



RICHMOND CHILDREN FIRST Annual Report April 2009 – March 2010

Compiled by Helen Davidson, Implementation Manager

In 2008, Richmond Children First completed a strategic planning process that clearly defined Richmond Children First as a community development initiative focused on mobilizing the community to support children through community planning, public awareness and building a child-friendly community. This report reflects activities through Richmond Children First's three strategic directions.

GOAL 1: ENCOURAGE THE COMMUNITY TO PROMOTE AND SUPPORT EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT

DEVELOP AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY VISION FOR CHILDREN IN RICHMOND

Helping Kids Succeed Richmond-Style

Helping Kids Succeed Richmond-Style is a community project hosted by Richmond Children First that builds on asset development to create a personal village for all children. Richmond Children First is working with Richmond Middle Childhood Matters (a United Way funded initiative focused on 6 to 12 year olds) in five Richmond school communities to provide adults with information and support to positively affect the lives of children. Derek Peterson, an internationally recognized child advocate, was hired to work with the Richmond Children First initiative to help launch Kids Succeed Richmond-Style.

In 2009, Richmond Children First has given 11 presentations, reaching out to:

- 62 front line staff
- 78 parents and grandparents
- 37 teachers
- 350 students
- 30 community leaders



In November 2009, 30 adults from participating school communities attended a training workshop to learn how to spread the word. Three school communities are now actively involved in giving neighbourhood presentations and collecting information for a book, *Helping Kids Succeed Richmond Style*, which will be released in 2010.

In December 2009 a website for the project was launched¹. An information flyer was also designed and has been circulated widely across the community.

Richmond Children's Charter

In response to the Richmond Children First strategic direction, "to develop an inclusive community vision for children", an Action Team has been meeting to develop a process to engage children to develop a Richmond Children's Charter, based on children's rights. In 2009, the committee decided to delay the process as it was felt that there was a need to conduct community awareness on children's rights. A series of posters and a website, in partnership with *Helping Kids Succeed Richmond-Style*, was developed and launched on November 20, 2009 – the 20th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In Spring 2010, Richmond Children First will be meeting with public partners to develop a collaborative process to move this project forward.

DEVELOP AN EDUCATION STRATEGY TO PROMOTE EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT

In 2008-09, Richmond Children First developed an ECD marketing campaign that includes a logo, key messages and public education materials. In 2009-10, two further strategies were implemented.

Multilingual Richmond Parent Map

Richmond Children First wrapped up Parent Connectors, a 3-year parent volunteer project in 2009, with the creation and design of the Richmond Parent Map. Available in 6 languages – English, Chinese, Punjabi, Spanish, Arabic and Farsi, the map, for families new to Richmond, provides information on places to play and connect with other families as well as providing a visual depiction, through photographs, of programs and supports available in the community. The maps have been broadly distributed to ethnic grocery stores, faith institutions and other locations new families might frequent.

A Profile of Children in Richmond

In 2009, through the work of the Community Mapping Action Team, a consultant was hired to pull together StatsCanada research on children in Richmond. The Action Team worked on compiling a report based on indicators that measure characteristics that influence child development. This report, released in November 2009, is a useful planning tool that can be used to strengthen families and neighbourhoods and put into place programs and policies to support children's healthy development.

¹ Helping Kids Succeed Richmond Style Website: www.helpingkidssucceedrichmond.ca/

GOAL 2: BUILD ON STRENGTHS IN THE COMMUNITY THAT ENHANCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

DEVELOP AN EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK THAT INCLUDES COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING OUTCOMES

ECD Community Evaluation Framework

The United Way of the Lower Mainland has provided a \$ 10,000 grant for Richmond Children First to design and implement a community outcomes framework that will include capacity building indicators for Richmond Children First. The Action Team overseeing this project has been looking at measurements that enhance connections. The framework should be ready for implementation by Fall 2010.

Provincial ECD Community Capacity Building Evaluation Project

In May 2009, Richmond Children First stakeholders participated in the provincial ECD Community Capacity Building Evaluation. In September, the Richmond Children First Steering Committee attended a workshop to review the results, looking at successes, challenges and actions. The Steering Committee aligned the results with Richmond Children First's strategic plan and identified a need to engage the child care community in Richmond Children First activities. A dialogue with child care stakeholders began in March 2010 and a survey to determine the interests of the child care community is currently underway.

ESTABLISH FORMAL AND INFORMAL COMMUNICATION AND RELATIONSHIP BUILDING NETWORKS THAT PROMOTE EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT

ECD Learning Sessions

In 2009, Richmond Children First implemented two series of ECD Learning Sessions with two aims – providing opportunities for ECD staff to connect and learn from each other, and bringing ECD staff together for shared learnings from experts. All learning sessions have been filled to capacity.

Brown Bag Lunch Learning Sessions

In October 2009, Richmond Children First began to host bi-monthly lunchtime sessions, inviting ECD staff to come together for networking and shared learnings. At the initial session, ECD staff (24 people) identified an interest in cross-cultural parenting. In December 2010, 50 people attended a presentation on Parenting From A Middle Eastern-Muslim Perspective. And in March 2010, 30 people attended a presentation on Bridging Immigrants and Refugees Through ECD Services.

ECD Learning Sessions

In 2009-10, Richmond Children First also offered 3 ECD Learning Sessions that addressed ECD priorities identified by Richmond Children First. In December, 35 staff attended a session on Remembering to Play. And in March, 44 staff attended two 1-day training workshops on Kids Have Stress Too.

Richmond Children First Training Fund

In 2008, Richmond Children First, with partnership funding from the Richmond School District, established a 2-year training fund.

The **ECD Practitioner Training Fund** supports Richmond ECD staff to attend training opportunities by covering up to 75% (maximum of \$375) of costs (including registration, accommodation, travel and/or replacement staff. In 2009-10, the Training Fund distributed \$ 4,600 for 19 Richmond ECD staff to attend workshops or conferences.

The **Workshop/Conference Fund** supports organizations, working in partnership, to bring learning opportunities for ECD professionals to Richmond. The fund covers up to 50% of costs, to a maximum of \$5000, per event. In 2009-10, the fund provided a total of \$7,000 in funding for two events, the Richmond ECE Conference (\$2,000) and Make the Connection Facilitator Training (\$5,000).

GOAL 3: MAXIMIZE EFFECTIVE USE OF RESOURCES TO IMPROVE THE WELL BEING OF CHILDREN

SUPPORT INNOVATION IN CURRENT INITIATIVES AND DEVELOP NEW COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBOURHOOD STRATEGIES

Family Week Grants

In supporting innovative approaches that demonstrate how organizations can work together to best support children, Richmond Children First distributed three \$3,000 grants during National Family Week in October 2009 for projects that demonstrate how to Help Kids Succeed Richmond-Style. The Selection Committee received 11 excellent applications and were unanimous in their top 3 selections. Grants of \$3,000 were awarded to the following 3 projects:

- Grauer Neighbourhood Kids Project
- Richmond Family Place Summer Refugee Project
- Hamilton Child Empathy Project

Richmond Early Years Bridging Program

Richmond Children First continues to play an advisory role for the Richmond Early Years Bridging Project. Richmond Children First provided \$10,000 for this pilot project in 2009-10.

Integrated Service Design Think Tank

Upon completion of the ECD Community Outcomes Framework, Richmond Children First will be hosting a think tank to determine where integrated service design would have the greatest impact.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

In 2009-10, Richmond Children First developed and/or strengthened community connections with:

- Az-Zahraa Islamic Academy
- Richmond District Parents Association
- Richmond Child Care Advisory Committee
- Richmond Poverty Response Committee
- Richmond Community Services Advisory Council
- Richmond Public Partners Group
- University Women's Club (Richmond Chapter)

Helen Davidson, Implementation Manager, stays connected with the regional and provincial early childhood communities by sitting on:

Vancouver Coastal ECD Framework Committee

A committee of ECD partners in Vancouver Coastal who work together to promote early child development based on the process and structure defined in the Vancouver Coastal ECD Framework.

United Way of the Lower Mainland (Success by 6) ECD Advisory Committee

An advisory committee to the United Way on early childhood matters at a community and regional level.

Provincial Children First Advisory Team

A committee committed to strengthening and promoting the value of early childhood community development work facilitated by Children First initiatives. Currently working with Success by 6 and the Human Early Learning Partnership to develop an Early Years Community Developers Institute.