

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/
DEAFNESS .**

Fall 2018

FAMILY FEATURE

Ian's Super Ears!



The Yan Family (l to r) David, Xin-En, Kai, Grace and Ian

We have had the pleasure of knowing the Yan family since Ian was just three months old!

Teresa Kazemir, Speech-Language Pathologist, is their primary service provider at BCFHRC. Read on as mom, Grace, shares her family's story.

Hello! I'm Grace, and my husband David and I have three sons. When people meet our family, they often say "Wow-three boys!" I guess it's because most people tend to find managing three boys challenging. My days are full of surprises from Kai (11), Xin-En (9) and Ian (3). Both my husband David and our youngest son, Ian, are hard-of-hearing.

When we first found out that our youngest son Ian is hard-of-hearing, we were worried that he would not be able to learn at the same pace compared to peers of his age. However, with early intervention and two really supportive elder brothers, our worry quickly dissipated. Ian is now learning to talk really well and is such an energetic and school-loving toddler. *Continued on page 2*



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FAMILY FEATURE

Ian's Super Ears! continued

Ian wears two hearing aids. We have found that generally when someone asks about Ian's hearing aid, they have little understanding about hearing loss. Usually they think that hearing loss is something that can be cured or that it only applies to elderly people. We have found it comforting when someone shares that they themselves wear a hearing aid or someone in their family has a hearing loss.

For Ian, we prefer the term "super ears," just like how the Marvel superhero Ironman uses wearable technology to overcome human limitations. So when asked, we simply answer that Ian was born with hearing loss and the "super ears" help him to hear much better. Usually when people get to know Ian better, they realize that he is coping really well with his hearing aids and that he is really good at remembering names!

We have come a long way over the past three years. When Ian's hearing loss was confirmed at nine weeks old, it was heartbreaking for us parents to be at the receiving end of such unwelcome news. It should have been a time of celebration and joy, and yet we were running around to different clinics and hospitals and trying to digest all the information and uncertainties surrounding Ian's diagnosis. Lots of questions popped into our minds during the initial stages - and the numerous medical follow-ups forced our family to re-arrange our priorities and to adapt to Ian's schedules.

The intervention team through the BC Early Hearing Program was very efficient. They provided the contacts for the different agencies and continued to stay connected and ready to help whenever required. We



were also linked up with a Parent Guide through the Guide by Your Side program, who herself had been through similar experiences. My circle of friends are limited by their lack of experience with hearing issues, whereas our Parent Guide's sharing of her own bitter-sweet experience and little nuggets of advice were really uplifting during those times. Still, I was overwhelmed by the load of information provided by the different agencies and I found it difficult to

handle both the emotional and time-management aspects of things at the same time. However, I figured it was my responsibility to read through the information and decide what was best for Ian and our family. It was a relief to finally choose an agency and settle into regular weekly intervention sessions and sign language instruction.

Even after we started with intervention and sign language at BCFHRC, for the first year I wondered how much sound Ian was able to hear, and if I was doing enough to help him. Furthermore, with the focus on Ian, I felt a little guilty and wondered if his two older brothers felt neglected. It was a struggle to manage everything together at the same time and it seemed like a long wait before we would know how Ian was doing with his "super ears". We found sign language very helpful at that time, and Ian used quite a few signs before he started to use spoken language.

Now that Ian enjoys talking and singing, and is well aware of his surroundings and often asked for his hearing aids when we have forgotten to put them on for him, my initial worries and fears have mostly dissipated. I am really thankful and grateful to the wonderful team of people (shout out to Teresa, Karen, Cathy, Amy, Maybelle, and many others....) who have helped Ian and guided us along the way. They are always ahead of

FAMILY FEATURE

Ian's Super Ears! continued

us, providing fresh ideas and suggestions on how to bring out the best in Ian.

Currently, Ian is attending the PALS program at BC Family Hearing Resource Centre. It is a back-to-school experience for me as I learn and grow with him. Most importantly, he really feels at home and a sense of connection with his PALS friends

and teachers. In fact Ian noticed that many of them are wearing "super ears" just like him!



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

2019 Group Registration

Registration is now open for 2019 Group programs.

There is something for everyone! Please check out what is in store [here](#).

Please note: registration is required even if you are already attending a group

Tricks and Treats Abound

A big thank you to our local businesses who welcomed our trick-or-treaters on Halloween day. We were thrilled with the response to our request and overwhelmed by your generosity. It was so nice to meet our neighbours. We only wish we had more time to visit all of you. We are already looking forward to next year.

Thank you to the following businesses:

- Dairy Queen – Fleetwood
- HY Engineering
- Impact Law Corporation
- ABLE Developmental Clinic Inc.
- Fifth Avenue Real Estate Marketing Ltd.
- Key Innovations
- Rhino Work Boutique
- Optimal Chiropractic
- Clear POS



YOU AND YOUR DEAF AND HARD-OF-HEARING CHILD

Fall at BCFHRC



YOU AND YOUR DEAF AND HARD-OF-HEARING CHILD

ASL-LSQ Recognition Action Rally



BC Family Hearing Resource Centre staff members, Karen Jackson and Amanda Lemay at the Legislature in Victoria September 22, 2018 for the ASL-LSQ Recognition Action Rally.

A human rights issue

Lisa Anderson, a native of Victoria and a University of Victoria alumni is one of the coordinators for nine provincial rallies, was asked to briefly explain the purpose of the event.

Anderson is a member of the Canadian Association of the Deaf-Association des Sourds du Canada (CAD-ASC), which is in charge of the country-wide rallies that aim to encourage Canada to be more accessible to its Deaf and hard-of-hearing residents, as well as other residents living with disabilities.

“The recognition of Sign languages is a key element of human rights and equal opportunities for Deaf persons, as clearly outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities...,” stated the CAD-ASC, in a press release.

Around 43 countries so far have recognized their respective sign language as official languages, including New Zealand and Australia – and Canada isn’t among them. The CAD-ASC and the deaf community in Canada would like that fact to change and to have accessibility improved for everyone in the country.

“This is for the removal of barriers and ensuring equal access, which is an important step towards becoming an *Accessible Canada*,” continues the press release from the *Victoria Buzz*

“It was amazing experience to go and be able to support all the disabilities’ needs! I met up with many former families from Deaf Children’s Society, BC Family Hearing Resource Centre, coworkers and community service providers. It was surreal!” -Karen Jackson

“It was wonderful to see people of all ages travel from near and far to share their stories, their passion, and to increase awareness and support for such an important topic. I believe everyone deserves the right to equal access to language and communication. By providing equal access, we open the possibility for true equity.” - Amanda Lemay



OVER 35 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.



- | | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACT/UCT Kelowna West Council #1003 • Adera Foundation Society • Advanced Bionics • Agatha Cluff • Amy Morose • Anita Park • Arceli Javison • Barbara Gee • Barry de Marco • Beebe Cline • Betty Schupp • Brenda Moore • Brianna Waterman • Brianne Braun • Cathy Cruickshank • Caldor Foundation • Canadian Online • Charmaine Francis • Cindy Adams • Connie Kusch • Connie Waterman, in honor of Alexander Waterman • Dr. Susan Small | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dan & Ilona McQuillan • Darren Bellamy • Doug Klassen • Elks & Royal Purple Fund for Children • Emma Liffen • Evelyn Moi • Fern Dunlop • Four Points Hotel Sheraton Guildford • Gail Kuzminski • Investors Group Financial Services Inc. • Isabella Hjort-Olsen • J. Kim • John McKitrick • Joan Popovich • Judy Chrastina • Joan Ford • Karen Armitage • Ken & Jamie Mulligan • Lee Johnston • Lynne Pitts • Lisa Cable | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monique Preer • Moxie's Guildford • Obviar Family • Phonak Canada • Properties Plus Ltd. • Ravinder Lalli • Reach Child & Youth Development Society • Rick Moore • Robert & Lynne Moore • Rina Dulku • Ryan Turner • Sally & James Hurst • Salmon Arm Elks • Sobeng Family • Teresa Kazemir • Terrace Royal Purple • United Way of the Lower Mainland • Valerie Marshall • Valerie Matthews • Westside Elks • Yvonne Marshall |
|--|--|---|



We operate in partnership with:
Ministry of Children and Development, Government of BC
BC Early Hearing Program – Provincial Health Services Authority
We acknowledge the financial assistance of the Province of British Columbia

Thank you to our founders and long-time supporters:
Elks & Royal Purple lodges, both in British Columbia and across Canada

OVER 35 YEARS OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Annual General Meeting 2018

Our Society's Annual General Meeting was held on the evening of November 21, 2018. We were pleased to see a good turnout of attendees, especially since it was a very dark and rainy night!

President, Dr. Charles Laszlo chaired the meeting, with presentations from Ron Moody of D'Abadie Moody, our accounting firm; Agatha Cluff, Treasurer; and Dr. Noreen Simmons, Executive Director. Our Board of Directors was elected for the upcoming year. Following this, we lit up our rooftop to acknowledge our donors and supporters, and shared refreshments and socializing. Here is our Board of Directors for the next year.

Board of Directors 2018- 2019

Dr. Charles Laszlo, President
 Dr. Graham Bryce, Vice-President
 Agatha Cluff, Treasurer and Audit Committee
 Ken Mulligan, Director and Audit Committee
 Rick Moore, Past President
 Barbara Gee, Director and Walkathon Committee
 Dr. Susan Small, Director
 Doug Klassen, Director
 Alia Kallo, Director
 Rosalind Ho, Director
 Joan Popovich, Director



THANK YOU! To everyone that supported us in our Giving Tuesday efforts this year, we raised over \$6,000!

We are well on our way to raising \$15,000 for our PEER Kindergarten Transition Program. If you would like to help us meet this goal before the end of the year, please consider making a gift. Donations can be made online at <http://www.bcfamilyhearing.com/get-involved/make-a-gift/>

Thank you for helping us “reach for the stars!”



REACHING OUT TO COMMUNITY

BCFHRC + UBC = Invaluable Learning



Family Support Parents, Cathy Luther, left, and Jen Gow, right, with Dr. Susan Small of the Audiology and Speech Sciences program at the University of British Columbia.

The BC Family Hearing Resource Centre has a collaborative affiliation with the University of British Columbia (UBC). In addition to providing practicum placements to students, each year, staff from our Centre, with various expertise and designations, provide presentations to students enrolled in the Audiology and Speech Sciences program and the Program in Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Presentations are provided at the University campus, or students visit our Centre to participate in presentations.



A panel of parents from BC Family Hearing Resource Centre was invited to talk with audiology students from the School of Audiology and Speech Sciences. This annual event has been occurring for a number of years, after it was suggested by Cathy Luther that students could benefit from a parent's perspective. This November, four parents with children who are currently enrolled in services or have recently started Kindergarten, along with Cathy Luther and Jen Gow, our Family Support Parents, presented to this group. By candidly sharing their families' journeys, the panelist's personal experiences brought the human touch to the students learning. This is information that you can't find in any text book!"

Here is what the audiology students had to say about the experience:

"This was an exceptional opportunity for audiology students to hear what is going on in the minds of the family receiving the information that we provide them- this was very helpful for future practice."

"The parent panel brought up some very interesting points ...it was nice to hear their perspectives, as we get plenty of "cases" in classes to work through, but don't get to hear direct input from the other side of the story very often."

"It was invaluable to hear directly from the parents and to realize again how each family's experience and paths differs."

"The parents provided invaluable information that I will carry with me into my clinical years...the panel was a wonderful experience and something I will not soon forget."

REACHING OUT TO COMMUNITY

Reaching Out to British Columbia (and Beyond)!



Fall is a busy time of travel for our staff members who provide services to families and service providers outside of the lower mainland. We call this Outreach. This service can range from individual home visits to families, preschool or daycare observations, meeting with other members of a family's team or providing a workshop to the community. Individual staff members are assigned specific regions within the province and, recently we have had referrals from the Yukon and Northwest Territories!

As British Columbia is a vast province, sometimes getting to a community can be challenging. Often, a community is remote and the amenities we may expect in the lower mainland either don't exist or are offered at limited times. This can make for an adventurous journey - and this is when the weather IS cooperating!

Outreach is such an important service as it is unlikely that smaller communities have service providers who specialize in working with children with hearing loss. BC Family Resource Society is committed to providing equitable services to all families. To this end, our Outreach Consultants have travelled to many locations we have often never heard of. However, our staff are professionals and they take this all in stride in order to deliver our mandate.

Today's technology is making it easier to connect! We are fortunate to have the use of Telehealth, which is managed through the Provincial Health Services Authority of BC, and Skype, Webcam and Facetime are options that have helped immensely in service delivery.

Here are comments from those who receive outreach services.

From an Outreach family:

"Couldn't say enough good things about the service we receive and the relationships we have formed since coming to BCFHRC."

From a Community Service Provider:

"I am so grateful for all the support provided through the Outreach team. I cannot even imagine doing this alone without the wisdom, guidance, and input of the team. Families have always given very positive feedback about BCFHRC services. Thank you for your professional expertise and support!"

Our staff have also connected with agencies that support our program through fundraising by visiting an Elks or Royal Purple Lodge, while in the community. They are graciously welcomed by lodge members, who are generous with their time and treats!

BITS & PIECES

Annual Satisfaction Surveys

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback for our Annual Satisfaction Surveys. Your opinion is important, a guides us in our future planning.

In appreciation of your time, we offered a chance to **win a \$50 Chapters Gift Card!**

And the winners are....

Local Families: Ashly Mitchell

Outreach Families: Tarra Dymont



Congratulations to the winners!

Did you know?

Children with hearing impairment qualify for these two amazing programs which give BIG discounts to arts and entertainment and snowsports! Check it out!



An Easter Seals Canada Program

<http://access2card.ca/>



<https://www.bcadaptive.com/>

The Shining Stars of BCFHRC

ATTENTION current and alumni families: we are looking for your "Shining Stars"!

Tell us why your deaf or hard-of-hearing child is a "Shining Star" and we will share it!

If you wish to participate contact us by email or our website.

Here's our first ever Shining Star!
Kristen and her family are part of our alumni.



The
Shining Stars
of
BC Family Hearing Resource Society

Kristen is a strong young lady who takes on everything life brings her with gusto and determination! She is a shining star!

SIGN LANGUAGE

OUT AND ABOUT

<p>Ice</p> 	<p>Slip</p> 	<p>Be Careful</p> 
<p>Game</p> 	<p>Movie</p> 	<p>Ticket</p> 
<p>Popcorn</p> 	<p>Shopping</p> 	<p>Parking</p> 
<p>Line-Up</p> 	<p>Tim Hortons</p> 	<p>Starbucks</p> 

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

Calendar

December

- 5 PEER Session #3 - 7pm
- 6 Foundations for Professionals – Campbell River
- 17 Winter Party at Main Surrey Centre
- 25 **Christmas Day – Centre Closed**
- 26 **Boxing Day – Centre Closed**

January

- 1 Happy New Year 2019!
- 7 Group Programs resume- Be sure to register!
- 9 PEER Session #4 - 7pm

February

- 13 PEER Session #5 - 7pm
- 14 **Happy Valentine's Day ♥**
- 18 Family Day Holiday – Centre Closed
- 21 Vancouver Centre – Indoor Beach Field Trip
- 27 Parents Workshop –
All parents and alumni parents welcome to attend

March

- 13 PEER Session #6 - 7 pm
- 17 **Happy St. Patrick's Day ♣**
- 19 Family Fun Day – Main Surrey Centre
- 28 Foundations for Professionals – Surrey
- 29 30 Foundations for Families – Surrey

April

- 4 Vancouver Centre – Bloedel Conservatory
Field Trip 10am
- 10 PEER Session #7 – 7pm
- 15 Surrey Centre - Farm Field Trip 9:30am
- 19 Good Friday – Centre Closed
- 22 Easter Monday – Centre Closed



Reaching Out

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Dr. Noreen Simmons
Editor: Cindy Adams

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

October to December

Dyan Spear – Prince George, Parksville, Crofton, Kelowna, Vernon, Victoria, Penticton, Nanaimo, Campbell River, Powell River, Sechelt, Courtenay/Comox, Port Alberni

Carolyn Hawrish – Kamloops, Trail, Rossland, Terrace, Prince Rupert

Alex Lay – Prince George

Suzie Fairweather – Vernon, Lake Country, Kelowna



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