



# Canadian Hard of Hearing Association BC Youth Peer Support Program

## Sixth Annual Report – June 2019 to May 2020

**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

### Family Weekend Camp – September 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019

The biannual Family Weekend Camp took place at Camp Jubilee, located in the Indian Arm near Deep Cover, British Columbia. The camp is free of cost for all hard of hearing participants.

Due to the popular demand in 2017, we increased the capacity to 60 people, which were filled up quickly. There were 20 hard of hearing children, 12 siblings, 26 parents and 2 Program Leaders.



Overall 17 families participated in the camp, with two coming all the way from Vancouver Island. We were able to make the camp accessible to 3 families who are not able to afford the cost by providing subsidies.

### BC Buddies

We hosted 4 get-togethers including an inaugural event in the Okanagan region! There were a total of 43 participants attending the events.

- Oct 2019 – Corn Maze & Pumpkin Patch in Chilliwack
- Nov 2019 – Bake Off in Kamloops
- Feb 2020 – 4Cats Studio Collage Party in Surrey
- Apr 2020 – Science Exploration in Vernon  
(cancelled due to COVID19)



## Workshops

### *Empowering Girls of Tomorrow* (Nov 2019)

We launched a new educational session, aimed to teach girls and young women on self-protection and mental wellness. An introduction to basic job rights for people with disabilities was given as well. It was very inspirational to see participants actively engaging with each other and sharing their wisdom on defending against abusive relationships, practicing mindfulness, and pursuing their career passions!



Nicole Leung and Diane Cervantes were the main speakers. Other guest speakers include:

- Felicia D'Amato, Deaf Well Being Program
- Elissa Robb, Wavefront Centre for Communication Accessibility
- Deepi Leihl, All Access Pass Host, CiTR Radio UBC

### *UBC Mix n' Mingle Night* (Nov 2019)

Continuing the partnership with UBC Centre for Accessibility, We had a Q&A session where UBC DHH students had a chance to meet some members of CHHA Young Adults Network, shared experiences navigating communication challenges, using technology, tips on employment and value of being part of the HOH community.

## Outreach Activities

- Aug 2019 – BC & Alberta Tour: in partnership with CHHA YAN, embarked on a road trip and met with local HOH youth in Kamloops, Trail, Nelson, BC and Calgary, AB
- Sep 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – Family Adventure Camp @ Prince George: at the invitation of Northern BC Children and Families Hearing Society (NBC-CFHS), led a panel of HOH young adults to share their experiences with families in Northern BC region
- Apr 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020– Technology Workshop @ Prince George, in partnership with NBC-CFHS (**cancelled due to COVID19**)
- May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Outreach Event @ Vancouver Island (**cancelled due to COVID19**)

We also had several opportunities to represent the Peer Support Program and promote accessibility awareness on public platforms:

- Jul 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019– All Access Pass, CiTR Radio @UBC Vancouver
- Feb 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – BC Camping Conference Presentation, *Fostering Inclusion Through Communication Accessibility* @ Chilliwack
- May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 – VOICE Conference Presentation @ Toronto (**cancelled due to COVID19**)

**Geroezemoes** - <https://www.chha-bc.org/youthpsp/geroezemoes/>

With the blessing of the game creator, we were able to print and distribute this valuable educational game which focuses on building communication and advocacy skills. Each game costs \$20.00 to cover printing and shipping costs. A total of 50 copies were made, picking up interest from 5 public school districts.

**Online Resources** – <https://www.chha-bc.org/youthpsp/resources/>

- We published 5 Young Adult Spotlights and 17 blogs. This year we had guest contributors, Jennifer Brown (CHHA-NL) and Karina Cotran from Hearing Differently.
- We also provided consultation to a resource [\*Navigating Medical School with Hearing Loss\*](#), which was created by Allison Lui.
- In response to COVID-19, we developed a simplified resource [\*Making Online Learning Accessible for DHH Students\*](#).

**Social Media**

We currently have 240 likes and 270 followers on our Facebook page. On average we have 100+ page visits on our website.

**Volunteers**

We are thrilled to see a spike in the number of volunteers acquired in the past year. There are now a total of 8 volunteers in addition to the core PSP team. Two trainings took place, one in Jul 2019 and one in Jan 2020, which we focused on brainstorming activity ideas, planning events, handling communication and conflict resolution. A training manual was developed for this purpose.

**Staffing**

- Directors: Bowen Tang & Joy Gong
- BC Buddies Coordinator, Lower Mainland: Renee Fong
- BC Buddies Coordinator, Okanagan Region: Jessica Niemela
- Workshop Coordinator: Nicole Leung
- Young Adult Social Coordinator: Tasha Cox & Riana Mulligan
- Marketing and Social Media Coordinator: Jessica Girard
- Administrative Assistant/Technical Writer: Monique Les
- Webmaster: Andrew Tjia

**SUMMARY OF SERVICES**

Activity	# of DHH population served (2019/20)	# of DHH population served (2018/19)
BC Buddies	43	42
Family Weekend Camp	58	18 (Challenge Life Youth Retreat)
Workshops	26	47
Outreach Events	45	74
Referrals & Requests	14	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>195</b>

**Note:** Due to program disruption caused by COVID19, we were not able to exceed the target from the previous year.

## STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENSES – as of May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020

### *Incomes*

<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Leftover funds from 2018-19	\$12,489.11
Caldor Foundation (July 2019 to June 2020)	\$8000.00
BC Buddies Registration Fee	\$290.00
Geroezemoes Revenue	\$40.00
Family Weekend Camp Registration Fee	\$2560.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$23,379.11</b>

### *Expenses*

<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Admin costs	\$19.58
Admin – PayPal expenses	\$57.60
BC Buddies	\$769.49
CART Services	\$1059.05
Empowering Girls of Tomorrow (Food & Supplies)	\$164.50
Mix n’ Mingle Night (Food & Supplies)	\$89.65
Outreach Expenses	\$71.50
Young Adult Socials	\$215.89
Volunteer Orientation/Training	\$262.55
Technical Writer Remuneration	\$2700.00
Honorarium	\$250.00
Sponsorship – PCAS Workshop	\$98.24
Sponsorship – Family Weekend Camp	\$240.00
Travel – VOICE Conference	\$331.96
Geroezemoes printing + shipping	\$875.22
Family Weekend Camp 2019	\$8256.18
Family Weekend Camp 2020 initial deposit	\$2192.40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$17,653.81</b>

**Incomes – Expenses = \$5725.3 (surplus)**

### **Acknowledgements**

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

- BC Gaming Grant
- Caldor Foundation
- CHHA Foundation
- CHHA North Shore Branch

Respectfully submitted,

Bowen Tang  
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CHHA-BC Youth Peer Support Program  
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May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020