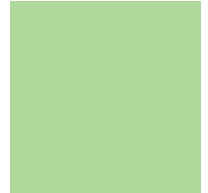


SPRING/SUMMER
newsletter
2024



in this issue...



Reach for the Stars Gala

Tiana Schellenberg-Hamilton and her father Chris Hamilton performed at our Wishes & Wonder Gala Fundraiser and received a standing ovation! Read all about the event inside.....page 3

3
Reach Wishes &
Wonder Gala

7
GCT renews TEENSS
Commitment

9
CYSN Update

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.



Reach Child & Youth Development Society

5050 47 Ave, Delta, BC V4K OC8
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



The summer weather in Delta and the surrounding areas has been hard to beat this year. The days are warm, sometimes too warm, but the

nights are usually cooler. There is a water park behind the REACH Child Development Centre in Ladner which is being well used. I visit the building at least once a week and always notice the number of youngsters at play.

I am so proud of our wonderful building that was the result of many years of fund-raising. The building was opened in 2018 and has become a hub of activity for the past 6 years. When entering the building you are warmly welcomed by either Terynn or Heidi. They are ready to greet you, answer your questions, and chat with the children.

Across from the reception is the well-equipped library. The books, ranging on a wide variety of topics pertaining to the needs of our youngsters and teens, are available for our families to borrow for a month at a time. Please check out this resource the next time you are in the building.

At the end of the hall on the first floor, is the Child Development Pre-School. This is a very busy and happy place during the school year. All the classes in the Pre-School South are full for the coming year but there are still spaces in our Pre-School North located in the North Delta Recreation Centre. Also on

the first floor is a very large, well equipped, meeting space. The REACH Annual general Meeting is held yearly in this room.

This year the AGM is on September 26th and all families are invited. An Info Fair will be held at the REACH Centre just before the AGM to learn about all programs and services.

REACH Centre's second and third floors are used for therapy and counselling rooms, staff offices as well as toy libraries used by our staff. Therapists and interventionists have access to a wide variety of toys and items used in their programs.

The Youth Room up on the second floor is a busy place! It is well set up for the use of our Teens programs and some counselling sessions. With a pool table and comfy seats, it is a perfect 'hang out' space for programs and youth workshops.

The main building is Ladner is just one of our many spaces welcoming children, youth and their families on a daily basis.

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; Mike Roberts, Director

Reach Child and Youth Charitable Development Foundation:

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



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

REACH 2024 Gala



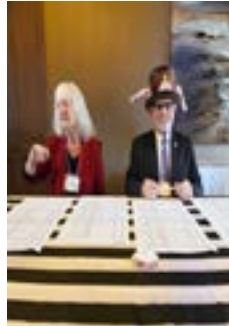
Reach Child and Youth Development Society's 'Wishes and Wonder' Gala, June 1, 2024 provided an evening of magic and whimsy at Tsawwassen Springs and a fundraising total of \$145,305 because of the generosity of guests, donors and sponsors. The non-profit extends special gratitude for the support of REALCO Properties as Major Donor, Vancouver Fraser Port Authority as Presenting Sponsor, and Beedie as Platinum Sponsor.

"On the surface it may look like a gala is just a night of fun, but the funds raised ensure children relying on programs and equipment from REACH are given the life changing services, equipment and opportunities they deserve", says REACH Events Coordinator Tamara Veitch. "We are so grateful for everyone who made it possible." REACH events volunteers worked for months before the event planning and gathering donations for the auctions. In addition, community and staff volunteers come on board on the evening of the event to make it possible.



250 guests attended the fundraiser including the Honourable Carla Qualtrough MP, Ian Paton, MLA Delta-South and City of Delta Mayor George Harvie. Tsawwassen First Nation Executive Councillor Taylor Baker began the evening with a heartfelt welcome. Parents Daniel Cameron and Amy Bonner each were present to introduce the first airing of their respective family videos that genuinely outlined the journeys that result from a child receiving a developmental needs diagnosis.

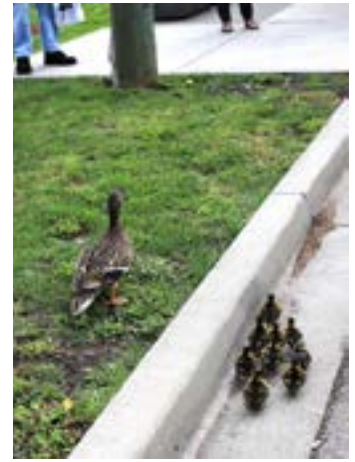
REACH family daughter and father act Tiana Schellenberg-Hamilton and Chris Hamilton performed two songs for the crowd and received a standing ovation. The Alice in Wonderland themed evening also boasted a performance by Delta Youth Theatre actors who arrived in costume to pose with guests, volunteering their time. Reach for the Stars gala guests also enjoyed committed volunteers Ian Paton MLA, auctioneer, and Steve Darling, emcee, who injected a high dose of energy and humour to their evening.



Duckling Hatch & Rescue!

REACH Ladner Preschoolers were delighted to have a mother duck select their outside patio to settle in and have her babies. On April 17, she laid her eggs and nine little ducklings hatched by the beginning of June.

June 3 was an exciting morning at Reach South site – a tale of 5 out of 9 ducklings falling into a drain, a mother duck crying for help, a community member and Delta city staff becoming heroes and fishing them out resulting in mother duck reunited with her ducklings on their way to the duck pond! Sharing photos from staff member Jeanette Tremblay who was on hand for the rescue. What a good news story!



Preschools - Mother's Day Tea | Father's Day Sports Day



Preschool North Registration!



Spaces are available for September 2024! [REACH Preschool North](https://reachchild.org) welcomes all abilities in a play-based environment at REACH Play & Learn Centre inside North Delta Recreation Centre. Contact Denise to learn more at 604-946-6622 ext 308 or denises@reachchild.org

Parent to Parent Group (Punjabi) - Mother's Day



On May 10th, 2024, from 11:30 am – 2:00 pm, the Punjabi Speaking Parent to Parent group enjoyed a Mother's Day Tea at Punjab Bhawan in Surrey. This dynamic group is open to any parent, caregiver or grandparent of a child with special needs who speaks Punjabi and lives in Surrey, White Rock, Langley or Delta.

As well as sharing information, resources and companionship on a monthly basis, the group enjoys annual celebrations together like Mother's Day (pictured). Celebrations are held in safe and inclusive environments where children with support needs are welcomed. For more information, contact Pindi Mann at pindim@reachchild.org or visit REACH website at <https://reachdevelopment.org/child-development-programs/parent-to-parent-support-group-punjabi/>

Fortis BC Sibshops Camp July 2024

The Reach Fortis BC Sibshops program provides connections to children and youth who reside in Delta, Surrey, White Rock, and Langley and have a sibling with a diagnosis. Sibshops provides a forum where children and youth can come together and discuss the highs and lows of having a sib with a diagnosis. Learn more about programming Fortis BC makes possible on the REACH [Fortis for Families](#) program webpage.

Sibshops week long summer camp was held July 22-26 and one of the program organizers, Tassia Pickard, added an impactful new activity this year for the young participants. Each youth was assigned a different support need to enact: sight impaired, attention deficit, emotional dysregulation and so on. By being put in their sibling's shoes during a group



cooking exercise, the youngsters experienced empathy for the complexity that siblings with support needs face doing everyday tasks.

REACH Adult Group - Coming Soon!



We're excited to share that Reach is putting together a new adult group for individuals with support needs in the Delta community! Our goal is to create a supportive environment where individuals can build skills that help them achieve their personal goals and live fulfilling lives. To kick things off, we've put together a [fun survey](#) for you to let us know what skills they're most interested in working on. Whether it's workplace skills, social skills, or daily-living skills like budgeting or cooking, we want to hear from you.

Once we gather your ideas, we'll tailor the programming to meet everyone's needs, and we'll also organize group meet-ups. This will be a great opportunity to check in on your progress toward your goals and to connect with peers during our center activities and community outings. We can't wait to hear your thoughts and to have you join us on this journey!

NIPD 2024



National Indigenous Peoples Day (NIPD) was June 21st and REACH Aboriginal Supported Child Development programs attended events in South Delta and Surrey. The Tsawwassen First Nation (TFN) NIPD Event was held from 4-8 pm at the TFN Sports Field and REACH organized a booth with staff who gave away Build-a-Critters to children and families.

Surrey's NIPD Event happened 3-8 PM at the Bill Reid Millennium Amphitheatre in Surrey and Reach provided a booth and gave away stuffed bears. Families were able to proceed to the Elder's tent and create an Indigenous craft for their bear.

Both events provided participants with the opportunity to experience traditional music, art and culture.

NIPD events support cultural sensitivity and learning for everyone involved! Indigenous history taught in workshops often includes sad and heavy information about the tragic consequences of colonization and racism. NIPD events remind us that it's also important to celebrate the resilience, hope, and spirit that exist across many Indigenous communities today.



Amazing Race comes to REACH

The Delta Child and Youth Committee's Youth Action Team (CYC-YAT) approached the City of Delta to support an Amazing Race Activity on April 30, 2024 in all three Delta's communities: North Delta, Ladner and Tsawwassen. The activity aimed to offer a learning opportunity for youth to become familiar with the resources offered in their communities and create social connections with peers and mentors.

The Delta CYC is a committee of non-profit, government and community agencies and organizations that work to improve the lives of children, youth and families in Delta. The committees and its action teams have been meeting regularly since the 1980's as a venue for service providers to learn from each other, and to plan and collaborate together.

Youth teams visited REACH in North and South Delta on Race Day and answered questions about REACH in order to win a prize.



Angela Ruel, South Delta



REACH Play & Learn Centre, North Delta Recreation Centre

McHappy Day 2024



The community came out in full force on McHappy Day May 8, raising \$13,000 for children with needs at Reach Child and Youth Development Society.

"I want to express REACH's gratitude to South Delta McDonald's owner Nauman Jutt, his amazing staff, the Delta Fire Department, Delta Police and all the volunteers and community members who came out in support," said Reach Society events coordinator Tamara Veitch. "We are lucky to live in a place filled with such kindness."



L:R Renie D'Aquila, Steve Krawchuk, Sharon Schoeffel, Tamara Veitch, Nauman Jutt



Steve Krawchuk, the former owner of Ladner and Tsawwassen McDonald's restaurants was on hand and received a Reach Giving Heart from Executive Director Renie D'Aquila. It recognizes his outstanding contribution to local children with special needs and their families. Krawchuk began supporting the non-profit with partial proceeds from local McDonald's restaurants on McHappy Day beginning in 2008.



"REACH is very grateful to Steve Krawchuk for aligning McDonald's corporate giving program, McHappy Day, with Reach Child and Youth Development Society (REACH) over so many years," said D'Aquila. "This personal commitment and corporate philanthropy have had transformative and lifelong impacts enabling children with support needs to increase independence and become contributing community members."



Global Container Terminals Renews Program Sponsorship

Global Container Terminals renewed their sponsorship of REACH GCT TEENS Social Saturdays program for the 6th year, providing \$32,000 annually. This vital program at Reach Child and Youth Development Society provides valuable learning and social opportunities for youth with extra needs and relief for primary caregivers, allowing them to recharge while ensuring their children receive quality care.

Robyn Lane, coordinator of the TEENSS program says, "GCT has made a significant impact on children in our community. Their funding allows us to provide a safe place for teens to foster social connections and friendships; most importantly, a place where they can be authentically themselves. Two Saturdays a month, our GCT TEENSS program offers youth a break from their everyday routines. Whether it's a day at the park, a museum visit, or another activity, these outings provide a sense of excitement and anticipation for the kids." GCT's sponsorship also provides outing transportation contracted by Tsawwassen Shuttles.

"As a member of the Delta community, GCT Global Container Terminals is proud to be able to support Reach Child and Youth Society in its essential work with children with special needs. Since 2018, GCT has supported GCT TEEN Social Saturday program, and we are thrilled to continue resourcing this



Marko Dekovic, Tassia Pickard, Renie D'Aquila, Jeanette Trombley, Ben Hawk

special initiative that supports youth ages 12-18. At GCT Deltaport we take our role of being a part of the Delta community very seriously. Dedicating funds to making a positive impact on the lives of local families, including through this program at REACH is a must." Ben Hawk, Vice President, Operations – GCT Deltaport

Planned Giving Supports REACH Counselling program



Sandra O'Keeffe, Gillian Lowry, Renie D'Aquila

REACH Planned Giving provides sustained funding to guarantee services to help children with needs now and in the future. REACH donor Sandra O'Keeffe came for a visit with Delta Community Foundation's Gillian Lowry and Carlene Lewell on July 17th to present the annual cheque from her endowment administered by the the Delta Community Foundation. Since 1986, the Delta Community Foundation has returned \$1.2 million to the community through grants, scholarships and bursaries.

"Planned Giving helps non-profits provide long-term services to those in need. Sandra O'Keeffe's annual gifts to the REACH Counselling Program through the Delta Community Foundation enhance the lives of local families by offering crisis support, aiding neurodivergent families with diagnosis and parental support, and providing marital counseling. REACH supports children with ADHD, anxiety, depression, and bullying experiences, while also addressing the challenges faced by their parents", said Renie D'Aquila, Executive Director, Reach Child and Youth Development Society.

South Asian Service Providers Picnic



REACH Family Navigators Pindi Mann and Priya Nair took part in the South Asian Service Providers Picnic on June 28th in Surrey. It was hosted by the Gary Thandi, founder of Moving Forward Family Services. This was their second annual community service connection picnic. Other groups there were team from the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, Sher Vancouver, Kids Play, SACH (South Asian community hub), South Asian Legal Clinic, UBC Volentia (free translation services), PICS (Progressive Intercultural Community Services)and One Voice .

Moving Forward Family Services is hoping to do a quarterly connection where agencies can all share our upcoming events/ workshops and any concerns or issues being faced . Many people took flyers and said they knew people who could use our help. The REACH team in attendance were also able to learn about other low barrier programs to refer families to.



AAA Ladner Minor Baseball Team

Players on the 11U AAA Ladner Red Sox Team participated in a Base-A-Thon July 8th at Maple Crescent Park and raised funds to support children and Reach Child and Youth Development Society. Friends and neighbours sponsored team members to take turns running as many bases as they could in an hour. Despite the heat, the team worked hard and raised \$750 for children with extra needs at the non-profit. Nine team members visited REACH in Ladner to present the funds on July 10, 2024.

Team coaches decided to donate proceeds to REACH because of the “monumental contribution that REACH Society makes to children in our community.” Coaches also wanted the young players to be involved in community outreach to learn to give back. Renie D’Aquila, REACH Executive Director, extended gratitude and said, “thank you for being champions for our children and for demonstrating that teamwork and compassion can truly transform lives of others.”



CYSN Service Provision Update

British Columbia's Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) is soliciting feedback on Children and Youth with Support Needs (CYSN) service delivery in this province after considerable concerns with the proposed Family Connection Centres (FCC) model. On Nov.25, 2022, implementation of the FCC proposed CYSN framework was paused and a new framework has not emerged.

Dr. Pat Miranda was commissioned by the Representative for Children and Youth (RCY) to provide the report *Key Components of Effective Service Delivery for Children and Youth with Support Needs and Their Families: A Research Review and Analysis*, delivered February 2023 to MCFD which highlighted the shortcomings of the FCC model. MCFD's lack of consultation with key groups in the sector regarding potential solutions to deficiencies in the current system and to the proposed elimination of individualized funding for children with ASD were emphasized.

The RCY believes that B.C.'s improved CYSN service delivery system must be truly co-designed with Indigenous leadership, families, advocates and community partners. In November 2023, the RCY issued the report *Still Left Out: Children and youth with disabilities in B.C.* that outlined the urgent need to improve the CYSN service provision framework.

As part of its commitment to engage in meaningful dialogue with multiple audiences on the future of children and youth with support needs (CYSN) services in BC, in June 2024, MCFD solicited feedback on CYSN services through an online engagement portal. MCFD asked parents, professionals, service providers and community members to comment on a plan submitted by the BC Association for Child Development and Intervention (BCACDI) proposing a transformation of service delivery in BC for children and youth with support needs and their families.

BCACDI's paper *BC'S CYSN Service Delivery Transformation* outlines the strengths and weaknesses of the current system as well as proposing solutions. You can read the BCACDI report at <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/858/2024/05/BCACDI-Position-Paper-April-2024.pdf> and a short summary follows.

Strengths of the current system include a network of non-profit organizations that are accredited by an external regulator provide service. These organizations deliver family-centered service with a multi-disciplinary team-based approach. Access is currently needs-based and dedicated staff are conversant in complex needs and services. The help offered is evidence and best practice informed.



Weaknesses of the current CYSN system include unacceptable wait times, insufficient labour to accommodate demand for service, difficulty navigating services and finding providers, unclear scale of need for CYSN and therefore the amount of funding is also unclear. Lastly the prevalence of mental health challenges in CYSN is causing additional complexity.

BCACDI Proposed Solutions:

1. Provide funding for the existing infra structure of CBNP (Community Based Not for Profit) organizations to meet the needs.
2. Provide a consistent suite of services available in each community and accessibility from 0-22 years.
3. Service must be accountable to families, those served, the funding source and citizens of BC.
4. Community specific procurement is recommended: not broad-based like other government procurement for non-people based services. Frequent procurement disrupts families by yanking them around to one provider and then another.
5. Individual Funding adapted to a hybrid service delivery with autism.
6. Implement a robust HR strategy for hiring in the CBNP sector with standardized wages in public and private sectors.

Save the Date - REACH INFO FAIR & AGM Sept.26, 2024



Join us for an Info Fair and our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Thursday, September 26, 2024!

Info Fair: In person at our Ladner main office from 6:00 PM to 6:55 PM. This is a fantastic opportunity to drop in and learn about our programs and services. No registration required – just come by and see what we offer!

AGM: Our hybrid AGM will follow from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM, with options to attend in person or virtually via Zoom. In-person AGM attendees can enjoy snacks from 6:30 PM. Please note that registration is required for the AGM, especially for virtual participants who will receive the Zoom link upon registering. At this year's AGM, we will be voting on special resolutions regarding bylaw revisions. We hope to see you there!

For more details and to receive the AGM registration link, please contact our front desk at 604-946-6622 ext 0 or info@reachchild.org

Beat the Heat!

Though getting kids outside is important for their physical, mental and emotional development, parents need to keep an eye on the heat index – a combination of temperature and humidity.

1. Make 'em sweat

Sweat is basically our bodies' air-conditioning system as our internal heat converts the sweat into vapour. Your body temperature as heat is released during evaporation. Encourage kids to run around and sweat: just keep those water bottles close so they can replace lost fluids.

2. Eat your water

Pack snacks with the most water-intense foods you can. Cucumbers and tomatoes are 96% and 95% water, respectively, making the pair an excellent option. On the sweeter side, watermelon is 92% water.

3. Create a cool zone

Mist on the body can have the same heat-releasing effect as sweat. (Plus the cold water offers a brief respite for a hot body.) Have kids play spray games with your hose's mist setting on.

4. Get your clothes wet

Wet clothes release heat from the body much the same way that sweating does. After, for instance, running through a cold sprinkler, or taking a dip, the water in the wet clothes evaporates, pulling heat from the body. Plus, since the water is cooler than the air, you get a double whammy of cold. A perfect way to beat the heat! Choose fabrics that dry quickly, like breathable nylon or thin cotton.

5. Ice down your hot zones

Grab a bowl of ice cubes and rub the ice on the body's pulse points: wrists and neck, the insides of elbows and knees, the tops of feet, inner ankle bones, inner thighs and temples. Blood vessels there are closer to the surface of your skin, so the ice can cool the blood that passes through them more easily and quickly – and then that cooled blood will move through your body.

6. Get your feet wet

Letting children stomp in cool water is a great way to chill their feet and ankles, some of their most impactful 'hot zones'. Barefoot is best, but if you need shoes, choose sandals.

7. Hat on, hat off

A brimmed hat keeps harmful rays off faces, but it also might hold in heat. Give your scalp a break once you're under some shade. This may help moisture from the head to evaporate more easily.

8. Don't scream for ice cream

Ice cream might have a brief cooling effect, but over time it might do just the opposite. The frozen treat is primarily made of milk fat and sugar, and fat requires high amounts of energy to break down. That releases heat in the body, a process called diet-induced thermogenesis. To avoid that extra heat on a hot summer day, make some sugar-free fruity ice popsicles instead.

National Geographic Kids https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/parents/beat-the-heat-hacks-to-keep-cool/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR1mjImr1izWVta82OVAEAAbx_11xubgk-3K6E2Xj-WsaTDJgSEntiB-C2kY_aem_t30mmTzsoDiuQxrNtD-3Dcw |