



# Lend a Hand

## FUNDRAISER 2025

### Building Confidence, Making Friends: Matt's Camp Journey

Camp Bethesda was a turning point in Matt's life. His parents, Angela and Calvin, were nervous the first time he went to camp a few years ago—he had never been away from home before. At the end of the week when they heard how well he had done, their hearts swelled with pride.

"I remember listening to the counselors say how supportive Matt was of the other campers," Angela recalls. "He encouraged them to get involved in things that maybe they would never get involved in. I thought, 'Wow, that's our son making others feel happy and included.'"

Calvin adds, "He's very social, he loves music and dancing. To hear that he was stepping into a leadership role was incredible. Camp gave him an outlet to show a side of himself we hadn't seen before."

At Camp Bethesda, Matt thrived in the structured activities, forming strong friendships and developing new skills. The

experience of being away from home, surrounded by peers and caring staff, gave him a newfound sense of independence and confidence. He reminisces about epic waterfights, singing songs, and cheering with his friends during group activities. "I love the games and music," he says. "It's my favorite time of the year."

Since attending camp, Matt has grown into an outgoing and engaged young man. While his time in Bethesda's community inclusion program continues to support his development, it was the camp experience that truly opened a door for him. "Everybody wants the best for their child," Calvin says. "Bethesda gave Matt opportunities we couldn't provide alone. Seeing his abilities flourish and knowing he has hope for the future—it's more than we could have asked for."

*Matt, below, relaxed and very much at home among friends at Camp Bethesda. Read the blog story and watch the video about the way camp has changed him and the blessing it has been for his parents to see him thrive, at [bethesdabc.com/cb-impact/](https://bethesdabc.com/cb-impact/).*



Transforming lives through love

Donations to the Lend a Hand campaign pay for services for people with diverse abilities and their families, services that are not covered by government funding.

Learn more about the Lend a Hand fundraiser at [www.bethesdabc.com/lend-a-hand/](https://www.bethesdabc.com/lend-a-hand/) or scan the QR code



## New Family Support Group in Langley



For over fifty years, Bethesda has supported people with diverse abilities and their families. While stories we share often highlight the people we support, their families too face unique challenges beyond typical family life.

What is it like when a daughter continues living at home into her 40s or 50s? When a 25-year-old son must be sedated at a far-away hospital for a routine dental checkup? When disapproving looks follow them at a restaurant? Families need a space to share and feel understood.

Bethesda has hosted a family support group in Abbotsford for years. This January, we partnered with Southridge Community Church to start another one in Langley. With Southridge providing childcare, snacks, and space, and Bethesda offering leadership, a meaningful partnership has formed.

*Offering a place for parents or siblings to feel supported enables families to be stronger and more resilient. Contact [life@bethesdabc.com](mailto:life@bethesdabc.com) to learn more about parent support groups. Bethesda is able to support parents and siblings in parent support groups with donations received through Lend a Hand.*

## Rising Costs of Camp: Why We're Asking for More This Year

Bethesda will once again be hosting Camp Bethesda, a week-long overnight summer camp, at Camp Stillwood near Cultus Lake. Summer camp has been operating since the 1970's in one form or another, and has served hundreds of people with diverse abilities and their families.

Camp Bethesda is first and foremost a respite service for families. Parents drop off their adult son or daughter for a 6 day, fun-filled and inclusive camp experience. While the campers have a great time, many parents have shared that this is the only time of the year that they get to take a vacation as a couple, or to invest in their other children who have often had to take a backseat to the needs of their siblings with diverse abilities.

In recent years, the cost of all camps has aggressively risen: the cost of the camp facility, meals, and activities have grown by 107% over the last two years. Since all the costs are covered by donations, Bethesda has set a new donation target of \$300,000 to ensure we are able to maintain our commitment to these families. We invite you to consider giving to Lend a Hand at [bethesdabc.com](http://bethesdabc.com) so parents continue to get the break they need.



*Costs of summer camp have risen significantly and we need donations more than ever to continue to offer this important service to people with diverse abilities as well as to their families.*

## Message from Tori Dalair, CEO



At Bethesda, relationships are at the heart of everything we do. We are called to create spaces where people with diverse abilities experience belonging—where they are known, valued, and supported, no matter the funding criteria.

This commitment means we sometimes step in where no one else will. We choose to welcome, to walk alongside, and to invest in people's flourishing, even when resources are stretched.

When you donate, you're not just giving financially—you're creating community. You are making it possible for families

to find encouragement in a support group, for children to experience the joy of summer camp, and for people to build friendships, join Camp Bethesda and live independently. You are part of this story of love in action.

Your generosity transforms lives, including your own. When we live in relationship—giving and receiving—we see love change the world.

Thank you for being part of this mission. Please consider supporting our Lend a Hand campaign and helping us continue to welcome those seeking a place to belong.

*Tori Dalair*

Tori Dalair, CEO

*"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another." —Hebrews 10:24-25*





## Finding Support, Friendship and Community

Mary-Ann's life took an unexpected turn 25 years ago when an accident left her with a traumatic brain injury. Despite the challenges of her "invisible disability," Mary-Ann has found joy, strength, and independence through Bethesda's donation-based Supported Independent Living (SIL) services. Living at Vedder Terrace, an intentional community, she thrives with the help of her SIL support workers, who assist with daily tasks and inspire her to pursue her goals with faith and confidence.

To celebrate her 65th birthday, Mary-Ann's sister created a memory book filled with heartfelt messages and photos from friends and family, reminding Mary-Ann of the love and appreciation that surrounds her. She reflects on how the support she receives has been a true blessing, made possible through donations to Bethesda's Lend a Hand campaign.

Read Mary-Ann's inspiring story at [www.bethesdabc.com/a-good-life-SIL/](http://www.bethesdabc.com/a-good-life-SIL/) and see how your donation can help provide life-changing support to others like her.



Mary-Ann (left) and Corrine, one of Mary-Ann's SIL support workers. Mary-Ann lives and thrives at Vedder Terrace, an intentional community where diverse friendships create a strong and supportive home.



## A Thank-You From a Parent

“

My husband and I would like to thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for your amazing ministry. And thank you to all the people who donate, and make all the programs available to families like ourselves. We have a son Nick, who has Down Syndrome, who is almost 42 years old. And we get to enjoy the amazing blessing, every summer, of him going to Camp Bethesda on the mainland. It is a much needed break for my husband and I, for 5 days, but knowing that Nick is being so well cared for, and literally loved by these beautiful, Christian, caring, competent people makes our time, even more, of a safe, wonderful break. So thank you, thank you to those who donate. Bless you all.

”

Debbie Tuit, Victoria.

## Curious? Talk to us!

We invite you into our ongoing story, building a vision of a world in which we can all grow together.

Are you interested in our services, working here or becoming a donor, and would like to know more? Contact us at [life@bethesdabc.com](mailto:life@bethesdabc.com).

Like us on social media or go to our website to learn more.

 @BethesdaChristianAssociation

 @Bethesda.Christian

 @BethesdaChristianAssociation

[www.bethesdabc.com](http://www.bethesdabc.com)



# Eashaan Finds Friendship and Belonging at Day Camp

Eashaan's eyes grew wide as he wandered through the busy transition fair with his parents. Booths lined the room, each promising different opportunities, but it was the conversation at Bethesda's table that captured their attention. As they learned about the summer day camp, something clicked—this could be the perfect place for Eashaan.

A few weeks later, we met again, this time in person. We talked about what camp would look like—days filled with adventure, friendship, and plenty of time outdoors. His mom shared that without camp, Eashaan would likely spend most of his summer at home with his grandma and sister. While home

was familiar, they wanted him to have something more—something exciting.

From the very first day, it was clear that camp was exactly that. Eashaan took to camp right away, but nothing compared to his love for water days. Whether it was floating in lakes, splashing in swimming pools, or launching into epic water fights, he was in his element.

It didn't take long for him to form a close bond with Landon, one of the camp support workers. The two enjoyed high energy activities running, playing games, or cracking jokes that sent them into laughing fits.

As the summer weeks passed, Eashaan grew more and more at home. And the

best part? He'll be coming back this year, ready for more good times with good friends.



Eashaan (right) and Landon (left) formed a special bond over the summer. Arriving at camp without knowing anyone can be daunting, but Landon and the support team made sure Eashaan felt welcomed and included. By discovering his favorite activities and interests, they built trust—and with that, Eashaan thrived.



## SUMMER STUDENTS

### ARE YOU:

- between 19 and 30 years old.
- a driver with a Class 5 driver's licence.
- looking for a fun summer job and have a heart to serve others?

### GET READY TO:

- make a positive impact on youth with diverse abilities.
- experience personal and spiritual growth.
- gain hands-on experience in social work.

Training is provided.

## Work at summer day camp!

### LEARN MORE

[www.BethesdaBC.com/careers/#current-jobs](http://www.BethesdaBC.com/careers/#current-jobs)



Apply by **April 30**



## Lend a Hand

Lend a Hand is an annual fundraiser for Bethesda that supports people with diverse abilities and their families—from planning, advice, advocacy, respite, to summer camps, supported independent living, or respite. Our target this year is raised to **\$300,000** because of increased costs of providing these services. Won't you partner with us to continue impacting lives in transformational ways?

[www.bethesdabc.com/donate/](http://www.bethesdabc.com/donate/)

Donate today!



Bethesda delivers community living services for people with diverse abilities with funding from various government agencies. The amount of funding received by Bethesda is based on the assessed needs of each person we support. However, there are always gaps. Some people are not eligible for government funding, the funding isn't adequate, there is a crisis need requiring immediate funds, or families themselves need support. That's where Lend a Hand comes in.

## Student Bursaries

Bethesda Christian Foundation provides \$1000 bursaries to post-secondary students engaged in full-time studies leading to work supporting people with disabilities and their families.

Students may apply for the 2025/2026 school year by requesting an application package from Bethesda at 604-850-6604 or [life@bethesdabc.com](mailto:life@bethesdabc.com).

**Bethesda**

Tori Dalair, Chief Executive Officer

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