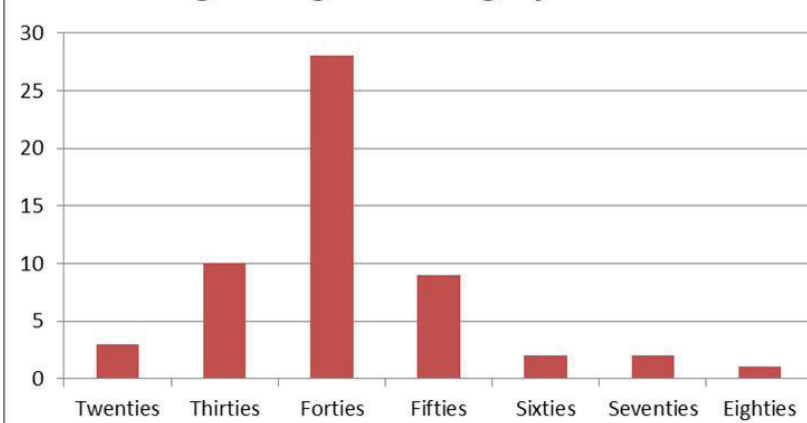




## Emerging Issues: *Aging in Place*

The majority of the people in Langley Residential Support Services' (Langley) programs are in their 40s and 50s – while a few are aged 60 – 85. We are currently developing strategies to help these individuals meet the following challenges:

**Age Range for Langley Clients**



### **How will they meet their expenses?**

As skills begin to fade, earning potential declines for a population that was already at the lower end of the wage scale. Health issues may also increase with age. These factors can have a catastrophic impact on their budgets as well as on those of their elderly parents (if they are still living) who want to assist their children, but may not have the means to do so.

*Her production rate at work has declined due to a loss of dexterity from a combination of aging and cerebral palsy. This has caused her wages to decline at a time when her health care needs are increasing.*

*...real-life situation of a Langley Resident*

### **How can we help them adjust psychologically to failing physical abilities?**

As people get older, they may not be able to do what they used to enjoy doing – and still want to do. This is a difficult concept for anyone to accept; however, someone with intellectual disabilities may require additional counseling to enable them to understand what is happening, and to help them adjust.

*She has a dual diagnosis of intellectual disability and mental illness. When she was younger she was much more independent and stable. However, as she has gotten older she is no longer able to do some activities like driving that enabled her to be more self-sufficient. Her coping skills have also declined, causing her mental health issues to become more pronounced. She needs to have specialized counseling to understand the changes that she is experiencing, and how to handle them.*

*...real-life situation of a Langley Resident*

### **What work must be done to their home to enable them to safely “Age in Place”?**

As physical abilities begin to fade, adjustments must be made to the living areas of the men and women we serve to enable them to continue to live safely in the home that they know. These adjustments range from safety railings to the installation of an elevator in one of our homes.

*He currently needs a walker because he suffered a stroke a few years ago that impacted his mobility. He has lived in a Langley home for over two decades, and this is the home he knows. He does not want to move; however, as he ages, his home environment will need to be adapted to ensure he can live there safely.*

*...real-life situation of a Langley Resident*

As we work on strategies and solutions to resolve the above “Aging in Place” issues, we must also identify funding requirements, and associated revenue streams, since these expenses are not included in our service provider contract with the Fairfax – Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB). In the very short-term – until sustainable funding streams are developed – general operating support funds must be used to pay for minor “Aging in Place” accommodations.

You can help us in our effort to develop and implement solutions that will enable the people we serve to Age in Place by making a donation to Langley Residential Support Services.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support!