



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
February 24, 2016  
2015/2016 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Our Mission Statement:** To improve the quality of life for people affected by spina bifida and hydrocephalus through advocacy, research, education, and support.

**ADMINISTRATION**

**Office:**

- Darlene Cathcart worked as the Program Manager for 20 hours/week until October 2015
- Megan Gergatz worked as the Assistant Program Manager for 20 hours/week and then Megan's position changed to Program Manager for 20 hours/week after the change was approved at the October 2015 Board Meeting
- Kyra Cusveller worked for 420 hours over the summer as our Fundraising Event Coordinator to run the Hope Classic
- Danielle Schmidt was hired in October 2015 as the new Program Manager and worked 20 hours/week

**Membership:**

- We now have 258 members on our Membership List
- 91 members renewed their membership during the last fiscal year

**Strategic Plan:**

- The Board continues to follow the Strategic Plan that was developed in March 2012 and the priorities identified at the adult focus group on January 2013
- Meeting to reevaluate the Strategic Plan was held on February 10, 2016

**Fund Development:**

- Casino will be held in the third quarter of 2016 (July 31<sup>st</sup> and August 1st)
- Successful fundraisers & public awareness events held this year:
  - Hope Classic income \$21,753.75 (profit \$16, 511.96)
  - Skate for Spina Bifida income \$2,326.55 (profit \$1,582.30)
  - Raffle (with skate event) income \$3,715.00 (profit \$3,515.00)
  - KMS Smokie Sale \$985.70



- Received the following Grants:
  - 1) Edmonton Public Teachers Charity Trust Fund (\$5,000)
  - 2) 2015 Community Investment Operating Grant (CIOG) – Community Services Advisory Board (CSAB) (\$17,000)
  - 3) Community Board Donation – TELUS (\$16,000)
  - 4) Canada Summer Jobs - Government of Canada (\$4852.58)
  - 5) Quality of Life Grant – Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation (\$800)
  - 6) Edmonton Public Teachers Charity Trust Fund – Local No. 37 (\$3,000)
  - 7) Canada Post Community Foundation- (\$16000- allocated for Camp Freedom 2016)
- Special Requests received:
  - 1) Commercial Lodge no. 81 A.F. & A.M. G.R.A.- \$750.00
  - 2) Al Shamal Temple- \$2,500.00
  - 3) Butler Family Foundation- \$500 (allocated for Camp Freedom 2016)

### **ADVOCACY**

- SBHANA is represented at meetings held by the following:
  - Interagency Committee on Recreation for Persons with Special Needs
  - Alberta Disabilities Forum
- Member of the Alberta Disability Forum

### **RESEARCH**

- Did not receive any donations for research in the 2015 year

### **COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS**

- Cindy Smith (president) spoke at the University of Alberta (U of A) to students in the Occupational Therapy 557 course.
- Darlene Cathcart & Morgan Cathcart did two presentations. One was to human ecology students at the U of A and the other one was for after degree nursing students at the U of A.

### **COMMUNITY BUILDING**

- Advertised like-minded organizations, programs and services through our updates and opportunity emails and our newsletter
- A volunteer picked up the roller sledges from PSA to use at Camp Freedom



- International Day for Persons with Disabilities – we donated one gift card to the Keg as a door prize and manned a display at the event
- Provided a letter of support to Spinal Cord Injury Alberta
- Darlene attended Try A Bike Day on March 6, 2015 and advertised the Support Fund to potential applicants.
- Darlene Cathcart attended the Transition Symposium on March 12, 2015.

## **EDUCATION**

### **SB/H Awareness:**

- International Day for Persons with Disabilities IDPD – set up and manned our information display
- June Awareness Month 2015: Bridge banners were placed on three overpasses around the city, Awareness Displays for SB&H were set up and manned by volunteers at the following locations; KMS tools for 3 day, Old Strathcona Farmers Markets, Skate for SB&H.
- Quality of Life DVD & Educator Manual– Megan handed these out at the Educational Assistants Conference
- The SBHANA participated in the 2015 Educational Assistants Conference on February 20, 2015 at MacEwan University again this year, setting up a display and making Education Manuals available
- Megan Gergatz set up a display at the annual Not-for-Profit Symposium at the University of Alberta
- Missy Omenta, a student from the University of Alberta began her 20 hour Community Service Learning placement with SBHANA doing social media in January 2016.
- Megan Gergatz and Darlene Cathcart met with adapted gymnastics consultants about contraindications for our members doing gymnastics.

### **Staff Education:**

- Megan Gergatz and Kyra Cusveller attended the Vitalize conference held in Edmonton, AB at the Shaw Conference Centre on June 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015.
- Megan Gergatz and Darlene Cathcart attended the accessible housing speaker brought in by Spinal Cord Injury Alberta.



## **MEMBER SUPPORT**

### **Information Updates:**

- Regular emails sent out to membership with Information Updates and Opportunities and website kept up to date with current information

### **Social Activities:**

- Summer BBQ held in conjunction with the Hope Classic on August 8, 2015 with over 200 people in attendance.
- Christmas Party was held on November 28, 2015 with 160 members, family members, volunteers and staff attending.
- Mom's potluck dinner on October 15, 2015 held at Monica Sneath's had 8 people attend, and dessert potluck on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015 held at Marisha Milette's had 4 people attend.

### **Camp Freedom:**

- Cindy Smith, Monica Sneath and Kiray Jones- Mollerup hosted a fundraiser for Camp Freedom at the Melting Pot was May 24, 2015. Square reader was introduced at this fundraiser.
- 16<sup>th</sup> annual camp was held on August 13-16<sup>th</sup>, 2015 with 19 campers (20 registered but one couldn't come) from Western Canada and 13 volunteers
- Darlene Cathcart & Monica Sneath went to Red Deer for a presentation on Camp Freedom to the AI Shamal Temple.
- Addition of online registration form to improve registration efficiencies.

### **Support Fund:**

- Approved 32 different support fund requests with a total value of \$17,446.84.
- Budget remains at \$18,000/year, funding up to \$1000 per member with spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus per year
- Health & Wellness component of the support fund continues to fund up to \$500 towards medical/wellness expenses on a one-time or trial basis

### **Member Education Fund:**

- One member received funding to attend the Vitalize conference held in Edmonton, AB at the Shaw Conference Centre on June 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – Total Funded \$204.75

### **Scholarship:**

- Yuan Zuo was the only recipient for the Dr. Peter Bowen Scholarship receiving \$1,000 towards post-secondary education





### **Wheelchair Loaner Program:**

- 2 Quickie Kids wheelchairs available for short-term loans
- Both are still loaned out over the course of the year

### **New Parent/ New to the City Gift Bags:**

- Eight new parent bags were assembled by Sharon Veeneman and distributed through the Spina Bifida Clinic at the Glenrose. Five of the eight have been distributed.

### **NoLimits Support Evenings**

- Coffee nights continued throughout the year on the first Thursday of each month
- Social and educational support evenings were delivered on a monthly basis (had the summer and December off)
- One NoLimits member attended the Vitalize Conference
- NoLimits members helped out with the Raffle, KMS Smokie Sale, Hope Classic and Christmas Party

### **Information Referrals & Support**

- Numerous calls and visits to the SBHANA office for information and support
- Increasing number of adults living with SB&H calling & visiting for support
- Hospital Visit to three adult members

### **Communication**

#### **Newsletter:**

- Three editions (spring 2015, fall 2015, winter 2016) were published this year with many member contributions

#### **Website:**

- Updates to the website have been done throughout the year 2015

#### **SBHAC:**

- Renewed our membership with the National association
- Donated \$2000 towards Operating Costs to SBHAC
- Donated \$3,366.41 from the Hope Classic