

FALL
newsletter
2024



in this issue...

3
A Black Tie
Taste of Reach

6
AGM & Info Fair

8
REACH free online
workshops

Fidget Quilt Sensory Tools

donated by the Ladner Village Quilterspage 8

photo L:R (back):

Terynn Papadopoulos, Pippin Fazeli, Dawn Wilkins, Sarah Aguilera, Puvleen Sandhu

(front): Heidi Surman, Leora Shipley

inside reach

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Message from the President



As I visited the REACH building last week, I chanced to see an old colleague of mine from my teaching days. We exchanged pleasantries

and I asked her why she was visiting REACH. She said she comes weekly, along with another retired teacher, to sort, clean and ready the toys in our toy library that are used in our various therapy programs. I thanked her for her continued support and we both carried on our way. When I got home, I began to reflect on the generosity of the people who support the children and youth in our community to help them reach their full potential.

Generosity is a virtue that manifests itself in so many ways. To me, generosity is giving, not just money, but also of your time and resources. It means doing more, not for personal gain, but because it benefits others. Our Boards, who were recently elected, volunteer their time and knowledge to improve the future of our organization. Some of our Board members have been serving for over 10 years. We also have an Advisory Board, of previous Board members, and others that offer their knowledge and expertise to REACH as need.

The generosity of our friends and families was so evident at the recent Taste of REACH

event. A wonderful dinner and evening were enjoyed as we able to raise just over \$100,000 to support our programs. Behind the scenes at events such as this, there are many volunteers including some of our staff. We appreciate everyone's support.

I looked up the characteristics of a generous person on the internet and was not surprised to see:

- Generous people tend to be satisfied people and always want to give more.
- Generous people say "yes" more often than they say "no"
- Generous people look for ways to offer help
- Generous people are kind, understanding and not selfish.

Anything one person does for another out of the goodness of their heart can be considered acts of generosity. We have the most generous community supporting REACH. The intrinsic reward you get by your generosity is often much more valuable than what you can give.

I would like to thank everyone of you for your continued support and generosity.

On behalf of the REACH Society Board of Directors,

Phyllis With, President

2024/2025 Board of Directors

Reach Child and Youth Development Society:

Phyllis With, President; Angela Keulen, Vice President; Ryan Thomas, Treasurer; Marcia McCafferty, Secretary; Shirley-Ann Reid, Director; Stuart Bowyer, Director; Lois Wilkinson, Director; Claire Hatcher, Director; Christine Sutherland, Director; Joanne Hunton-Sehdev, Director; Nauman Jutt, Director; Mike Roberts, Director

Reach Child and Youth Development Charitable Foundation:

Sharon Schoeffel, Chair; Denis Horgan, Vice Chair; Ryan Thomas, Treasurer; Laura Dixon, Secretary; Jit Sangha, Director; Lisa Margetson, Director; Amy Bonner, Director; Daphne Hodgins, Director



Like, follow, share and watch. There are lots of ways to connect to REACH. Visit our newest events channel on Instagram @reachchilderevents

A Black Tie Taste of Reach 2024



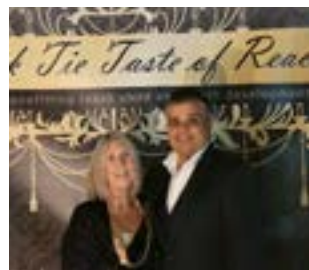
The 6th Annual Taste of Reach Fundraiser at Tasty Indian Bistro, North Delta, benefiting Reach Child and Youth Development Society (REACH) enjoyed outstanding support on November 7th. This year's event raised \$101,600 in funding to support mental health in the REACH Counseling Program and is the highest total in the history of the event! "We are so grateful for Tasty Indian Bistro and all of our sponsors, donors, guests and volunteers for their generosity and care for children and families in our community", said Events Coordinator Tamara Veitch.



The high energy evening enjoyed the talents of Erin Cebula, MC and of guest auctioneer Ian Paton, MLA Delta-South. Other guests included City of Delta Mayor George Harvie, Councillors Dylan Kruger and Rod Binder, as well as City of Surrey Councillors Linda Annis and Mike Bose. Presentations from REACH parent and Board Director Christine Sutherland, Counsellor Japneet Parmar and Family Navigator Pindi Mann explained specialized mental health supports that are vital for improving quality of life for vulnerable children and families.



REACH extends gratitude to host Tasty Indian Bistro, Presenting Sponsor Delta Agricultural Society, Platinum Sponsor Sedgwick Strategies and returning Gold Sponsor REALCO Properties for their generous community support of A Taste of Reach 2024.



CARF Surveys REACH 2024

From Oct. 16-18, the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities Canada came to survey REACH and we were accredited for the maximum 3 year period. The Surveyors are pictured to the right, (L:R) Ann Howlett, Nate Rogers and Laura Lewis. We passed without any recommendations, something the surveyors said had only happened a handful of times in their combined careers. The summary comments follow.



"REACH is an impressive, value driven organization with many highly committed, professional and dedicated long term staff members. The organization has strong ties with the community, provincial initiatives and the local Indigenous community. Feedback from community partners complimented the organization's commitment to professionalism, quality interventions and truly "walking with the family". Staff members work collaboratively and cooperatively with one another and community partners to ensure the best outcomes for the families served.

The programming is outstanding and delivered by a skilled and committed staff. The organization's policies are detailed and any goals/plans developed for personnel or individuals and families are written in a way that is measurable, leading to more successful outcomes. Families reported huge benefits from being involved in REACH's programs and identified positive outcomes for the children and youth. Staff members reported that the organization's mission is truly driven by the children and youth served."

National Day of Truth & Reconciliation

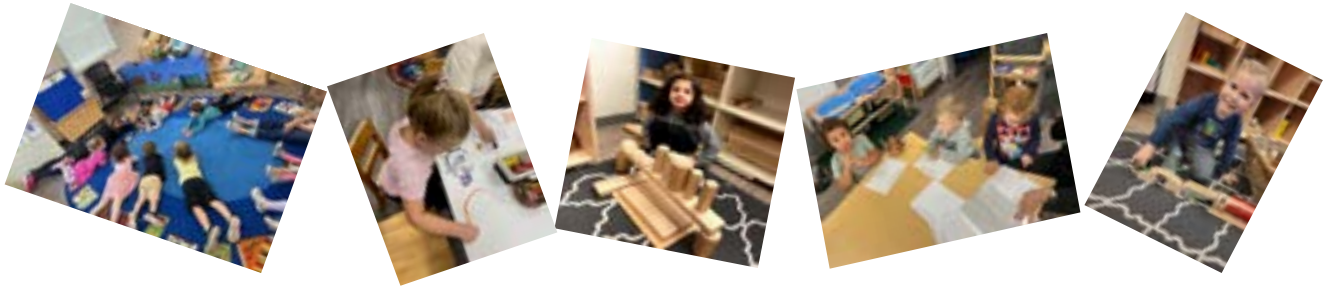


On National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, Sept.30th, REACH staff had the opportunity to participate in Delta Secondary School's NDTR walk with Nathan Wilson from Tsawwassen First Nation. REACH recognizes that Residential Schools and other acts of colonization have resulted in broad inequities for Indigenous People in Canada, and that these inequities create significant and unique barriers for Indigenous families trying to access child development and therapy services for their children. As a community-based organization, REACH remains supportive of quality child development and therapy services which are inclusive and accessible to all children and families.



REACH Preschools this fall

BACK TO SCHOOL



COMMUNITY



HALLOWEEN



NICK'S NOOK FOOD CUPBOARD



TAYLOR SWIFT ERAS TOUR PARTY



2025 PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSES



REACH Preschool OPEN HOUSES will happen in February and you're invited!
Our preschools welcome all abilities in a play-based environment.

Preschool North is located in REACH Play & Learn Centre inside North Delta Recreation Centre.
Open House is **February 3rd, 2025** from 6-7:30pm

Preschool South is located in REACH Child Development Centre, Ladner.
Open house is **February 4th, 2025** from 5:30-7pm

Contact Denise to learn more at 604-946-6622 ext 308 or denises@reachchild.org

REACH AGM 2024



REACH SOCIETY BOARD



20 YEAR STAFF



REACH FOUNDATION BOARD



10 YEAR STAFF



25 YEAR STAFF



On September 26, 2024 REACH held our Annual General Meeting and Info Fair at our Ladner Child Development Centre location.

At the REACH Annual General Meeting, Society and Foundation Board Directors were elected and long term staff and volunteers were recognized. Volunteers included Rob vanSpronsen, Denis Horgan, Jan Andrews, Liz Costello, Catherine Gilmour, Jean Heggie and Louise Wright.

25 year staff included Preschool Teacher Jean Sedor and Executive Director Renie D'Aquila.

20 Year Staff included Gina Maslin, Program Manager, Reach Autism Program; Jeanette Trombley, Positive Connections, Assistant Program Manager; Andrea Wong, Occupational Therapist; Carol Ywan, Individualized Funding Coordinator, Autism Program

10 Year Staff included Dan Layton, IT and Facilities Manager; Denise Sheridan, Preschool Manager; Stephanie Tse, Behavior Consultant/ Group Respite Coordinator; Kathy Hogue, Behaviour Interventionist

Executive Director Renie D'Aquila, Society President Phyllis With and Foundation Chair Sharon Schoeffel reported on the year and REACH Liaison at the City of Delta, Dylan Kruger offered supportive and appreciative comments about REACH's role in the community during the informative evening.



REACH Info Fair

REACH held an Information Fair on the same day as the AGM where staff from programs provided visuals and useful information to the public and AGM attendees. This event provided all participants the opportunity to learn about all REACH programs and services in one place.



Dreams Take Flight

Jeanette Trombley,
Coordinator, Positive Connections

For several years now, REACH has been offered spots to nominate children and a volunteer escort to attend Dreams Take Flight, a whirlwind 1 day trip to Disneyland and back. In October of this year, I had the privilege to be the assigned Reach escort and join a plane full of 120 children and adult volunteers to fly to Disneyland and share the experience of a life time. My group was comprised of 4 girls on Team Snow White; 2 of these girls were nominated by Angela Ruel, REACH Delta Connex Program Coordinator and joined us from Tsawwassen First Nation. We also had 2 girls nominated and join us from an affiliated elementary school in Langley.

We started the day by arriving at the Air Canada hanger for 3 a.m. The children were provided with a Disney themed outfit and after we organized the children and they said their goodbyes to their parents, we went through customs and boarded the plane. Once we disembarked, we were fed food galore throughout the trip.

On arrival to LAX terminal, we were met by LA police, firefighters and their dogs, enjoyed a meet and greet with the Mattel adult volunteers who would be joining us in the park and a group photo was taken.

Once we were in the park, "what the kids wanted, the kids got". We used the Disney app to preload which rides we would go on, and thanks to the disability access pass, we could just walk right on. Our group went on the Matterhorn, Big Thunder Mountain, Autopia, Star Tours, Roger Rabbit Car Toon Spin, Buzz Lightyear Astroblasters, and Star Wars: Rise of the Resistance.

We also spent some down time in Toon Town meeting characters such as Max and Daisy Duck. The highlight for the girls was when we went to the Royal Castle and met Ariel, Cinderella and other princesses and got their



autographs. We made sure to fill up on treats such as churros, Dole Whips, and slushes in between rides. Near to the end of the day we all met up in Main Street; each child went with an adult and shopped for something special with a pre-loaded gift card. Once shopping was done, it was time for a pizza party, a shuttle ride to the airport, and once again loading on to the plane and filling up on food (or sleep for the kids).

We safely landed back in the Air Canada hanger around 12:30 a.m. I want to thank Air Canada for sponsoring this amazing opportunity for the children, and it was very much worth the sleepless 25 hours.

IDP Playgroup & Puppets!

Pippin Fazeli,
Consultant, Infant Development Program

The Infant Development Program runs a regular playgroup open to all IDP families. The playgroup provides an opportunity for little ones to socialize and have fun, while providing a great opportunity for parents to do the same. With different themes and activities including sensory play, under the sea, puppet shows, arts and crafts and music there is some fun for everyone. Every playgroup includes time for free play and circle time to sing and dance together.



2025 Parent to Parent Free Online Workshops (English)



Jan. 15 [Executive Functioning](#)

Many individuals with ASD struggle with executive functioning and improving skills in this area is vital for developing independence and functioning successfully in many settings. This FREE Parent to Parent Support Group workshop will help families develop a better understanding of executive functioning and how it relates to home, school, and community and learn strategies to support children/youth with executive functioning in varied settings

Jan. 22 [Counseling](#)

Moving Forward is a non-profit charity organization that offers free short-term and affordable long-term counselling options. Services are provided to all ages, genders, religions, groups, no matter their financial status. We also have services offered in 20 languages

Feb.11 [Social Development](#)

This workshop will introduce families to South Surrey Social Skills, an organization that provides individual and group coaching in strategies to combat anxiety and develop skills in communication, relationships, and executive and adaptive functioning.



Feb. 26 [Fostering Social Emotional Learning](#)

A Parent to Parent Support Group workshop That explains how social-emotional learning is essential for children and youth, because there are a range of skills such as knowing how to solve problems, manage emotions and forge relationships that need to be developed with support.



Mar.05 [Sleep Support](#)

A Parent to Parent Support Group workshop from a specialist in providing sleep support and treatment to autistic and neurodivergent children. Through comprehensive assessment, individualized planning and monitoring, the Behaviour Gal is able to help support clients in achieving their sleep dreams

Please contact Priya for more information - priyan@reachchild.org

Fidget Quilts continued...

Dawn Wilkins came to visit us with fidget quilts created by the Ladner Village Quilters. The group started in 2023 and has been involved in altruistic pursuits from their inception, making pillow pals for Delta Hospital Auxiliary serving emergency and extended care patients.

Dawn has a family member with autism and is familiar with how helpful fidget quilts are. She encouraged the group to put together these useful tools to distribute in the community and reached out to see if we would like some for our program children. Front desk manager Terynn facilitated the donation and during the fall, 45 gorgeous pieces have been delivered and used in multiple REACH programs.

Quilts include beads, buttons, zippers and velcro closures you see in the close-up picture and they



are particular favourites with our children.

The fidget quilts provide tangible examples to pass around to parents for them to look at and understand sensory play. Some quilts will stay with REACH programs and others have been given to families.

Early Years Fairs in Surrey 2024 & 2025



The Early Years Fair is an initiative supported by the Surrey School District (City of Surrey) and community organizations to promote young children's healthy growth and development across the city. REACH Aboriginal Supported Child Development Coordinator Munmeet Parmar attended Nov.14 (photo left) at the Newton Recreation Centre and shared information about ASCD, Autism Program, Parent Peer Program to attendees.

Future fairs are planned for Jan.22 at Guildford Recreation Centre, Feb. 05 at South Surrey Recreation Centre and May 06 at Francis Park. Please visit [REACH website events calendar](#) for the times and details.

Gift of Speech News!

Each year, REACH asks for help supporting speech therapy for children under 6. "Early intervention in speech therapy is the key to unlocking a world of communication for every child. By addressing challenges at the onset, REACH empowers them to express themselves and connect with others, laying the foundation for a lifetime of meaningful communication", says Anwar Ul-Haq, Early Intervention Therapies Coordinator.

Four year old Arabella and her mom Janelle are featured in our Gift of Speech 2024. Janelle says, "Arabella wouldn't be where she is today without speech therapy at REACH."

On Holiday Appeal launch day, Giving Tuesday Canada, December 3rd,



Elaine and David Bliss visited us with a very generous contribution. Then, on December 18, Kristy Storey from the Delta Firefighters Charitable Society came by with \$10,000 as part of their holiday giving!

REACH extends heartfelt gratitude to the Blisses, the Delta Firefighters and all donors who have given to date!

For more information and to donate visit <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/reach-society/campaign/2024-gift-of-speech/>



Lily's Birthday Donation



Lily Cameron and her mom Michelle, dad Dan and little sister Kylie came in Nov.27 and brought a generous donation for the children in REACH Autism Program! At Lily's 4th Birthday, for the 2nd year in a row, she asked friends to give donations in lieu of gifts! Sending a heartfelt thanks to the Cameron Family and their friends for their caring and support.

Coldest Night of the Year 2025 - SAVE THE DATE!



The Coldest Night of the Year is a winterrific family-friendly 2 or 5 km fundraising walk in support of local charities serving people experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness. This year, REACH is entering a team in the Surrey-Newton walk to help bring attention and support the diverse communities in this area. Fundraising will support Moving Forward counselling services and the 2025 walk is a collaborative effort between Guru Nanak Free Kitchen, SACH (South Asian Community Hub), SALCBC (South Asian Legal Clinic of BC) and SEVA Thrift Store and Moving Forward Counselling Services.

All ages can participate and it is free to register. [JOIN the REACH TEAM](#) today!

Envision Ladner Branch Random Acts of Kindness

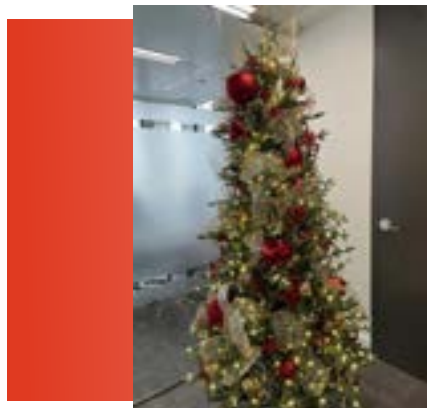


"A few of us from my team at Envision Financial would like to come hand out 20 gift cards from Stir Coffee (support local) to some of your parents at drop off in the morning" said Lisa Margetson, Ladner Branch Manager on Nov.08th. Preschool families were the happy recipients of this #supportlocal #givingback #community #blueblitz #randomactofkindness.



Every year, the Kinsmen Club of Ladner Tsawwassen mounts a fundraiser on behalf of local charities at the Harris Barn. This year, Envision Financial Ladner Branch Manager and REACH Foundation Board Director Lisa Margetson and team members came to help with REACH Society Board Director Lois Wilkinson to contribute to the event's success!

Canadian Tire Tsawwassen Goes Above & Beyond!



Canadian Tire at Tsawwassen Commons donated a decorated Christmas tree for a live auction prize at 2024 Black Tie Taste of Reach Fundraiser. The prize winner not only had the tree hand delivered to their office premises, Canadian Tire staff also decorated it for the happy recipients in a display of outstanding community spirit!

TD Bank Group Awards Grant to REACH Counselling



**TD READY
COMMITMENT**

Reach Child and Youth Development Society is grateful to TD Bank Group for recognizing the increased need for mental health supports for children with extra needs and their families by providing a \$20,000 to REACH Counselling Program in June 2024. This funding supports improving mental health and addressing eroding mental health in children and families in recent years.

REACH Counselling sessions improve the quality of life for local families. We give understanding

and strategies to children, youth and parents already dealing with complex behaviours and situations. We help to navigate neurodivergent families through diagnosis, parental support, resourcing, and other marital counselling. We use various therapeutic techniques such as trauma-informed approach, cognitive behavioural therapy, emotion-focused solutions and grounding strategies to guide our sessions.

The F Words of Child Development

Leora Shipley,
Coordinator, Infant Development Program

Have you heard of the favorite words, or “F-words”, for child development?

The F-words for child development is a strength-based approach grounded in the World Health Organization’s International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health Framework (ICF). The F-words are being used internationally and provide common languages and ways of thinking that reflect best practices for developing wholistic, individually tailored plans, focusing on an individual’s unique strengths and interests. These six words bring a positive, strength-based approach to health and development and many of REACH’s programs are now applying the F-words in our plans with families.

The F-words focus on six key areas of development:

Function: refers to what people do. All children and youth want to experience the world around them and participate fully in life and it may not matter if they don’t do it like everyone else.

Family: represents the essential environment for all children and youth. Families know their children best.

Fitness: refers to physical and mental well-being and how children and youth stay physically active, including exercise, recreational opportunities and mental wellness activities.



Fun: includes activities children and youth are involved in or enjoy participating in.

Friends: refers to friendships established with others and mentors of all ages.

Future: parents and children’s expectations and dreams for their future. This includes what’s important to children, youth and their families in life.

These words help tell every child or youth’s story and what they like, with a focus on what really matters to families.

Learn more about the F-words at: <https://www.canchild.ca/f-words>

Delta Community Foundation Grant Support for Delta Housing Be Mine Society!

In October, REACH secured \$21,000 to support Delta Housing Be Mine Society, a grass roots non-profit organization that advocates for affordable and inclusive housing opportunities for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities living in Delta.

The money comes via the Community Prosperity Fund (CPF), granted through the Delta Community Foundation. While the Vancouver Foundation administers the fund overall, the Delta Community Foundation is tasked with reviewing applications at the local level to decide which Delta-serving non-profits would have the greatest impact using the money.

The CPF is a multi-year program granting \$25 million to community foundations across B.C. for them to support organizations in their community that are making significant strides in areas such as education, health, arts and culture, food security, accessibility, seniors, and children and youth. The fund's unique structure allows communities and charities to decide how best to use the money, supporting both operational expenses and project delivery costs.

"The Delta Community Foundation is happy to support such an important initiative in our community. We, as a foundation, are here to support the various charities of Delta and are so pleased to assist the great work being done by Delta Housing Be Mine Society," Delta Community Foundation president and board chair Gillian Lowrey.

Applying for the CPF grant aligned with Reach's vision and belief in communities where everyone is welcome and living well, the release said, noting many of the young people seeking inclusive housing through Delta Housing Be Mine Society are graduates of Reach Society programs and services.

"Being able to live as independently as possible is so important to everyone's quality of life, and Reach is grateful to Delta Housing Be Mine for its advocacy work towards this important end goal for individuals with disabilities" Reach executive director Renie D'Aquila said in a press release.

Recently, Affordable Housing Societies committed to renting 10 units in its Evergreen Court Apartments development in Ladner to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities at a subsidized rate. The milestone was achieved through collaborative partnerships with Delta Housing Be Mine Society, Affordable Housing Societies, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, BC Housing and the City of Delta.

"Together, we have taken significant steps toward creating homes where inclusion thrives and communities where everyone belongs. Let's carry this momentum forward, strengthening partnerships and building a future where every individual has a place to call home," Housing Be Mine president and founder Shirley-Ann Reid said in a press release, noting the 12-year-old society is actively seeking new directors to sit on its board.

Introducing Hold & Secure and Lockdown

REACH recently introduced new policies to address potential dangerous situations. For threats outside REACH centres, the HOLD & SECURE policy comes into play. For a threat inside a REACH centre, such as a dangerous person entering our facilities, we have a new LOCKDOWN policy. Here are the main ideas in order to be prepared in the case of these unlikely events:



HOLD & SECURE

There is a potential threat of violence happening in the neighbourhood near a Reach centre. Either the police have alerted us, or someone has observed a dangerous situation. REACH staff will call 911, 'HOLD & SECURE' will be communicated to all staff in the building and the outside doors will be secured. Children and staff will stay away from windows and hallways with sight ways to the outside but otherwise carry on as normal.



LOCKDOWN

There is an active threat of violence occurring inside a Reach Centre. Once alerted about Lockdown protocol, staff will secure the room they are in and everyone will hide out of sight and must be as quiet as possible. The purpose of Lockdown is to control movement of everyone in the building to allow Police to stop the threat.