

REACHING OUT

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE
BC FAMILY HEARING RESOURCE CENTRE
FOR FAMILIES WITH DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING CHILDREN,
SERVICE PROVIDERS, AND OTHERS INVOLVED WITH HEARING LOSS .

Spring 2017

FAMILY FEATURE

The Humphries – A Team that Works!



The Humphries Family:
William, little sister Mackenzie, parents, Christina & Jordan

My husband, Jordan, and I were eagerly looking forward to becoming first time parents when William decided to surprise us by coming 3½ weeks early in a rather dramatic fashion. After a fast birth he was initially taken to the NICU at Lions Gate Hospital for observation, but what followed was two weeks in Children's Hospital and a diagnosis of congenital heart disease, low tone, and a barrage of tests and specialists. Then, on our day of release, William failed two hearing tests. We were simply told it only meant future testing was needed and not to draw any conclusions, but it crushed me.

Continued on page 2

Meet the Humphries family!

Christina Humphries shares her family's story of William's journey from infancy to preschooler at BCFHRC.

- A Trip to the Park
June 19th
- Mingle & Play
August 10, 11
- 35th Anniversary
August 12

FAMILY FEATURE continued

The Humphries Family

When we finally went for the first ABR and were told he would need hearing aids, I started tearing up. How could this be? Would he be able to swim, go boating, and enjoy life as my husband and I had growing up? What did I do wrong or not do during my pregnancy to cause this? How could my precious boy have such a hard start to life?

William was diagnosed with a severe bilateral hearing loss. In the months and years that followed, my family and I would meet various people who would shape our views and renew our sense of hope for William's future.

Jennie Hatton (audiologist) was the first person to do this as she revealed her hearing aids to my mom and I after completing additional ABR tests for William and, somehow seeing this successful person in front of me with a similar hearing loss to William, made everything a little more ok and a little less scary.

Soon after William's hearing loss diagnosis we began our relationship with BCFHRS. The time spent in Baby Group (Bouncy Babies) with Cathy Luther, Dyan Spear and Suzie Fairweather, as well as with Zara Gauthier during our first year and half of speech therapy, gradually helped me become accepting of William's hearing loss. More than that, it gave me the confidence to talk with others and gladly educate both

children and adults when asked about William's hearing aids.

Through the help of Suzie, we also adopted ASL into our home as another tool to communicate with William, which has been amazing and well worth the time to learn.

During that first year at Baby Group, I remember another mom talking about the 'team' of people who worked with her daughter and I thought, yikes - a team of people! Well six months later the list of specialists in my phone was longer than my arm and yup, William now had a team of people. It can be hard when your reality is so much different than that of your friends, but meeting others at BC Family who have the same seemingly endless appointments and know the struggle makes it better, easier. Aside from other challenges, William is over a year delayed in almost all areas. This has perhaps been the hardest of all, seeing other children, much younger than William excel past him in speech, actions and ability. It's something I still struggle with, but it also makes his achievements and successes that much more of a celebration. So, I choose to cherish this instead.

William continues to see a team of people, including our early interventionist, Valerie Marshall whom he adores, and will soon be introduced to glasses as his next 'thing.' He is now 3½ years old and a proud big brother to his 1 year old sister, Mackenzie.



FAMILY FEATURE continued

The Humphries Family

William loves PALS (Parents and Language Stimulation program at BCFHRC), gymnastics, swimming, music, dancing, cooking, and not to forget Paw Patrol and Thomas the Train. He's still our happy, silly,



William with Charmaine Francis in the PALS classroom

sometimes insanely stubborn, but wonderful little boy and we wouldn't have it any other way. That's all there is to it. You just give the best you can and enjoy the innocence.

***Would you like to share your family's story? We would love to hear from you!
Please advise your interventionist or contact our Centre.***

What's "DEAF" Around Here?

SAVE THE DATES – SAVE THE DATES – SAVE THE DATES

- **DEAF DEAF WORLD** at Vancouver Community College Saturday, **June 3rd**. Annual event, great for the whole family to have fun and meet other deaf people and community providers.
- **FAMILY DEAF CAMP** Hornby Island – **July 6th to 9th**. A family favourite pastime! More info at <http://fndc.ca/fndc.ca>

CHECK OUT THIS INFORMATION!!

- **Sign language being considered as third official language:** If enacted, legislation would require federal information and services to be provided in English, French and sign language. More info on this link: <http://www.macleans.ca/politics/sign-language-being-considered-as-third-official-language-documents>
- **6 Things I Didn't Know About Captioning.** More info on this link: <http://www.ai-media.tv/6-things-i-didnt-know-about-captioning/>
- **7 Unexpected Beneficiaries of Captioning.** More Info on this link: <http://www.ai-media.tv/7-unexpected-beneficiaries-of-captioning/>
- **Great link for what's happening around in BC with Deaf communities:** www.DeafBC.ca
- **CHS ASL Youtube Channel** (<https://www.youtube.com/user/chsasl/videos>) ASL Nook <http://aslnook.com/>)
- **Life Print/ASL Pro** (www.lifeprint.com, www.aslpro.com)
- **Apps for iPad:** The Baobab, Signed Stories, VL2 Storybook.
- **Facebook:** ASL That! - ASL That Kids - Nyle DiMarco Foundation
- **Television:** Switched at Birth, Signing Time! Dancing with the Stars Season 22 (Nyle DiMarco), America's Next Top Model Cycle 22 (Nyle DiMarco)
- **Books:** El Deafo, That Deaf Guy (comics), Freddie and the Fairy, ABC ASL Dictionary (The Gallaudet's Children Dictionary), I Have a Sister my Sister is Deaf, The Smart Princess and other Deaf Tales
- **Movies:** No Ordinary Hero: SuperDeafy (*for kids*), Mr. Holland's Opus (*for adults*), The Hammer (*for adults*)

YOU AND YOUR DEAF OR HARD-OF-HEARING CHILD

Get Ready to Sign up!

PEER 2017 is just around the corner!

What is **PEER**? The PEER letters actually stand for two things to reflect the two strands of this program: **P**arent **E**mpowerment and **E**ducational **R**eadiness & **P**reschooler's **E**steem and **E**motional **R**eadiness.

Parent's **E**mpowerment and **E**ducational **R**eadiness refers to our 6 evening classes and three day workshop that cover everything from navigating the school system and understanding equipment options to developing children's resilience whilst **P**reschooler's **E**steem and **E**motional **R**eadiness refers to our special three day classroom experience designed to grow the children's knowledge about their hearing loss, their equipment and confidence to advocate.

Here is a graduate of our 2013-14 class, Chelsea Wildeboer, confidently giving a presentation to her younger brother's Kindergarten class. Her Mom, Jess, wrote *"I thought you might enjoy seeing this picture. Chelsea wanted to give a presentation on hearing aids to Travis' Kindergarten class. Levi and Lucas were watching too. I'm so thankful for her advocacy skills."*

We love this photo! Way to go, Chelsea!

As Chelsea is demonstrating, the PEER Program is a time investment that will pay dividends for many years. Past PEER parents consistently tell us that they have found the program invaluable as they and their child navigate their way through schools and extra-curricular activities.



If your child will be starting kindergarten in the fall of 2018, please ask your early intervention provider about registration for the evening sessions of next year's PEER program. The next course will begin in October 2017. Don't miss out!



PEER Group 2016-2017

YOU AND YOUR DEAF OR HARD-OF-HEARING CHILD

Spring at BCFHRC



OVER 30 YEARS OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE

In Appreciation of our Supporters

Since our last issue, the following individuals and organizations have continued to make a difference in the lives of our children and their families by generously donating to our Centre either monetarily or through goods and services.



Elks & Royal Purple Fund for Children \$50,000 annually



Elks & Royal Purple Lodges - Campbell's Labels for Education Program

Elks, Royal Purple Lodges and Individuals & Organizations

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Aldergrove Royal Purple | • Prince George Elks | • Anita Park | • Phonak Canada |
| • BC Royal Purple Association | • Prince George Royal Purple | • Brehan Denroche | • Rena Goldberg |
| • Burnaby Elks | • Revelstoke Elks | • Buddha's Light International | • Rick Moore |
| • Cache Creek Royal Purple | • Salmon Arm Royal Purple | • Denroche Family | • Ross Collver |
| • Clearwater Elks | • Terrace Royal Purple | • Fern Dunlop | • Sally & James Hurst |
| • Kelowna Royal Purple | • Vernon Royal Purple | • H & J Chave | • T. Paziuk |
| • Lillooet Royal Purple | • Williams Lake Royal Purple | • Kusch/Young Family | • Tzu-Chin Lin |
| • Osoyoos Royal Purple | | • Laura Creech | • United Way |
| | | • Obviar Family | • Val Matthews |
| | | • P. Jeffcoat | • W. Walters Ventures |

We acknowledge the financial support provided by:

The Ministry of Children and Development – Provincial Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services

The BC Early Hearing Program – Provincial Health Services Authority

The Province of British Columbia

Walking for Bright Futures 2017 Breaks Records!

The Annual Elks and Royal Purple Walkathon in support of the BC Family Hearing Resource Centre was a huge success! We were so fortunate to have the sun shining upon us as we set out on the trails in the picturesque Campbell Valley Park. A record number of people participated this year – over 200 people – and a record amount was raised – **over \$21,000!** It's not too late, donations will be accepted until June 30th.

An enormous amount of thanks and gratitude to everyone who participated to ensure the success of this event. Donors, Sponsors, Walkers, Volunteers – you all made a difference – especially the Elks, who cooked up a delicious BBQ lunch! We welcomed a new group this year – the Cadets! This group of young people offered their assistance and were stationed throughout the trails, guiding participants along the way. A special thank you to the Walkathon committee: Barbara Gee, Cathy Cruickshank, Steve Clark, Sally Hurst, Joheen Walker, who plan and prepare throughout the year. Walkathon 2018 planning is already underway!



SAVE-THE-DATE for MINGLE & PLAY

August 10, 11 & 12, 2017

Join us for our annual summer event!

Three days of fun with deaf and hard-of-hearing children (birth to five years) and their families. You are welcome to join us for one, two or three of the days. Information about registration will be coming soon!

- ❖ **VISIT** our state of the art facility and meet the staff
- ❖ **MEET** with other parents and introduce your child to peers
- ❖ **ENJOY** crafts, games and entertainment in the sunshine



Accommodations for BCFHRC clients travelling from out of town are available.
Email cluther@bcfamilyhearing.com for info.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO US!

August 12th (Day 3 of Mingle & Play) will be a very special celebration of our **35th Anniversary!** Bring your family and friends and join us for a wonderful event for all ages.



For the kids - entertainment, face painting, bouncy castle, playtime in our outside yard, crafts & games and a bbq lunch.

For the adults - bbq lunch, a chance to meet old & new friends, tour the Centre and learn about our history, (maybe even some face painting too!)

Saturday, August 12th from 10am – 2pm
at BC Family Hearing Resource Centre

REACHING OUT TO FAMILIES & COMMUNITY SERVICE PROVIDERS

Foundations in Kelowna and Kamloops



Valerie Marshall & Stefanie Macaro overlooking Kamloops

In May, we, BCFHRC SLPs Stefanie Macaro and Valerie Marshall, travelled to Kelowna and Kamloops to present our Foundations workshop. The goals of the Foundations workshop are to inform parents/caregivers on various topics to support their child with hearing differences, as well as connect families in the same area. Thank you to the families for sharing your experiences, questions, and knowledge!



Families shared that after the 2-day workshop they felt more informed and empowered on their child's hearing differences, what risks to look out for, and how to advocate for their child's access. Some families commented that they appreciated reviewing information that they had learned about before, but could apply now from a new perspective now that their child is older.

"Not to miss! They will get all the tools and support they need to empower them to help their child succeed!"

"I strongly recommend people to [take this workshop] as early as possible—it is more useful the earlier you get this information."

It was also great to connect with other professionals in the Kelowna and Kamloops area for the "Professional Hour" of the Foundations workshop. Thank you to the Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs), Supported Child Development Consultants (SCDs), Early Childhood Educators (ECEs), and practicum students who joined us and shared your great questions and experiences. A big thanks to

Starbright Children's Development Centre in Kelowna and Children's Therapy & Family Resource Centre in Kamloops for hosting these workshops.

"Very helpful and hopeful for a brighter future for our child. Useful, easy to understand strategies."

Keep your eye out for more Foundations workshops next year!

"I am much more comfortable with moving forward to support my child. I have a better understanding overall. Lots of resources!"



Kelowna



Kamloops

REACHING OUT TO FAMILIES & COMMUNITY SERVICE PROVIDERS

Supporting Children with Hearing and Vision Differences or Deafblindness

In March, BCFHRC staff members, Dyan Spear, TDHH and Suzie Fairweather, Deaf Role Model and Sign Language Instructor, co-presented a workshop at the Quesnel & District Child Development Centre.



Dyan and Suzie presented alongside colleagues Christina Duncan, Recreation Therapist and Bruce Taylor, Vision Consultant, of the Visual Impairment Program at Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children, and Sue Gawne, Deafblind Consultant, Early Intervention Program from the Canadian Deafblind Association BC-Chapter.



Topics included:

Vision Loss - Impact of Vision Impairment and Blindness on development. Orientation and Mobility, Gross Motor Development, Physical Education, Sports and Recreation. Vision loss strategies for home, preschool and the classroom.

Hearing Loss - How we hear, types/causes of hearing loss, hearing levels, audiograms and hearing devices. Communication strategies for home, preschool and the classroom. Introduction to sign language.

Deafblindness - What is deafblindness, deafblind intervention, sensory integration, and total communication. Successful deafblind intervention strategies for home, preschool and the classroom.



Thank you to Lynn Mathiesen, Executive Director and her team at the Quesnel & District Child Development Centre for hosting this regional workshop.



BITS & PIECES

New Faces at the Centre

This spring we had three students from the University of BC take part in practicum placements.



Courtney Lawrence, a 2nd year SLP Student, had an 8 week placement. Courtney was one of our fabulous volunteers at Mingle and Play last year.



Rachel Lam, a first year audiology student, spent four days with Teresa Kazemir, SLP, in April.



Talia Glassman, a first year audiology student, spent four days in April with the Surrey Early Speech and Language Program.

BCFHRCs welcomes the opportunity for student placements and values our relationship with the University of British Columbia.

Accreditation Update

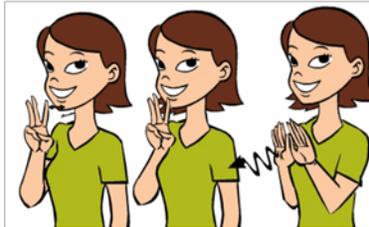
As part of our commitment to excellence in service delivery, BCFHRS seeks accreditation from CARF. CARF stands for the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities.

In November 2016, our Surrey Centre, along with the SESLP program, hosted two CARF surveyors. They interviewed staff, families, community service partners and Board members in regards to the services offered in our programs. The surveyors also examined our policies and procedures and documentation processes to see if they stood up to the rigorous standards of CARF. We are very proud to announce that as a result of that survey BCFHRS has received a three year accreditation from CARF. There were a few minor recommendations that have been addressed, but overall it was a very successful outcome. Thank you to everyone that agreed to participate in the survey. And most of all, thank you to our wonderful staff and Board for working tirelessly to ensure that our families receive the highest quality service possible.



SIGN LANGUAGE

The Ocean



Ocean



Whale



Fish



Dolphin



Shark



Octopus



Turtle



Swim

Check out this website to see signs 'in person' <http://www.handspeak.com>

Calendar

April

- 10 Farm Field Trip
- 14 Good Friday Holiday
- 17 Easter Monday Holiday
- 27-29 PEER 3 Day

May

- 9-10 Foundations Workshop –Kelowna
- 12-13 Foundations Workshop – Kamloops
- 14 **Mother's Day**
- 22 Victoria Day Holiday
- 28 Elks & Royal Purple Walkathon

June

- 15 Family Fun Day Beacon Hill Park
- 18 **Father's Day**
- 19 Fleetwood Park Field Trip
- 20 PALS Graduation
- 20 Elks & Royal Purple Appreciation Tea

July

- 1 Happy **150th** Birthday **Canada !**

August

- 7 BC Day Holiday
- 10-12 Mingle & Play
- 12 **35th** Anniversary Celebration



Reaching Out

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We are a family-centered early intervention Provincial Resource Program committed to individual communication choices. We provide support and resources throughout BC to deaf and hard-of-hearing children, their families and Community Service Providers.

The purpose of the **Reaching Out** Newsletter is to provide information and support to our readers.

Reference to any specific commercial products, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise, does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the BC Family Hearing Resource Society.

Articles and ideas are welcome! The opinions expressed therefore are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Board of Directors or the staff. We reserve the right to edit contributions for brevity and clarity.

There is no fee for the Reaching Out newsletter, however, donations are gratefully accepted.

Staff Visits to Communities in BC

March

Dyan Spear – Chemainus, Prince George, Quesnel, Victoria, Nanaimo
Carolyn Hawrish – Grand Forks, Nelson
Sharon Neufeld -Nanaimo
Suzie Fairweather – Prince George, Quesnel

April

Dyan Spear – Victoria, Duncan
Carolyn Hawrish – Terrace, Kitimat
Suzie Fairweather – Victoria
Jen Gow -Victoria
Sharon Neufeld – Nanaimo

May

Dyan Spear – Kelowna, Vernon, Summerland, Zeballos,
Campbell River, Victoria, Winfield
Carolyn Hawrish – Golden, Kamloops, Merritt, Logan Lake, Clearwater
Suzie Fairweather – Victoria
Sharon Neufeld -Nanaimo
Jen Gow-Kelowna, Victoria, Zeballos

June

Dyan Spear – Victoria, Nanaimo, Chemainus, Courtenay, Comox,
Duncan, Port Alberni
Carolyn Hawrish – Nelson, Castlegar, Williams Lake
Jen Gow – Victoria
Suzie Fairweather - Victoria
Sharon Neufeld –Nanaimo



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