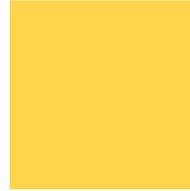




inside reach

SUMMER
newsletter
2021



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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.



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Message from the President



As I write this message, I think of the "roller coaster" of life. Our community, our province, our country and the whole world has been experiencing so many "ups and downs". The continued sunshine this summer has been great for beach visits and

picnics but the effect on the forest and homes in parts of B.C. has been devastating. Our yearly holiday with our Grandchildren was cancelled due to an Evacuation Alert but we had the grandchildren stay with us for a "staycation". We were able to enjoy the outdoor activities nearby including the playground and waterpark at the REACH Building in Ladner.

Now that most residents have received their second COVID vaccination, we have seen the opening of many recreation facilities and are hopeful that our schools re-open in September with students ready for a year of learning and social interaction. Our REACH pre-schools in Ladner and North Delta are gearing up for a full year of socialization, learning and new activities.

We have many things to celebrate at REACH. Our Annual General Meeting is Scheduled for September 16, 2021. It will be a virtual event so our many families can "tune in" from home. We are fortunate to have all our Board members, including our newest member, Pindi Mann, return for another year. I would like to thank them all for their continued support. Our Foundation Board continues to find ways to support REACH by

securing the resources to expand and improve our Programs. We have also welcomed Linda DeRoche to the Foundation Board this year.

Our FINDS, Children's Exchange Thrift Store has been closed since the beginning of the pandemic but is now preparing to re-open. Please watch for the date! The proceeds from FINDS support the Pre-Schools and their innovative programs.

The 9th annual REACH Gala is a wonderful celebration that brings together friends and families of REACH in a party atmosphere. Sadly, because of increased precautions invoked by the Provincial Health Officer in response to COVID-19 Delta Variant prevalence, we have made the difficult decision to defer this in-person event until June 4, 2022. The silent auction fundraiser portion of the event will go live online however! Watch for more information about the 'UN-gala Virtual Auction' that will open October 2, 2021.

The biggest celebration of all is the continued growth and development of our children with diverse needs. We can thank so many for supporting our children, but our parents and caregivers deserve the standing ovation! Thank you!

On behalf of the REACH Society Board of Directors,

Phyllis With, President

2020/2021 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

Reach Child and Youth Charitable Foundation:

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

Kindergarten Readiness Camp at Preschool North Delta



From 9am to 1pm Monday to Friday every week in July, REACH Preschool North provided an activity packed, social skill building camp for children entering Kindergarten this fall. Because of the pandemic, opportunities to connect with other children have been reduced in the past year. The K-Readiness Camp provided children with an opportunity to develop interpersonal and school readiness skills. Funding for the K-Readiness Camp was made possible by the support of our caring donors who are committed to seeing children reach their potential!

As mentioned in the Spring newsletter, Premium Fencing donated the secure privacy fence in memory of colleague James Fabiszewski. This fence has increased the outside play area for REACH Preschool South considerably and we will install a memorial plaque and take a photo with the children to share with you. In the photos below, it is evident how much the children enjoy this space in the good weather. Water play is perfect for outside. Preschool South has space in afternoon classes Tuesday and Thursday in the fall. Contact Susie at susieg@reachchild.org.

New Safely Fenced Play Area at Preschool South Delta

Fencing donated by Premium Fence Co. in memory of James Fabiszewski



Friends and Families, join us at REACH virtual AGM 2021.



Please join our virtual Annual General Meeting on the evening of Thursday, September 16. Learn what REACH achieved this past COVID year and Acknowledge our staff and volunteers behind our success. Find out what our priorities are for the coming year and meet and help elect our volunteer Board of Directors. Hear first hand from one of our families about their experience using REACH services

This year's agenda will include a proposed Bylaw change to Section 5.17 along with a few other minor housekeeping changes. For more information and to register please contact info@reachchild.org or call 604-946-6622 ext. 300

Back to School



As the summer days are close to winding down, there is a sense of excitement as another new school year is just around the corner. Some of us have children who are going into preschool or daycare for the first time and others are entering Kindergarten, middle school or high school. During a global pandemic, feelings of uncertainty bring about anxiety in kids of all ages. Parents definitely feel overwhelmed as they may need to make decisions on before/after school care and other extra-curricular activities.

After spending the summer with family and close friends, younger children may feel separation anxiety and exhibit some frustrations as teachers and parents are also navigating another year of school during Covid-19.

How can we prepare ourselves to parent our young ones as they go back to school during a pandemic?

According to Child Mind Institute (<https://childmind.org/article/back-to-school-anxiety-during-covid/>), there are a few pointers which can help ease the anxieties in all of us:

1. Validate their feelings: It's worrisome when kids are clingy or fearful about separating from you, but it's important for parents to stay calm and stay positive.
2. Set The Tone: Try not to ask leading questions ("Are you nervous about going to school tomorrow?"), which can indicate to your child that there really is something to worry about. If you lead with your own anxiety, you're only going to fuel anxiety.
3. Help them to think positive: Try to get children to talk about the good things about school. What are they looking forward to? What did they enjoy the previous day?
4. Practice separating: things like playing in your room by yourself while mom/dad is cooking, or staying with a caregiver while mom or dad goes out.
5. Have a routine: Make sure that your child has a predictable routine leading up to school.
6. Emphasize safety measures: we can't promise our kids that we won't get sick, but we can express confidence that schools have done the planning to minimize risk and keep everyone safe – that's why all there may be rules in place.
7. Encourage flexibility: Since there is a possibility that children who start school in person may be expected to switch back to remote learning, at least for some periods of time, it's helpful for kids to know that you're prepared for changes that may occur.

Kids who have trouble separating often just need time and support from parents and teachers to adjust. But if your child is having severe meltdowns at drop-off time for more than two or three weeks, and is unable to recover or to even stay at school for more than three or four weeks, then seeking help can make a big difference. Talk to your child's teacher if needed.

Source: The Child Mind Institute

Aboriginal Supported Child Development Medicine Boxes

Camille Netherton, Program Manager

On Wednesday, July 14, 2021 the Aboriginal Supported Child Development (ASCD) team gathered to create medicine boxes for the families they serve.

The devoted team members of ASCD are always looking for creative and meaningful ways to support children and families, and on this day, they were honoured to welcome Vanessa Hickman, Early Years Program Specialist from the Ministry of Child and Family Development, Kari Bullock from Metis Family Services and Eugene Harry, elder from the Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association.

Tables were spread with items locally sourced from Indigenous vendors and community. As we gathered, Vanessa, a voice for Indigenous people, spoke from her heart about her experiences and in the room heady with smells of buffalo sage, ceremonial tobacco and cedar, we listened and learned with humbled respect. Vanessa had guided the process of purchasing the items, and then walked us through their significance as we placed them inside the handmade boxes. When we were done, we sat in a circle as Eugene began drumming and singing, as he blessed each of the boxes.

Being a part of the creation and blessing of medicine boxes gave staff a feeling of hope and of doing something meaningful during a time when there is so much sadness and grief in the indigenous community. Researcher Brene Brown says, "In order to empathize with someone's experience, you must be willing to believe them as they see it and not how you imagine their experience to be." In other words, we must hear people's truth and accept their truth before we can move forward in reconciliation.

Reach Child and Youth Development Society is committed to reconciliation and has a well-developed Reconciliation Action Plan.



Donation Update: Emergency Fund and Punjabi Speaking Parent Support Group



REACH has been able to provide funding to priority programs because of the generosity of donors. In this edition, we highlight a help made possible by our emergency fund to help families in crisis. One of our families lost everything in a fire this summer and CHOICES Behavioural Consultant Danielle Reid spearheaded the effort to quickly provide relief. She reports, "I was able to deliver the clothing, toys and gift cards to the family today and mom was very, very grateful. Thanks for acting so quickly to put things together for the family. It's so sad what they are going through and I know that a little kindness can go a very long way."

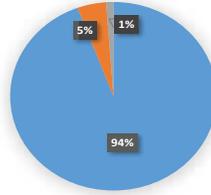


Donors have also made hiring a coordinator to run the Punjabi Speaking Parent Support Group for a two year term possible! The group gives Punjabi speaking parents of kids with needs an opportunity to learn about resources and funding; share concerns; connect with other parents and support one another in a safe, caring, and non-judgemental environment. The parents involved have started an [Autism Friendly Environment Facebook Group](#): The Punjabi Speaking Parent Support Group promotes understanding and inclusion. REACH's vision is to work for communities where all individuals and their families are welcomed, included, and leading lives of well-being based on their own individual strengths, interests, and values. Thank you to our donors who also believe in this vision!

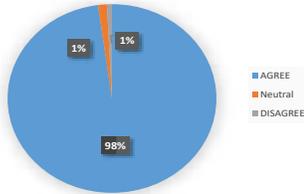
Family Satisfaction Survey Results 2021



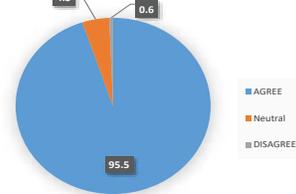
Overall, I am satisfied with the Reach Services my family receives.



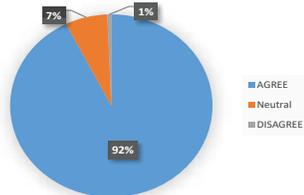
The program meets the needs of our family



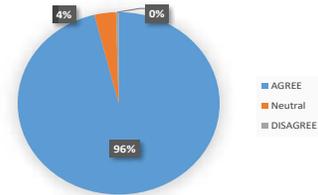
My Child is benefitting/has benefitted from the program.



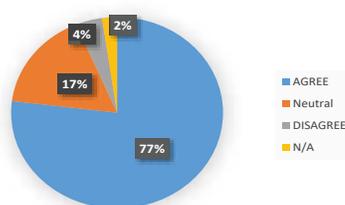
My family is benefitting/has benefitted from the program



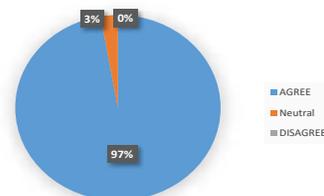
The program is well organized and efficient



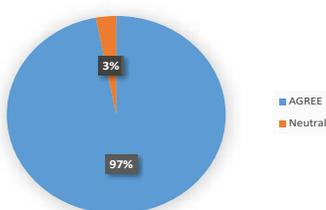
My knowledge relating to my child's development has increased as a result of this program



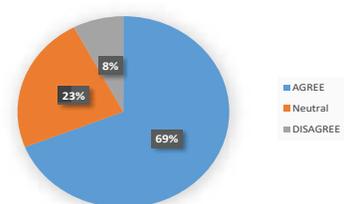
The program staff are well qualified to deliver the service



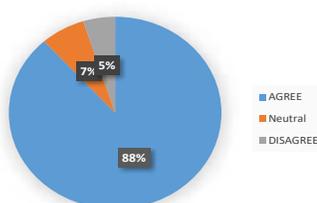
We are treated respectfully by program staff



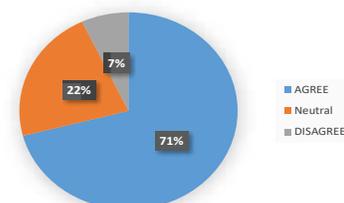
The program is well publicized, so it was easy for me to find out about



Reasonable Access Time



Next Phase Plans Made



2021 Family Satisfaction Survey Feedback

As seen in the Family Satisfaction Survey results diagram, there's a great deal of blue that reflects parent agreement that REACH programs very much benefit their children. What are parents saying in addition to the approval ratings? Read on as we share testimonial from parents about each of our programs:

ABA: "Having a kid with special needs is really stressful but with the help of the ABA program it really helps us as a family because now we understand how to deal with our child."

ASCD: "Well I often say I really appreciate the help I got with my son from the REACH PROGRAM it is obviously noticeable so thanks for your expertise."

CONNEX: "Reach has been very, very helpful...The staff have always been very knowledgeable and helpful. My son and our family have benefited greatly..."

CHOICES: "Our therapist has been so accommodating for our family and our hectic lives. She is kind and patient and has provided us with fantastic materials that have helped immensely."

GROUP RESPITE "My son attends group respite and the staff are wonderful. They do fun things and they always have a great time."

IDP: "We have had a great experience with reach and it's staff. Being first time parents, we had a lot of questions and a lot of things we still had to learn . However, Reach

made it so easy for us,the staff is so knowledgeable."

PBS: "I feel supported especially in areas that I had no idea of what or how we were supposed to help our son"

SIBSHOPS: "Our one son is attending the Sib shop which is fantastic. It is a great opportunity for him to know there are other kids out there dealing with similar situations as him."

PC: "The help and advice we received as part of the Positive Connections course ... was life-changing. I was seriously concerned with my child's projectory in life as parents, we had no idea how to help him. I'm so thankful for this service."

PRESCHOOLS: "The teacher is so patient, gentle and passionate. My experience with Reach school and it's staff has been great. When my son started in 2019,he had a hard time adjusting. But teachers were very patient and helpful. Wonderful preschool program and teachers"

RESPITE: "We are receiving one on one respite for our son. It is great for developing and strengthening social skills for our son."

SCD: "The support of the REACH staff has allowed me to grow as a person and as a parent. Everyone at REACH is approachable. Compassion and understanding are part of their inherent nature."

THERAPIES: I am so grateful and impressed with all the practitioners for our son ... So well looked after."



The Equal Pay BC Coalition is a group of representatives from non-union service providers including REACH. Please visit The Equal Pay BC website to find out more about the campaign:

<https://www.equalpaybc.ca/>

#EqualPayBC has prepaid postcards available to be sent by supporters to Premier John Hogan. These postcards, which have prepaid postage attached, come in three versions, and one our own, Munmeet Parmar is on one of them!! The postcards are intended to bring attention to the campaign, as well as the upcoming September 20 Labour Relations Board hearing of the complaint, which was filed regarding pay equity between the non-union and union sectors.

Follow and comment on REACH [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) hashtag #EqualPayBC

Announcing the Virtual 'Un-gala' Silent Auction 2021

We are kindly requesting your support for our Virtual 'Un-gala' Silent Auction that we will be hosting in lieu of our 9th annual Reach for the Stars Gala: Wings of Change. Due to the recent increase in Covid-19 cases and updates from the province regarding BC's reopening plan our in-person event has been postponed to June 4th 2022. The safety of guests and volunteers is of the utmost importance to us so we hope to host an amazing event next June!

We will be offering the virtual Un-gala auction starting Oct.02, 2021! We have already collected many gorgeous prizes for this auction offering trips, merchandise, gourmet experiences and works of art and as usual, the fundraiser will benefit local children with diverse abilities at REACH.

The virtual platform we use allows potential buyers to view images and descriptions of the donations and place bids on items that they wish to purchase. It is free to register which means that the auction can be shared with anyone, and we ask for your help spreading the word when we launch this fall on October 2nd! If you would like to donate or have any questions, please contact Kristin Bibbs, Development Manager at kristinb@reachchild.org



Wings of Change
9th Annual Gala benefiting Reach Child & Youth Development Society
5:30 pm, Oct.02, 2021 | Live Event at Tsawwassen Springs | MC Steve Darling

REACH FOR THE STARS

live gala event postponed to June 4, 2022

REACH ungala virtual auction WILL GO AHEAD Oct.02, 2021: www.reachchild.org

PORT of Vancouver | Vancouver Fraser Port Authority REALCO Ocean TRAILER



Environmental Corner

Karen Field, REACH PBS Consultant

Did you know that putting batteries or products that contain batteries (like toys or electronics) in your recycling bin can be extremely dangerous and can start a fire? Even batteries that appear to have lost their charge can still be dangerous. Bring them to a recycling depot to ensure that nobody will get hurt.

Visit RecycleBC.ca/Hazardous for info and drop off locations.