

New Vision Unlimited shaping up to be a valuable community resource

Tim Brody
STAFF WRITER

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I'VE attended lots of workshops and I remember thinking to myself I could make this so much more fun and come up with the same learning experience just by making it more interactive,” stated Graham Thompson, who along with wife Erin Horvath, created their business New Vision Unlimited about a year ago based on the concept of experiential learning. New Vision Unlimited uses a hands-on approach to make learning fun, interactive and a more memorable experience. Both Thompson and Horvath have masters degrees and both have backgrounds in social work. They said the concept for their business has been brewing for several years now and came from seeing a need they felt they could fill. New Vision Unlimited is prepared to work with

organizations, businesses, clubs, schools and individuals on a variety of subjects. These include, but are not limited to, the art of building a team, youth leadership programs, dynamic communication, conflict resolution, inspirational leadership, workshop facilitation skills, goal setting and strategic planning, suicide prevention and intervention, healing through art, parenting with empathy, working through grief and loss, youth awareness programs, and social and educational program design. In essence, once Thompson and Horvath have been told what a client wishes to accomplish, they can design a program to make it happen. In order to accomplish this, Thompson and Horvath intertwine content with experiential learning. “We’ve found that everyone from little kids up to adults tend to learn something from our experiences that we can provide.

Everything from a professional business perspective all the way to a very personal, almost counselling perspective. A wide variety of people can utilize our resources. It's just a matter of tweaking how we present it," Thompson said. New Vision Unlimited is a non-profit organization, which they use for their clients' benefits, Thompson said. "With our non-profit status we're able to apply for a lot of government grants and funding and we'll use money like that to fund programs and that way our participants don't have to provide a fee." Thompson and Horvath often utilize a low ropes course created at Cedar Bay in their course, however they can also conduct sessions indoors. Horvath said many clients have shared with her and her husband the benefits of taking one of their programs. "I think there was one participant who said it really well. It was a professional development opportunity where the group perceived themselves as having some incompatibilities and some conflict and they completed a few things together and somebody said, 'I didn't know we could work this well together.'" She added, "Our workshops usually end up with a whole lot of laughter which is healing." Thompson added, "I've seen youth from the high school complete one of our

low ropes courses and just be absolutely ecstatic that they actually completed the thing, not thinking they'd be physically able to or able to work as a group to complete the task." In the future, Thompson and Horvath would like to work with schools to use experiential learning in their teaching and are also hoping to get more people to Cedar Bay through their program. Anyone who would like to find out more about New Vision Unlimited or enlist their services can do so by calling 737-0019 or by logging onto their web site at www.newvisionunlimited.9k.com.