

# Reality TV show prompts Aldergrove residents to find jobs for neighbours

This week's challenge is the right job for the right person.

BY HEATHER COLPITTS, LANGLEY ADVANCE    SEPTEMBER 22, 2011 8:13 AM



The latest challenge issued to the 100 families in the Million Dollar Neighbourhood reality TV show filming in Aldergrove is to help eight residents find work. The job seekers include (clockwise left to right) Lenka Graham, Matt Ritchie, Dalton McDonald, Jacey Gillis, Vicki Austad and Charlissa Newman. (One photo was not available and one person chose not to participate in the story.)

**Photograph by:** Heather Colpitts, Langley Advance graphic

METRO VANCOUVER -- Several hundred people in Aldergrove are using any means they can think of to get eight of their neighbours jobs by this Sunday.

They are sending out flyers, networking, speaking to the Langley Advance and whatever else they think could succeed as they work with the eight residents who need jobs.

Why have they taken on this brother's keeper-style task? These are the 100 families taking part in the Million Dollar Neighbourhood reality TV show filming in Aldergrove. Each week the families are given challenges to increase their personal net worth and the community's financial picture overall. In August, they had six days to prep for a massive garage sale.

From among the 100 families that signed up for the show based on finances, these eight have agreed

to the latest challenge presented by the show's producers, Force Four Entertainment.

Anyone who has a job open that might be right for these community members is asked to contact [aldergrovePR@gmail.com](mailto:aldergrovePR@gmail.com).

Seven of the participants agreed to be spotlighted in the community newspaper.

- Eleah Cochran and her husband are life-long residents of Aldergrove and have a toddler. Cochran worked in the cafeteria at Trinity Western University and has about three years experience in the catering field as well as hotel housekeeping. She's looking for part-time work in daycare or catering.

- Vicki Austad is finding this unique challenge invigorating for herself and her community.

"We are meeting more and more amazing people who all have a fascinating story to tell. After this experience, Aldergrove and residents will be forever changed," she told the Advance.

She spent more than 30 years in the non-profit sector and wants to branch out into the counselling and communication fields.

- Matt Ritchie wants to find himself in the driver's seat. He's looking for long-term work. In addition to office and business administration experience as well as customer relations management, he knows how to move, literally. Ritchie has a clean driver's abstract as well as experience with forklift, bobcat, hand tools and heavy machinery.

- Charlissa Newman could be just what the doctor ordered for an employer. She graduated as a pharmacy technician in 2007 and has worked part time but wants full-time employment in the field to put her skills to use and be able to provide a good life for her little girl.

- Dalton McDonald may be the youngest of the job seekers, at 15, but the Aldergrove Community Secondary student said he's earnest in his desire to work.

"I believe this would help me mature and develop as a person," he said. "My skills are that I am very good with people and an excellent listener. I've also done welding at school and really enjoy it."

- Lenka Graham moved to Canada from the Czech Republic in 2008 to be with her husband. The mother of three daughters, she enjoys working with children and is willing to take on a variety of jobs, whether it's caring for kids in her home or cleaning homes and businesses. Graham has to find work within a certain radius of Aldergrove as she does not drive.

- While Jacey Gillis has training as in dental administration, she would like something in another field. Gillis said she has to offer clerical skills, customer service experience, communication and accounting skills, and a desire to put her skills to work.