



# Lend a Hand Campaign

Filling the Gaps so Those Who Need Can Receive

## Lend a Hand Fills the Gaps

Bethesda delivers community living services for people with diverse abilities with Community Living BC, a crown corporation that contracts government funding to provincial service providers. The amount of funding received is based on the assessed needs of each person we support. However, there are always gaps. Some people are not eligible for government funding, or the funding isn't adequate, or there is a crisis need requiring immediate funds, or families themselves need support. That's where Lend a Hand comes in.

The Lend a Hand campaign is an annual fundraising event for Bethesda that supports people with diverse abilities and their families—from planning, advice, advocacy, respite, to supported independent living, employment or community inclusion. For those who don't qualify for government services, Lend a Hand fills the gaps. Our annual target is \$200,000.

**We believe no one should be denied a service they need, so that's why we ask you to give to the Lend a Hand campaign. So those who need can receive.**

Learn about how donations serve people we support at [www.bethesdabc.com/lend-a-hand/](http://www.bethesdabc.com/lend-a-hand/) or watch a short video at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_dqHAaCizbM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_dqHAaCizbM).

## Supported Independent Living Offers a Lifeline During the Pandemic

Supported Independent Living, or SIL, supports people with diverse abilities who live, or want to live, independently. Staff specializing in this service meet with each person weekly and help with paying bills, shopping, cooking healthy meals, housework or laundry. Others receive help in finding a job, a home, going on a trip, getting married, or any of the things that come up in life.

Each person receives a set number of hours per week with a SIL support worker. Most are supported by Lend a Hand donations.

The last two years have been difficult for many of the people receiving SIL services. Caleb Wee, the manager of SIL, explains, "Many of them haven't been able to see friends, family or attend church. For some, meeting weekly with their SIL

*(SIL story continued on page 3)*

### Newsletter Highlights

CEO MESSAGE... P.2

SELF-ADVOCATES GROUP UPDATE... P.2

SIL: SUPPORTING PEOPLE THROUGH DIFFICULT TIMES... P.3

STAFFING SHORTAGE IMPACTS SERVICES P.3

YOUTH THRIVE IN SUMMER CAMP ...P.4

READ MORE...SIL AND SUMMER CAMP STORIES AT [www.bethesdabc.com/blog/](http://www.bethesdabc.com/blog/)



## Self-Advocacy: Nothing About Us Without Us

The much-awaited self-advocates group at Bethesda was meant to launch in 2021. Last summer, we raised money through the 50 Day Challenge to pay for designated support hours to help organize the group.

Unfortunately, by fall, Bethesda was experiencing a staffing shortage. As support workers in our non-residential services were redeployed to group homes to fill support worker shifts, the

launch of the self-advocates group was postponed.

Supporting people we support to organize and speak on their own behalf is a Bethesda priority and a personal goal of the CEO, Jody Siebert. She said "It is critical that self-advocates have a voice in what their services look like. The self-advocates group empowers them to be involved in decisions that affect them."

Although the ability of this group to meet has been interrupted, Jody is planning to re-engage with them in early 2022. "I have missed our ability to meet in person and gain wisdom from the members of this group," she says.

*Learn more about self-advocacy at [bethesdabc.com/self-advocates/](https://bethesdabc.com/self-advocates/)*

Supporting self-advocates is a Bethesda priority and a service paid for through donations. Watch for stories on our blog and social media as we grow this important service.

## Why is Monthly Giving a Great Option?

If you believe in the power of community coming together to do something meaningful for those who need a hand, give monthly to Bethesda. Your monthly donations provide continuity of donation-funded services for people with diverse abilities, ensuring reliable supports are available for those who need them.

And it's easy. For as little as \$10/month, you will help empower more people with diverse abilities to reach their dreams. You'll be supporting them with affirming connections, life skills, relationships, and life opportunities they may have once believed were out of reach for them. [www.bethesdabc.com/donate/](https://www.bethesdabc.com/donate/)

## Message from Jody Siebert, CEO



I am continually humbled when I hear people tell me the impact our services have on them.

Whether it's summer camp, a family support group, respite, supported independent living, or other vital services offered through donations. When people are in need, our Lend a Hand-based services fill the gaps and truly make a difference.

In these pages, we highlight two ways Lend a Hand donations impact people, through supported independent living and summer camps. You will meet Cheryl and Shannon. I believe their stories will touch and inspire you because they are proof that your generosity makes a difference.

When I hear stories of people receiving support they wouldn't otherwise receive, I am so deeply grateful to you and all our supporters. By giving to the Lend a Hand campaign, you show a love that transforms our communities into places of belonging, where no person is left behind.

I invite you to dive deeper into Cheryl and Shannon's stories on our blog at [www.bethesdabc.com/blog/](https://www.bethesdabc.com/blog/) and see how your generosity changes lives.

Thank you for your kindness and commitment and for lending a hand.

Grace and Peace,



Jody Siebert, CEO

*Supported Independent Living continued from page 1...*

worker is their only connection.” He’s seen an increase in mental health issues because people are more isolated and not engaging in their communities as much. “For some, SIL is providing mostly emotional support. It’s been a lifeline”, Caleb says. Because of Lend a Hand donations, Bethesda is able to offer additional hours of service to those who are struggling.

Staff have responded well to the increased needs with an extremely positive attitude. Caleb said, “We’ve been conscious of supporting the mental health of SIL staff with frequent meetings and check-ins. This helps us to avoid burn-out so we can be there fully for the people we are supporting.”



## Supported Independent Living Offers a Trusted, Listening Ear



Cheryl had a difficult year with the passing of a loved one. She struggled with grief and other hard emotions. That’s when Supported Independent Living came through for her. Recognizing her need, Caleb Wee, the SIL manager, arranged for additional hours to support her. “Because SIL is mainly funded by donations, we have the flexibility to offer more hours to people when extraordinary challenges in life come up. It was a tough time because our SIL staff were being pulled into serving in group homes at that point, but we made sure Cheryl got the extra hours she needed.”

For Cheryl, those hours every week made the difference. “If I didn’t have the help that I have now, I wouldn’t be able to get through it. My support workers have been a good, strong blessing for me.” [www.bethesdabc.com/sil-a-hand-in-need/](http://www.bethesdabc.com/sil-a-hand-in-need/)

*It could be said that Supported Independent Living’s greatest value is in the relationships that it builds. The trust and care that develops between the SIL support worker and the person receiving the service enables personal growth and fulfillment in life.*

## Consider a Career at Bethesda

The last two years have been hard on health workers and caregivers. Across the health and caregiving sectors in BC, many have left their jobs, leaving vacancies and understaffed services. With so many job openings available, Bethesda’s ability to recruit staff has been affected.

The last winter was especially challenging. With many staff off sick or not permitted by the Public Health Office to work because of the vaccine mandate, Bethesda experienced a severe staffing shortage. As a last resort, we redeployed staff from our donation-based services, such as SIL and employment services, to cover shifts in our residential homes.

People depending on SIL or employment services had their support temporarily reduced in order to have adequate staffing for people who need 24/7 care.

We are re-building our workforce. But finding the *best* people for Bethesda is a priority. We believe that our most eligible pool of candidates is right here with you.

If you or someone you know is looking for a job or considering a career change, take a moment and imagine the joy and satisfaction you’ll get from serving others.

*Learn more about a career at Bethesda and available positions and locations [bethesdabc.com/careers/](http://bethesdabc.com/careers/).*

# Youth Find Belonging and Friendship at Summer Camp

Anyone who has a child with a diverse ability knows how incredibly valuable respite is. Each hour is precious because you only get so many hours of respite from your government CLBC funding.

During the summer, our day camp offers a form of respite. Parents value this service because it helps them extend their limited number of respite hours. Kids value it because they are loved for who they are and no one is left behind. They make long-lasting friends at camp, practice life skills and build confidence.

Donations from Lend a Hand pay most of the costs of summer camp. Shannon is one of our campers. Last summer she was 19 and technically no longer eligible for camp. But because she had not yet transitioned into Bethesda's adult community inclusion, Family Support Services made an exception and she was able to enjoy one last summer with her friends. Read her story at [bethesdabc.com/shannons-summer-camp-story](http://bethesdabc.com/shannons-summer-camp-story).

Lend a Hand donations pay most of the costs of summer camp. It helps families bridge the summer months when youth are not in school and its flexibility meets people's needs.



Shannon (on left) enjoyed her last year at camp. She is an adult now and attends community inclusion at Bethesda.

## Lend a Hand

Donate today so those in need can receive.

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

## Student Bursaries Available

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 2022/2023 school year by requesting an application package from Bethesda at 604-850-6604 or [life@bethesdabc.com](mailto:life@bethesdabc.com).



## Summer Camp Student Jobs

This summer, work with kids with diverse abilities at our day camp and make a difference.

You need to be:

- between 19 and 30 years old.
- enrolled in full-time studies in a related field.
- have a Class 5 driver's licence and obtain a Class 4 by date of hire.

You will be blessed with:

- hands-on experience in social work.
- making a positive impact on kids with diverse abilities.
- personal and spiritual growth.

Learn about our summer day camp jobs at [www.BethesdaBC.com/careers/](http://www.BethesdaBC.com/careers/)

Apply by **April 29**

Training is provided.

## Bethesda

Jody Siebert, Chief Executive Officer

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