



Canadian Hard of Hearing Association BC Youth Peer Support Program

Sixth Annual Report – June 2018 to May 2019

Mission: To create a platform where DHH youth can be empowered to foster active leadership, provide peer support, advocate and promote hearing awareness in their communities

BC Buddies

We continued to host 3 get-togethers, each time under a specific theme: BC Buddies Bake Off, Lazer Tag Extravaganza, and Heritage Farms Visit. The fall event attracted a record-breaking of 18 participants. Altogether, there were 42 participants from Lower Mainland, Fraser Valley, with one coming out all the way from Victoria!



“Challenge Life” Youth Retreat – March 8th to 10th 2019, Timberline Ranch



We hosted our first youth weekend retreat: “Challenge Life”. We had participants ranging from ages 15 to 30 years old, who travelled from Abbotsford, Burnaby, Chilliwack, Kamloops, Maple Ridge, Nelson, Surrey, and Vancouver. The retreat was an opportunity to connect with each other, remind us that we are not alone in our daily challenges and share in each other’s determination and success.

Workshops

UBC Mix n’ Mingle Night (“Spend Less, Save More”) – November 6th, 2018

Continuing the partnership with UBC Centre for Accessibility, we had the pleasure of having Clovis Chung, who presented on the basics of financial planning, providing tips on minimizing the expenses saving money needed to purchase hearing assistive and communication devices.

“Navigate Your Way to Success” Webinar

Nicole Leung, workshop coordinator, completed the webinar series, which consist of informational video and interviews with 6 young adults on their career journeys. The webinar is viewable here: <https://youtu.be/NY5HdnHy6A4>. Since February, the series garnered 400 views.

Outreach Activities

We had a very successful first year with our outreach initiative aimed to bring our services to different areas of the province. Activities included visual communication strategies (e.g., Picture Line instead of Telephone Line game), a Dutch game called *Geroezemoes* which requires students to practice assertiveness, and a cabinet brainstorming session on empowerment.

- February 1st – North & West Vancouver: 16 students from Grades 4 to 8
- February 2nd – Prince George: 8 families comprised of 8 DHH children
- May 10th – Comox Valley/Nanaimo/Port Alberni: 20 elementary & secondary students
- May 16th – Kamloops: ~30 participants

Young Adult Socials

We offered monthly socials with activities ranging from Halloween Corn Maze, Paint & Wine Night, Christmas Party, Karaoke Night, and most recently a trip to Chilliwack Tulip Festival.



Online Resources – we published 4 Young Adult Spotlight [profiles](#) and 15 [blogs](#):

- *Living Life Independently Series*: [The Home](#), [Getting Around](#), [Emergencies](#)
- [Back to School...Are you all set?](#)
- *Dating and Relationships: Myths Debunked!* [Part 1](#) & [Part 2](#)
- [What Audiologists are Thinking \(at least three of them\)](#)
- *Travel Series*: [Experience the Dutch Way](#) & [Exploring Accessibility at Museums](#)
- [7 Embarrassing Moments That Happened in Real Life](#)
- [New York, New York...the greatest city in the world](#)
- [Winter is Coming](#)
- [Wait, do I sound different? The “Deaf Accent”](#)
- *Tech Talk Series*: [Skype and My Call-To-Text](#) & [The Podcast Struggle](#)

Referrals

We have received a total of 14 direct requests through emails and Facebook for information, one-to-one support or invitation to organize an activity in their local area.

Staffing

- Directors: Bowen Tang & Joy Gong
- BC Buddies Coordinator: Jessica Niemela
- Workshop Coordinator: Nicole Leung
- Young Adult Social Coordinator: Tasha Cox
- Technical Writer: Monique Les
- Webmaster: Andrew Tjia



Canadian Hard of Hearing Association BC Youth Peer Support Program

SUMMARY OF SERVICES

Activity	# of DHH population served (2018/19)	# of DHH population served (2017/18)
BC Buddies	42	36
Challenge Life Youth Retreat	18	17 (Family Weekend Camp)
Workshops: UBC Mix & Mingle Night + Post-Secondary Transition	47	51
Outreach Events	74	12
Young Adult Socials	30	-
Referrals & Requests	14	16
TOTAL	225	132

Acknowledgements

We would like to take a moment to thank the following people and agencies who contributed their time and space to support the program from 2018-19:

- Dr. Marilyn Dahl – offering valuable advice to the program
- CHHA BC office (Courtney, Stephanie, Viviana) – providing administrative support
- Renee Fong – BC Buddies volunteer
- Accurate Realtime Inc. – providing accessibility at workshops and youth retreat
- Children’s Hearing and Speech Centre of BC – providing a venue for BC Buddies

We would also like to acknowledge the donors whose contribution have made all the activities possible:

- Acoustic Wear
- BC Gaming Grant
- Caldor Foundation
- CHHA Foundation
- CHHA North Shore Branch
- Dr. Christina Wong Inc.

Respectfully submitted,

Bowen Tang & Joy Gong
Co-Founders & Co-Directors
CHHA-BC Youth Peer Support Program
chhbcypsp@gmail.com
May 11th 2019