

CHHA BC-YOUTH PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM-BC BUDDIES

By: Jessica Niemela and Bowen Tang

1



BOWEN TANG

- Founder & Director of CHHA-BC Youth Peer Support Program
- President, International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People
- Teacher for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

2

WHO WE ARE



JESSICA NIEMELA

- BC Buddies Event Coordinator-Okanagan Region
- CHHA BC Board Member
- Pediatric Audiologist at the Vernon Health Unit

3

WHAT IS THE CANADIAN HARD OF HEARING ASSOCIATION (CHHA)?



Canadian Hard of Hearing Association
Association des malentendants canadiens

Mission: "Connecting Canadians impacted by hearing loss through advocacy, education and community engagement".

Anyone can join to become a member who supports CHHA's objectives. Creates opportunity to social network with hard of hearing peers.

There are regular educational opportunities and workshops geared towards hard of hearing people.

CHHA is an advocate on behalf of its members by spreading awareness publicly and politically about the impact of hearing loss.

4



Canadian Hard of Hearing Association BC Youth Peer Support Program

SUPPORTS DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING STUDENTS, AGED 6 TO 23, IN THEIR
NAVIGATION OF SCHOOL, SOCIAL AND WORK LIVES.

ACTIVITIES ARE HELD IN DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES IN THE PROVINCE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AND
NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES.

5



BC BUDDIES!!



- For students with hearing loss ages 6-15 whose primary mode of communication is spoken language.
- Interpreters are available upon request.
- Events vary by age.
- Opportunity to network with peers.
- 1-3 events in the school year.
- Events are 3-4 hours; parents pick up and drop off.

6

BC BUDDIES EVENT OUTLINE

- **Icebreakers/Introductions:** goal is to introduce each other, learn names and get students comfortable in the group setting.
- **Ground rules/communication:** Define our common rules and remind students about good communication strategies for the day.
- **Main activity:** Past examples include: Lazer tag, restaurant outing, rock climbing, cooking competition, day on the farm.
- **Lunch:** we usually provide this. Opportunity to socialize, cool down and refuel.
- **Communication challenge:** we try our best to create a safe space for communication opportunities; ie. going to the grocery store and paying for food items; using signs to communicate while rock climbing.

7



8

HOW CAN THE TDHH SUPPORT BC BUDDIES?

Help us recruit the
students!

Remind parents to fill out
our online registration
form.

You are welcome to
participate in the event.

9

FAMILY WEEKEND CAMPS YOUTH RETREATS



10

OTHER RESOURCES WE OFFER

WWW.CHHA-BC.ORG/YOUTHSP

NAVIGATE YOUR WAY TO SUCCESS (CAREER WEBINAR)

YOUNG ADULT SPOTLIGHTS

GEROEZEMOES GAME

11

WHAT ARE WE DOING DIFFERENTLY DUE TO COVID19?

- VIRTUAL MEET-UPS IN THE SUMMER, BROKEN INTO DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS
- ONE TO ONE MENTORSHIP (FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS)
- DEVELOPING SERIES OF TIP SHEETS FOR ACCESSING ONLINE LEARNING & NAVIGATING DAILY COMMUNICATION

12



QUESTIONS?