



inside reach

SPRING
newsletter
2022



in this issue...



3
McHappy Day

5
Reach GALA 2022

7
CYSN Update

Reach for the Stars GALA

Our 10th Anniversary Fundraiser in June was full of heartwarming moments..... page 5

inside reach

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Message from the President



The past few months have been very busy for REACH. Our programs continue to work with children, youth and young adults to make positive changes to their lives, which often affects positive change for the entire family. We have an

amazing staff that have a toolbox of different and interesting ways to positively interact with children of all abilities. I look forward to dropping into the REACH building and seeing a little one playing with the toys at our head office reception desk. Viewing the teaching and learning in these interactions are a tiny part of why I volunteer on the Board.

We are able to provide more programs for more children because of the kind donations of so many through our various events. It was wonderful to celebrate our tenth Gala in person at the Tsawwassen Springs Ballroom. I walked in to see so many friends of REACH dressed in their finery, catching up with each other after two years of virtual galas. The guests were entertained by twin brothers, Adam and Andrew, who have received support from REACH. They played and sang a song of their own composition. There was not a dry eye in the room as the guests rose for a standing ovation. Well done, Adam and Andrew! The excitement was contagious and at the end of the night we raised \$147,120.16. Thank you all for your generosity.

REACH volunteers were back participating in McHappy Day at Ladner and Tsawwassen

McDonald's restaurants on May 11! Local schools and dance groups performed on this community day and Delta Police and Firefighters came out to sell fundraising merchandise to support children. Partial proceeds of McHappy Day in South Delta restaurants totalled \$15,088.08 to benefit REACH programs.

The inaugural Rally for Reach fundraiser was on May 15 and it was sponsored by the Driver's Experience Gruppe (DXG). REACH children and their families were invited to come to head office and see the Gruppe's performance cars and enjoy donated treats from the Holi Masala food truck. DXG members raised over \$15,000 in registration fees to benefit our children and are keen to repeat the event next year.

On the 25th of June, I attended the Open House celebrating Global Container Terminal's 25th year in our community. It was a fun-filled day of activities, music, and food. REACH had a booth with a Spin-the-wheel game with prizes for the children. The teen program at REACH is able to operate due to the generous yearly donations from GCT for the past 6 years. Thank you for your continued support GCT.

Our Board sets the planning and direction of the REACH organization. Along with the staff we have been actively planning for the changes to the Government's funding model which is only 2 years away. The funding model will change and everyone at REACH wants to be sure we are able to offer as many or more support and programs under the new structure.

On behalf of the REACH Society Board of Directors,

Phyllis With, President

2021/2022 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; Karen Ostrom, Director; Carmel Tang, Director; Stuart Bowyer, Director; Lois Wilkinson, Director; Brent Graham, Director; Pindi Mann, Director; Claire Hatcher, Director

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

McHappy Day



May 11, 2022

McHappy Day at Ladner and Tsawwassen McDonald's restaurants was a return to pre-pandemic high-energy fun on Wednesday, May 11, 2022! Delta Police Chiefs Dubord and Davey and Constables as well as Delta Firefighters sold McHappy socks to support children at Reach Child and Youth Development Society and Ronald McDonald house. Irish Dancers, DSS Theatre Company and Studio West performed outside in the afternoon and crafts, tattoos and prize wheel fun was available to children throughout the day.

REACH volunteers manned these activities under tents supplied by the TOOB in case of rain but the weather held. A percentage of all food sales on McHappy Day at South Delta McDonald's restaurants was donated to the non-profits programs and services. REACH is grateful to local McDonald's owner/operator Steve Krawchuk, his staff, patrons and all volunteers who came out and made McHappy Day such a success with a total of \$15088.08 raised to benefit children with extra needs.



Rally for REACH

May 15, 2022

The spirit of participants in our inaugural Rally for Reach was in no way dampened by the rain! Reach Child and Youth Development Society children and families were treated to a close up look at the high performance cars of the Driver's Experience Gruppe (DXG). In an extraordinary show of generosity, the car club owners raised over \$15,000 in registration fees to support children with extra needs at REACH as well as coming out to show them their cars including a Ferrari, Lamborghini, McLaren and top of the line Porsches and Audis.



The excitement began at 11am with a Delta Police escort bringing the exotic cars in formation to Reach Child Development Centre in Ladner, BC. Once parked 3 deep in front, REACH children were able to sit in and take pictures of the vehicles. A surprise awaited in the trunk of one of the cars with car themed and other toys for children to pick from to take home with them. There were far more toys than children present so the remainder were donated to REACH programs for use in sessions. The DXG arranged for free food from the Holy Masala food truck for families and Starbucks provided free coffee and passion-tea to all participants.

REACH AGM is September 22, 2022 SAVE THE DATE!

Details to follow - please check www.reachchild.org home page later in July and watch for your email invitation!

Life with Williams Syndrome

Amy Miller, a parent at REACH has written a book based on her daughter Olivia's experience. In mom's words:

Olivia turned three in June; she's a very happy, content little lady – we loved her so much from the beginning, as any parents do. We noticed her missing some milestones early on – our first trigger was that she wasn't smiling when we were expecting her to. The doctors ordered a bunch of tests and at 7 months old, she was diagnosed with Williams syndrome. We'd never heard of Williams syndrome – so we embarked on this journey of learning all about it and how it will affect Olivia medically and developmentally. We managed to get most of her initial appointments in before the pandemic hit – the most important one being cardiology. Because she's missing one of her elastin genes (which is required for the body to grow and stretch, including her arteries and veins) – there is a risk that she would have issues with her heart. Lots of people with Williams syndrome get heart surgery to repair narrowing of the aorta. Her heart appears to be functioning well and we will go back from another checkup next year.

There was a period of grief that I went through after accepting Olivia's condition; it's almost as though I was grieving the loss of the expectations I had for Olivia's future. I've learned so much over the past two years though – not only all of the medical details that we need to keep a close eye on for her, but also patience and letting go of expectations. I've read so much about Williams syndrome and made connections with mom's with little ones that have the same condition all over the world. Most people with the condition walk between age two and three and start speaking at around the same time. Olivia has lots of words now – she can repeat almost anything you say, count to 20, say her abc's and sing lots of songs. She has a few single word commands down pat – like hi, bye, up, down, come. She cruises around using her walker and her ankle braces give her more stability for standing. We see a physiotherapist, occupational therapist, speech therapist and Infant Development person through REACH. She has a 1:1 person at day-care who helps her with her therapies and assists her at mealtimes.

Olivia will have to be monitored medically her whole life and we will continue to work with her various therapies. She is very lovey dovey and is constantly giving hugs and kisses. Her ability to connect with people is amazing – she loves meeting new people; she will say hi to anyone and is always trying to get smiles out of everyone. She is such a gift and a light.



Sales from the book *Living with Williams Syndrome* fund groundbreaking research, provide critical resources, offer support, host camps and conventions, plan regional events, award scholarships and so much more. In the book, Olivia explains Williams Syndrome from her challenges to her gifts in a fun rhyming way that is easy for kids to understand. Visit <https://www.amazon.ca/dp/B09XZJYMV1> to purchase.

SCD ASCD Bags for Childcare Providers



Did you know that May was Childcare month in BC? Here's a lovely initiative where REACH Supported Child Development and Aboriginal Supported Childcare Programs put together appreciation bags and delivered them to childcare programs in our service area!

Reach for the Stars 10th Anniversary Gala



June 04, 2022

Reach Child and Youth Development Society's fundraising gala Wings of Change was a resounding success earlier this month. A total of \$147,120.16 was raised at the event and REACH is grateful to guests, sponsors, prize donors and their dedicated volunteers who made the 10th Annual Reach for the Stars Gala possible. Marco Pasqua emceed the event and inspired the crowd with a personal address explaining how early intervention physiotherapy and occupational therapy helped him reach his potential. This young father, husband and proponent for accessibility shared genuine and vulnerable insights into his life that prefaced an incredible fund-a-need moment

that raised over \$20,000 in 5 minutes to benefit therapies services at REACH.

Reach for the Stars Gala 2022 Major Donor was REALCO and Presenting Sponsors were Ocean Trailer and Vancouver Fraser Port Authority. The gala evening was a happy return to in-person community connection and was attended by the Honorable Carla Qualtrough, Delta MLA Ian Paton - who also volunteered his auctioneer skills to the event - and Delta Mayor George Harvie. 11 year old twin brothers Adam and Andrew Yang, who have received REACH services, performed You Raise Me Up with voice and piano and received a standing ovation.



National Indigenous Peoples Day 2022

June 21, 2022 - National Indigenous Peoples Day was celebrated in Holland Park in Surrey this year and REACH Aboriginal Supported Child Development program staff were on site with a build-a-bear craft for the children!

REACH Aboriginal Supported Child Development team is honoured to be able to support cultural inclusion within child care centres, bridge community connections and help to support deepening understanding of the vibrant indigenous communities we serve.

We recognize the overlapping territories of the Kwantlen, Tsawwassen, Kwikwetlem, Semiahmoo, Katzie, Musqueam, First Nations (Surrey, Delta and White Rock) and honour those who have been stewards of this land since time immemorial.



DEI Committee

REACH's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee (DEI) actively works to implement our reconciliation action plan and support and promote anti-racist, inclusive and equitable practices and training at REACH. These principles are core values at REACH and our program outcomes include action steps to advance learning by all staff. In this journey we often come across some great training to share. Microsoft has recently produced some on-line modules we would recommend. You can access them here: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/inclusion-journey/learn>. If you are looking for more hands on, experiential learning, we would highly recommend the Kairos blanket exercise. Currently this workshop is being offered virtually and they have resumed bookings. More information can be found here: <https://www.kairos-blanketexercise.org/>.

Hot Chocolate Fundraiser



Jubail Sanchez, Community Marketing Manager with South Delta Local chose REACH as the beneficiary of the 2nd Annual Hot Chocolate Festival in Delta. Held in February, the festival showcased local coffee shops and bakeries that created sweet treats for locals to sample starting with Valentine's Day, Feb.14! Campaign donations totalled \$1286 and Jubail is photographed presenting REACH Development Manager Kristin Bibbs with the giant cheque on May 19, 2022.

Donation Update: PLANNED GIVING

REACH's Legacy and Planned Giving Foundation continued to develop its plan to encourage charitable gifts as part of donors' estate plans and will begin planned speaking engagements once appropriate to host small gatherings. With planned giving, donors can make a meaningful gift to REACH to help ensure that opportunities are available to children well into the future. Through planned giving, donors' estates may benefit from substantial tax savings.

There are many ways to make a charitable gift to Reach Child and Youth Development Charitable Foundation within your estate plan such as

- Securities
- Life insurance
- RRSPs & RRIFs
- Property
- Charitable Remainder Trusts

Visit <https://www.reachdevelopment.org/legacy/> to find out more.



David and Elaine Bliss presented at Reach for the Stars Gala about their motivation and experience as legacy donors. David called REACH Executive Director Renie D'Aquila to the stage at the culmination of his speech to make a further \$50,000 contribution to REACH Planned Giving.

Family Connections Centres in British Columbia- A transformation in how services for children and youth with special needs (CYSN) are provided.

In October 2021, the ministry committed to transforming how services are delivered for children and youth with support needs. This 'hub' service delivery model will create Family Connections Centres (FCC) contracted by the Ministry of Children and Family Development and will operate programs in a set geographical area. Existing services as well as programs to support children and youth with autism will be provided at these 'one stop' centres. Autism's Individualized Funding model will be replaced with programs to be offered at or through the FCC's. In spring 2023, family connections centres will open in four early implementation areas: Central Okanagan/Kelowna, Haida Gwaii/Prince Rupert, Terrace/Kitimat and Bulkley Valley.

By fall 2024, approximately 40 Family Connections centres will have been established in BC and will offer access to services and supports to children and youth based on their needs, including behaviour supports, therapy services, early interventions, and family supports. FCC's will be selected at the community level.

All Family Connections Centres will leverage the expertise of service providers to meet families where they are at by providing centre-based, virtual, and at-home services. Prior to the FCC model, funding for those without diagnoses was very difficult to secure. BC aims to provide funding to help more children with developmental needs with this new model.

REACH is already offering multiple services at one location with satellite and virtual offerings positioning the organization well for the 2024 request for proposals.

To learn about the new approach to delivering services for children and youth with support needs and their families, access the Family Connections Centre Service Expectations and PDF: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/children-teens-with-support-needs/2_cysn_framework_family_connections_centres.pdf

Let's MOVE Into Summer

Summer 2022 is officially here! Hello to sunny days, new adventures in the park, outdoor activities with our friends and families and breathing in fresh air in nature. We have all heard many times the benefits of physical activity. It helps with increased capacity for learning and concentration and it's good for our mental health. According to appliedsportpsyc.org, "Physical activity is essential for healthy development and adopting physical activity habits early in life will increase the likelihood of children remaining physically active as adults. Participating in family physical activities helps children gain life skills as well as health benefits. For example, family physical activity can assist your child in learning teamwork, leadership skills, and quality decision-making. During the month of June, REACH Staff had fun with ParticiPACTION! Together, we made an effort to walk, exercise and simply move more in order to promote physical wellness.

At the entrance to our main REACH building in Ladner, you might have noticed a big box! We have sports and outdoor equipment for all ages! You can try to kick a ball back and forth with your little ones. Shoot some hoops! Fancy a game of tennis? We have rackets!



Have you seen people in the community playing Pickle Ball? We have that too! Perhaps you might want to just sit at a park and enjoy the fresh air while your children draw with fun chalk or throw a Frisbee around! If you want to borrow any of the equipment, just ask a REACH Staff member for the lock code and you can borrow whatever you like and bring it back when you're done. We hope that this can encourage you and your family to spend time bonding together in physical activity. It might be hard to find time juggling activities, cooking and tending to the children. Start with small time increments, maybe 20 minutes after dinner, walk to the grocery store instead of driving and ask your children what activity interests them. See what new adventures this summer brings!

Food Security

Food Security: what is it and how can I become more food secure? Food security means having enough food for your family but it is more than that. It also means having enough nutritionally sound choices, access to safe food, access to culturally preferred food choices, access to and ability to purchase in a way that uphold dignity, and access to food that is farmed in sustainable ways. In Delta we have a food coalition that works to increase food security for everyone. One way to increase food security is to eat with the seasons. In the months of June and July you will find swiss chard in abundance. If you have never used this leafy green, it is a lovely addition to soups, and salads and is also very tasty just steamed with a little butter, salt and pepper. Swiss chard is not as delicate as spinach but the stalks are also not as tough as kale. It is also lovely sautéed with a little olive oil, garlic and red pepper flakes. Swiss chard is an excellent source of vitamin A and vitamin K and a good source of vitamin C and magnesium. Swiss chard also contains the antioxidants beta-carotene, lutein, and zeaxanthin.



Other vegetables and fruit in season that children tend to like are cucumber, carrots, rhubarb and we are in strawberry season too. Shopping at local farms, if you have access and time, is a great way to save some money and get children interested in where their food comes from. When children are able to participate in growing, harvesting, shopping for or preparing their food, it helps them have interest in new choices.

If you would like more information about the Delta food coalition or food security programs please visit: <http://www.earthwisesociety.bc.ca/collaboration/delta-food-coalition/>