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Richmond Centre for Disability

February 2023

Perspective

Newsletter

for RCD Donors

A night to remember – The RCD 2022 fundraising gala.

I believe that most would likely agree that the weekend of the United Nation's International Day of People with Disabilities (Dec. 3) was the perfect time to gather to celebrate the RCD and to raise funds to continue our work in 2023. This year's UN Day theme spoke of transformation (transformative solutions), inclusiveness, and accessibility. All these commitments dove-tail beautifully with the Centre's vision to help our members to maximize their independence.



Their individual experiences with increased independence as seen by riding to RCD on the HandyDART rather than with family member, is transformative for many. From time-to-time our Life Skills course

will include a class on accessing accessible transit in its various forms, and I can tell you from experience that bus pass info is a popular information and referral request. Our staff work to facilitate inclusiveness as the member so chooses.

The Centre's 2022 fundraising gala itself, on Dec. 2) was a grand evening featuring local singing stars like RCD's Samantha Siu and the international singing sensation Brenda Lo, who is a renowned performer, DJ and radio host in Vancouver. Both ladies entertained the crowd with both Chinese and English language songs. Also welcome at the event were the kind words of support shared by representatives from all levels of government and of course YOU who supported us by

buying a ticket and attending the dinner or donating tickets. Thank you too for buying raffle and 50/50 tickets, and for bidding on the silent auction items.



Acknowledgement is also due to the hard-working and amazing staff of the Continental Seafood Restaurant who kept plate after plate of ocean delicacies coming our way.

During the evening \$18,872 was raised to put toward offering services for people with disabilities. An additional \$14,655.00 was received in event sponsorship and donations.

Expand your wardrobe and support the RCD - T-shirts on sale now!

Beside tickets for the 50/50 draw, raffle and auction another popular item for sale was the "Together We Care" themed t-shirt which was designed by contest winner, Caroline Li. She won the contest in October 2022 that sought graphics for the inaugural RCD fundraising t-shirt. If



you have not yet bought your shirt, you can do so now. They come in a variety of sizes and are \$25 each. Encourage your family and friends to get one and help to spark the first 2023 fashion trend. You can pick up your shirts at RCD.

RCD's 2022 online fundraising concert: Many different flavours for your musical palate.



Almost as if planned as an appetizer for the musical talent on display at RCD's 2022 fundraising gala was the amazing array of talent highlighted through our 2022 online fundraising concert which aired on YouTube on October 21, 2022. Performances were offered by the BC Philharmonic Society, Elsa Wong and Mayor Malcolm Brodie, the Vancouver Formosan Singers and more. Thank you to all who supported this special evening by watching and donating to support the services of the RCD. Thank you, too, to all the performers for the generous donation of their time and talent. This event has raised \$19,200 for the Centre.

Hot enough to melt the ice



On November 16-19, 2022, we saw the return of our annual wheelchair Bonspiel at the Richmond Curling Club. After missing it for 3 years, Team Canada National Program – Red team won first place (Gold Medal) and the Canadian White team finished in fourth place. The Korean team won the silver medal, and the USA team took the bronze. This event would not be possible without the generous support of sponsors such as the City of Richmond, and Government of British Columbia's Hosting BC Grant. Also essential were the many volunteers who worked during the event. Thank you!

Happy trails to you... Until we meet again

Did you know that there is someone who has worked at RCD nearly as long as Ella? If you guessed Eileen, then you are right! Eileen retired and left the RCD at the end of December 2022. As Executive Assistant, Payroll Officer and general purse string holder, Eileen's shoes have been hard to fill. In fact, it has taken two trainees to do



so. Prior to her departure Eileen carefully schooled Anne & Artem in their new roles. For the time being though, don't look for Eileen in Richmond. In their wheelchair accessible motorhome, she and her husband Peter are heading to the southern states for Mardi Gras and Mexico for margaritas. Among many other qualities, Eileen's eagle eyes will be missed by me (Louise) in the regular proof reading of the Donor's Newsletter. Thank you, Eileen, for all your past help.

Welcome Anne and Artem

The Centre has scored a Triple A rating with Anne and Artem joining the Administrative/Bookkeeping Team. As our new Bookkeeping and Administrative Assistants Anne will apply a scientist's eye to the banking numbers and Artem brings some bookkeeping experience along with his CRM background to payroll and reports.



Holidays offers 2 RCD members short-term seasonal employment success!

RCD members Josephine F. and Priscilla K. were both able to spread a little holiday cheer while earning some extra cash. Both ladies worked as Kettle Hosts during the Richmond Salvation Army's 2022 Christmas Kettle Campaign. Josephine worked an average 28 hours a week and was stationed at Walmart and elsewhere. Priscilla worked several shifts in front of the RiverRock.

Josephine says that one of her favourite memories about working for the Salvation Army this season was seeing how generous people were to the Salvation Army. Prior to her seasonal employment, Josephine was an enthusiastic participant in our Work or Community participation Class (WORCC)/ Job Club. Priscilla says she especially enjoyed being able to work where there were decorations for the festive season. She is an active job seeker with RCD's SIL Project. Your on-going support helps to keep our employment and pre-employment projects available to members.

A big shout out goes to the Salvation Army who are committed to offering people with disabilities the opportunity to work during the holiday season.



Thank you, Royal Bank of Canada (RBC)

Once again, RBC continues to show its support of the Richmond Centre for Disability and the Supports for Independent Living (SIL) in particular. On January 16, 2023, Branch Manager Weiping Yi and members of his team came by the Centre to present us with a cheque for \$20,000! They spent time speaking with some of our SIL participants. The Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) has contributed toward RCD programming for the past 15 years.



That's a wrap.

Speaking of Christmas, Lansdowne Mall again graciously offered to allow us to staff the seasonal gift-wrapping booth next to the customer service desk. Each year the charity that mans the booth receives the proceeds. This year holiday shoppers were very supportive of the RCD. Between December 1 and 24, 2022, they spent \$3,615 to wrap their gifts!



Thrift Store News



The on-going success of our little thrift shop is thanks to the amazing team who looks after it. It seems new donations are always being sorted and the public appears to enjoy the treasure hunt. In 2022, the thrift store generated \$37,702.75 in funds for the Centre.

Thank you Annie, Christine, Elsia, Fannie, Lynn, Pacey, Sybil and Wing!

What to watch for:



Coming soon to a galaxy near you:

2023 "May the 4th be with you"
Krispy Kreme Doughnut event



April 4 - May 5, 2023

It is sure to be out of this world!

Watch www.rcdrichmond.org for the pre-order form to be posted.

Other ways to support us until then:

J Squared Ice Cream Coupons \$13 each Until March 31,2023



Art Exhibits & Fundraising Sale at RCD On-going

Come to see and admire the displayed arts and take them home.

