisfaction with his high paid career in the oil business. Eric had always talked about securing a job that had a sense of "meaningful work". A friend called Eric one day in the late 1980's and said, "With our vision of creating meaningful work, we should pursue that vision and create a service supporting adults with disabilities to leave government operated institutions and group homes and reconnect

Individuals with their families and/or private caregivers that would provide a high quality inclusion supports". Eric agreed and helped form a not for profit company called Resourceful Futures Community Support.

Eric did part time bookkeeping for the new company while also taking a job as a Handibus driver. Eric loved his new jobs, met thousands of Calgarians with disabilities as he drove them about the city, and formed friendships with several of his passengers. His soul began to flourish.

Eric enjoyed working with people with disabilities so much that he decided to become a Community Disability Service Worker and worked front line at Resourceful Futures. From there, he moved on to take increasingly more demanding roles and responsibilities and is now the Financial Administrator for the company. Eric has just finished module 10 of the ACDS Foundations in Community and Disability Studies and enjoys talking with other employees about their learning's. Eric is also instrumental in providing on-going input and effective changes with

Resourceful Futures operational standards.

Today, Eric continues to interact with the individuals on a daily basis. They love to talk to Eric, and they laugh, joke and trade stories all the time. Whenever Eric travels, he never forgets those who nourish his soul and always brings back souvenirs or t-shirts.

Eric is 50 now, and often reflects with his fellow team members on his career in the Community Disability Services sector with a broad smile. He has found his niche, not in a high paid career of fast talk and intellect, but rather in a down to earth place, where he knows people appreciate his presence and love. Eric learned all about disability services from the ground up.

Submitted by: Rob Halfyard
Resourceful Futures