

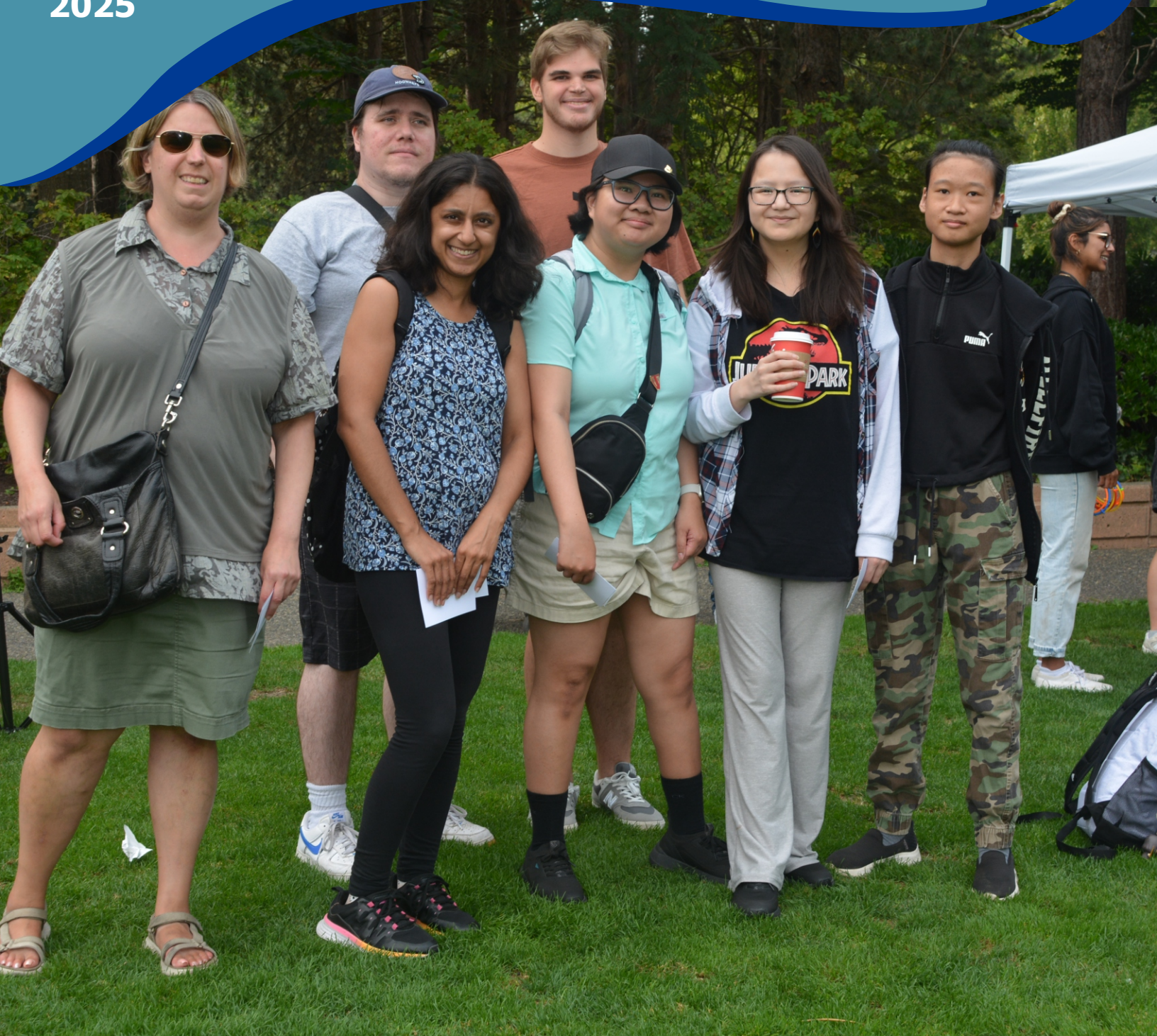


thriving. connected. happy.



October
2025

VIEWS



October is Community Inclusion Month



Each year, the Aspire Family Picnic brings hundreds of people together to reconnect with old friends, make new ones, and just have a blast—and this August was no different! Excitement filled the air as families and participants flocked to Brighthouse Park for a day packed with fun, laughter, and unforgettable memories.

From thrilling games and creative face painting to the ultimate picnic favorites—juicy hot dogs, sizzling hamburgers, and creamy mac & cheese—there was something to delight everyone. Truly, it was a feast fit for dinosaurs!

The fun didn't stop there! Guests were transported back in time with wrestling dinosaurs, a tricycle bursting with frozen treats, nonstop games, and music that had everyone dancing.

You could hear laughter echoing across the park as kids (and adults!) ran, played, and made memories that will last a lifetime. It was a lively, joyous celebration that will go down in the history of Aspire as one of our most “roarsome” gatherings yet.

A huge thank you goes out to all the volunteers who made this event possible, including the energetic TD Bank volunteers and the City of Richmond for providing this beautiful space.

Get ready to mark your calendars for next year—Aspire Family Picnic 2026 promises even more fun, laughter, and dino-sized adventures!





Aspire Annual General Meeting

Once again this past September, over 60 staff, individuals, family, and society members gathered at the Caring Place for our Annual General Meeting. We gathered and shared a light meal while playing games to get to know the newer attendees. Our Board Chair, Annette De La Place opened the meeting followed by several presentations from the CEO, our treasurer and some of our self advocates.

The AGM is a time to showcase the accomplishments of Aspire Richmond, including a visual display of artwork by various Aspire artists.

Consider becoming a member of Aspire Richmond and attend our AGM next year to vote on important decisions that help move our agency forward.

Seedlings Camp Wrapped Up Summer with a Delicious Bang!

On the final day of summer camp, our young chefs transformed Seedlings into a pop-up restaurant — **Yummy Nuggets Café!** From the first spark of the idea (thanks to one of our awesome staff!) to the last bite of mac and cheese, this café was *completely* child-led, with our incredible team supporting every step of the way.

The kids took charge — brainstorming the name, crafting the menu, prepping ingredients, and cooking up a storm. From sweet coffee cakes to cheesy comfort food, they served up smiles and full bellies to staff and fellow campers alike.

Through this delicious adventure, our campers didn't just learn how to cook — they built leadership, teamwork, and life skills that will stick with them long after the last dish was washed.

It was the *perfect* way to end the summer — full of flavour, fun, and fantastic memories. Everyone left with happy hearts and full tummies!

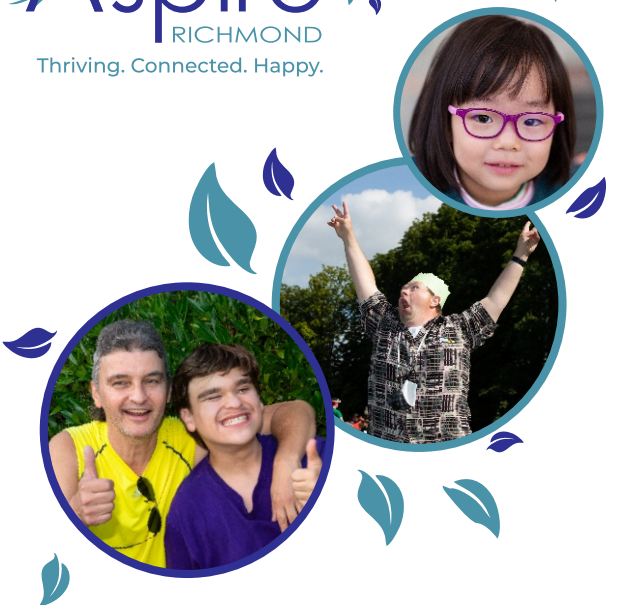


MEMBERSHIP

with

Aspire
RICHMOND

Thriving. Connected. Happy.



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



**Sign up or renew
your membership
online today!**

Membership fees:

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

604-279-7040
info@aspirerichmond.com
www.aspirerichmond.com
170 7000 Minoru Blvd Richmond BC V6Y 3Z5
CRA Reg # 107895591RR0001

Dare to Enter... If You're Brave Enough October 30-31, 2025

This October, as the veil between worlds grows thin, something sinister stirs in the shadows. You are cordially invited to step beyond the safety of daylight and into the chilling depths of our Haunted House—where every creaking floorboard whispers secrets, and every flickering light hides a lurking terror. Come if you dare... but beware: once you cross the threshold, there's no turning back. Please come by for our Jurassic, Scary Pony themed room, with various assortments of items and scary people. Come by for a thrilling time, and some treats! Dressing up is optional but encouraged!

Caring Place (enter off Minoru Blvd)
7000 Minoru Blvd Richmond
Oct 30 - 2:00pm-5:30pm
Oct 31 - 12:30pm-4:30pm



Spreading kindness

Aspire Richmond has a Kindness Committee whose purpose is to spread kindness within the agency and within our community.

This year, the Committee's summer initiative was to spread joy to local seniors' centres. Aspire programs and homes were provided kits to decorate greeting cards for our local seniors. The beautiful cards were then delivered to nearby seniors' centres.

Inclusive Education



Scan/Click
for more
resources!



An Evening for Conversation and Connection: Listening to Families, Shaping the Future

On May 28, Aspire Richmond's Inclusive Education Committee hosted an evening of dialogue and learning in preparation for the 2026 Inclusive Education Think Tank, scheduled for the winter of 2026. Facilitated by Apostrophe, the event brought together 24 parents and educators to explore what true inclusion means in Richmond's public schools.

The evening began with featured presentations on inclusive education:

- Liz Hayes-Brown, Director of Instruction, Inclusive Learning & Equity, Richmond School District
- Dr. Erika Cedillo, Director of Policy & Programs, Inclusion BC

Together, they shared insights on inclusive practices, advocacy, and systemic change. But the heart of the evening was the conversation: "What do you want the Think Tank to know about what must happen for your child and you to feel safe, included, informed, and happy in your education journey?"

From these rich discussions, themes emerged each offering guidance for the Think Tank's planning and the broader work of inclusive education in Richmond:

Understand Behaviour Through a Neurodiversity Lens: Behaviour is communication. Families want educators to recognize neurodiversity as a difference, not a disorder, and respond with empathy and validation.

Inclusion Requires Real Commitment and a Culture Shift: Inclusion must go beyond accommodations. Schools should actively challenge stigma, educate peers, and foster belonging in all spaces.

Support Must Be Individualized and Consistent: High-functioning students with low communication skills are often overlooked. Consistency in staffing and transparency in support plans are essential.

High School Support Is Falling Short: Families reported lagging support at the high school level, with fragmented communication and unmet IEPs. Social isolation and anxiety about the future are growing concerns.

Collaboration with Families is Key: Parents want to be partners, not just recipients of updates. Advocacy tools and training are needed, especially for newcomers to the system.

Communication Needs to Be Clear, Timely, and Ongoing: Families need regular check-ins and clarity about who's supporting their child.

Prioritize Social Connection and Emotional Safety: Academic success is not enough. Schools must help students build friendships and feel emotionally safe, especially those with low social skills.

Celebrate Strengths and Interests: A strength-based approach unlocks confidence and motivation. Passion-led learning can transform a child's experience. Families want to hear success stories that prove inclusion is possible and share practical strategies that work.

Reach the Voices We're Missing: Language, access, and trust barriers silence many families. Intentional outreach is needed to ensure equity.

Build Parent and School Communities: Connection reduces isolation. Families value spaces to build relationships with educators and other parents.

As planning for the 2026 Think Tank continues, these themes will serve as a compass ensuring that the event reflects the lived experiences, hopes, and wisdom of Richmond's families. The Inclusive Education Committee is grateful to the parents that participated and looks forward to continuing this journey of listening, learning, and leading together.

October is Community Inclusion Month

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Shine a Light

on
Community Inclusion

Join us for a
lantern parade
celebrating
the light of
Community
Inclusion



Wednesday October 15, 2025
6:30pm - Brighthouse Park
7840 Granville Ave, Richmond



CASH LOTTERY

Great odds
for a good cause!

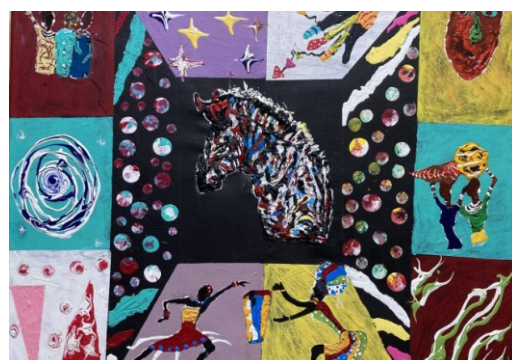
Try your luck and
support Community
Inclusion by participating
in our Cash Lottery.
Up to \$9,995 available
to win!



license number #165720

Aspire artists are featured at the
City of Richmond Art Exhibit

Magnificent Kingdom
September 16 - November 10, 2025
City of Richmond Galleria



MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE!

Are you a parent or relative of an individual supported by Aspire Richmond, or a community member who believes in the power of an inclusive workforce?

Your Workplace Could Be Our Next Partner!

We're seeking businesses that value diversity and are looking for skilled, motivated, and reliable employees. By referring your employer, you're not just helping us; you're helping to build a more inclusive and dynamic workforce.

A Simple Referral Can Change a Life!

Your simple referral may lead to a life-changing opportunity for an individual and a valuable new employee for a business!

If you believe your company, or one you know is a good fit, we would appreciate if you could introduce us!

Click below to refer someone or for additional information, please email: RAbando@aspirerichmond.com

IT'S EASY TO REFER



Employer Appreciation Lunch

supported by  Richmond Chamber of Commerce
SINCE 1920

Aspire Richmond's 2025 Employer Appreciation luncheon held on October 2 at the Westin Wall Centre celebrated another year of inclusive hiring. The employers and businesses in attendance were enthralled with the entertaining and informative presentation of our keynote speaker Christian Saint Cyr, Publisher of the BC Labour Review which highlighted the incredible value of inclusive hiring.

This year we were excited to present the inaugural Gill Award for Excellence in Workplace Inclusion to Mothers' Choice Products Founder and President Sandra Hass and Vice-President Kyle Hass. The Gill Award is a memorial award recognizing companies and organizations that embody the spirit of inclusion through meaningful action and that go above and beyond to create welcoming, supportive work environments for individuals with developmental disabilities.

We were incredibly impressed and appreciative of the tremendous work done by our team of job seekers who served as ushers and table hosts, and at the registration desk managing the crush of guests. We weren't the only people impressed and heard that a couple of the team were asked for their resumes!



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**.

Give the gift of a lifetime



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.

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

MARPOLE ADAPTIVE SOCCER

FALL/WINTER 2025 - 2026

Marpole Adaptive Soccer is a free, weekly soccer program designed for children and youth aged 3 - 17 with physical, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.
No diagnosis is required for participation!



From October 8th 2025 - February 12th 2026

Mighty 1 - Ages 3 - 5:

Thursdays from 6:00 - 6:45pm

Mighty 2 - Ages 6 - 9:

Wednesdays from 6:00 - 6:45pm

Juniors - Ages 10 - 13:

Thursdays from 7:00 - 7:45pm

Majors - Ages 14 - 17:

Wednesdays from 7:00 - 7:45pm



Sexsmith Elementary School
7410 Columbia St., Vancouver

REGISTER NOW



[https://marpolesoccer.com/
adaptive-soccer-program/](https://marpolesoccer.com/adaptive-soccer-program/)



marpoleadaptive@gmail.com



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.

November 6 2025
2:30pm-4:30pm

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

CALL FOR CRAFT VENDORS

holiday Craft Fair



Aspire
RICHMOND

Wednesday, Dec 3, 2025
10 am - 2 pm
Richmond Caring Place,
7000 Minoru blvd

If interested in a table at this year's Craft Fair,

Contact:

604-279-7040

kollson@aspirerichmond.com

Aspire Richmond

170 - 7000 Minoru Blvd, Richmond BC V6Y 3Z5

| 604-279-7040

| www.aspirerichmond.com