



inside reach

WINTER
newsletter
2022



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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 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 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.



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Message from the President



My snowdrops are blooming, and the daffodils are in bud. Spring is on its way! The Society Board has been meeting by Zoom since the start of the pandemic. Although it is not ideal, we are still able to ensure the organization is meeting the

needs of our families and WE ARE continuously monitoring the direction of REACH. Over the last two months, we have had two presentations to increase our knowledge of items pertinent to the development of the organization.

In January, a parent from the Family Support Institute of B.C. spoke to us on Person Centred Planning. She stressed that the individual should be the driving force in planning the direction of their life. We are proud that our programs are person and family centred so that all individuals can flourish.

Last month we had a presentation from Mark Schoeffel, a Certified Financial Planner, who gave an overview on Charitable Gift Planning as one way of supporting REACH and often saving on taxes. Our donors have ways of giving now, to provide immediate funding for our programs or giving in the future through a bequest in a will which leaves a legacy and supports the future of REACH and the children in our community.

Every year, the Gift of Speech raises funds to increase the number of children able to receive speech therapy. This year we beat our "best ever" funds raised and were able to raise \$32,350.00. We were fortunate to receive substantial donations from Envision Credit Union, Warner Brothers and Fraser Valley RV towards Gift of Speech 2021. But please remember your smaller donations are just as important and together with other donations become "big donations" too! Thank you to everyone for your support of this important program.

A new group for youth and young adults aged 18 – 24 years is starting on Zoom. It is a Hang Out time for youth to visit, connect and have conversations. Although it is a Zoom meeting now, it is planned to move to in person meetings once the pandemic allows.

REACH is a very fluid organization. Changes are always happening as we find more ways to meet the needs of our community.

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

Reach Child and Youth Charitable Foundation:

Denis Horgan, Chair; Katherine Bamford, Vice Chair; Ryan Thomas, Treasurer; Valerie Bartlett, Director; Somi Benning, Director; Laura Dixon, Director, Sharon Schoeffel, Director; Jit Sangha, Director



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.

Punjabi Speaking Parents Group Winter Party



Holiday cheer was abundant at this social! Families and parents enjoyed the event that was paid for by Mann Financial. In addition, Mackenzie Gaytmenn of Red Sky Photography donated her services to take these wonderful images.

Overall, the Punjabi Speaking Parent Group has grown over the last year to support 19 families who are supported by facilitator Pindi Mann 1:1 or in a group setting.

In the past year, guest speakers have attended the group to present on wills, RDSP's, Nikita Bains presented on Autism Information Services; City of Surrey explained recreational programs and Baljit Ghuman presented on Sikhs for Autism .

Other topics have included raising awareness of needs in the South Asian community, problems faced and types of programs families would like to see and discussion on the role of dads. For more about the group email pindim@reach-child.org or visit REACH website.



Preschool Celebrations



Martin Luther King Day

We provided photos of REACH Preschools celebrating Diwali in the last newsletter and now we have Christmas, Snow days, Martin Luther King Day, Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day and Anti-Bullying Day to show you!



Lunar New Year Activities



Time with Santa



Valentines Day



Unaccustomed Snow!

Pink Shirt Day 2022!

This year, REACH blasted out messages of kindness on Feb.23 - Anti-Bullying Day all day on Facebook. Here are favourite activities that our staff shared:

BI Shawna shows her stuff on Pink Shirt Day and typically does make someone smile everyday!



Preschool North children and teacher Denise made hearts with acts of kindness on each one. Thank you for the reminders!!



IDP Consultant Linda says feed your soul by feeding the souls of others with kindness and compassion.



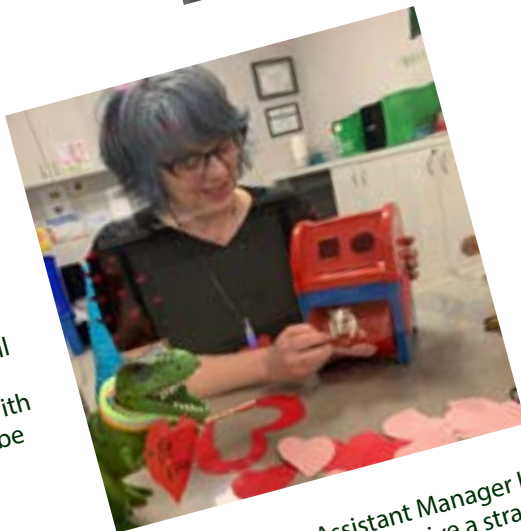
Preschool South teacher Christie and children work kindly together on Anti-bullying day.



IDP Manager Leora shares kindness in suggesting caring for a neighbour's pet; learn about a new culture; send a handwritten note to a senior and send someone flowers.



Front desk manager Rae greets children with Bill the Gerbil and Dino friends with reminders to be kind!



HR Assistant Manager Karen says always give a stranger a friendly smile; take time to listen to someone's story; and show kindness on the road - a simple wave to say thank you goes a long way.





Young Adult Hangout

Group Respite Manager Heather Anderson-Pickell is keen to serve adult populations with neurodiversity and has created a virtual group where they can meet up and chat in a safe environment.

If you know of an 18+ individual with developmental needs who would welcome practice socializing, chatting and hanging out with peers, please email Heather at heathera@reachchild.org to receive the registration information.

It is planned that the group will meet in person when public health restrictions lift at the REACH Center in Central Ladner. Although the group is open to a larger area at present, while it's on line, once we can meet in person it will be important to be able to travel to Ladner in order to participate.

REACH's vision is to strive for the optimal development of children, youth and adults, so this new direction with young adults is in concert with our mandate.

Fun Spring Activities for the Family

We hope everyone is having a good start to the New Year in 2022. The past couple months have been challenging for everyone in different ways. Many of us know at least one person who was affected by Omicron. We continue to look forward to better days with the people closest to us.

As the daylight hours are longer, we might be wondering what we might be able to do in the coming Spring Season! Here are some ideas that can be safe to do in the coming months!

1. Plan outdoor playdates in new playgrounds nearby! Some of my favourites are
 - Memorial Park! Right outside our REACH building!
 - Diefenbaker Park at 5579 1 Avenue
 - Annieville Lions Park 9150 112 Street
 - Centennial Beach – bring buckets and shovels to play in the sand!
 - George C Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary – bring your own bird seeds!



2. Have a science experiment day! Here are some great ideas from "Parents Magazine" that use everyday items you may already have at home. https://www.parents.com/kids/education/math-and-science/everyday-science-experiments/?slide=slide_7fdadb14-c551-4175-968f-29cf8e55caca#slide_7fdadb14-c551-4175-968f-29cf8e55caca

3. Explore these fun at-home activities by the "Girl Scout STEM Centre" partners at Camp Invention https://www.invention.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/2020_STEMActivityGuide_Final.pdf

4. Grab some chalk, go outside and decorate the sidewalk! Draw pictures for your neighbours with funny pictures!

5. Collect pretty rocks and then paint them with your favourite colours! Leave them around your community to spread words of kindness!

Source: <https://unitedwaydallas.org/updates/how-to-make-spring-break-fun-for-kids-during-covid-19/>

Envision Financial Donation

Envision Financial's Ladner Branch Manager Micheal Voros visited us on December 15, 2021 with a \$24,073 cheque to support mental health services. REACH ED Renie D'Aquila said, "Our hearts are overflowing with gratitude to Envision Financial and First West Credit Union and its members for such a significant donation to REACH and our counselling program. Our families are dealing with a lot of stressors every day raising children with support needs. On top of this, the restrictions and economic fallout from the pandemic have been increasing stress and impacting mental health. Sadly, REACH has a two year wait time for families to access our specialized counselling services leaving us very dependent on community to help meet these needs."



L:R Renie D'Aquila, Michael Voros, Kristin Bibbs

Simply Generosity Provides \$5000



"We are so grateful for Envision Financial and First West Foundation's incredible support of REACH during these unprecedented times. This funding will be extremely impactful in enabling REACH to equip our staff with the Personal Protective Equipment necessary to resume in-person therapy services with our children and their families. This PPE will ensure the safety of both REACH staff and children while allowing children with extra needs to continue to receive the critical support they need to reach their potential!" said Kristin Bibbs, REACH Development Manager, in response to the \$5,000 given to fund PPE for our Behavioural Interventionists on the front lines pictured opposite.

Environmental Corner

Karen Field, REACH PBS Consultant



Don't recycle anything smaller than a credit card. That includes straws, bottlecaps, coffee pods, plastic cutlery, paperclips and a million other tiny things that creep into our daily lives. These objects are too small to be sorted and can jam the recycling equipment. These contaminants can shut down machines 10-15 times a day.

Donation Update: REACH Speech Therapies Program

Many children have speech deficits that can limit their future and it is critical to provide support as early as possible. Reach Child and Youth Development Society (REACH) fundraised for speech therapy sessions to support children with complex development needs in the 2021 Gift of Speech campaign that concluded Jan.15, 2022. A stunning \$32,030 was raised from generous businesses and individuals in our community.

This year REACH had superhero support from Warner Bros. Superman and Lois show that films in Delta, BC. In addition, Envision Financial, a division of First West Credit Union, and Fraserway RV each made significant contributions to t REACH speech therapy services.

“Early Intervention speech therapy helps children reach their potential in life”, says REACH Therapies Manager Katie Scozzafava. “There is a window of opportunity where help makes the biggest difference and the funds received remove children from the wait list to get that help.”

Speech Language Pathologists provide 1:1 weekly sessions with children including using augmentative tools like iPads that help children communi-



SLP Joanne Beauchamp in session with Therapies child

cate for the first time. REACH is incredibly grateful to all holiday campaign Gift of Speech donors who have helped parents who worried that their child may never be able to communicate with them. REACH provides speech therapy to kids with developmental needs in Delta, Surrey and Langley.

REACH Location Updates in North Delta & Surrey



ABA Therapy room in our new Fleetwood centre.

REACH was off to a fresh start in Surrey in 2022 with a new location for the Applied Behavioural Analysis program. Staff and children moved into Fleetwood Centre, address is 205-16140 84 Ave., Surrey, B.C., at the end of December. Health and Safety pandemic measures were all in place prior to opening at the new location.

Changes are also in store for Preschool North. REACH Play and Learn Centre, located in the North Delta Recreation Centre at 11415 84 Ave., B.C. is being renovated now to house Preschool North children and staff. The new location is fully wheelchair accessible and has a central location near the George Mackie library and parks. In planning the new space, lead teacher Denise is pleased to announce, “we are bringing the outside in and play areas will be nature-themed”.

10th Annual REACH GALA!



save the date!

DINNER | FAMILY STORIES | LIVE & SILENT AUCTIONS | LIVE MUSIC | RAFFLES

Wings of Change

gala

June 04, 2022

10th Annual Gala benefiting Reach Child & Youth Development Society
Live Event at Tsawwassen Springs | MC Steve Darling

REALCO

Ocean
TRAILER

Excited to announce we are going to be in-person for REACH 2022 Gala for the first time in 2 years! Just in time for our 10th Annual event - Wings of Change!! We held a virtual gala in 2020 and an Ungala in 2021 when pandemic numbers surged yet again. As we have progressed with vaccination and welcome warmer weather, we have the green light from the province to get together with like-minded folks and raise money for our kids!

We are pleased to have the support of Major Donor REALCO Properties and Presenting Sponsor Ocean Trailer for Reach for the Stars Gala 2022. We will have COVID-19 safety measures in place at Tsawwassen Springs including requiring the vaccine passport for entry.

Guests can expect a full dinner and welcome cocktail, live musical entertainment, heart-warming stories and insights into how we help build potential and our charismatic MC Steve Darling to lead us through the evening. Stay tuned to learn more, and if you know of businesses who would like to donate prizes to the silent or live auction or who would be interested in sponsoring, please contact Kristin Bibbs, REACH Development Manager at kristinb@reachchild.org.