



5-15-12

To NCRA 2012 Awards Selection Committee:

Re: Community Development/Volunteer of the Year Award Nomination

Chuck Anger came to CIVL Radio in the Fall of 2010, just after FM broadcast testing began for the first time for campus radio in the Fraser Valley. At the time, Chuck did not own an e-mail address, nor had he ever used a computer before.

By the following Spring, after months of training and practice, Chuck was pre-recording his two hour Blues program almost obsessively, stocking up episodes in case he should take ill or require time away from the station; something that rarely occurs when he can help it. Most mornings Chuck is the first one in the station, talking to volunteers, experimenting in the studio and conducting interviews for what by the fall of 2011 was CIVL's newest and most affecting program, Abbotsford Streets.

Influenced by a Winter 2011 interview workshop hosted by Sylvia and Stuart Richardson from CJSE, Chuck became excited about the prospects of using the community airwaves to make a difference in the lives of our community members, not just playing music.

Through his work at the Abbotsford Flea Market and with the annual Children's Toy Run, raising funds and providing support for youngsters in need, Chuck had already developed a reputation within the Fraser Valley as someone 'in the know'. Following the Richardson's example, Chuck was intent on using CIVL Radio interviews to tell important stories, and bring to light the issues that so many in our community deal with every day: Drug addiction; poverty; sexual exploitation; physical abuse; mental health; racism; and with the help of a radical Abbotsford Pastor, Ward Draper, whose "Church of the Street" 5 and 2 Ministries provides warm meals and support resources for Abbotsford's at risk populations, Chuck initiated CIVL's first program dealing exclusively with the issues that affect those who feel powerless in our community.

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Now hosting two programs, Chuck also embarked on writing and recording a five part documentary series, a social history of the Blues, addressing the struggles and stories of blues musicians dating to the originators of the style, and focusing on the struggles of poverty and civil rights that faced nearly all of the people who would end up developing the storied history of blues music in North America.

Maybe the most important function of the documentary itself was the experience it gave one of CIVL's young volunteers, Celeste Adam. Celeste worked daily with Chuck for months, with her advanced computer skills and ability to pick up new tricks just a bit quicker than Chuck, turning her into CIVL's star production volunteer, and giving her the opportunity to lend her voice to one of the hours dedicated to women in the blues. It also provided her with the confidence to experiment with her own music, creating PSA's for local support services and initiatives, as well as leading her to become a musical co-host on one of CIVL's most popular programs. Though Chuck was sad to see Celeste leave Abbotsford, there is no doubt that her time spent working with Chuck has led her to get involved with as many C/C radio stations as she can on her months long journey across Canada to Montreal this summer.

Abbotsford Streets has received a very welcomed response from Abbotsford's support service workers, and developed a special relationship with an initiative called the Warm Zone, which provides a place exclusively for women in town, where they can get food and milk, relax without fearing for their safety, and engage in workshops to help them develop their skills and work towards a fuller and happier life.

Warm Zone coordinator Michelle Giordano is a regular guest on Abbotsford Streets, where she helps spread the word about the different kinds of atrocities and struggles facing women of all backgrounds, and letting listeners know about the many ways that they can protect themselves and find support when there are few other places to look. Together, Michelle and Abbotsford Streets have tackled issues of domestic violence, drug addiction, prostitution, homelessness, as well as LGBTQ issues facing many in our community through first hand accounts and in depth analysis of what it is that leaves us vulnerable to those who seek to exploit us, and how we can fight back. This is the kind of programming that has *never* been available to Fraser Valley listeners before, and is especially important since Abbotsford has one of the country's highest rates of Hep C, among other rampant health and safety concerns.

The unique perspectives provided by a liberal, non-secular male of Native ancestry entering his senior years, a Caucasian Pastor who advocates for harm reduction and equal

rights for same sex couples, and some of the strongest and most active advocates of the importance of social health and wellness resources in the Valley has provided for a truly unique and impactful program every week. None of this would be possible without the hard work and vision that Chuck has shown since the day he arrived at CIVL.

Still keeping connected to the local music community, Chuck regularly records up and coming bands live in CIVL's studios, building yet more bridges between the young and fanciful music community in Abbotsford, Mission, and the Valley, with the somewhat radical ideas (especially for what is commonly known as Canada's "Bible Belt") expressed weekly on Abbotsford Streets.

Though Chuck has not been with CIVL Radio long, and doesn't have an immense history of coordinating and supporting the work of campus and community radio for years, he has made an incredible impact in his time at CIVL thus far, and looks every day to make that impact grow and see his vision come a bit more to light.

From Fraser Health officials to Archdiocese, political candidates, social service workers and the people who make our community what it is, from music to life on the streets, Chuck has without a doubt been CIVL's volunteer of the year, helping us fulfill our mandates in so many different ways.

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Chuck Anger for the 2012 NCRA Award for Volunteer of the Year, with an eye on his consistent devotion to Community Development in the Fraser Valley.

Thanks very much for the opportunity to champion one of our most dedicated volunteers,

Aaron Levy
Station Manager
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