



inside reach

SUMMER/FALL
newsletter
2022



in this issue...



Cheers for Children

4

Summer Camps

5

Recent Donations

8

GCT Teens Group on site

On June 27, 2022 our GCT Teens group was on site at Global Container Terminals helping celebrate the program sponsor's 25th Birthday!.....page 7

inside reach

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Message from the President



The leaves are changing colour and the environment at REACH is also changing.

We have a new Events and Fundraising Coordinator, Tamara Veitch. We also have a new smiling face at the reception desk, Michelle Fuchs is

helping to look after the dinosaurs! In the longer term, planning is well underway for the changes moving towards the new Family Connections Centre. REACH will continue to supply the excellent support to our children and families under a new Ministry focus.

The summer is usually a quieter time at REACH, but this year we were fortunate to offer a summer pilot program for children and youth with complex needs. The result was more smiling faces in and out of the building.

September is the start of a new school year, and both our Preschool North and Preschool South are up and running. I was fortunate to visit Preschool South recently and saw more smiling faces using the newly sodded and fenced outdoor space. Preschool North has moved to the new accessible facility in the North Delta Recreation Centre and hopefully they will have a new play area soon.

On September 22, we held our Annual General Meeting with over 120 staff, volunteers, donors, and family members attending on Zoom. It is such a pleasure to review the achievements of our REACH family over the past year. Everyone

is able to access our Annual reports for both the Society Board and the Foundation Board through our website.

At the AGM we welcomed two new Foundation board members, Lisa Margetson and Sukaina Rashid and unfortunately said good-bye to Somi Benning who has moved to the Interior. After many years Karen Ostrom has left the Society Board and we have welcomed Christine Sutherland. Karen will continue to support other programs at REACH.

I am always impressed with the increased achievements of children, youth and young adults. In the past year, we accomplished 86% of our individual service plan goals. That translates to so many youngsters of the 1,197 families we served working to achieve their own goals, making a difference to themselves and their families. The result of achieving a goal is then planning for a new goal!

Denis Horgan, our Foundation Board Chair, presented his report outlining the various fundraising activities, sponsorships and grants that support many programs and services to families. He reminded us that the Foundation "remains committed to expanding services available to families, addressing program and facility needs and creating a legacy for the future".

REACH is so fortunate to have an experienced, knowledgeable and caring staff, a dedicated group of volunteers, and many generous donors who support our children and families. Thank you all!

On behalf of the REACH Society Board of Directors,

Phyllis With, President

2022/2023 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; Carmel Tang, Director; Stuart Bowyer, Director; Lois Wilkinson, Director; Brent Graham, Director; Pindi Mann, Director; Claire Hatcher, Director; Christine Sutherland, Director

Reach Child and Youth Charitable Foundation:

Denis Horgan, Chair; Katherine Bamford, Vice Chair; Ryan Thomas, Treasurer; Valerie Bartlett, Director; Laura Dixon, Secretary; Sharon Schoeffel, Vice Chair; Jit Sangha, Director; Lisa Margetson, Director; Sukaina Rashid, Director



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

Recent REACH Preschools Celebrations!



Harvest & Pumpkin Patch

What fun it's been to see our little folks' excitement over this past month! The gorgeous weather provided ample sunshine for Preschool North and South to have a fine visit to the pumpkin field at Emma Lea Farms.



Diwali

At North Delta Preschool, children created and decorated diya lamps to celebrate Diwali. Blessings of light, hope and peace were expressed at this special time in the South Asian community.



Halloween

Preschool children enjoyed dressing up with their friends! There was no shortage of creativity and fun for everyone. As you can see, Preschool South teachers even coordinated a group costume!!



Four Winds Cheers for Children 2022

June 17, 2022

Reach Child and Youth Development Society's multi-band concert, Cheers for Children was put on by Four Winds Brewing Co., was held at Market Square (just across the street from where the new Four Winds Brewery and Restaurant is being built in the Southlands development) and raised more than \$35,000 for Reach Child and Youth Development Society.

Previous Cheers for Children fundraisers were held indoors at Harris Barn but organizers this year felt that the event ought to be held outside due to the lingering COVID-19 pandemic.

As well, Four Winds co-owner Adam Mills, creative director Justin Longoz and tasting room manager Seamus Munns, along with former REACH Development Manager Kristin Bibbs, saw the potential to expand the event thanks to the larger capacity of the outdoor venue, and worked closely with Southlands Destination Manager Christine Grange to plan the services and safety measures.

"It's an honour to be able to use our platform to host an exciting new event in our hometown to raise money for REACH" Mills said in a press release. "It's first and foremost about helping children and families in need, but it's also about making space where we can connect people, entertain and celebrate. Thank you to everyone who came out and helped to make a difference in our community."

Organizers sold 800 tickets to the event, which featured headlining musical acts Dead Ghosts, Rocket Revellers and Moving City, bevies by Four Winds and other area breweries, and a number of food trucks to help guests keep their energy up.

Southlands Grange sponsored the venue; other gold-level sponsors included Valley Tech, Quarter-

horse, Desolation Sound Resort, GML Mechanical and Inbox 15B. Med Tech EMS donated first aid services, and Delta Police were on hand in case they were needed.

Volunteers from REACH, Four Winds, Tsawwassen Rotary and Ladner Tsawwassen Kinsmen clubs helped with set-up, selling raffle and drink tickets, and take-down at the end of the evening.

REACH Executive Director Renie D'Aquila expressed gratitude to Four Winds for their generosity and hard work, which raised \$35,432 to benefit children and families in need in the community. D'Aquila said the funds raised at Cheers for Children would be used to provide essential mental health assistance to families.



Summer Series Camps

July - August , 2022

REACH Summer Series Summer Camps comprised 8 weeks of fun for complex kids at our child development centre in the heart of Ladner! From tie-dyeing, to creating wish boxes to keep their wishes for themselves safe, to waterpark fun behind REACH Centre, to getting to know you activities to encourage peer connections, to fun snacks like fruit kabobs and s'mores and to field trip Fridays to the beach, local berry farm and fun parks in other communities – every week is filled with many active and creative activities differentiated to support a variety of neurodiversities. Summer Se-



ries is designed to encourage connections in a structured but playful manner.

One camper age 6 said, "I am sad I left day camp and want to go back and stay longer" and here's a parent's perspective, "I love how the camp workers are so engaging and keep the campers busy with group projects, crafts, cooking, outside activities, story telling and so much more. First West Foundation is proud to provide grants through the Envision Financial Community Endowment benefitting the Summer Series.



Acting Atypical Workshops

This foundational exploration of acting workshop was for teens and adults on the autism spectrum. Aaron Craven of Mitch Murray Productions gave his time to Reach Child and Youth Development Society (REACH) to put this workshop on in June 2022. Two full day workshops were held at REACH Child Development Centre in Ladner, BC led by Aaron.

The workshops received great feedback from participants:

"I enjoyed the class because of the simplicity and because I knew there were other atypicals involved...I could open up a lot more in this workshop and see my potential without getting too nervous. I also enjoyed it was done at a careful and slow pace that I could manage relatively well with as I tend to get nervous in fast environments."



AGM 2022

121 people attended the Reach Annual General Meeting held September 22, 2022 over ZOOM. REACH parent Amy Bonner was REACH AGM keynote speaker and she shared her daughter Olivia's experiences at REACH and provided copies of her book 'Life with Williams Syndrome'. Amy's heartfelt speech, accompanied by photos of Olivia, was very well received.

Highlights of the year can be readily found in our Society and Foundation Annual Reports under Resources on the [REACH website](#). REACH weathered COVID-19 and served 1197 families in Delta, Surrey and Langley during 2021-2022. Strategic priorities moving forward include an additional direction: preparation for the MCFD Family Connections Centres (FCC) proposal. Please see the FCC update on page 9 for further information.



L:R Phyllis With, Renie D'Aquila, Denis Horgan, Amy Bonner

National Truth & Reconciliation Day 2022

September 30th, 2022 marked the second National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The day honors the lost children and Survivors of residential schools, their families and communities.

Both National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day take place on September 30th. Orange Shirt Day is an Indigenous-led grassroots commemorative day that honours the children who survived residential schools and remembers those who did not.

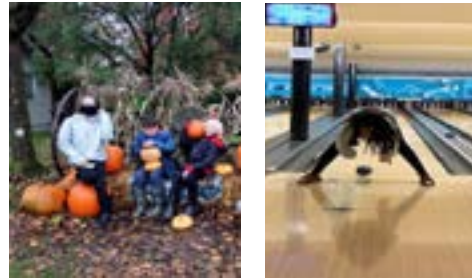
REACH Aboriginal Supported Child Program staff made bannock and shared with all to commemorate the day. REACH staff across locations donned orange shirts and program children participated in activities of remembrance.



FortisBC SibShops Update

Fortis BC provides funding to a REACH program that allows children who have a sibling with a diagnosis to gather and discuss their fears and joys of having a sib with a diagnosis. It is called SibShops and it's a way or these siblings to learn that they are not alone on their journey.

Children and youth aged 6-18 qualify to take part and go out on outings, take part in great summer camp activities, learn about the services that their brothers and sisters receive and talk about the good and not-so-good parts of having a sib with special needs with others who "get it".



GCT Teens Update



Global Container Terminals Canada sponsors youth 12-18 to participate in a social group held every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month at Reach Child and Youth Development Society (REACH). This is the 6th year of their commitment to youth at REACH! Reach Society's GCT TEENS Social Saturdays program allows parents to get a break and for participants to enjoy hanging out with their peers, going on outings, doing planned activities and having special guests. GCT funds the outings transportation using Tsawwassen Shuttles as part of their sponsorship.

Marko Dekovic, VP of Public Affairs at Global Container Terminals Canada, operating at Deltaport for over 20 years, explains why GCT sponsors this program: "We're proud to be part of the Delta community and helping it REACH its full potential by sponsoring the GCT TEENSS, a very special program operated by REACH that supports the optimal development of vulnerable youth."

Environmental Corner

Karen Field, REACH PBS Consultant

Did you know?

British Columbia is a leader in how it collects and recycles waste from people's homes — 90 per cent of all containers and paper are recycled!

To learn more about how and what to recycle, download the Recycle BC app.



Gift of Speech 2022 Launches November 29 - Stay tuned!



We have a new young friend to introduce you to on Giving Tuesday. Sukhmani is involved in Early Intervention Speech Therapy at REACH and we'll share her progress in a therapy video as well as insights from Speech Language Theapist Emily and from mom Sukhjit.

It is a privilege to share program children's stories to increase awareness. REACH holiday appeal fundraiser removes children from wait-lists! We are so appreciative of all our donors who make a pivotal difference in children's lives by providing speech therapy sessions.

The TOOB Donates

(September 21, 2022)The Tsawwassen Order of Old Bastards support the residents of South Delta and assist the young, the elderly, and other individuals or organizations in need. TOOB Vice President David Bliss delivered a cheque for\$3,000 to support children at REACH.



L:R Phyllis With, Denis Horgan, Tamara Veitch, David Bliss, Renie D'Aquila

South Delta Legions



L:R Russell Ford, Tamara Veitch, Gerry Bramhill

(November 02, 2022) Gerald Bramhill and Russell Ford, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 61, Ladner, visited Reach Society's Child Development Centre with a \$500 donation to support children who have developmental needs.



L:R Tamara Veitch, Ken Harvey

(November 02, 2022) REACH Fundraising Coordinator Tamara Veitch receives \$1,300 from Ken Harvey, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 289, Tsawwassen. The funds support children with developmental disabilities in REACH programs.

Delta Community Foundation Donates



L:R Tamara Veitch, Ammen Dhillon, Gail Martin, Renie D'Aquila

Delta Community Foundation has donated \$5,000 to support counselling services offered by Reach Child and Youth Development Society.

Representatives from the Foundation made the donation during a visit to REACH Development Centre, located at 5050 47th Ave. in Ladner, during Mental Illness Awareness Week (Oct. 2-8).

“On behalf of the Delta Community Foundation, president Gail Martin and grants committee chair Ammen Dhillon are pleased to present this \$5,000 grant to REACH to be used towards specialized counselling for families raising children with special needs,” the foundation said in a press release. “Reach and the Delta Community Foundation both have a long tradition of supporting Delta citizens and we are thrilled to be able to continue this partnership.”

Monthly Giving

Monthly donations are a way to pay it forward and give back to your community by providing reliable funding that helps REACH sustain ongoing programs. There are many ways that monthly donations make a difference: from our Infant development program, to autism behavior support, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, developmental pre-school, mental health services, Aboriginal Supported Child Development, family and sibling groups, and more. For more information check out our website at <https://reachchild.org/donate-home/> or contact us by email: tamarav@reachchild.org phone: 604 946 6622 ext 367.

Elaine and David Bliss began supporting REACH as monthly donors and now have generously become Legacy donors. Their commitment is recognized on an autism therapy room in the photo below.



L:R Elaine and David Bliss

Family Connections Centres in British Columbia- Fall 2022 Update.

As previously reported, the Province of BC committed to transforming how services are delivered for children and youth with support needs last fall. The new ‘hub’ service delivery model will create Family Connections Centres (FCC) contracted by the Ministry of Children and Family Development and programs will be offered 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.

More information about the proposed Family Connections Centres (FCC’s) is becoming available. Service delivery will continue to be family-centered, trauma-informed, culturally sensitive and responsive. The new service model is designed to support enhanced quality of life for children or youth with support needs and their families.

Outcomes for children, youth and their families will be measured. Indicators that each child or youth is making progress towards developmental goals will be sought. A central outcome is that quality of life improves for the child and for the family. Lastly, there will be a focus on social inclusion. Through relational and family-centred practice, the child or youth and their family will have ongoing support that may adapt and change to meet their evolving needs. An integrated support plan will be developed to guide service delivery on behalf of the child or youth and their family.

For further information access the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development’s [Family Connections Centre Services Expectations & Description Document](#) online.

Fall into Self-Care

As the summer winds down and the days are shorter, many of us feel rushed into the swing of fall routines. Parents of young children may feel the pressures of scrambling to get children out of bed, packing lunches and taking on the role of a chauffeur driving kids to extra curricular activities. The colder weather and busier schedules quickly carry us into the holiday season in a blink of an eye.

Thanksgiving was a special opportunity for us to reflect on self-care ideas. You might say “I don’t have time for myself” or “it’s a waste” or “its temporary relief”. According Everydayhealth.com, “Self-care is part of the answer to how we can all better cope with daily stressors... self-care is taking steps to tend to your physical and emotional health needs to the best of your ability”.

What are some ways we can practice SELF-CARE? Verywellfamily.com shares these ideas:

1. Meditate – “a quick 5-minute meditation can help you feel rejuvenated.” I would suggest trying out the Calm or Breathe app.



2. Spend Time In Nature – “a quick walk in the park, a hike on a trail or time spent in the garden can help you feel rested and relaxed”.

3. Listen to Music – “whether you find classical music soothing or you prefer to dance to some 80s tunes, listening to music can be a great way to take care of yourself.

4. Write a Gratitude Journal – “studies show people who keep gratitude journals sleep longer and experience higher quality of sleep. (Something every parent can likely use).”

5. Carve out Time to Be Alone - “even if it’s just five minutes each day that you set aside to relax by yourself, a little solitude can help you unwind. Give yourself permission to charge your batteries with a little alone time.”

Play to win a diamond ring or the 50/50 until Nov.27!

reach CHILD AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

raffles

diamonds & dollars!

Purchase tickets to win an eternity diamond ring or dollars in the 50/50 raffle October 23 to November 27! Support local children with developmental needs at the same time!

presented by:

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