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"BELIEVING IN POTENTIAL"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Toys Fill Reach Halls Thanks to Kings Links

New, specialized toys and equipment filled the halls of Reach Child and Youth Development Society Therapies program thanks to \$12,000 in proceeds from Ladner's Kings Links by the Sea Adventus Realty Charity Golf Tournament "For the Kids" this past summer.

The proceeds enabled the program to purchase much needed specialized toys and equipment to be used by, and lent to families who have children with Down syndrome and other special needs in Reach's Therapies programs. The Reach Therapies Program provides speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy to children from age birth to six. Therapists work as team members with families, early childhood educators and other professionals to provide individualized programs.

Equipment purchased included modified bath and toilet seats, cause and effect toys, modified helmets, seizure place mats, stroller inserts, and educational materials for therapists and parents.

Some of the items are very expensive, such as the modified bath and toilet seat at \$3,000, and families often can't afford to purchase them on their own.

"A lot of the equipment is good for parents to use to see if they like it, to try it out, and see if it's appropriate for their child's needs," said Christine Gleave, Occupational Therapist at Reach. "Some families who have children with Down syndrome don't get funding to buy specialized equipment, so this way we have the equipment that they can borrow."

Children with Down syndrome, Gleave states, often require adapted and modified equipment especially in the early years to address things such as low-tone. "Some children need extra support for things like positioning in strollers, or for getting on and off the toilet. These extra supports are beneficial in the early years to aid in the child's development. They are often temporary to help the child as they develop the skills, and once the skills are there, the equipment is no longer needed."



**Formerly known as the
Delta Association for
Child Development**

The tournament was organized and sponsored by Rod Johnston, Jeet Pangli and Kings Links owner Brad Newell, and raised over \$30,000 benefitting Reach Society as well Mind Check and Fraser Academy. Newell, along with his wife Maria, chose Reach Child and Youth Development Society as one of the charities in honour of their goddaughter Eva who has Down syndrome. Eva attended Reach's Infant Development and Therapies programs with very positive outcomes, so the family wanted to do something to help other children and their families experience success. "We heard it's a great place," said Newell, "and did some research, and sure enough, it was a great community thing to help. Hopefully we can do it down the road again, too. We really liked doing it."

King's Links By The Sea is located at 3388 72 St Ladner and can be found online at www.kingslinks.ca . For more information about Reach Child and Youth Development Society visit www.reachdevelopment.org or call 604-946-6622 ext.0



Brad Newell, (second from right) helped organize the King's Links "For the Kids" Golf Tournament with Rod Johnston (back left,) to benefit three charities, including Reach in honour of Newell's god-daughter Eva (centre) who attends Reach programs. The tournament raised \$12,000 for specialized toys and equipment for Reach Therapies program.

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