

FALL
2018

THE STAR



Developmental
Disabilities Association

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2018 CARF
ACCREDITATION

P. 02



DDA AWARDED CARF'S HIGHEST LEVEL OF ACCREDITATION FOR THE 5TH TIME

BY TERRY SCHENKEL

CARF's (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) on-site survey was conducted May 16-18, 2018 and identified the Association's strengths and conformance to international standards of practice. Based on an intensive three-day survey conducted by three CARF surveyors, DDA was awarded its fifth three-year certification, the highest level of accreditation awarded for excellence in service.

For those unfamiliar with CARF, it is an independent, non-profit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative process. It is an ongoing process that signals to the public that DDA is committed to continuous performance improvement, responsive to feedback, and accountable to the community and its stakeholders.

Quality assurance is an ongoing part of improving DDA's services. We're guided by provincial legislation, external licensing standards, and internal policies and procedures; however, DDA raises the standards of our own accountability through a variety of mechanisms such as surveys, informal listening, direct observation, collecting information, and client groups. Generally, the more ways we use to listen to clients, the better.

How does DDA do this? Throughout the year, senior management, program staff, clients, family members and guardians provide input and feedback to help examine practices and set goals for the future. These goals, objectives and action items are documented in several planning tools and continuously evaluated and updated.

As the lead surveyor, Alan Schilling stated during the exit summary: "An organization receiving a three-year accreditation has put itself through a rigorous peer review

process. It has demonstrated to a team of surveyors, through on-site visits, its commitment to offering programs and services that are measurable, accountable, and of the highest quality."

Surveyors thoroughly examined and evaluated all aspects of the Association including: DDA's management system, employment, residential, day programs, children's programs, policies and procedures, funding sources, and administrative organization to assess its compliance with CARF's international standards of performance.

Surveyors also interviewed DDA board members, staff, parents and guardians, clients, employers and business associates regarding DDA's services.

Of the 1,200 program service standards assessed, they had only six recommendations to make. In their final report, surveyors complimented DDA for its outstanding leadership, as well as its advocacy, innovation, strategic planning, and its ability to manage funds and maintain a stable financial position.



CARF noted that "the staff members are DDA's greatest asset. The staff members are spirited, motivated, and person-centred and have the clients' needs at the forefront of their services ...Team work and cooperation are evident throughout DDA."

"The community can be assured of DDA's accountability and high-level performance," said Executive Director, Alanna Hendren. "We are proud of the services we offer and congratulate our hard-working team members for their efforts in carrying out DDA's important mission so professionally and effectively."

"DDA has achieved significant benchmarks, service innovation, person-centred outcomes, and sustainability plans that culminate into quality services, increased access to services, and better lives overall," says Terry Schenkel, accreditation coordinator at DDA.

"The clients, staff, families and other stakeholders are to be congratulated on these accomplishments and being recognized by CARF as an outstanding service provider in the province of British Columbia."



DDA'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017-2018

BY KEVIN CHAN

The 66th Annual General Meeting was held on June 20, 2018. During the AGM, the annual report was presented to members of the Association, Board of Directors, staff, family and visitors.

Highlights from this year's annual report include:

- Infant Development Program served over 450 families this year;
- Child Development Centres supported 435 families including 88 spaces to serve children with special needs;
- Day Programs served over 100 participants and the Drop-In served 150 semi-independent participants;
- Jobs West supported 196 job seekers this year, with 52 of our candidates receiving jobs and 16 participated in work experiences;
- Residential Services continues to develop individual plans with residents, their networks, and staff. This year, the average goal attainment rate for all 80 individual residential plans was 94%;

You can read the 2018 Annual Report or view highlights of the report on our website at www.develop.bc.ca

At last year's AGM, we welcomed Aether, a collaborative service robot developed by JDQ. As part of this year's AGM, we brought back Aether and Jon Morris, President of JDQ.

Aether is now equipped with a 360-degree laser sensor that is able to accurately map out the room he is in. This allows him to navigate amongst obstacles such as walls and furniture. In addition, he is now able to recognize different faces and voices. Moving forward, Jon hopes that Aether will continue to develop and respond to physical gestures and increase his compatibility with databases for storing information.

After watching Aether demonstrate his new skills, members listened to all the reports presented, then enjoyed some time for networking, snacking and catching up with friends old and new.

As we continue to move forward into 2018, we will continue to overcome obstacles and encourage the abilities of the over 1,800 individuals and families that we serve.



INFANT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM RECEIVES DONATION FROM DONNELLAN FAMILY

BY KEVIN CHAN

On June 5, DDA received a generous donation towards the Infant Development Program (IDP) from William and Laura Donnellan. William, Owner of Donnellan's Irish Pub and Managing Director of IRL Construction, chose to make the donation as a way to give back to a program that assists families with children at risk for or already experiencing developmental delays.

IDP is a family-centred, home-based program serving children considered at risk for or already experiencing developmental delays from birth to three years of age. Through evidence-based interventions, consultations, and education, IDP promotes maximum development with families playing a vital role in every step.

William's family and their first child, an 11-month-old son named Iarla, received support from IDP after being recommended by the staff at the Women's and Children's Hospital in Vancouver. Iarla was born nine weeks early and weighed just over 3 lbs.

"The IDP staff have provided excellent service to us," said William. "We could not have asked for more. They would

come to our home at our convenience to ensure Iarla was reaching his maximum development."

Through lengthy and friendly consultations, the IDP staff have also assisted in educating William and his wife, Laura, about how they could further help Iarla's development: "Follow-up occurred regularly, and the genuine care and concern was evident," William shared.

"I would most definitely recommend IDP to others. I have already been doing this and will continue to do so."

We are happy to be able to positively support families like William, Laura and Iarla's, and look forward to continuing on our relationship with them.

To learn more about our infant development program, email us at vancouverIDP@develop.bc.ca

FOR MORE INFORMATION
email vancouverIDP@develop.bc.ca

DDA ART AT GRANVILLE ISLAND FARMERS MARKET

BY ETHEN MORK

Self-expression through art can capture the senses, and transport the mind to a meditative state, which has shown to be beneficial for reducing symptoms of anxiety.

At the Victoria Day Program, we empower individuals to express their artistic creativity in every project, ranging from painting on canvas, to building clay sculptures, to "Do-It-Yourself" crafts. This gives our participants an opportunity to express how they view their world, and relate to their surroundings. Other benefits of art projects include emotional exploration, social bonding experiences, and practicing fine motor skills. Many of our art projects are even used as decorations to help personalize the Victoria Day Program, creating an inviting atmosphere while encouraging clients' self-confidence as their hard work is on display for visiting peers and family to see.

New this summer, DDA hosted a booth at the Granville Island Farmer's Market. With the artist's permission, client submissions are presented for sale to the general public. The booth is operated by DDA's Art Instructor, Kim, as well as clients from various programs including the Victoria Day Program.



Volunteering at the Farmer's Market booth allows for clients to interact and take part in their community, while providing opportunities for customers to meet the artist behind the art piece they are buying. The proceeds from art sales directly support DDA clients to fund future art class endeavors, although a portion of proceeds goes directly to the artist.

"Creativity is contagious. Pass it on."

— Albert Einstein



THANK YOU!

This summer, we had **50 VOLUNTEERS** come out to **26 EVENTS** in the community including DDA Night at the Nat, the Vancouver Pride Parade, and more! We want to say a big 'thank you' to volunteers for handing out **31,000 MAGNETS** and allowing DDA to be a positive part of these great events.

Stay tuned and we hope to see you all at next summer's community events!



11TH ANNUAL NIGHT @ THE NAT BAILEY STADIUM

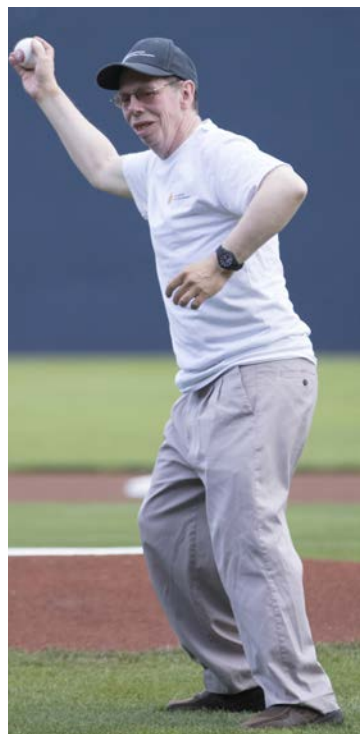
BY KEVIN CHAN

Our DDA Night at the Nat was a night of fun, laughter, and baseball! The annual event on June 27, saw clients, family, friends, and staff experience a night out at Nat Bailey Stadium to watch the Vancouver Canadians play some excellent baseball.

The highlight of the night was cheering on Jerome as he threw out the first pitch! Here are just some of the great moments that took place that night.

We look forward to seeing everyone again next year!







HOTELS GIVE CAREGIVERS A BREAK

BY TERRY SCHENKEL

We all need a break now and then, but there are people for whom the daily demands of life pose a particularly relentless set of challenges. They are the parents, siblings and sometimes extended family of children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Family members of children and adults with developmental disabilities often take on many roles: advocate, teacher, physical therapist, speech therapist, and advisor, in addition to the demands of going to work, running a household, and meeting friends for the occasional social event.

More than a decade ago, DDA launched the Respite program that provides family members with a free night at a local hotel. To many caregivers, nothing is better than a night of soaking in a tub, watching television, enjoying a meal, or reading a book in the undisturbed environment of a plush and luxurious hotel room.

Some family members send 'thank you' cards with words of appreciation such as:

"It was like winning the million dollar lottery. I was thinking of sleeping in my car when I received this night out."

"We had a great stay at the hotel. We missed the kids so much but we felt refreshed when we came home."

To be eligible, family members must live in Vancouver or Richmond. The person must be the primary caregiver to a person with a developmental disability, be a member of DDA, and receive support from any of the association's programs.

DDA is fortunate to have partnerships with several sponsoring hotels in Vancouver and Richmond.

For more information or to apply, please contact Terry Schenkel, Assistant Director of Family Support Services at 604-233-5433 or email him at tschenkel@develop.bc.ca

FOR MORE INFORMATION
contact Terry at tschenkel@develop.bc.ca

TECH REVIEW: DEMENTIA CLOCK ON iOS

BY KEEGAN O'TOOLE

Product: Dementia Clock

Cost: \$3.99 + tax

Category: App

Producer: Rogue Software

Compatibility: Apple iOS
on iPad only

Sub-Category: Support



Product Summary

Dementia Clock is an app designed by Rogue Software and is currently available for use on iPad only. The app has been marketed towards users with dementia and is intended to reduce confusion and anxiety by orienting users to the current day and time. It consists of two screens: a main display showing the time, day, and date in large font; and a recording screen where caregivers can record their own messages which play when the display screen is tapped. The clock is available in English, Portuguese, and Spanish, and has built-in voices available for selection. The default settings play two audio files back-to-back when the display screen is tapped, first speaking the day of the week followed by the time of day (morning, afternoon, or evening).

Highlights

- Easy to use and quickly learn how to personalize recordings;
- Able to lock users to display screen to prevent accidental changes to settings;
- Tap-to-hear feature makes this app accessible for a wide-variety of users, particularly those with visual impairments;
- Press-to-record feature to personalize messages, with a review button available on the settings screen, so that users can make changes as needed.

Lowlights

- Only works with the iPad screen turned on and unlocked. It is recommended by the developer to keep auto-lock turned off and iPad plugged in when in use;
- Limited recording options;
- Not possible to adjust time periods during which recordings play.

Star Ratings

Ease of use: Easy with Practice ★★★★★

Adaptability: Some Personalization Possible ★★★★★

Accessibility: Broad Range of Users Served ★★★★★

Cost vs. Value: Worthwhile Expense ★★★★★

Overall Rating: ★★★★★

This app has been undersold by developers. It has the potential to reach a much larger demographic of users including those with: dementia; executive functioning deficits; ADHD; anxiety; ASD; visual impairments; and more. Though the recording features are limited, a little outside-of-the-box thinking can quickly turn this app into an auditory first/then board or pre-loading tool: on the recording screen, tap the day to record a blank message and then use each of the morning/afternoon/evening buttons to record the day's activities (ex. "first shower, then breakfast"). For a more personal message, support staff can record greetings, words of encouragement, or even short, calm down routines. Range of use for this application is only limited to the creativity of the individual programming it. Camsell group home has been successfully using it with one individual who is visually impaired, with an accessibility switch. Trial-and-error experimentation will quickly show this app's potential. Further updates by the developer will hopefully improve the settings available, but as-is this app is an excellent tool to have in your toolbox.

CASH 4 CLOTHES CLOTHING



\$468
RAISED



CASH 4 CLOTHES DOES A GOOD TURN FOR THE SCOUTS

BY KATHY MONCALIERI

When the 3rd Cloverdale Scout Troop set a goal of \$40,000 for their trip to the 2017 Canadian Jamboree in Nova Scotia, many fundraising ideas were needed. After participating in a Cash 4 Clothes opportunity with my child's school Parent Advisory Council, I knew this would help the boys earn money as well as support Scouting's focus on environmental stewardship. DDA provided us with all of the promotional materials and bags so we could collect at Beaver, Cub and Scout meetings throughout the month of January. We also gathered clothing and houseware donations from the community during our Christmas tree chipping event held at a local

business. We filled 156 bags and brought in \$468 for the cause. Everyone involved was also thrilled to see a mountain of items that were headed for re-use instead of the landfill!

It's much easier to ask people to open their closets instead of their wallets and as a Scout parent, I was thankful that we were able to help the group lower the cost of the trip for families. In July 2017, 16 Scouts and 6 Leaders attended CJ'17 and had a memorable experience. Thank you to DDA Cash 4 Clothes for being among the donors that assisted them with that journey.

ING DRIVE

ABOUT CASH 4 CLOTHES

Cash 4 Clothes is a great way to raise money for your organization or team, and support children and adults with developmental disabilities. Here's how it works:



If you collect a minimum of 75 bags at one time, you will receive \$2 per bag.

If you collect over 150 bags at one time, you will receive \$3 per bag!

We'll come and pick up all the bags after you have completed your clothing drive.

We also accept housewares as part of our Cash 4 Clothes program. These items must be bagged separately and may include dishes, pots and pans, books and glassware. "Hard items" and "soft items" must be separated into two different bag colors. For a complete list of acceptable items, please visit our acceptable items list.

Register your group today and receive your Cash 4 Clothes starter kit, which includes donation bags and a Cash 4 Clothes poster to display at your school, team room or organization.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

please contact us at 604.233.5415
or at cash4clothes@develop.bc.ca

DDA IS
100%
NONPROFIT

100% Of the profits generated from your generous donations benefit the services and programs at Developmental Disabilities Association

GET OUT AND VOTE!



BY DDA SELF ADVOCACY GROUP

The 2018 municipal election is approaching and the DDA Self Advocacy Group wants to encourage everyone to exercise their right to vote, and choose the best candidates they see fit to lead Vancouver in the upcoming three years.

In Vancouver, we are looking to elect a mayor and 10 councillors to sit on City Council. We are also electing seven commissioners for the Parks Board and nine school trustees for the Vancouver School Board.

Advance voting takes place October 10 to 17 and general voting occurs on October 20, 2018. You can vote at any polling station across Vancouver and you can look online or ask a friend, family member or program staff where to find the locations. For Vancouver, information can be found here: <https://vancouver.ca/your-government/2018-election.aspx>

If you are 18 years or older, a Canadian Citizen and a BC resident, you can register to vote in person, over the phone or online. Please visit the Election BC website for more information: <https://elections.bc.ca/register-to-vote/>

There will be staff providing assistance for individuals with diverse needs, who need support in the process and provide any accessibility aids such as sip & puff devices, audio systems and magnification devices. If you have literacy challenges you also have the right to assistance.

This is your opportunity to have a voice in the direction Vancouver and other municipalities' takes, while strengthening the democratic process through your vote.



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!



Thumpers Patch
32160 George Ferguson,
Way Abbotsford



Gill Motors
2265 Windsor St,
Abbotsford

Any Car Auto
30960 Peardonville Rd,
Abbotsford

Mintu's Auto Towing/
Service
2191 Windsor St,
Abbotsford



**Good Luck Truck &
Trailer Repair**
28739 Fraswer Hwy,
Aldergrove

Aldergrove Mobile
Home Park
26892 Fraser Hwy,
Aldergrove

**Chu Asian Grocery
Market**
2907 272 St, Aldergrove



King Ed Pet Centre Ltd
7377 Kingsway, Burnaby

VAP Burnaby
5508 Imperial St, Burnaby



Heritage Middle School
7674 Stave Lake St,
Mission



Rexall Cloverdale
Unit 150 17475 Hwy 10,
Cloverdale



A & K Diesel Repair Ltd
17841 64th Ave,
Cloverdale



**Aroma Indian
Restaurant**
50 Queens St, Port Moody



Little Bang Kok
2335 St Johns St, Port
Moody



**Vancouver Brake &
Wheel**
3200 St Johns St, Port
Moody

Maple Florist
2503 St Johns St, Port
Moody

Cloverdale Concrete
23853 Fraser Hwy,
Cloverdale



B & B Truss
13236 76 Ave, Surrey



Hertz
7319 King George, Hwy
Surrey



**MJM Furniture
Warehouse**
8041 132 St, Surrey



Petro Canada
8745 Harvie Rd, Surrey



Westcraft Lighting Ltd
12988 84 Ave, Surrey



**Glassman Property
Management Inc**
700 Chilco St, Vancouver
6 lower mainland locations

Wave Devt Ltd
5520 Dunbar St,
Vancouver

**Ethiopian Orthodox
Church**
304 8th St, New
Westminster

LOCATE A BIN NEAR YOU AT www.develop.bc.ca



Carly at Fresh Prep

BY MCKENZIE HANNEWYK

Jobs West would like to congratulate Carly on her paid employment as a Prep Assistant and Packager at Fresh Prep!

Throughout her job search, Carly kept an open mind and attended various interviews with the help of her Employment Specialist. She played an active part in her job search and sometimes browsed positions online in her spare time.

In March, Carly completed a phone interview with Fresh Prep, a local company that provides meal prep delivery service. In the interview, she demonstrated motivation, friendliness and a willingness to learn. This landed Carly the position and a start date of March 13, 2018.

Since then, Carly has been working part-time at Fresh Prep for four months and reports that she likes her work hours and enjoys being part of a supportive team. Working at Fresh Prep has also allowed Carly to learn new recipes and try her hand at cooking the meals for herself at home. Great work Carly!

FAMILY SUPPORT & ADVOCACY WORKSHOP

OCT 24
7:00 - 8:30PM
FREE

SERVICES TO ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (STADD): What is a navigator and what do they do?

Hosted at: Developmental Disabilities Association, 3455 Kaslo Street, Vancouver

- Navigators develop partnerships with other formal and informal agencies so young people have the support of effective teams during their transition to adulthood.
- They support individuals to achieve their goals and help connect them to the services that can support a positive transition.
- STADD partners include MCFD, CLBC, schools and school districts, health authorities, and WorkBC



PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED BY OCTOBER 19, 2018

To register, contact Terry Schenkel, Assistant Director, DDA Family Support Services at 604.233.5433 or tschenkel@develop.bc.ca

WEAVING ENRICHING EXPERIENCES INTO COMMUNITY LIVING

BY KEEGAN O'TOOLE

Last year, DDA received a vintage Leclerc 4-harness loom as a donation for use within our activity and engagement programming. Over the past 6 months, volunteers from the Greater Vancouver Weavers' & Spinners' Guild have generously given their time and expertise to assemble, repair, and install the loom at our Arlington group home in what has been coined the 'Loom Room'.

President of the guild, Susan Irwin, along with guild member Jeansen Co and her husband, Salvador Co Ling, worked from disassembled parts that arrived on-site to identify the loom and find assembly instructions to rebuild it. As this particular loom had been well-loved and well-used by its previous owners, many pieces needed replacement, cleaning, and repairs before assembly could be completed.

Not only was the team extremely enthusiastic in taking on a challenging task that will give new opportunities and experiences for DDA residents, but they also connected the staffing team with educational resources: sharing their knowledge, community connections, and even donating a collection of weaving-related books, which have become the foundations of a weaving library at the site.

Weaving has shown itself to be a therapeutic tool for individuals recovering from injury or illness. It encourages both gross and fine motor movements (including complex coordination between feet and hands), can be used as a self-regulatory tool with its predictable, repetitive movements, and teaches a number of personal development skills including step-by-step task completion, which can be applied to daily life-skill activities.

DDA would like to extend a huge thank-you to the Greater Vancouver Weavers' & Spinners' Guild, and to our wonderful volunteers for supporting the development of enriched experiences within our residential programs. More information about the guild can be found on their website: <http://www.gvws.org/>



GREATER VANCOUVER

Weavers' & Spinners' Guild

since 1935



HENRIK CLEANING UP THE WEST DYKE AT BLUNDELL

BY RATNAM MATHUR

Here comes Henrik with his trash tongs, high viz vest and a keen desire to clean up his favourite walking trail - The West Dyke at Blundell Road. He has been cleaning the trail twice a week since June 2016.

He likes to see dogs walking every Wednesday and Saturday evening. As soon as he comes home he says "So where shall we go now?"

One can often see a grin at the corner of his lips when he suddenly spots a squirrel or a skunk along his stroll. His ways are sometimes meandering as if he's following a rabbit's path or could just be a saunter while enjoying the sunny afternoon. He often walks fast paced long strides when he wants to release energy.

Overall, it is a much anticipated activity for Henrik and he is very excited to walk his chosen trail.

His housemates and staff are so proud of him, as well as his family.



JOBS WEST SPOTLIGHT



Ian at Home Depot

BY ADRIENNE LEE

Ian de Vries has been with Jobs West since November 2016, as part of the WorkBC program. With our lead partner Avia Employment Services, Jobs West provides customized employment in Richmond.

During our assessment process, Ian demonstrated his abilities and interest to work in a warehouse environment. With Ian's involvement in Special Olympics, it was evident Ian enjoys physical activity and building relationships. With the assistance of Jobs West, Ian has completed workshops in resume building and interview skills. This training helped Ian develop confidence to successfully land a position as a Lot Associate at Home Depot.

Ian has been working at Home Depot for nine months. It is always a new and exciting day at Home Depot. Ian is kept busy greeting and assisting customers to find items and helping customers move heavy items from their carts into their cars.

Ian always provides a great customer service experience with his big smile and willingness to help every customer that walks through the door. Awesome work Ian!



DARTMOOR'S WHISTLER TRIP

BY WILSON LAW

On July 11, three of our Dartmoor residents, Laurie, Sherry, and Philip and staff members went on a day trip to Whistler. The weather was beautiful.

We got up bright and early and drove along the scenic Sea-to-Sky highway. We stopped at Squamish and took the gondola to the top of the mountain. This was the first time that Laurie, Sherry, and Philip have been on a gondola. What a great experience it was for everyone! Both ladies held onto the staff tightly as they enjoyed the mountain view.

The weather was perfect! Everyone had lots of fun and we took some great photos at the top of the mountain.

DDA cordially invites you to our

Art Show

in honour of
Bill "Red Hat" Adams

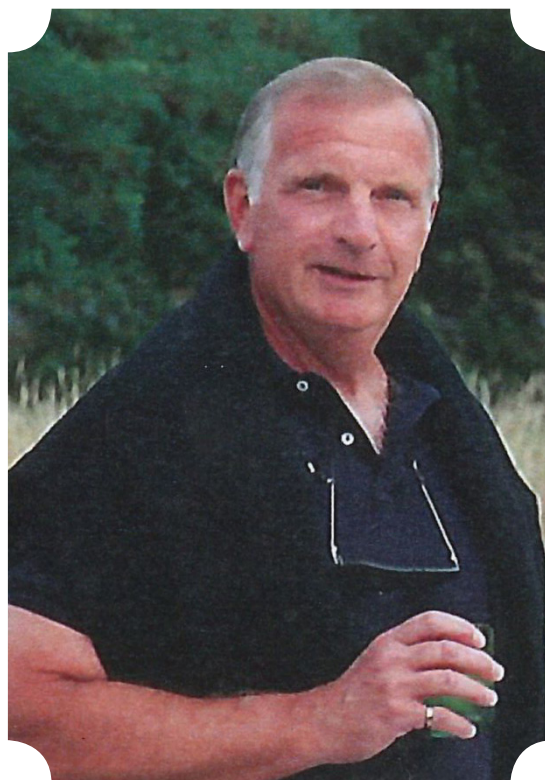
Featuring artwork from over 65 DDA artists.

October 16, 2018, 4:30PM - 8:00PM

Roundhouse Community Centre
181 Roundhouse Mews, Vancouver, BC
Parking underground or half a block
from Roundhouse Canada Line Station

Wine & Cheese will be served.

Please RSVP at
rsvp@develop.bc.ca



congratulations!



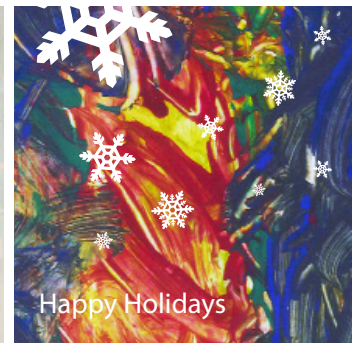
CELEBRATING STAFF MILESTONES AT OUR ANNUAL STAFF APPRECIATION

BY KEVIN CHAN

Every year, DDA celebrates our hardworking staff for their years of service. Over 60 of our dedicated staff celebrated 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and even 35 year anniversaries! This year, Kim Almond celebrated her 35th year of service with DDA – what an achievement!

We are very thankful to each and every one of our staff members for their continuous effort in making DDA a great place to work and also for providing excellent service to our clients and their families.

CALL FOR HOLIDAY ARTWORK



DDA is looking for **winter-themed** holiday artwork to feature in our 2018 holiday greeting card!

Please submit all artwork by
NOVEMBER 23, 2018
to communications@develop.bc.ca
Subject line: Holiday Artwork Submission

Ever wonder what it's like to work at DDA? We have interviewed staff throughout our organization to give you an insider's perspective on what it's like to be part of our team!

View the entire collection by visiting www.develop.bc.ca/blog and if these inspire you to help others to grow and thrive at home, at work, and in the community, join our team today! www.develop.bc.ca/jobs.

CREATING MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS: PETER'S 35 YEARS AT THE DDA

BY JIYOON HA

Last year, DDA celebrated 35 years of Peter Kurliak's work with us. Currently, he is a Community Support Worker, supporting clients to achieve their goals for activities like paddle boating, caring for their own community garden, and more.

Prior to his position at his current day program location, he held a 10-year stint as a manager. Before becoming a manager, he was a care worker at another day program, which he had joined straight out of university.

Having worked a number of summers during his university years as a child support worker, he fell into his career at DDA: "This is the first job that I had," Peter revealed. "Within the first week, I knew this was for me. I liked it so much that I just decided to stay."

We spoke with Peter about what he liked about DDA to stay for more than 35 years, and what motivates him in a job that has no 'typical' day.

Was there a specific connection that happened in that first week that made you feel this way?

Well, my first client and I had a bond right away. I just liked the fact that we were trying to help people to be the best they could be. I thought that was special, and that's why I never really wanted to do anything else.

And you and your client have had that bond for 35 years?

35 years. I was gone for ten years working as a manager, but I kept in touch with him because he's special to me. When I decided I wasn't going to manage anymore, I really wanted to come to this location. I was really lucky, because at the time, there was an opening, and I got it.

Can you walk us through a typical day of work here?

We get here in the morning at 7:30 a.m., we have our staff meeting. The guys start coming around between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. Before they arrive, we do what we have to do: set aside time for paperwork, and programming for ICSPs (Individual Client Services Plan) which outline goals set by our clients.

Then we have our morning outing: in the winter, we're swimming and skating, and in the summer, we do paddleboarding, sailing, gardening. Then we come back for lunch, which is 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. And then we do our afternoon outing, then we get the guys ready to go

home. Then we usually have a brief staff meeting to go over the events of the day.

I guess there isn't a "typical" day, per se.

Every day is different. That's what the afternoon meeting is for: if something happens, we talk about it, and figure out a solution together. Or somebody's done something unexpected, then we talk about that too.

- to paddleboarding, and it was great to see him do what he wanted to do.

Would you say that helping the clients reach their goals is one of the most fulfilling parts of the job?

Yeah. It's very fulfilling. For someone starting out in this job, I'd say that's one of the greatest things about the job. Not only are you helping people achieve their goals,



What would you say motivates you to do what you do?

The clients motivate me. I don't want to say they're special and heroes and stuff, because I think that's taking away from them a little bit. They're normal people and it's nice to interact with them on that level. I respect that they are adults and have their own wishes. You have to respect that. It's very motivating: the ICSPs are motivating because they tell us what they want.

We do our best to achieve them, and to see them achieve a goal is very rewarding. Like yesterday, we took a group - and for one of the guys it was his very first time

but you're seeing them achieve their goals everyday. Like yesterday was a great day: Our clients were on the water, and they were so happy.

For sailing, the staff put it in the ICSPs because they thought that the clients would really benefit from it, and one of them really didn't want to do it. But that client's key worker coaxed her into it, even went on the boat with her, and the client actually really enjoyed it. Now she goes every year.

Read the rest of the interview plus other staff interviews at www.develop.bc.ca/blog

FAMILY SUPPORT GROUPS IN VANCOUVER

Our Family Support Groups meet monthly in Vancouver. It's a great opportunity to come hear an interesting speaker and connect with other parents. DDA contributes a space for meetings, handouts, meeting ideas, childcare, and more.

VANCOUVER CHINESE SUPPORT GROUP

General support for children & 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

VIETNAMESE FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

Support to Families in Vietnamese

MEETING: Second Thursday of the Month from 6:30pm to 8pm
PLACE: 3455 Kaslo Street Vancouver
CHILD MINDING: Available on site when requested at least one week in advance of meeting
CONTACT: Nikki Tran at 778-895-2535 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm

FIRST STEP JAPANESE FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

General support to Families in Japanese

MEETING TIME TOPIC
 June 16, 2018 "What is Speech Language Pathology?"
 10:30am-1:30pm **in Japanese**
PLACE: 3455 Kaslo Street Vancouver
CONTACT: firststepcanada@outlook.com

YOUTH IN TRANSITION

Support information for transition to adulthood.

MEETING: Wednesday October 3 and December 5
 Topic for October 3: Welcome Back!
PLACE: Developmental Disabilities Association - 3455 Kaslo Street Vancouver
MEETING: Saturday November 3 at 10:30am
PLACE: Vancouver Resource Society, 2006 West 10 Avenue Vancouver
CONTACT: Liz Cochrane 604-733-6252 or transitionparents@gmail.com

LOWER MAINLAND JAPANESE FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

General support to Families in Japanese

MEETING TIME TOPIC
 Sept 29, 2018 Transition Planning for Youth
 10:30am-1pm
 Oct 27, 2018 Dental Hygiene
 10:30am-1pm
 Jan 26, 2019 Socialization and Sexuality
 10:30am-1pm
PLACE: 3455 Kaslo Street Vancouver
CONTACT: Chigusa Barnes at chishebarnes@msn.com

UPSIDE DOWN FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

Support to Families with Children with Down Syndrome


MEETING: Fourth Saturday of each month
NORTH VANCOUVER LOCATION: September, November 1:15 - 3:15pm
Maplewood House
 399 Seymour River Place
VANCOUVER LOCATION: October, December 10:00-Noon
Vancouver IDP Playroom
 3455 Kaslo Street
CONTACT: Aileen Mellors at amluyt@gmail.com or Shixin at 604-301-2831 or sgao@develop.bc.ca

VISIT OUR SOCIAL MEDIA SITES

TO FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING AT DDA AND IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

 **FACEBOOK:** facebook.com/dda604

 **TWITTER:** twitter.com/dda604

 **YOUTUBE:** youtube.com/dda604

PLUS FIND US ON YELP, GOOGLE, BING AND FACEBOOK AND DROP US A REVIEW IF DDA HAS HELPED YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!

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**Developmental
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We welcome your comments and feedback. Kindly direct all comments and submissions to communications@develop.bc.ca.