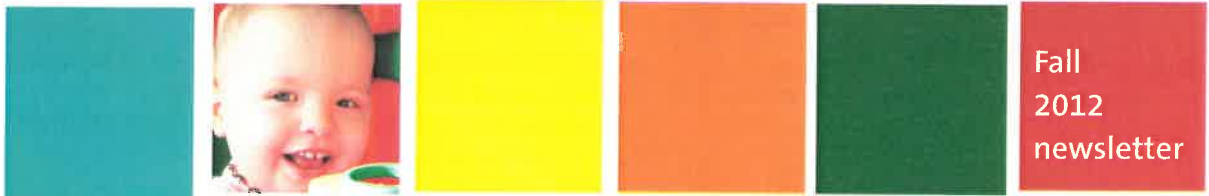


# inside reach



Fall  
2012  
newsletter

in this issue...

2  
Save The date for  
REACH FOR THE STARS

3  
Anxiety and Our  
Kids article

5  
Preparing for a Disaster

6  
Mark Your  
Calendars

## Youth with special needs panel offers valuable insights at Reach's 2012 Annual General Meeting story pg. 4



Michael Varley



Chelsea Kaake

# Tapping Teen Potential at Reach's 2012 AGM

On Saturday October 20th Reach held its 53rd Annual General Meeting with a morning session called *Tapping Teen Potential: Recognition, Dialogue & Discovery with Youth & Young Adults from our community.*

The aim was to look at the needs, and celebrate the strengths and accomplishments of youth in our community. Reach invited a group of young adults to answer questions about services and supports, students from the community who have raised funds for Reach, and band "Midnight Overture" made up of young adults with special needs.

Close to 70 people attended the event, 23 being young adults, including students in Reach's Saturday Group Respite program.

The event began with the youth panel of young adults with special needs talking about the challenges and rewards of being a teenager with a disability. Delta School Trustee and Reach Society Board Director Donna Burke moderated the youth panel that included Delta youths Myles McKie, Sean McCafferty, Chelsea Kaake and Michael Varley. Many of the panel's comments addressed their relationships with teachers and peers, and touched on the notion that they want to be treated as individuals with unique personalities and not pre-judged or characterized by their disability. The panel commented that during their teen years, things that had a positive impact included activities that were social, that were adaptable and that were productive and fun, such as sports or teen social groups. More life skills and job training were also mentioned as areas that could be improved in teaching young adults with special needs.



In addition to the panel discussion, the event also took the opportunity to recognize some Delta students for their fundraising contributions to Reach.

Manvir Taunk and three fellow Seaquim Secondary students Haleena Gill, Sabrina Gill

and Tanpreet Parmar, went on Vision T.V.'s *Aja Mera Des Vekh Lai*, talked about Reach and asked people to pledge towards the building campaign. They raised a total of \$2,600 towards Reach's new building project.



Delta Secondary student Taylor Baker, along with fellow students Christine Whitty, Amber Hastings, and Cody McGill all worked together last year on the Youth in Philanthropy project for their planning 10 class. They chose Reach in honour of Taylor's younger brother who has autism. Their project was not awarded the final prize, but as a token of recognition \$2,000 was donated by a joint venture of Tsawwassen First Nations and Makin Construction to Reach on behalf of the students. Norman Stark, President of the TFN Economic Committee presented Taylor with the cheque and stated, "We are really pleased to see the work that Taylor has done and we hope the young people will see her as a role model. We believe that every young person that comes into this world brings in some special gift and we all really need to help them realize their potential."



The morning event ended with a musical set by the band Midnight Overture. The band, (Marshall Forsythe on guitar and vocals, Colin Sankey on bass and Josh Somers on percussion,) first met in Reach's Just Jammin' program, a music program for young people with

special needs, and have been playing together ever since. The program was run by Reach PBS Consultant Karen Fields with support from her musical husband Terry, who played drums on the band's set. It was a fantastic performance and great way to end an informative and inspiring morning.



Guests were treated to a hearty lunch, with pizza donated by Panago in Ladner, and afterwards voted-in Reach's new leadership for the 2012 / 2013 year.

Special recognition and thank you was given by Reach Board President Rob VanSpronsen to Irene Forcier, Reach Foundation Chair for 2010/11/12. Irene's dedication was tireless in helping to launch Reach's capital campaign to raise \$4 million for a new facility in Ladner.



Barbara Wallick (shown below at the Reach event with Delta Councillor Sylvia Bishop) was voted in by members as the new Chair of Reach Foundation.



For a list of Directors for Reach Society and Reach Charitable Foundation go to page 1. For more photos of Reach's 2012 AGM visit our Facebook and Flickr pages. Links at [www.reachdevelopment.org](http://www.reachdevelopment.org)