

WINTER  
2017

# THE STAR



Developmental  
Disabilities Association

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CONFERENCE

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# A TRIP TO THE FUTURE – THE 17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL COLEMAN CONFERENCE

BY ALANNA HENDREN

The Coleman Conference, held just outside of Boulder, Colorado by the Coleman Institute, brings together academics, service providers, families, self-advocates, bureaucrats, and tech industry pioneers to discuss the use of digital technology to increase the independence of people with cognitive disabilities. This year, I was asked to talk about our robot project by the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD), a co-sponsor of the day. Jon Morris, principal of our industry partner in the project, from JDQ, joined me. We enjoyed a warm welcome and much interest!

Like most of the leadership in the disability “civil rights” movement, the leadership of the Coleman Institute is changing. Older visionaries who can remember the days of institutions and mistreatment are handing over their ambitions to a much more sophisticated, younger demographic of professionals. They leave behind a Charter, declaring the rights of people with cognitive disabilities to computer technology and internet access but without the tools and societal values that helped us older folks succeed. Although the potential of new technologies continues to stimulate our imaginations, widespread use has been limited by:

- ▶ Web and software inaccessibility
- ▶ There is no funding for people with disabilities to purchase technology
- ▶ Medicaid, the program that funds community living services, would have been eliminated under “repeal and replace” Healthcare legislation in the U.S. These cuts continue to threaten the support of people with disabilities outside institutions
- ▶ People have too many other struggles (physical, financial and attitudinal barriers) to worry about technology
- ▶ Civil rights are still not universally adopted for people with disabilities, 27 years after the Americans with Disabilities Act
- ▶ Most people already do not receive government-funded supports, living forever with Mom and Dad
- ▶ There is currently no direction, no coherent government policy, regarding supports for kids or adults with intellectual disabilities
- ▶ Loss of past optimism – “technology disrupts quickly but takes a long time to develop and bring to market.”
- ▶ Corporations and the general public still believe the intellectual disability community is too small, poor, disempowered and incapable to focus on as a group, even in the area of universal accessibility to the web, but there are pockets of innovation
- ▶ Families and self-advocates need more information about what is possible, what applications are available and how to use them



“  
...an American with a developmental disability living in the community from age 18 to 65 will encounter an average of 770 different staff in their lives.  
”

- ▶ Internet and computer technology are still not – and may never be – totally secure and impervious to hacks.

On a more positive note, some developments are supporting the use of technology by people with cognitive disabilities:

- ▶ Families are building their own knowledge base and starting grass-roots groups to use technology with their own children, brothers and sisters
- ▶ School systems are using and teaching advanced technologies to children with special needs along with other children
- ▶ Disabilities resulting from aging are becoming overwhelming as Baby Boomers age, sparking greater interest in cognitive and other technologies, accessibilities
- ▶ A move away from expensive, clunky old custom machines to generic systems like iPads
- ▶ Fully immersive, inter-connected, 360 degree, virtual reality, 5G technology is on the way! Still in its infancy, this can facilitate remote medicine and transform the transportation, arts, finance, education, health and other industries, but infrastructure needs to develop that will expand bandwidth and speed
- ▶ 5G systems can transmit visuals, sound and touch
- ▶ 5G systems could “democratize labour” through remote skillset delivery
- ▶ Robotics and technology could create as many jobs as are lost in older, more primitive industries
- ▶ Some tech firms are realizing that people with autism and other disabilities can be excellent employees.

There is also a greater awareness of our disappearing workforce among the Coleman community. At current rates, an American with a developmental disability living in the community from age 18 to 65 will encounter an average of 770 different staff in their lives. The U.S. and Canada both foresee an increase in paid caregiver demand of 48% over the next ten years, with few people willing to fill these low-paying, high responsibility jobs. All the more reason why we need robots that can support our staff so they can put their good where it will do the most!





## TRANSPORTATION SUPPLEMENT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Beginning Jan. 1, 2018, annual bus passes will be available to people on disability assistance through a new transportation supplement.

People who have the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) designation can use the new supplement for an annual bus pass or for other transportation needs, such as HandyDART.

As individual needs can change over time the supplement will also provide flexibility. People can apply for the B.C. Bus Pass at any time during the year. They can also cancel their bus pass at any time and use the supplement for other transportation costs.

The new supplement responds to requests from the disability community to fix changes that were made to transportation supports for people on disability assistance. Government committed to addressing their concerns and consulted with stakeholders on the best approach.

The transportation supplement is \$52 per month and will be on monthly assistance payments, starting with the Dec. 20, 2017, payment. It is expected to cost government approximately \$70 million annually.

The B.C. Bus Pass can be used in both TransLink and BC Transit areas.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

visit <https://news.gov.bc.ca/15512>

## FARM LIFE IN THE CITY

BY KATELYN NEALE

The month of October celebrates the arrival of Fall as all of the trees begin to change colour and shed their leaves in preparation for the winter. October is also a very important month for harvesting crops, as it is a time when many delicious homegrown fruits and vegetables are ready to be picked such as tomatoes, apples, carrots, and of course pumpkins! Although this time of year means the beginning of cold and rainy weather, we, at Victoria Day Program, are still eager to go on outdoor adventures when the weather cooperates. To celebrate the arrival of Fall, we chose to visit Southlands Heritage Farm. Southlands gives all of its visitors a chance to experience farm life and to understand many different animals and ecosystems. Visiting the farm was a very therapeutic and unique experience for our clients as they were able to get up close with a number of animals including horses, roosters, and goats. We also visited the pumpkin patch where we were able to pick our own pumpkins and look at all the different vegetables that were ready for harvest. We thank Southlands Heritage farm for having us, and we cannot wait to visit again!



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# OUR TOP PICK APPS FOR BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED



FREE

## Aipoly Vision: Sight for Blind & Visually Impaired

- ▶ Aipoly Vision is able to identify around 1,000 objects and any color.
- ▶ Point your phone at the object of interest and press any of the recognition buttons at the bottom of the screen to turn on.
- ▶ Aipoly Vision will keep running and recognizing objects until you switch to a different mode, or toggle the recognition button.



\$2.79

## Talking Calculator

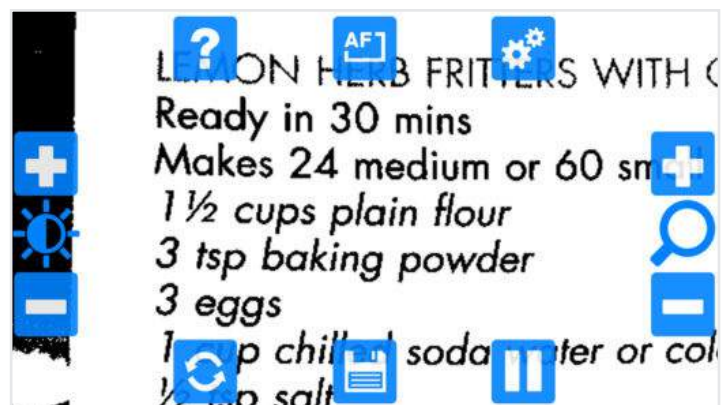
- ▶ Large, clear buttons with optional speech.
- ▶ Built in recording studio and script.
- ▶ Supports VoiceOver standard and touch-typing input styles.
- ▶ The calculator's voice will speak the calculation results.



\$2.79

## VisionAssist

- ▶ VisionAssist is a new category of handheld electronic magnifier.
- ▶ Read restaurant menus, even in low light.
- ▶ Review labels on medicine bottles.
- ▶ Scan through grocery lists.
- ▶ Read newspapers.
- ▶ Handy if you forget your glasses







## UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN KICK OFF!

BY TERRY SCHENKEL

On September 22, DDA kicked off our annual United Way campaign to raise awareness and funds for the United Way of the Lower Mainland. Each year, DDA employees donate to help people in our communities. This year, we aim to increase the number of donors by 10% and, for people who donated last year, to increase past donations by 10%.

## WHY GIVE TO THE UNITED WAY?

576 workplaces like ours run workplace campaigns so that the United Way can proactively help 340,000 people in the Lower Mainland. This year, the three areas of most importance are:

### All that kids can be

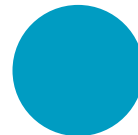
Kids are born with limitless potential. Yet too many of them lack what they need to reach it. Experiences in childhood set the foundation for life.

More than 48,000 children participate in programs funded by United Way. United Way funds more than 2000 programs that support children.

### Poverty to possibility

The burden of poverty is profound. Since 2008, we've seen a 25% increase in food bank use. If you can't meet your basic needs like food and shelter, you can barely stay afloat let alone get ahead.

When you give to United Way, you're making sure kids arriving to school hungry get breakfast. You're helping people get the food they need, learn how to find or grow healthy affordable food, and access available programs and resources.



**United Way**  
Lower Mainland

### Strong communities

Communities should fuel our lives, support our development and keep us healthy and strong. But for many in Metro Vancouver, it's hard to connect. Loneliness is as dangerous as smoking.

The strength of a community is in the well-being of the people who live there. For some, that means accessing services they didn't even know existed. For others, like seniors, it means keeping them connected and engaged in order to stay healthy.

When you give to United Way, you are building strong neighbourhoods; helping seniors live independently; sustaining community outreach programs and funding the helpline bc211.

DDA will run our annual United Way staff campaign until November 30 and there will be a variety of events planned to raise awareness and funds.

**\$380  
RAISED**

**United Way  
FUNDRAISER**

## **WALK N'ROLL A-THON 2017 FOR UNITED WAY**

**BY HAILEY ARTHUR**

This year's 5th annual Walk N' Roll a-thon at Trout Lake was a huge success! We raised \$380 for United Way. Over 250 clients and staff participated from each of the six adult day programs as well as some residential programs. We are glad we could help give back to the United Way.

The day started off with a Zumba warm up led by the fitness summer students, which transitioned into the start of the walk. We were so happy to see all the participants excited and pumped for the walk-a-thon. For every lap completed

around Trout Lake, participants received a stamp given to them at the finish line. While walking around Trout Lake, there was a bubble station to motivate participants. At the finish line there were tattoos and face paint.

The participants enjoyed a delicious BBQ lunch. After lunch, a dance party got all the participants up and dancing to the music. A fun award ceremony wrapped up the day. Congratulations to everyone!

We want to thank all the staff, volunteers and student program workers for their help as well as everyone who donated to United Way. This event was a success because of your support!

**We have a  
new website!**

**visit us at**

**[www.develop.bc.ca](http://www.develop.bc.ca)**





**CREEKSIDE CDC**



# FALL FUN AT OUR CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRES



**RIVERSIDE CDC**



**CHAMPLAIN CDC**



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## TOM'S ROCKY MOUNTAINEER TRAIN TRIP



**BY TOM EASON AND ANGELA GAGNE**

This past October, Tom Eason travelled on the Rocky Mountaineer Train throughout parts of BC and Alberta. Tom said the scenery was really nice.

Tom left Vancouver early in the morning and headed to the first stop, Kamloops. On day two, the train went from Kamloops to Jasper. The train took approximately ten hours to get there, as it takes the scenic route. On day three, the train travelled from Jasper to Lake Louise. Lake Louise was beautiful – turquoise water, snow-capped mountains, the works! The final leg of the trip was from Lake Louise to Banff, on day four. Day five consisted of a bus ride to Calgary, and then a flight back home to Vancouver. If you can believe it, this was Tom's very first flight!

Lake Louise was Tom's favourite part of the trip. It was beautiful, and the hotel was very nice. The staff at this hotel were very polite and good at their jobs. This trip was especially significant, as it was Tom's birthday! Tom got a free breakfast for his birthday, and a signed birthday card from the front desk at the Lake Louise hotel.

Tom has always wanted to go on a train trip, and he was very happy that he was able to achieve this goal. If you are thinking about traveling on the Rocky Mountaineer Train, Tom will gladly share his experience with you!





245  
BAGS

## DDA CLEANS CLOSETS FOR THE UNITED WAY!

BY KATHY MONCALIERI

The Developmental Disabilities Association's staff, children, adults and their families came together in October to support DDA's annual United Way campaign. 245 full bags were collected through our Cash4Clothes initiative; surpassing last year's count of 235! This added \$735 to DDA's ongoing efforts to benefit the United Way. Thank you to everyone for your continued help and participation.

Cash4Clothes supports organizations and teams with their fundraising efforts; please email [cash4clothes@develop.bc.ca](mailto:cash4clothes@develop.bc.ca) for more information.



\$735  
RAISED





# DDA CHILD & YOUTH ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

BY KATHY MONCALIERI

Our Child and Youth Services teams were joined by guests from the Early Years community and our Infant Development Program for a day of professional development and networking at Science World's theatre.

We started the day with a welcome and appreciation message from Andrew Roets, department director, and a powerful talk from United Way Impact Speaker, Gladys Kwok. She shared her childhood experience of attending a United Way-funded after school program and described how she now gives back by leading that same vital initiative as an adult. Terry Schenkel, assistant director of Family Support Services shared how the United Way benefits DDA and gave details of the current campaign with goals to increase participation and donations.

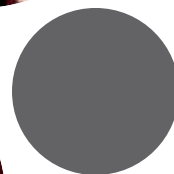
Our morning presenter, Andy Zarembo of the Float House and Vancouver Real podcast, ran an interactive self-care workshop with the essential reminder for caregivers to recognize the importance of living a balanced lifestyle, steer away from stress factors and not prioritize other responsibilities over their own well-being.

After a catered lunch and some fun in the Eureka Gallery, the afternoon was spent with master trainers Nicole Fetterly, RD and Chris Wright of BC's Appetite to Play initiative. This program is designed to support early childhood educators in creating childcare settings that promote and encourage inclusive physical activity and healthy eating. Appetite to Play provides recommended practices and useful resources to strengthen the policies needed for these important child development areas. Learn more at [www.appetitetoplay.com](http://www.appetitetoplay.com)

Thank you to DDA for supporting this day of education and camaraderie.







## THE CARNIVAL OF HORRORS

BY PAWAN HANS

Halloween is not a proper scare-fest without the annual CORE Day Program's Haunted House. Its legend has grown each year as its word-of-mouth popularity ripples through the various DDA sites. A remarkable United Way Fundraiser, the Haunted House is, along with its screams, a joyful experience.

This year's theme, 'The Carnival of Horrors,' featured CORE staffer Jon McKillop in the starring role as a chainsaw-carrying clown who popped up three times during each client's tour. Preparations for the Haunted House took upwards of two weeks this year, transforming the CORE Day Program's shop into something out of your worst nightmares. The Carnival of Horrors included a fake electric-shock entrance, a concession stand that featured blood-spattered popcorn with severed fingers in it, skeletons descending from the ceiling, the world's largest spider, and that freaky clown.

There were goosebumps, screams, shrieks and jumps. Some of the visitors to the Haunted House moved faster than we've ever seen them move. It was a whole lot of fun, and we appreciate all the kind support. With the amazing participation of all the day programs and many Head Office staff, we raised a significant donation for the United Way.

**\$110**  
RAISED





## ACCESSING ACCESSIBILITY

BY KEEGAN O'TOOLE

iPad technology has become increasingly more accessible for individuals with disabilities since its first release in 2010. Built-in accessibility options now allow caregivers to quickly make changes to both the audiovisual presentation and functionality of the device for individual specific adaptations. These features are available out of the box and can be used without the need to purchase additional apps. The potential for iPads to be used as an assistive technology device expands exponentially with the huge range of supplemental apps available.

Augmentative communication apps, such as Proloquo2Go and TouchChat HD, are popular choices for individuals with communication impairments. These apps include a huge library of images and symbols, sorted by category, and are highly editable. Both use a “touch to talk” format and can be used for a variety of skill levels, from one word requests to creating complex sentences. Though the high adaptability of these apps makes them appealing for caregivers, they can be cost prohibitive, complicated to program, have a significant learning curve for users, and have limited functionality beyond being a communication system. For the right individual these programs can have a massive positive impact on quality of life; however, there are other more streamlined programs available, which use a similar format, that actually have the ability to serve a wider range of users because of their reduced scale.

Choiceworks and Choiceworks Calendar are both visual scheduling apps which allow a caregiver to create individualized schedules and routines that are easily editable on-the-go and interactive for client users. The major difference between these two apps is that Choiceworks is designed for small-scale daily schedules or step-by-step routines, where Choiceworks Calendar can show daily, weekly, or monthly schedules but in significantly less detail. These apps have the greatest functionality when used in tandem, but work well as stand alone programs and should be selected for use based on the individual needs and goals of the user. The format is consistent between both programs: the user touches an image and receives an auditory prompt for that activity. Activities can be sequenced, with the user able to mark tasks as

complete while they move through their routine, and routines can be saved so caregivers can build a library of task-specific, step-by-step instructions that can be independently accessed by users when needed. Much like augmentative communication apps these programs are highly editable, but by using a static display format they are consistent and predictable regardless of the content, have a short learning curve for both programmers and client users, and the simplicity, yet high adaptability in their design makes them an appropriate choice for users with a large range of needs.

The potential use for these programs is limited only by the creativity of the caregiver. Users can use images to make requests or choices, increasing communication and reducing frustration. Visual schedules can reduce anxiety, decrease dependence on staff prompting, and encourage independence and task completion. New skills can be taught through forwards or backwards chaining, alongside a step-by-step breakdown of the activity, until users have gained independence and can now be supported by a user-controlled linear prompt system. Regardless of use the final goal is the same: all of this technology is working towards making the world more accessible for individuals with disabilities.

iPad technology has become part of the daily routine for one of DDA's residents, Carol. Carol identifies using her iPad for a variety of purposes: “I use it for music, I use it for making pictures, choices, and for [finding out] something I want to know about, [and] getting information”. She agrees that having a visual makes it easier to understand information and prefers when staff use her iPad when communicating with her, instead of just talking. Carol's iPad has evolved over the last year. Once exclusively used for entertainment, it now acts as an activity planner, communication device, and learning tool, and Carol continues to look forward to the possibilities, hoping that she can someday use her iPad to “write a letter” or “explain where I'm going”.

Technology can make our lives easier. Technology can connect us. Technology can be the bridge between can't and can. The technology is ready and waiting, it's now up to us to use it.

**FOR MORE APP REVIEWS** check out our Tech Reviews at <https://www.develop.bc.ca/tech-reviews/>





# NEW WHITE CLOTHING BINS

**THANK YOU** to our new bin hosts for supporting DDA

Be sure to drop off your donations at any of our white clothing bins!



**CWL Auto Com**  
3601 King George Blvd, Surrey  
V4P 1B6



**Essential Motorcycle Services**  
8910 Shaughnessy St,  
Vancouver V6P 3Y5



**Hopcott Meats**  
18385 Old Dewdney Trunk Rd,  
Pitt Meadows V3Y 2R9

**Northyards**  
39616 Government Rd,  
Squamish V0N 1H0

**Bute**  
1320 Bute St,  
Vancouver V6E 2A3

**Stressed & Depressed**  
1353 E 41st Ave,  
Vancouver

**LOCATE A BIN  
NEAR YOU AT**  
[www.develop.bc.ca](http://www.develop.bc.ca)

## in memory of

DDA would like to honour two women who were long time DDA supporters. Not only were these women committed to raising their children with developmental disabilities during a time when they were often separated from their families, they were leaders in advocating for the special needs community. We are grateful for their contributions and send our sincerest condolences to their families.

### Joan Lawrence 1926-2017

Joan was a teacher, mentor, advocate for individuals with special needs and one of DDA's past presidents.

### Margaret Ainley Gall 1921 - 2017

Margaret (pictured, right) spent her life supporting many organizations dedicated to special needs, including representing DDA at the Vancouver Council of Women. Her contributions will be forever valued.





## PROPERTY IN TRUSTS

BY DAVID CHEN BSC, BA, CPCA, CFP®  
LEAD PLANNER, DC COMPLETE FINANCIAL

Recently I have been asked a few times if putting real estate into a trust for family members is a good idea. It is understandable why people are asking this especially when in Vancouver and Toronto, families are often property rich or cash poor due to the inflated values of real estate. Beyond a deeper financial planning discussion, whether one should hold onto real estate or sell it and turn it into cash to be used to support family members with a disability, is very dependent on your desired outcome.

The province does allow for an individual to own a home or mortgage exempt from the asset test for eligibility to persons with disability benefits (PWD) so owning a residence in itself should not be a concern for losing access to PWD. Where it may be of issue is for control and/or estate tax liabilities.

Regarding control issues, some individuals with disabilities cannot make sound, complex, financial decisions based on their mental capabilities. The BC Credit and Consumer Branch allows for contracts signed by adults that the vendor thought to be of sound mind to be valid in terms of collections of debt. This creates a concern in that if a person with disabilities owns a property and is in debt, potentially the asset may be attacked by creditors. This control concern is a valid reason to consider placing a real estate property into trust for the benefit of the family member with disabilities.

In terms of tax liabilities, only those assets not in the estate of a deceased or that have a designated beneficiary as determined by the law, can escape estate taxation like probate fees. Given the high value of property, these taxes can amount to a sizable dollar figure. Placing a property into a bare trust for real estate, solely for the benefit of the person residing in it, can help to bypass taxation because it is out of the estate and still a primary residence; however, in practice we have found that there are discrepancies in terms of tax jurisdictions' interpretation of the law like when property tax should be eligible for a property tax grant in the bare trust, Municipalities have sometimes denied the grant because the property was owned by a trust.

Keep in mind, no matter what your reasons for putting real estate in trusts, there are costs to setting this up, dismantling it and filing tax returns on a regular basis so the trouble and expense should outweigh the concern you are trying to by-pass.

“  
...control concern is a valid reason to consider placing a real estate property into trust for the benefit of the family member with disabilities.  
”

NOTE: These opinions are David Chen's and not necessarily a DDA endorsement

Often times, it turns out that it is simpler to just liquidate the real estate, place the assets in trust and then rent a property for the remainder of your loved ones' years of life.

If this sounds complicated – it is. Like most situations, you are better off to seek professional financial and estate planning advice when deciding on the strategy to use for your real estate.



## JOBS WEST SPOTLIGHT



### Carrie at Dough Girls

BY MCKENZIE HANNEWYK

We would like to congratulate Carrie on her new part time employment as a Pastry Prep at Dough Girls. Carrie's hard work and perseverance during a work experience this summer at Dough Girls greatly contributed to her success in securing a paid position this fall. Nice work Carrie!



# DROP-IN CENTRE BARBEQUE

BY DAVID WONG

On Friday August 18th 2017, the Main Street Drop-In held its Annual Summer BBQ. It is one of the most important events that the staff and participants look forward to each year. There were also various participants from the Community Apartment Program (CAP) and Evening & Weekend Program that attended. It was an amazing time that allowed participants to rekindle old friendships and develop new ones. Along with the BBQ, there were a number of games played and enjoyment for all. We had generous donations from Safeway and Buy Low Foods that made the BBQ even better than last year's. We look forward to next year's BBQ and hopefully it will be even better than this one.

## THANK YOU TO OUR DDA SUMMER STUDENTS!

### RAJNA

BY DAVID WONG

The Main Street Drop-In Centre hired an outstanding summer student this year named Rajna. She had a good understanding of our industry especially how to respectfully communicate and interact with our program participants. She developed a positive rapport with participants, understanding their strengths, needs and dislikes. She was then able to develop meaningful activities based on participant's interests and goals. Rajna also took time to reach out to private businesses to see if they would donate to our Annual Summer BBQ. Most importantly she was able to work cooperatively and professionally with staff, complimenting the quality service that the Main Street Drop-In Centre offers. Rajna has returned to school but agreed to stay on as a casual staff and we look forward to seeing her at Evening/Weekend events at the Drop In.

### SABRINA

BY DAVID WONG

Art and art therapy has long proven to be a therapeutic component at DDA. Nothing is more satisfying than creating a work of art from start to finish. The completed artwork made by our participants highlights their efforts and creativity and is proudly displayed at various art shows and more importantly in the homes of family members and friends.

This year we had an opportunity to hire a wonderful summer student named Sabrina who had a talent for teaching art. She provided art classes for all the DDA vocational day programs. She supported program participants in creating various arts and craft pieces including jewelry, painted shirts, and decorative vessels. She communicated and instructed participants respectfully using gentle teaching techniques to bring out creativity and enthusiasm. More importantly she made art fun for the participants. Sabrina has agreed to stay on in a supportive role for the art program and you will likely see her at the next art show that DDA attends!

# PERSONAL INFORMATION BOOKLET WORKSHOP

BY LYDIA KANG

Families with children with disabilities have many challenges, struggles and frustrations in life. The management of important information pertaining to their child is not standardized and the communication of this information is a process that largely depends on the sharing of medical reports, clinical assessments and dry government forms. Ultimately, this experience is cold and impersonal and the person at the center of it all is often reduced to a number or category designation. Unfortunately, this is exactly how we felt when we started transition planning for our daughter, Julia, who has very complicated medical needs.

To inspire Julia's team to see past Julia's disability and diagnosis and appreciate her for who she is on another level - a level that highlights that she has interests, passions, skills and assets as well as challenges and struggles, we decided to create a "Personal Information Booklet" WITH Julia. It was our hope and dream to capture key information in one place, and - most importantly - capture it in a manner that is not only very person centered but also inviting to read. And when we shared Julia's booklet in many meetings

and conferences, we couldn't believe the extremely positive and enthusiastic responses we received.

Now, working as a Planning Booklet Coordinator for Family Support Institute of BC (FSI), my role is to create a free online tool which will allow other families to easily input a summary of the details of their child's "story" that they can use to create their own personalized booklets like Julia's. The goal of this project is to paint a picture that not only includes the necessary information but also the details that contributes to their loved one having a rich life with active participation in the community, a strong sense of contribution and a social life free from isolation.

DDA will host a workshop in Spring 2018 for families of school-age children. Stay tuned.



## COME AND JOIN US

DDA will host a workshop in Spring 2018 for families of school-age children. Stay tuned for details.

## Looking for a reliable and eager employee for your business?

Let Jobs West Employment Services help.

We match our candidates with your available positions. Onsite support is provided for the employer and the candidate until all job requirements are met. We maintain contact with the employee on a regular basis for any re-training or change in job requirements.

[www.jobswest.ca](http://www.jobswest.ca)



DIVERSITY AT WORK  
SINCE 1985







“  
...Richmond is a municipality that walks the talk about inclusion and offering opportunities to marginalized populations.  
”

## JOBS WEST EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Jobs West awarded the City of Richmond the Employer of the Year Award for developing a successful inclusive employment environment.

Over the past year, the City of Richmond has worked diligently with Jobs West to create and secure inclusive work placements. Started in 2016, the City of Richmond's inclusive employment program has placed several individuals in positions including light maintenance, café assistant, invoicing and cleaning. With these successful placements, the City of Richmond, exemplified leadership in creating an inclusive work environment to accommodate employment for individuals with disabilities.

“We are pleased to be honoring the City of Richmond as our Employer of the Year for 2017. This shows that Richmond is a municipality that walks the talk about inclusion and offering opportunities to marginalized populations.” Says Alanna Hendren, Executive Director of the Developmental Disabilities Association.

Since 1985, Jobs West has successfully placed hundreds of jobs seekers into employment by matching and coaching qualified candidates to employers by determining job requirements, and reviewing candidate skills, interest, abilities and preferences.

DDA congratulates the City of Richmond for showing leadership in hiring people with intellectual disabilities and learning the mutual benefits that hiring someone has on the workplace.



## JOBS WEST SPOTLIGHT



### Matthew at Waste Connections Canada

BY MCKENZIE HANNEWYK

We would like to congratulate Matthew on his new part time position with Waste Connections Canada. Matthew's close attention to detail and easygoing personality has made him a great match as an employee for the company's re-branding project. Way to go Matthew!



## JOBS WEST SPOTLIGHT



### Kevin at Old Navy

Congratulations to Kevin who obtained paid employment at Old Navy after a successful work experience. Kevin happily assists in several departments throughout the store, including customer care, folding and replacement of returned items. Kevin's enthusiastic personality allows for the perfect fit at Old Navy. Kevin maintains part time employment while attending classes at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. Well done, Kevin!

# DDA WELCOMES THE HEART TO HEART ORCHESTRA

BY TANYA CHEUNG

On September 15<sup>th</sup>, DDA welcomed the Heart to Heart Orchestra from Korea to perform at the Norman Rothstein Theatre. From Seoul, Korea, the Heart to Heart Orchestra was originally founded to provide music education opportunities to young people with developmental disabilities and they have been successfully performing around the world to improve social understanding about people with disabilities ever since. Supported by Korea's Heart to Heart Foundation, the Orchestra is part of their mission to look after marginalized children and their families who are living in poverty, with a disability or disease, "within the spirit of God's love and compassion", always working toward their vision of an inclusive society for all.

A treat to the eyes and the ears, the musical spectacle featured classics including Mozart's Overture to the Marriage of Figaro, as well as modern fan favourites including J. Williams' Superman Theme song. These musicians were a great example of our mission, overcoming obstacles and encouraging abilities in achieving their full potential as they practiced each song over 1,000 times, over 8 hours a day.

This was their first Canadian tour, but the Heart to Heart Orchestra has performed since 2006 at more than 600 public concerts at home and abroad. DDA was excited to be part of such an inspiring performance that promotes the abilities social inclusion with individuals with disabilities.

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE  
HEART TO HEART FOUNDATION**

visit their website at <http://heart-heart.org/en/>







# STARBURST

FAMILY SUPPORT GROUPS SPONSORED BY THE  
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ASSOCIATION

## VANCOUVER CHINESE SUPPORT GROUP

General support for children's and adult's issues  
in Cantonese and Mandarin.

**MEETING:** 3rd Saturday of the month  
from 6:30-8:30pm

**PLACE:** 4948 Fraser Street, Vancouver

**CHILD MINDING:** Available on site when  
requested at least one week in  
advance of meeting

**CONTACT:** [knowledgeaction@gmail.com](mailto:knowledgeaction@gmail.com)

## YOUTH IN TRANSITION

Support information for transition to adulthood.

**MEETINGS:** Saturday January 27th  
10:30am Workshop! Money  
Matters for People (Vancouver  
Resource Society, 2006 West  
10 Ave. Vancouver)

Saturday March 3rd, 2018  
at 10:30am Workshop!  
Technology and Apps (3455  
Kaslo St., Vancouver)

**CONTACT:** Liz Cochrane at [604-733-6252](tel:604-733-6252)  
[transitionparents@gmail.com](mailto:transitionparents@gmail.com)

## THE BREAKTIME GROUP

Support to families of all cultural backgrounds  
and languages.

**MEETING:** First Wednesday of the Month  
Starting January 3, 2018 from  
3:30 to 4:30pm

**PLACE:** 4948 Fraser St., Vancouver

**CONTACT:** Shixin Gao at [604-301-2831](tel:604-301-2831)  
[sgao@develop.bc.ca](mailto:sgao@develop.bc.ca)

## VIETNAMESE FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

Support to Families in Vietnamese

**MEETING:** Second Thursday of the Month  
6:30pm to 8pm

**PLACE:** 3455 Kaslo St., Vancouver

**CHILDMINDING:** Available on site when  
requested at least one week in  
advance of meeting

**CONTACT:** Nikki Tran at [778-895-2535](tel:778-895-2535)  
from 6:00 to 9:00pm

## JAPANESE FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

General support to families in Japanese

**MEETING:** Saturday January (TBD) from  
10am to 1pm

**PLACE:** 3455 Kaslo Street, Vancouver

**CONTACT:** Chigusa Barners at  
[chishebarners@msn.com](mailto:chishebarners@msn.com)



— JOIN US —

FOR THE DDA HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

MONDAY DECEMBER 4TH, 2017

AT THREE TO SEVEN O'CLOCK

HOSTED BY THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ASSOCIATION

SUITE 100 – 3851 SHELL ROAD, RICHMOND, BC V6X 2W2

RSVP – RONNIE AT [604.273.9778](tel:604.273.9778) OR [RSVP@DEVELOP.BC.CA](mailto:RSVP@DEVELOP.BC.CA) BY NOV 29, 2017

REFRESHMENTS & GIFT BASKET RAFFLE

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We welcome your comments and feedback. Kindly direct all comments and submissions to [communications@develop.bc.ca](mailto:communications@develop.bc.ca).