

Making Abbotsford a Better Place... For Kids To Get a Kick out of Soccer



May 11, 2010 – Abbotsford

The Abbotsford Community Foundation is pleased to be able to make a \$1000 grant to the "I CAN Play Soccer program, one of the Canucks Autism Network (CAN) sport based programs developed to cater to the unique challenges and strengths that coincide with autism. This program seeks to teach basic soccer skill development to children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their siblings. The program also encourages and promotes friendship, sportsmanship and confidence as the participants are given the opportunity to engage in an activity that is often unavailable to them.

Sandy Hill Elementary School has been home to the I CAN Play Soccer program in Abbotsford since October 2009. The Sandy Hill program has 14 participants, with ages ranging from four to ten years old. Eight of these participants have ASD, with the remaining participants being siblings. The program was filled within a month of being opened and continues to have a positive impact for those participating and volunteering.

The coach has observed the participants as they have "increased their confidence and improved their basic soccer skills. We are very thankful to the many volunteers from the Abbotsford program and to the Abbotsford Community Foundation for their support in making a difference for individuals and families dealing with autism" explains Dimitri Aspostolopoulos.

If you would like to help fund community recreation, or other programs supporting community vitality, contact Abbotsford Community Foundation at 604-850-3755.

- Laurie Daschuk, Communications Coordinator, ldaschuk@abbotsfordcf.org
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