

VIEWS

June 2025



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**Buy Your
Tickets
Today!**




Bloom
GALA
 JUNE 12
 2025
 A BENEFIT
 OF POSSIBILITIES

Message from the CEO - Shannon Crofton

June at Aspire Richmond: A Month of Excitement and Giving

June is a bustling month at Aspire Richmond! As kids wrap up their school year and families gear up for summer, Aspire is thrilled to host **The Benefit of Possibilities**, now known as the **Bloom Gala**.

Aspire Richmond proudly supports over **1,200 families** in the Richmond area. Our funding comes from the **Ministry of Child and Family Development** and **Community Living BC**. However, did you know that not all our services are funded? For instance, our **Family Resource position** relies entirely on fundraising efforts. Additionally, essentials like new playgrounds, vehicles, and renovations to programs and homes are not covered by our regular funding.

This is why the **Bloom Gala** is so crucial. It provides us with the means to offer those extra touches that make Aspire Richmond such a remarkable organization. There are several ways you can contribute:

- 1. Buy Tickets and Attend:** Join us for an evening filled with laughter and fun.
- 2. Make a Donation:** Every contribution helps us enhance our services.
- 3. Share the Invitation:** Spread the word within your networks to help us reach more people.

Your support is invaluable in helping us continue to provide exceptional services and support to our community. Let's make this June unforgettable at Aspire Richmond!



Join us for an evening of dinner and celebration amidst the blossoms of the beautiful Athiana Acres

JUNE 12 2025

6:00-10:00pm

FLORAL DRESS

ATHIANA ACRES

**12800 No. 2 ROAD
RICHMOND BC**

www.aspirerichmond.com

\$200/ticket

Scan here
to buy your
tickets



Exciting News: Aspire Enhances Safety with 9 New AEDs Across Our Services



We're proud to share that Aspire has taken a significant step forward in ensuring the safety and well-being of the people we support, their families, and our staff. Thanks to the generous support of the Richmond Community Foundation and Drive for Ability, we have acquired 9 Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) along with secure cabinets, which will soon be installed across several Aspire locations:

- Seedlings Early Childhood Development Hub
- Transitions
- Synergy/Respite/Independent Living/Home Share office
- Quantum
- Avenues/Employment Services/Outreach office
- Four of our Supported Living homes

Most Aspire staff are already trained in First Aid, including the use of AEDs. In addition, they will receive specific training on the operation of our new AED model to ensure confidence and readiness in any emergency.

At Aspire, we are deeply committed to creating safe, supportive environments. With the addition of these AEDs, we've made our spaces even safer. And we're not stopping here—our goal is to eventually have AEDs in every Aspire location.

~ Sue Jones, Director of Respite Services and Quality Assurance



Making a difference

You have decided it is time to do some estate planning, and you want to leave a bequest to your child with a disability. Consider speaking to your planner about a **Henson Trust**.

The advantage of this type of trust is that it will not affect your child's ability to receive government benefits. You select a trusted individual who has full discretion over the trust and makes decisions on behalf of your child. You can also stipulate that the residual of that trust be donated to a charity, offsetting taxes and such at the time of your child's passing.

Give the
gift of a
lifetime



For more information,
please email Sue Street,
Manager of Fund and Community Awareness
sstreet@aspirerichmond.com

Aspire Views and Aspiring Voices

Aspiring Voices is the video/audio companion to the Aspire Views newsletter, making each newsletter more accessible for those who wish to listen to rather than read each article. New episodes of Aspiring Voices are released the month after its corresponding newsletter is published.

~ Shintaro Tachihara, Manager of Children Respite
and Family Resources



Celebrating National Indigenous Peoples Day

National Indigenous Peoples Day is a significant occasion in Canada, celebrated annually on June 21st. This day is dedicated to honoring the rich cultures, traditions, and contributions of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples.

History and Significance

National Indigenous Peoples Day was first proclaimed in 1996 by then Governor General of Canada, Roméo LeBlanc. The date, June 21st, was chosen for its cultural significance as the summer solstice, a day that holds importance in many Indigenous cultures.

Cultural Celebrations

Across Canada, communities come together to celebrate through various events such as:

- Traditional ceremonies and powwows
- Storytelling sessions
- Art exhibitions showcasing Indigenous artists
- Music and dance performances
- Educational workshops on Indigenous history and issues

Why It Matters

This day is not only a celebration but also an opportunity for all Canadians to learn about and reflect on the history and ongoing contributions of Indigenous peoples. It fosters a deeper understanding and appreciation of the diverse cultures that enrich the nation.

How to Participate

Here are some ways you can join in the celebrations:

- Attend local events and ceremonies
- Support Indigenous artists and businesses
- Educate yourself and others about Indigenous history and current issues
- Engage in meaningful conversations about reconciliation and support initiatives that promote Indigenous rights

Looking Ahead

As we celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day, let's commit to ongoing learning and support for Indigenous communities. Together, we can build a more inclusive and respectful society.

To find out more about activities taking place in Richmond, please see the City of Richmond website.

<https://www.richmond.ca/>



Treehouse Daycare's Exciting Bus Adventure to Garry Point Park

Treehouse Daycare embarked on a delightful adventure as the children experienced riding the public bus for the very first time. The day began with eager anticipation as the group walked hand in hand with their friends and teachers to the bus stop.

Upon boarding the bus, the children were warmly greeted by the friendly bus driver. They settled into their seats, gazing out the windows as familiar sights from their community whizzed by. The journey to Garry Point Park was filled with laughter and curiosity, transforming the ride into an adventure of its own.

Upon arrival at Garry Point Park, the children were met with the breathtaking sight of cherry blossoms in full bloom. They spent the morning flying kites, running as fast as they could while the kites soared behind them. Some children successfully launched their kites high into the sky. The park's sandy areas and logs offered endless opportunities for play, exploration, and creativity.

After a fun-filled morning, the group boarded the bus once more, heading back to Treehouse Daycare. The return journey provided a moment for reflection on the day's adventures, with the children eagerly sharing their favorite moments.

This memorable outing not only introduced the children to public transportation but also nurtured a sense of community and exploration. Treehouse Daycare's trip to Garry Point Park was a day brimming with learning, laughter, and unforgettable memories.

~ Angela Yodogawa, Manager of Treehouse early Learning Centre



Herbaland: Championing Inclusion and Career Growth!

Aspire Richmond is proud to spotlight Herbaland — a shining example of how inclusive hiring creates both meaningful careers and business success. Through their partnership with Aspire's Employment Services, Herbaland has opened doors for neurodiverse individuals who bring unique talents to their team.

It all started when both the Maycrest and Horseshoe Way locations became hosts for Aspire's work experience program for students. This initial exposure sparked interest in several participants who later returned to apply after finishing school. Since 2022, Herbaland has welcomed four workers from the Aspire community into their team — and while two have moved on to new opportunities, Leslie and Kyle continue to thrive at Herbaland.



Meet the Team Members

Kyle joined Herbaland in mid-2023 as a packaging worker, initially planning to pursue a career in restaurants or food preparation. From day one, he was completely smitten with the company. "I never run out of new friends," Kyle tells us during check-ins, enthusiastically listing coworkers' names. This connection speaks volumes about Herbaland's culture — one that fosters positive relationships, belonging, and loyalty that keeps employees engaged.



Leslie, approaching his 3rd anniversary with the company this July, brings his quiet wit and diverse interests to the job every day. A fan of baking, bowling, computers, and even dancing, Leslie's varied talents have prepared him well for his flexible role. On any given day, you might find him loading machines with products, weighing bottles of gummies, or labeling boxes. When asked about his future plans, Leslie shares that he intends to stay with Herbaland long-term, drawn by the opportunities to learn new skills and advance his career.

Impact & Insights

Herbaland's inclusive approach creates a genuine win-win scenario. By embracing each employee's unique perspectives and abilities, they've built a workplace where everyone can thrive. Their success demonstrates that with thoughtful training, supportive management, and a welcoming culture, individuals with developmental disabilities achieve lasting, fulfilling careers.



The company's dedication to inclusion isn't just about doing good — it's smart business. Their workplace culture of respect, inclusion, and community has significantly improved employee satisfaction and retention.

Aspire Richmond extends our heartfelt thanks to Herbaland for leading by example. Together, Aspire Richmond and employers like Herbaland are paving the way for meaningful employment and lasting success for all.

~ Annabel Melnyk, Manager of Customized and Competitive Employment



Matthew Taylor, Aspire Outreach Specialist, coordinated the Aspire Richmond Sun Run team; 34 participants (individuals, staff, family) from our Supported Living homes and Community Outreach programs took to the roads to complete both the 10km and 2.5km races on a glorious spring morning. Each year, the number of Aspire participants grows as they share how much fun it is. Being out in the community, feeling the uplifting vibe is an experience hard to explain unless you have been there yourself. Come join our team next April!

Congratulations to everyone who participated, especially those doing it for the first time this year!



Leon and Shawn volunteer at Church on Five

The work Leon and Shawn are doing to support the Food Bank and Food for Life is a win-win for all. From using lift machines to unloading food boxes from Food Bank trucks, sorting boxes, stocking food for distribution, cleaning tables in preparation to serve food, the two volunteers are having fun and learning valuable skills.

Way to go Leon and Shawn - thank you for all you do!

~ Shawna Takahashi, Manager of Home Share



Car Show Excursion

Quantum Day program members attended the International Car Show to see the up and coming new vehicles!





SAVE THE DATE

August 28, 2025

The Land Before Time: A Dynamite Party

Family Picnic

look for an invitation
in your inbox with
more details this summer

4-7pm



Annual General Meeting

Sept 8 2025 6pm

Thriving. Connected. Happy.

Come share a cup of coffee with the CEO!

Have you ever wanted to share some creative ideas, thoughts or suggestions with Aspire's CEO?

Here is your chance!
Come meet Shannon Crofton
to share a coffee and a conversation.
This is open to all individuals, staff and families.

At Richmond Caring Place: 170-7000 Minoru Blvd
RSVP if you can to 604-279-7040, or just drop in!

I look forward to seeing you soon!

Shannon Crofton | CEO



**June 25, 2025
2pm-4pm**

MEMBERSHIP

with



Aspire Richmond is a non-profit, member driven organization. We operate in part, by contributions of your membership fees.

It is time to sign up or renew your membership today!

Membership fees:

Single Membership:	Family Membership (2 votes):
\$10/year	\$15/year
\$100/lifetime	\$150/lifetime

Sign up or renew your membership online today!

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