SPRING 2020

DISCOVER
The Disability Foundation Newsletter

VOLUNTEERS LEAVE A LEGACY

National Volunteer Week (April 19 to 25) is a time to celebrate 400 volunteers that make our affiliated societies' programs possible. In this issue we honour just a few of these amazing individuals. In Vancouver and at Tetra chapters from coast to coast, our volunteers are helping create greater inclusion in many and varied ways.

Maureen DeLandreville began volunteering with the Disabled Sailing Association in the mid-2000s, helping to establish the boat donation program that continues to this day. Now, Maureen shares her professional experience and the important perspective of a person with a disability as a director on the Disability Foundation board. She expects the Foundation to continue growing, attracting more donors, and building a bigger, more inclusive image for people with disabilities: "I believe the Disability Foundation does superb work and the people involved, the staff, the volunteers, and the participants are all awesome."

"Photography and Tetra were my dad's two passions," says Todd Hamaguchi, whose father, Roy, created over 100 devices as a Tetra volunteer, "Tetra gave my dad an opportunity to use his skills to help others, which he greatly appreciated." Roy, who passed away in 2019, is remembered for his humour and innovative approach to building Tetra devices. We recently learned Roy had left a legacy gift for Tetra. "My father gave this donation to Tetra in hopes it could be used toward the completion of projects that can help others," says Todd.

Inspired to volunteer with us?

Email *volunteer@disabilityfoundation.org* to volunteer at a summer activity or year-long program!

MEET YOUR VOLUNTEERS

Disabled Sailing Association of British Columbia

Jeremy Field was first introduced to sailing as a teenager. At 19, he was the hiking coordinator at BCMOS. During the summer of 2012, he became aware of disabled sailing through his father, Gerry, a long-time volunteer with DSA, and would regularly come down to Jericho throughout many summers. Jeremy would go on to become the DSA's land coordinator in subsequent years, while developing his sailing skills. Before the end of the 2014 sailing season, Jeremy was taking clients out onto the water. He now returns every summer as a loyal volunteer. "I love being out on the water, and helping clients that I've gotten to know over the years to enjoy it too", Jeremy says. "Jericho Beach is a great place to be, and I always look forward to another summer with DSA."

Tetra Society of North America

Gerry Wurtak has been a member of Tetra Regina since it was a fledgling group in 2005, creating products which enhance the quality of life for people with disabilities and seniors in Regina.

Over the years, Gerry has contributed to Tetra in many different ways. Whether providing workspace in his heated garage or sharing genius ideas and building wagon/sled combinations, a curling rock stabilizer or a customized sewing machine, Gerry always adds a personal touch to every project.

Gerry's reward for his efforts is to see the enjoyment the client experiences from something he has made.

Where he finds the time to do this dedicated work is extraordinary because he puts his heart and soul into everything he does! We are so very grateful to him for all he does for

ConnecTra

Jacklin Maher joined and started volunteering with ConnecTra in 2015. Her love for helping people has expanded into other non-profit organizations. "Volunteering gives me joy and brings a smile to my face because I love and care about my community."

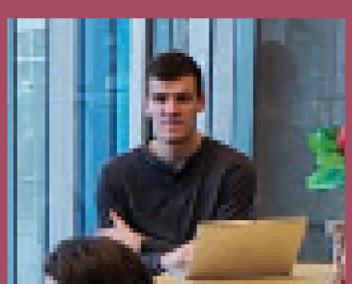
She has been an exhibitor and volunteer at the Abilities Expo & Job Fair for the past four years, showcasing her beautiful artwork. Jacklin loves seeing the community come together to share their information and resources. She tries to attend every ConnecTra workshop she can, always offering to assist with cleaning up. We thank Jacklin for her years of help and spreading her kindness wherever she can.

Stacy Sherlock comes from a background in technical theatre design and production management. While attending UBC she received support for her fragrance allergy and multiple chemical sensitivities. Her experiences with Invisible disability grounded her work in real estate with differently abled, specialty and specialty needs clientele.

Her passion for plants and people brought her to DIGA in the spring of 2019. She has helped clients one-on-one, planting, weeding, harvesting, and assisting in various workshops. Stacy is an enthusiastic and proud steward for DIGA and spreads the love that all people should be able to garden. We thank her for her giving heart, time, and efforts. She is an irreplaceable asset to the community.

Marty Greyell started as a BCMOS hiking volunteer in 2015, and then would become the hiking coordinator in 2016. Marty is a lover of the great outdoors and has done plenty of hiking as part of his training as a reservist in the Canadian military. Marty led well over 100 hikes in 2016 and has continued to volunteer every year, including training new summer staff. One of Marty's favourite hikes was near his home on Bowen Island where he helped his brother experience TrailRiding.

"BCMOS is awesome" said Marty, "you meet some great people and help others access the outdoors; what could be better!" Marty looks forward to being part of BCMOS again in the upcoming 2020 season.



Igor Stakic became a volunteer with the Vancouver Adapted Music Society in late September 2019. He has helped in many different ways including, stage setup, loading and unloading equipment, and even walking one of our artist's service dog .

Igor is always reliable, punctual and diligent to whatever task is asked of him. One client said of Igor, "He has a warm, sincere and encouraging personality." Apart from all of those stellar qualities the one that "stands out" the most would be his height. Putting up and tearing down banners has never been easier in the 31 years VAMS has been serving the disabled community. VAMS is very fortunate to have Igor on the team.

YOU ARE OUR FOUNDATION

Volunteer with us:

BCMOS – Love the outdoors? Volunteer to be a Sherpa to provide hiking experiences in our TrailRider, or set out as a companion kayaker or paddleboarder in False Creek with the Vancouver cityline as your backdrop.

ConnecTra — Come be a part of our social and infomative workshops throughout the year, as well as, annual flagship event the Abilities Expo & Job Fair.

DIGA — Do you have a green thumb or want more practice in the garden? Join DIGA as a volunteer in our community gardens and at workshops throughout the season.

DSA — Have your sailing certification? Be a companion sailor for one of our recreational sailors!

Tetra — Ready to put your ingenuity to work and help remove barriers for people with disabilities? Come help promote, design or build custom assistive devices with Tetra!

Questions? Contact *volunteer@disabilityfoundation.org*

MAKE A GIFT

Where others see barriers, you see possibilities.

We rely on your kindness to provide experiences for people with disabilities through outdoor recreation, social connectedness and innovative adapted device.

Will you re-imagine what is possible by making a financial gift today?

ONLINE: disablityfoundation.org

PHONE: 604-688-6464

EMAIL: info@disabilityfoundation.org

MAIL A CHEQUE:

Disability Foundation,
318 – 425 Carrall St.
Vancouver, BC V6B 6E3

For sponsorship opportunities or to make a planned gift, contact Shawna Dash: ***sdash@disabilityfoundation.org***

DISABILITY FOUNDATION

UP-COMING EVENTS

MAY 5

DIGA — GF Strong Garden Ground-breaking

MAY 25

Summer season begins

MAY 28

ConnecTra—Assistive Tech Workshop

JUNE 14

VAMS —StrongX Session

DSA – New Beginnings Regatta

JUNE 16

DIGA — Nutrition Workshop

AND MORE TO COME!