



Canadian Hard of Hearing Association BC Youth Peer Support Program

Third Annual Report – 2015/2016

History & Mission

The Peer Support Program was found in 2012 by Bowen Tang & Joy Gong, who both have profound hearing losses. The Program's mission is to support deaf and hard of hearing (DHOH) youth in their navigation of academic and social lives in secondary and post-secondary institutions. We aim to create a platform where DHOH youth can be empowered to foster active leadership, provide peer support, advocate and promote hearing awareness in their communities.

Website: <http://www.chha-bc.org/youthpsp>

This past year marks the launch of our program website, with many thanks to Stephanie at CHHA-BC office in setting it up. A webmaster/researcher was hired in February, who has been making strides in transforming the layout of the website and uploading its content with various information:

- Blog series on mental health and hearing loss
- “*Hearing Aids and You*” brochure, emphasizing the importance of amplification
- Quotes of the week
- Repost of stories/videos from external links

We will soon be releasing a pamphlet on Hearing Loss in a Workplace, highlighting the legal rights and process in requesting accommodation.

BC Buddies

We have relaunched our Mix n’ Mingle event, which is now referred as BC Buddies. Two events were held on:

- February 20th at Children’s Hearing & Speech Centre of BC in Vancouver and,
- April 30th at BC Family Hearing Resource Society in Surrey.

A total of 24 students came from different parts of the Lower Mainland: Vancouver, North Vancouver, Pitt Meadows, and Surrey. Check [here](#) and [here](#) for the reflection posts on our website.

Feedback from parents and students included:

1. *“I was just happy to have had the opportunity for [my daughter] to be able to make these connections”*
2. A parent responded that her daughter had found a new friend and they arranged a playdate shortly after the event – *“[She] made a new friend. They exchanged phone numbers and [her friend] actually happens to be at our house today.”*
3. *“The favourite part of the afternoon for me was bringing my granddaughter from not wanting to be there and not wanting me to leave TO “bye Grandma, I met a new friend”. It was a big relief. And the pizza, ice cream and games in and out was great.”*



Canadian Hard of Hearing Association BC Youth Peer Support Program

Post-Secondary Transition Workshop

We continued to work in partnership with the following agencies on the delivery of post-secondary workshops:

- Post-Secondary Communication Access & Services (PCAS),
- Provincial Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (PDHHS), and
- Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WIDHH)

A total of 4 workshops were delivered between February and April, reaching close to 100 people, comprised of students, parents, and professionals, including those residing in Kelowna. Click [here](#) to read the reflection post on the Kelowna workshop.

Mentorship Referrals

Requests to us have been made from teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing. Three were processed in the past year:

1. Delta – connected a Grade 12 student with one of our mentors with regards to programs at SFU.
2. Vancouver – 2 separate referrals in meeting with a Grade 6 and Grade 8 student to discuss challenges experienced involving deaf and hard of hearing identity

We also received a request to recruit young adults in volunteering for a sports day at a local public school district, organized for their deaf and hard of hearing students.

Future Plans

- Establishment of an interactive forum on the website (digital pen pal format)
- Expansion of BC Buddies event to include Kelowna and Victoria
- Continuation of Post-Secondary Transition Workshops in partnership with local agencies
- Recruitment of young adult volunteers to assist with program logistics and mentorship

Lastly, we would like to thank Caldor Foundation whose funds enable us to continue providing the aforementioned services.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bowen Tang, M.E.D.



Joy Gong, B.A, B.Ed.
Co-Founders
Submitted on May 14th, 2016