



# inside reach

SUMMER/FALL  
newsletter  
2023



in this issue...



## REACH AGM 2023

Meet the 2023/2024 Society Board of Directors!

Back row L:R Lois Wilkinson, Phyllis With, Nauman Jutt, Marcia McCafferty, Shirley-Ann Reid, Christine Sutherland  
Front row L:R Joanne Hunton-Sehdev, Claire Hatcher, Ryan Thomas, Angela Keulen (absent: Stuart Bowyer)

3  
GCT TEENSS  
Update

7  
A TASTE OF REACH

11  
2023 GIFT of SPEECH

# inside reach

is published quarterly and is distributed free of charge to the membership of Reach Child and Youth Development Society. If you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe call 604-946-6622 ext. 0 or email [info@reachchild.org](mailto:info@reachchild.org) and write "newsletter" as subject line.

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](mailto: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.



## Reach Child & Youth Development Society

5050 47 Ave, Delta, BC V4K 0C8  
604-946-6622 Fax: 604-946-6223  
[info@reachchild.org](mailto:info@reachchild.org)  
[www.reachchild.org](http://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



After a very warm summer, the inevitable fall rain has begun. The summer is quieter at Reach when some programs are finished and set to restart in September, while others continue

throughout the year. This year we ran a small group summer camp where some of our young people who were able to enjoy a more relaxed program in the outdoors.

September seems like the start of a new year. As I retired teacher, I always looked forward to meeting a new class with many eager students. At this year's Annual General Meeting we met two new Board members, Joanne Hunton-Sehdev and Nauman Jutt. They are both very involved in our community and will be a great asset to the Board. Unfortunately, we also had two Board members not returning, Carmel Tang and Pindi Mann. Carmel has been a valued member of the Board for many years and Pindi has worked with our South Asian Community parents and children. I would like to thank them both for their commitment to Reach and their willingness to stay connected and help us in other ways.

The Foundation Board had three members step down, Sukaina Rashid, Valerie Bartlett, and Katherine Bamford. Katherine had been the Vice Chair for several years. I would also

like to thank them for their volunteer commitment to Reach.

At the AGM we thanked volunteers for their long service and presented them with small gifts to show our appreciation of their commitment to Reach. We wouldn't be able to help as many children, youth, young adults, and families without you.

Volunteers are such a great addition to the running of the organization, but the staff are the core of the great programs we can offer our children, youth, and young adults. Forty of our staff have been with Reach for over ten years and of those 40, 10 have been with Reach for over 20 years. Four of our staff reached a milestone 25 years with Reach. Presented with a gift for their service were, Camille Netherton, Melanie Reid, Leora Shipley, and Angela Ruel. A very credible achievement in a world where individuals change jobs and careers frequently.

We are so fortunate at Reach to have so many amazing people on our team of staff and volunteers. They truly care about children and work so hard to help everyone reach their full potential. The most moving part of the AGM is always the presentation from a family that has received support from Reach. This year, Narinderjit Toor moved me to tears as she walked us through her family's journey with her son. Her story is just one of many documenting the success of our programs in strengthening families and improving the quality of life for children.

*On behalf of the REACH Society Board of Directors,*

*Phyllis With, President*

## 2023/2024 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

### Reach Child and Youth Charitable Foundation:

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



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

## Global Container Terminal TEENSS Program Update

The GCT TEENSS Program provides valuable learning opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities, Autism, extra-needs and their families. Pre-teens and teens with varying abilities face extremely challenging times as teenagers. This is a time when typically developing teens become more aware of differences and it can be very isolating and lonely for teenagers who are neuro-diverse. They are often left out of friendships and social activities.

The GCT TEENSS program was developed to help address this important need and Global Container Terminals has made it possible. The Deltaport facility is a committed supporter of local children and families, sponsoring REACH-fundraising events as well as supporting our youth in the TEENS Supers Saturdays program.

GCT TEENSS focuses on increasing the social skills needed to build relationships and on developing the confidence needed for adulthood and the workplace. Teens using the program make friends and learn social and pre-vocational skills through participation in the community and life skill activities. For parents of teens in the group this provides much needed break and opportunity for both networking with other parents and to spend time with their other children who can be somewhat neglected by the demands of having a sibling with a diagnosis. With the GCT TEENSS Program parents can relax, knowing that their child is having fun in a social setting, while learning skills that will ultimately improve their quality of life.

With the support of GCT, Reach has operated the TEENSS program for six years. In addition, GCT funds transportation for outings using Tsawwassen Shuttles as a vital part of their sponsorship. This consistent and reliable funding base keeps the program secure and constant. With the Global Container Terminal sponsorship, REACH annually



supports 10 youth between 12 and 18 years of age who meet every second Saturday from 9:30 to 3PM.

Multi-year GCT TEENSS participant Ben Baehr won the Delta Rotary Youth Award for Inner Strength in June 2023, after being nominated by REACH staff. The Rotary recognizes "Those remarkable individuals who make a difference in our community. Those who may have overcome adversity, volunteered their time or have made an extraordinary commitment to their community."

Positive feedback received from families about participants includes: "S. carries a lot of anxiety going out and meeting new people but he has felt very comfortable at social group. Thank you"

"REACH has been an important part of J's and our family's life for several years now and it has been an amazing experience for him."





## Summer Camp held at New Westminster Gurdwara



Gurdwara Sukh Sagar Sahib (New Westminster) organized and ran a free 3-day camp for 28 children from Reach Child and Youth Development Society on August 14-16, 2023. Pindi Mann, Facilitator of REACH Parent to Parent Support Group (Punjabi) and Family Navigator asked if the Gurdwara would consider running a camp for special needs children, and without hesitation they agreed and said "no one has ever asked us before". Sukhinder Singh and his group of 18 volunteers ranging in age from 15-24, brought their camp activities to Bear Creek Park and they were an incredible team to work with.

REACH Parent to Parent Support Group Facilitator (Punjabi) and Family Navigator Pindi Mann says, "This tireless

group entertained, consoled, chased and compassionately cared for our young friends during the hottest days of the summer. Heartwarming bonds and friendships were made. It was an incredible privilege spending the 3 days with this incredible group of young people – the future is bright with these lovely humans."

Parents, children and volunteers look forward to the next time they can all get together. A date has been set for a first monthly session at Gurdwara Sukh Sagar Sahib on Dec.11, 2023, 6:30-8:00 pm. It is a Simran, Kirtan and Creative workshop designed for children with special needs aged 5-16 years in partnership with REACH. Contact the Gurdwara for more information.

## Gymnastics program RISE helps REACH kids



REACH participated in an adaptive sports program with Delta Gymnastics this year. Julie Moore, REACH Physiotherapist was involved in the project to ensure successful participation by our children. The Delta Gymnastics mission is to enable people of all ages and abilities to have the confidence and competence to live active, healthy lifestyles by participating in gymnastics activities and sport. The RISE program is built on the principles of Respect, Inclusion, Success and Empowerment. RISE classes are designed to support participants with extra needs and allow all participants to participate fully in a community program. These coach led classes use circuits, games, and unstructured play to build physical literacy, while establishing a sense of community and inclusion. Some classes require adult participation. Please contact Delta Gymnastics RISE Program Coordinator Erin Sandland - [esandland@deltagymnastics.com](mailto:esandland@deltagymnastics.com) to learn more.

## National Indigenous Peoples Day



REACH ASCD staff and ED were part of Tsawwassen First Nation on June 21 National Indigenous Peoples Day festivities as we celebrated the history, heritage, resilience and diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis across Canada. To quote Dr. Robert Joseph, "Our future and the well-being of all our children rests with the kind of relationships we build today."

## National Truth & Reconciliation Day



National Truth and Reconciliation Day, September 30, recognition at REACH included gathering for a photo with Every Child Matters shirts. In addition, our Aboriginal Supported Child Program staff set up historical information on residential schools on display boards at Head Office including video screening of two impactful documentaries.

## Volunteer Appreciation



In the summer, Events and Fundraising Manager Tamara Veitch hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Open House. at lunchtime. Summertime games, activities and delicious snacks were included and REACH volunteers from staff, events committees, the Ladner-Tsawwassen Kinsmen Club, Board Directors and donor organizations.





# Annual General Meeting 2023

Reach Society's AGM was held in hybrid format on September 28, 2023. Those present enjoyed refreshments and a moving speech from parent Narinderjit Toor, who shared her family's experience with REACH.

It was noted that in the past year, Reach Child and Youth Development Society (REACH) continued to make significant impacts and provided vital support to 1,204 families.

The 2023-2024 Society Board was elected and we welcomed new directors Nauman Jutt and Joanne Hunton-Sehdev to the existing directors, all of whom appear on our cover page of this edition.

Our supported families reflect a diverse mix of ethnic backgrounds. Our waitlists at the close of March 2023 illustrated the continued need for our comprehensive services in the community. REACH is lobbying through the Ministry and affiliated provincial organizations for increased funding levels, and in the interim we are using fundraised dollars to reduce these waitlists.

The REACH Foundation Board is a hardworking group of volunteers who help raise these funds. We welcome Amy Bonner to this Board, as well as incumbents Denis Horgan, Ryan Thomas, Sharon Schoeffel, Laura Dixon, Lisa Margetson and Jit Sangha. Long-term volunteers Linda Edwards, Christine Sutherland, Tanya Corbet, Karen Ostrom, Louise Davey, Laura Dixon, Lois Wilkinson, Sharon Schoeffel and Angela Keulen were acknowledged. We are also grateful to REACH staff Camille Netherton, Melanie Reid, Angela Ruel and Leora Shipley for 25 years of service.



# A Taste of Reach 2023



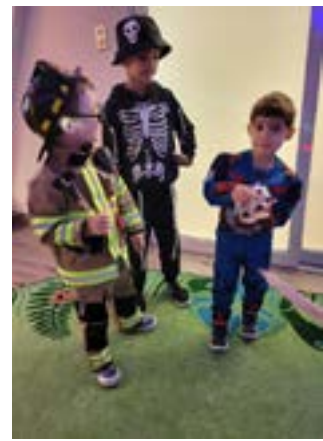
The 5th Annual Taste of Reach Fundraiser held at Tasty Indian Bistro, North Delta raised close to \$50,000 for Reach Child and Youth Development Society. MP Carla Qualtrough and City of Delta Councillor Dylan Kruger spoke at the event in support of the REACH Access2Play Campaign, fundraising to increase the playground at North Delta Recreation Centre from 1188 square feet, appropriate for 18 children, to nearly 3500 sq feet serving 54 children and address growing population needs. The new playground hub will be more accessible for children, youth and adults with wheelchairs, sensory needs, and mobility issues.

A Taste of Reach is a blend of culture and humanitarianism which brings awareness to supporting every child along their unique developmental pathway. REACH parent Amritpal Uppal spoke about the help her child received at REACH and the importance of reducing barriers to inclusion. Host Tasty Indian Bistro provided dinner and seated hors d'oeuvres in their North Delta restaurant and we extend special thanks to Inder Saini and his team for their amazing generosity and ongoing support. Just Cakes provided a delicious selection of desserts and The Drinks List impressed the crowd with a variety of complimentary wines. Gold sponsors Realco Properties, Harp Khela Real Estate Group and Holyside Property Development Ltd; Silver sponsor Group 161 DF Architecture; Bronze Sponsors Envision Delta Branches and BMGroup and Media Sponsor Drishti Magazine were integral to the event's success.





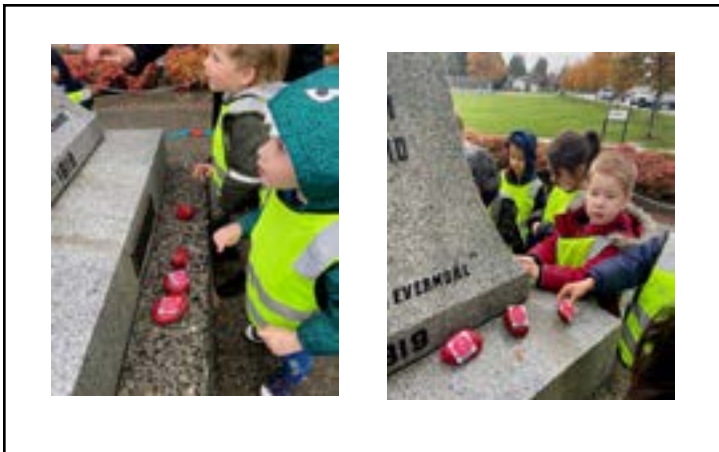
# Preschool Album



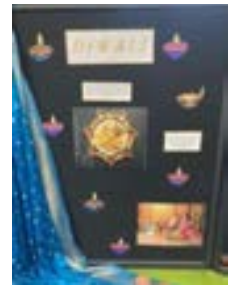
Pumpkin Fun



# Remembrance Day



# Diwali



Diwali is the Festival of Light that is celebrated each year during October/November. Lighting of the lamps or diyas (children's photos, left) symbolize the triumph of light over dark and the light within us.



Traditional Diwali foods, diya decorating and a historical presentation were offered by staff members who generously shared treats and knowledge.



# Proceeds from Winded 5K Fun Run

Four Winds Brewing and the Runinn Delta kicked off the 3rd annual WINDED 5km fun run and walk at the Southlands in August. Over 200 runners and walkers lined up for a perfect day of racing along the new Southlands Blvd and back to the Red Barn where refreshments and food were provided by Fourwinds Brewing and Newmans Fine Foods. "It was a great day for a race" says Kevin Ridley of the Runinn. "We were glad to bring this race back after covid and we were so lucky to have great sponsors". WINDED's route was made possible with the help of Christine Grange, Southlands Destination Manager. "We were so happy to have this event at Southlands Tsawwassen in August" she states. "Southlands Grange is all about supporting the local community and this event did just that."



The race was a fundraiser for the Reach Youth and Child Development Society (REACH) and was spearheaded by Mark Schoeffel, Senior Investment Advisor at iA Private Wealth (Tsawwassen) who raised over \$4000 included in the total of \$10,923.60 that the charity received to support local children with extra needs. "iA Private Wealth is committed to providing support to causes and organizations that focus on improving the quality of life for Canadians" says Schoeffel. "As a parent and long-time resident of Tsawwassen, having worked in South Delta since 1996, I am proud to be a part of the group that organized this event."

These events cannot happen without committed community support and organizers look forward to 2024 when Four Winds Brewing will be opening their new restaurant in the Southlands. Four Winds Co-owner Adam Mills shares, "WINDED is all about celebrating community spirit, a balanced lifestyle, and raising money for admirable local charitable organizations. As always, it was a pleasure to work with like minded businesses in bringing folks together for a fun and rewarding event." Another like minded business, Newmans Fine Foods, sponsored and participated and Heath Newman says, "Winded is an amazing event, which Newmans Fine Foods is proud to be a part of."



# FASD Awareness Month 2023



September was Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder awareness month. REACH staff wore red shoes to help raise awareness and everyone at head office took part! Each individual with FASD is unique and has areas of both strengths and challenges. Appropriate supports and interventions help people with FASD thrive.



# Holiday Appeal - Launches on Giving Tuesday, Nov. 28!



This year's Gift of Speech features 3 year old Cruz and REACH Speech Language Pathologist Joanne Beau-champ. These life-changing speech direct intervention sessions give children the words to build their future. To learn more & donate, visit REACH website or <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/reach-society/campaign/2023-gift-of-speech/>

# Cold and Flu Season

Health and Safety Corner

Linda Wong, REACH IDP Consultant

As the days get shorter and weather gets colder, it can only mean one thing... Cold and flu season is already here.

There are ways we can protect ourselves from getting ill. During this cold and flu season, it's even more to remember to always wash our hands, before eating, after going to the washroom and when caring for young children or other family members who might be ill.

The Centre for Disease and Control strongly recommends the following healthy habits to keep you and your family safe during this season:



- Avoid close contact with those who are sick
- Stay home when you are sick
- Cover your mouth and nose
- Clean your hands
- Avoid touching your eyes, mouth and nose
- Practice good habits such as disinfect frequently touched surfaces, get plenty of sleep, be physically active manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids and eat nutritious food.

Source: Centre for Disease Control

# Executive Director Renie awarded Citizen of the Year



Renie D'Aquila's compassion for others and her willingness to go above and beyond in both personal and professional capacities have resulted in a life of service. She was awarded 2023 Citizen of the Year at the Delta Chamber of Commerce Hat's Off Gala Nov.17th. Citizen of the Year acknowledges a sustained commitment to making a difference in people's lives in Delta. "There is always a way we can help children and families who are struggling and

even in the most complex situations and that's what we do," says D'Aquila. "We want families to know that help is within REACH."

"As president of the Reach Society Board, I have worked closely with Renie for almost 20 years", says volunteer Phyllis With. "I am impressed by the quiet unassuming ways Renie works with others to achieve positive change in so many aspects of our community." She adds, "Renie does not look for recognition for herself but shares her knowledge and expertise to improve the lives of children, youth and their families."

D'Aquila is a long-term South Delta resident and has three sons together with her husband Rod Lotzkar. Her involvement with Reach Child and Youth Development Society – a non-profit organization that helps children with special needs reach their full potential – began when her son started attending REACH preschool (then called Delta Association for Child Development). Charitable organizations seek individuals with community values and D'Aquila was a natural fit to join the REACH Board of Directors as a parent and then in 1999 became Executive Director (ED).

Through her strategic approach and commitment and under her leadership REACH has become a leader in the delivery of services for children and youth with Autism and special needs. Today, REACH serves over 1200 children in Delta, Surrey and Langley annually.