

REACH & the Community

Speakers in Video:

Mike Ma: Board Member

Afshin Jaber: Pharmacy Manager

Audio Transcript

[Video Description: "REACH & the Community"]

Mike: [0:00:16] One day I was actually at the park hanging out with my neighbor, playing with the kids at the park, and she was mentioning that they're looking for new board members and I thought "oh this is kind of interesting I've always wanted to do more things locally in terms of serving the community". And so I went to the AGM and then I stood for election and that's how I got involved.

The reason I'm interested in REACH is certainly I'm interested in community health issues and this was a good opportunity to be involved more at the level of what are the services available to my community, to my neighbors and the people that live on the street and that live on Commercial Drive.

REACH is a Community Health Center and we're very proud of the fact that we are a Community Health Center because it's based on this model that we're offering these kind of wraparound services for the whole community from youth to seniors and everybody in between who are offering services that are medical so we have doctors we have nurse practitioners we have dental also so addresses people's dental needs.

[Video Description: "Medical" "Dental" "Pharmacy" "Multicultural Centre"]

Mike: [0:01:24] We also didn't have a storefront pharmacy previously so now the new building has a pharmacy built into it as well. We also have a multicultural kind of Family Center so we're also addressing the needs of newcomers. We are trying to always expand our services and think about how to improve our services. So, one of the ways in which we're expanding our service is just to try and reach more vulnerable or at risk people and people with so-called complex medical needs and so we're out reaching to those people as well and so I've been involved in that type of outreach as well.

Afshin: [0:02:02] REACH was developed in the 60's. It was developed by a pediatrician named Roger Tonkin who developed that mainly as a site for faculty of medicine residents to come in to practice their trade. Over the years then it expanded because the area that REACH served had a lot of new immigrants and people that didn't have actual healthcare coverage and people actually began to use it as the regular clinic and really liked the care that REACH provided.

So the clinic went on from being just more of an educational site, to becoming a full functioning clinic with a multidisciplinary team with nutritionists and nurse practitioners and pharmacists all of the which were added you know a few years later and then eventually they started hiring doctors full-time to be there as opposed to just students.

So REACH stands for Research, Education and Action for Community Health but it really started with Research and Education and then all the rest of it came through.

Community Health Center is somewhere where people can come to access all of their health care needs under one umbrella. Typically, Community Health Centers will have a multidisciplinary team approach. They will have counselors, nutritionists, pharmacists, whatever their funding can provide for them and it's almost like you know I think of it as a one-stop shop for all of your healthcare needs and by having it be that way that concept is that all these health professionals work very closely together and you will get much better care because you will have the person that should be treating you for that particular situation as opposed to regular situation where most people will go to their physician for everything.

Mike: [0:03:58] I think often people want to be more involved with their community, but they don't know how to be involved and I think the REACH Community Health Center allows and solicits and invites people's participation because it is a clinic for the community. And so, this allows people to have this direct input about how health service should be delivered in your community and that's what community is when you get together to build and deliver health service that is one small way in which you become involved with the civic life of your community.

[Video Description: "Filmed and Produced by: Melissa Campos, Calvin Truong, Angelica Lin"

"Special thanks to: Mike Ma, Afshin Jaber, Dexter McMillan"

"Music by: The Highlands – "To Edinburgh", Summit by Ethan Rank – "Awaken", Fjodor – Mount Seymour – "Calgary""

"REACH Community Health Centre Celebrating over 45 years of Community Health in Community Hands"

"School of Interactive Arts and Technology"]