



Lend a Hand

FUNDRAISER 2026

Every Life Bears God's Image

What if seeing disability through the eyes of scripture opened our understanding of God's Kingdom—and our place in it? Rodney Wiebe, Bethesda's Director of Family Support and Community Development and father of two sons with diverse abilities, believes it does.

In a recent talk Rodney gave at a Bethesda leadership meeting, he emphasized that every person, regardless of ability, is created in God's image and belongs fully in God's Kingdom. Reflecting on his own family, he says, "Disabilities are not the result of mistakes or sin—they are opportunities for God's work to be revealed in daily life." He sees this truth reflected in Psalm 139:14: *"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."* In Rodney's view, every person, with their unique gifts and abilities, brings light, joy, and love to the people around them.

He also reflects on Jesus' words in John 9:3: *"Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but this happened so that the work of*

God might be displayed in his life." Rodney explains, "My sons' disabilities were never the result of sin. They are opportunities for God's work to be revealed in their lives, and in mine."

On being created in God's image, Rodney draws from Genesis 1:27: *"So God created mankind in his own image... male and female he created them."* He writes, "Being created in God's image is not about physical or intellectual attributes; it is about being fully human, fully loved, and fully known by God. You, I, my sons—we all bear God's image. Nothing can take that away."

This belief transforms how we relate to one another. Rodney says, "Recognizing that all people belong fully in God's Kingdom reshapes how we see others—and how we see ourselves."

At Bethesda, this belief guides daily work: everyone's gifts are celebrated and everyone belongs. Rodney adds, "Sometimes they are ministered to. Sometimes they minister alongside others. And sometimes, they teach all of us something new about love, resilience, and joy."

Read Rodney Wiebe's full reflection and explore his perspective on God's Kingdom and the value of every life at www.bethesdabc.com/every-life/.



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/ or scan the QR code



Family Fun Night More Than an Evening of Fun



What began four years ago as a simple idea—a safe, judgment free play space for families of children with diverse abilities, has grown into something much deeper. Bethesda's annual Family Fun Night has become a living picture of belonging, shaped by listening to families and responding to what they truly need.

In partnership with Northview Imagine and Young Life Capernaum, the event has expanded into a larger space while holding fast to its heart: a shared Christ-centred conviction that every person is an image bearer of God. Children explore freely—jumping in bouncy castles, playing UNO, getting their faces painted, or tossing the bag in the cornhole—each welcomed exactly as they are. While kids play, parents find space to breathe, connect, and simply enjoy conversation without having to explain their child's needs.

This event and the community it meets continues to grow because of donors who faithfully support Bethesda's family services. Family Fun Night is more than an event—it's a community growing through partnership, faithfulness, and generosity.

Read the full story on our blog: bethesdabc.com/ffn/

When Funding Falls Short, Community Steps In

Through Lend a Hand, our community shows up for families and people with diverse abilities when essential supports aren't covered by government funding. Services like our summer day camp and Camp Bethesda rely on dedicated staff—and last year, when our Canada Summer Jobs funding was unexpectedly denied, we weren't sure how we would move forward.

Camp plans were underway, families were counting on us, and needs were growing. We chose to continue, trusting God and reaching out for help. What followed was overwhelming. The response from our supporters was more than generous—an outpouring of care that made staffing our camps possible.

One family was nearing crisis, caring for two adult children while waiting for additional supports. With less than a month to go, we made adjustments, hired skilled staff, and created space for their children to attend Camp Bethesda. That week of respite was support they simply wouldn't have had otherwise.

This is what Lend a Hand makes possible: families cared for, camps running, and essential support continuing—even when funding falls short.



Message from Tori Dalair, CEO



Lately, I've been noticing how often belonging shows up in quiet, almost ordinary ways.

I see it when a child who has felt left out is met at camp with patience, kindness, and genuine welcome—and slowly begins to relax into who they are. I see it when families come together in spaces created through uniquely aligned partnerships, where accessibility isn't an add on but a shared commitment. And I see it as we extend care to families in new regions,

many of whom have been carrying more than anyone should have to carry alone.

None of this feels flashy. But it does feel faithful.

These moments remind me that our work at Bethesda is about far more than the services we're contracted to deliver. It's about how we see one another: choosing again and again, to honour people as image bearers of God, worthy of love, dignity, and full participation in community.

I'm deeply grateful to walk alongside donors who make this possible. Your support helps shape communities where belonging is not only envisioned, but practiced—quietly, consistently, and with great care.

Tori Dalair

Tori Dalair, CEO

"So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them." — Genesis 1:27



Lending a Hand in the Okanagan

Last year, Bethesda celebrated its 30th anniversary in the Okanagan region with a joyful gathering of people living in the four homes, their families, staff, and members of the community. Together, they shared stories, reflected on decades of memories, deepened friendships, and left with a renewed appreciation for Bethesda's impact on inclusion and belonging in the community.

As part of our commitment to families in the area, we are expanding our presence by offering family support that promotes long-term wellness, healthy relationships, and strong communities. Families raising children with diverse abilities often need guidance, connection, and encouragement, and Bethesda's family support services can help. As the need for family support grows, we are exploring compassionate ways to respond.

If you're in the Kelowna area, you will be seeing more of us. We are planning another Bethesda event this summer and intend to make it an annual gathering that reinforces relationships and signals the importance we place on families in the region.



Celebrating three decades of Bethesda in the Okanagan. With the support of generous donors, we're expanding our reach—strengthening families, building community, and creating meaningful relationships that last.

A Thank-You From a Parent



“
No organization has had as much an impact on our lives than Bethesda.
”

Lindsay, Abbotsford.

Lindsay and her daughter Stella (at left). Stella joined our day camp in 2021, but their journey with Bethesda began in 2018 when the family first reached out to Family Support Services.

Curious? Talk to us!

We invite you into our ongoing story, rooted in God's Kingdom vision of a world where every person belongs, is fully loved, and is valued.

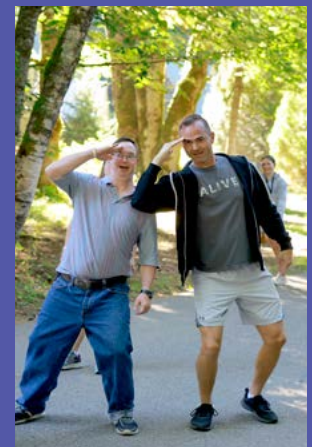
Are you interested in our services, working here or becoming a donor, and would like to know more? Contact us at life@bethesdabc.com. And follow us on social media or go to our website to learn more.

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www.bethesdabc.com



A Summer of Growth – for Campers and Staff

Two things drew Rylan to work at Bethesda's summer camps: the chance to serve in a Christian organization and the joy of working with kids. It didn't disappoint. "Each day I came in, I was always happy to be there. It was fun—really fun."

With plans to become a teacher, camp felt like the right next step. He'd been a youth leader and counsellor before, but had only a little experience with people with diverse abilities. The two weeks of training, and the steady support of the camp directors and fellow staff, meant he never felt out of his depth. The friendships he made became some of his closest, and several have stayed in

touch long after summer ended.

The best part was watching campers grow. Early in the season, many were quiet or anxious. "Later they were running around, joking, having fun. They gained this real sense of comfort with each other." Working with kids and adults also stretched him. "Things don't always go according to schedule," he said. "You learn to slow down, adapt, and be flexible."

The experience even opened him to the idea of teaching in special education. Rylan's encouragement for anyone considering a summer job at camp? "If you want to work in a Christian environment, this is the best."



Rylan (centre) with Scott and Zach at Camp Bethesda. If you want a summer job that's more than a job, where you'll make friends, build skills, and make a real impact, Bethesda's camps are looking for team members. Come be part of something life-giving.



A SUMMER CAMP JOB

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:

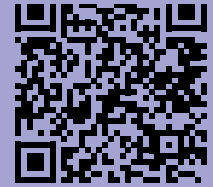
- make a positive impact on youth with diverse abilities.
- experience personal and spiritual growth.
- gain hands-on experience in social work.

Training is provided.

Work at summer camps!

LEARN MORE

www.BethesdaBC.com/careers/#current-jobs



Apply by May 1



Donate today!



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 and supported independent living. Our target this year is **\$300,000**. Won't you partner with us to continue impacting lives in transformational ways?

www.bethesdabc.com/donate/

Bethesda delivers community living services for people with diverse abilities with funding from Community Living BC, a crown corporation that contracts to service providers. 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 2026/2027 school year by requesting an application package from Bethesda at 604-850-6604 or life@bethesdabc.com.

Bethesda

Tori Dalair, Chief Executive Officer

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