



Chris Stevenson,

CEO

Words cannot adequately express the joy in my heart knowing that I work with Cedar Lake's first rate senior management team, its caring staff, its committed volunteers who make up Cedar Lake's boards of directors and of course, the wonderful clients of Cedar Lake Lodge and Cedar Lake Residences. When I left Cedar Lake as its Director of Development in April of 2003, I embarked on a wonderful journey to lead the board and staff of Apple Patch to realize their dream of creating exceptionally unique, high quality programs and services. When I began, we employed 6 staff members and served 8 individuals. Today, Apple Patch employs over 160 staff and serves over 230 individuals. In the 8 years that I led Apple Patch, I grew to understand that actively listening to our key stakeholders enabled Apple Patch to grow quickly and sensibly.

By listening, I was able to implement programs that met the dreams, wants, and needs of the clients, implement solutions to alleviate the concerns of the families/guardians, give staff a forum for discussion to develop solutions to problems they face, and reposition our organizational strategies based on changes in our external environment. Listening (and asking lots of questions) has served me well – and is a quality that I already value and admire in our Cedar Lake board leadership. I look forward to getting reacquainted with all of the constituents of Cedar Lake to ensure that everyone has a voice when directing the future of their agency.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the legacy of Cedar Lake, built by many hands over its 40 + year history, that I am blessed to have the privilege of continuing. I especially want to thank Jim Richardson for his commitment to building Cedar Lake and serving as an incredibly staunch advocate for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I had the good fortune of working directly with Mr. Richardson while serving as Director of Development for Cedar Lake Foundation and was inspired by his unyielding passion for the mission of Cedar Lake. It is my desire, as your new President, to keep the passion for our mission burning brightly...through you...the clients, families/guardians, staff, volunteers and donors of Cedar Lake.

Your input is essential in guiding our future; and although there will be many distractions sure to come our way, we cannot lose focus of the individuals we serve - and our direct support team who work tirelessly to ensure their enhanced quality of life. If we stay focused, we will succeed!

My wife, Karen, and two sons, Jake (13) and Luke (8) look forward to becoming actively involved in various Cedar Lake activities to become reacquainted with old friends and meeting new ones. I am eager to work with everyone to sustain the Cedar Lake "Standard of Excellence!" that our clients deserve and our families have come to expect.

— Chris



CEDAR LAKE