



inside reach

SPRING
newsletter
2023



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inside reach

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Submissions are welcome. Children's writing or artwork is welcome. Please include your contact information with your submission. Submissions can be emailed to alisonm@reachchild.org with "newsletter" in the subject line, faxed to 604-946-6622 (please do not fax artwork), mailed or dropped off at the front desk. For more information about the "inside reach" newsletter please call 604-946-6622 ext.337.



5050 47 Ave, Delta, BC V4K 0C8
604-946-6622 Fax: 604-946-6223
info@reachchild.org
www.reachchild.org

Reach Play and Learn Centre
11415 84th Avenue
North Delta, BC V4C 2L9
604-501-1502 Fax: 604-501-1359

Message from the President



had the fire on every day to keep the chills away!

The REACH building is such a busy place during the school year. I visit the building regularly and am always impressed to see little ones coming and going for their various appointments. The other day a little fellow was apprehensive about leaving his mom as his Behaviour Interventionist waited patiently just inside the door. I overheard his mom say, "and when we get home, we'll draw some pictures together". What a wonderful reward! It was all about spending time together. This is truly what REACH is all about - using a person and family-centred approach to support our children, youth and young adults.

I remember the day we broke ground to build this beautiful building centred in downtown Ladner. It had been a dream for so many for so long and it is now so well used. The building is now over 5 years old and is a life changing place

School is out and the weather has everyone thinking "this must be summer". Our weather has been very unpredictable as climate change is now undisputed. I spent a week in late June in the Okanagan expecting to swim and enjoy the sunshine. Well, we

for so many families. For this dream to come true, we fundraised for years and were supported by so many. Our yearly Reach for the Stars gala raised funds for the building and now the funds raised from the gala are supporting the programs within it. You will find out more on this year's gala in this newsletter.

I expect we will get many more sunny summer days in the next couple of months, so please remember to look after yourselves and your young ones. Wear a hat, wear long sleeves when possible and don't forget the sunscreen!

On behalf of the REACH Society Board of Directors,

Phyllis With, President

2022/2023 Board of Directors

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Like, follow, look and watch. There are lots of ways to connect to Reach. Visit us at www.reachchild.org to link to all of our social media.

Reach for the Stars Gala 2023

June 03, 2023 - The local community passionately believed in the potential of children at La Belle Vie Gala and gave selflessly to children and families supported by Reach Child and Development Society (REACH) in Delta, Surrey and Langley.

At each gala, a REACH family shares their story and it is filmed and edited by Kevin Adlem, producer at Eastlink Community TV in Ladner. In the accompanying photo, 10 year old Rylan Keulen introduced his family story video with gala MC Steve Darling. Guests were also delighted by another 10 year old, Koltyn Serne, who played the piano and sang. 16 year old Andrew McNally also played classical guitar for the rapt audience during the evening.

Another highlight of the evening included REACH's Gina Maslin's presentation on the new program KIDZ SQUAD, that will help small groups of children with Autism and/or developmental disabilities with communication and relationship skills as well as fostering participation in the community. Directly afterward, the heartfelt purpose shared by those in the room was evident when a five minute Fund-A-Need pledge drive raised over \$28,000 in support of KIDZ SQUAD, including \$7,000 from the Rotary Club of Tsawwassen.

This year's gala net total of \$160,000 is remarkable in the face of rising inflation and unpredictable times. Gala supporters remained focused on kindness and building potential, generously funding programming for children



with extra needs and their families served by REACH.

The enduring support of Major Donor REALCO Properties, with owners Jit Sangha and Hudge Parmar present at the event, plus Presenting Sponsors Ocean Trailer and Port of Vancouver/Vancouver Fraser Port Authority and Platinum Sponsor Beedie make a big difference in children's lives. Air Canada Foundation provided two tickets for anywhere in North America that they fly. "The generosity, kindness and community spirit of our amazing sponsors, donors, guests and volunteers, make our gala and events possible." said Tamara Veitch, REACH Events & Fundraising Manager.



Special Olympics Sports Day

April 01, 2023 - REACH partnered with Special Olympics BC (SOBC) to bring a sports day to families at Hellings Elementary School in North Delta. There was no cost to families for this event where children and youth could work with Special Olympics volunteer coaches to try soccer, basketball, rhythmic gymnastics, navigating obstacle courses and yoga.

Dilnaaz P., pictured on the newsletter's front cover, enjoyed shooting hoops immensely. SOBC coaches worked with children individually and in groups while parents stayed to observe. REACH Occupational Therapist Christine Gleave oversees outreach to involve our children and youth in community activities and was delighted at the opportunity to work with SOBC.



Mother's Day Tea



REACH Punjabi Speaking Parents Support Group organized a Mother's Day Luncheon in May. It was a really lovely afternoon with a variety of special food, dancing and fun posing with some Punjabi antiques. The luncheon was held at Punjabi Bhawan, which is open to the community and likely will be appropriate for future group events.

Three of the moms present were featured on Red FM to have a discussion about children with special needs and the challenges families face. Pindi Mann (photo far right), is the REACH Parent Support Group Facilitator (Punjabi) and is thrilled at the growth of the group and the connections being made within it.

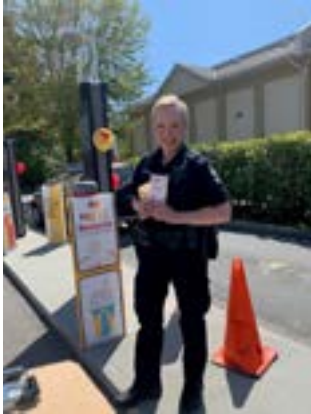
McHappy Day 2023



May 10, 2023 - McHappy Day was a happy and sunny community day that raised \$10,000 for Reach Child and Youth Development Society at South Delta McDonald's restaurants. The community came out in force and supported the cause!

REACH volunteers provided face painting, tattoos and crafts to keep children busy. Delta Firefighters and Delta Police were on-site adding excitement and raising funds in the Drive-Thru's at both restaurants. Live entertainment included Delta Secondary Theatre Company, Southpointe Academy Choir, a balloon artist and spin games to win a food or beverage coupon.

In addition to socks and raffle ticket fundraising, McDonald's also donated a percentage of food sales from the day to the charity. REACH is grateful to South Delta McDonald's owner/operator Nauman Jutt, manager Holly Sorley and their staff who supported local children with extra needs so generously on McHappy Day 2023.



Hatching Chicks at Preschool!

Every year, Preschool North and South hatch chicks from eggs to show the children this natural progression.

Incubators are used to keep the eggs warm and when they hatch, the excitement is palpable!



Easter 2023

Creative activities proliferated at REACH preschools during Easter.

Bunnies were in evidence wearing masks and headbands. In addition, children painted eggs for Easter and with intent focus!



World Down Syndrome Awareness Day 2023



March 21, 2023 marked World Down Syndrome Awareness Day (WDS) at REACH and staff and children participated in the 'Lots of Socks' initiative with enthusiasm! Kids created imaginative patterns in the colouring activity, lower left, and staff members wore their brightest socks and took part in the group photo above. WDS is a global awareness day where we advocate for the rights, inclusion and well-being of people with Down Syndrome.

Winded Fundraiser for REACH - Register or Volunteer

"WINDED" is a 5km fun run around Southlands Tsawwassen benefiting Reach Child and Youth Development Society on Saturday, August 5, 2023. Sending a big thank you to FOUR WINDS, THE RUNINN, iA PRIVATE WEALTH - Mark Schoeffel and NEWMANS FINE FOODS who are making the run possible!

The race package includes post-race beer and bratwurst. Registration is \$60 and race start is 9:30 am at The Red Barn at Southlands Tsawwassen. 6333 Market Ave, Delta, BC V4L 1M9. Register at <https://raceroster.com/events/2023/77301/winded>

Race marshal volunteers are also required on the route. Please contact tamarav@reachchild.org for more information.



Fortis for Families

In 2020, FortisBC made an initial three-year commitment to fund REACH SibShops program. This year, they extended that commitment for three more years. “The “FortisBC SibShops” Program now runs once a month from September to June,” notes Camille Netherton, REACH Associate Executive Director. “Knowing that we have FortisBC’s support for three more years makes a huge difference in terms of planning and organizing. Both the staff we hire for the program, and the families we’re serving have the comfort of knowing this is not a temporary program.”

Waitlists for some of the government-funded behaviour support programs for children and youth with special needs can be extremely long. For families without the tools or resources to help their special child, the wait for help can be painful. When REACH became aware of the long waiting list, they developed a short-term program called Positive Connections, together with the Ministry for Children and Family Development, to help bridge the gap.

“One of the things I love about REACH is how responsive we are to the communities,” says Camille. “Positive Connections was developed at a time when there was a long waiting list for behaviour support programs – and there is still a long waiting list, so it’s needed just as much now as before.”

Positive Connections is an intensive positive behavior support program for the whole family. It has three components: group learning for parents; in-home visits with a behaviour consultant; and SibShops, a program for siblings of children that have special needs diagnoses. “With funding from FortisBC, we were able to expand SibShops beyond the summer day camp program that we run in July and August, and make it a year-round program,” says Camille.

“SibShops is so important because often siblings become caregivers later in life or have a lot of responsibility for helping the family with the child with the diagnosis,” says Camille. “We felt those kids needed some support, needed to feel connected and needed to know that they’re not alone.”

“In the program, we hear kids say things like ‘I thought I was the only person who had a special sibling’ or, ‘I know my mom and dad love me, but they don’t spend much time with me because my sibling needs a lot of their attention’. And we also have kids come in who are afraid of their special sibling. It’s amazing to see how much they learn through the program in a short period of time, and how much their attitudes shift towards becoming more understanding, loving and generous toward their sibling than they were before.”



In 2023, Fortis BC provided REACH with funding for a new program to support sc̓awaθ̓an məsteyəx̓ (Tsawwassen First Nation) families. “We like to take an integrated and inclusive approach to community investment,” says Joanne Hunton-Sehdev, Community & Indigenous Relations, Fortis BC. “We explore all aspects of a community and look for ways we can boost collaboration between groups by providing additional support. The FortisBC for Families Program will also provide that extra support for sc̓awaθ̓an məsteyəx̓ families.”

Camille explains why the FortisBC for Families Program is so important and how it will work: “We’ve had our Reconciliation Action Plan at REACH for several years. We’re committed to learning, growing and doing our part towards Reconciliation. That includes being guided by our Indigenous partners to make sure that we’re assisting the Indigenous community in ways that’s meaningful to them.”

“This year, the FortisBC for Families funding will support a designated REACH behaviour consultant for Indigenous Communities to address potential cultural barriers which can limit access, critical services and supports. This program also provides education, planning and in-person support for children with extra needs and their families in partnership with sc̓awaθ̓an məsteyəx̓.”

“Before we had the FortisBC funding, this program wouldn’t have been possible,” Camille explains. “We just didn’t have the means to do it. Having FortisBC’s community support now gives us the flexibility to be responsive to the sc̓awaθ̓an məsteyəx̓ community.”

Photo L:R Jeanette Trombley, Angela Ruel, Joanne Hunton-Sehdev, Tamara Veitch, Tassia Pickard

Story courtesy Deborah Alden, FortisBC

Global Container Terminals Teens Tour!

GCT Teen Social Saturdays (GCT TEENSS) youth visited Global Container Terminals (GCT) on June 10, 2023. GCT was the first corporate business to sponsor an annual program at REACH and by doing so has ensured the continuity and stability of this valuable program for six years. GCT TEENSS provides life changing opportunities for vulnerable youth who are striving to improve the quality of their lives and become contributing community members.

"Reach has been an important part of J's and our family's life for several years now and has been an amazing experience for him. He has grown and blossomed with his social interactive skills to the point where he feels extremely confident in any social situation. He also loves spending time at Reach helping out/ mentoring the younger children. All in all, we are very grateful." *Program Parent*

Thank you to GCT for supporting this ongoing and important opportunity to Reach Teens, and for welcoming our group on this amazing VIP tour where fun was had by all!



McHappy Day Proceeds



McDonald's South Delta owner/operator Nauman Jutt presented a \$10,000 cheque to Reach Child and Youth Development Society's Executive Director Renie D'Aquila in the Ladner restaurant on June 20. It represented fundraising from this year's McHappy Day which has been benefitting local children with needs at the organization since 2009.

Photo L:R Renie D'Aquila, Tamara Veitch, Holly Sorley, Nauman Jutt, Shauna Gradley, Alison Martin

Tsawwassen Mills Donates



REACH Fundraising Manager Tamara Veitch (2nd from right) received a \$1,535 donation from Tsawwassen Mills June 13, 2023. This generous donation was an additional contribution to Reach for the Stars Gala held June 03, 2023. Tsawwassen Mills chose to make REACH the beneficiary from their Central Walk coin donations and Jay Sohal, Jody Mattice and Damien Teissedre were on hand to present the big cheque.

Sun Safety

As the weather gets warmer and kids are done for the school year, families and friends may want to hang-out in the sunshine! Before we go out and have fun, let's talk about some sun safety tips. Here are some helpful tips from Health Canada to keep in mind:

1. Cover up: Wear light-coloured, long-sleeved shirts, pants and don't forget a hat!
2. Limit your time out in the sun: Keep out of the sun between 11:00am to 3:00pm. This is the time to look for shade!



3. Use sunscreen: put sunscreen on when UV index is 3 or higher, use at least SPF 30.
4. Drink plenty of cool liquids BEFORE you feel thirsty: Stay hydrated! Dehydration is dangerous and thirst is not a good indicator of dehydration.
5. Babies have more sensitive skin because the outer layer of their skin is thinner: Keep the babies under shade and wear a hat. Babies totally rely on their caregivers to protect them from the sun and other related risks.

Reference: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/sun-safety/sun-safety-basics.html>

REACH AGM - Coming Sept 28, 2023

SAVE THE DATE!

Annual General Meeting

AGM 7:00pm to 8:30pm

In-person refreshments and socializing

6:30pm to 7:00pm

Hybrid meeting – In-person at REACH Main Office 5050 47th Avenue in Ladner or virtually via Zoom

Stay tuned for registration details via member email and REACH website.



REACH AGM 2022