

Save the Date  
Rehoboth AGM  
Coaldale, AB  
June 16

# Flourish!



  
**Rehoboth**

Christian Ministries  
Newsletter



April 2018

[www.rehoboth.ab.ca](http://www.rehoboth.ab.ca)



### 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL REHOBOTH GOLF CLASSIC IN COALDALE – MAY 26<sup>TH</sup>

Rehoboth - Coaldale will host its 25th Annual Golf Classic on Saturday, May 26th at the Paradise Canyon Golf Resort in Lethbridge. Why not consider a sponsorship? Or, if you just want to golf, the entry fee is just \$200, which includes a \$50 tax receipt.

Register online at [www.rehoboth.ab.ca/golf/](http://www.rehoboth.ab.ca/golf/) or call us to have a sponsor or golfer registration form emailed to you. Contact Sigrid at 403-345-5199 or [sigrid.miklos@rehoboth.ab.ca](mailto:sigrid.miklos@rehoboth.ab.ca).

### 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL REHOBOTH GOLF CLASSIC IN CALGARY – MAY 28<sup>TH</sup>

Join us for Calgary's 21st Annual Golf Classic taking place on Monday, May 28 at Redwood Meadows Golf & Country Club. The cost to register a golfer is \$185 and includes: 18 holes of golf, power cart, driving range and dinner. Last year's event raised an amazing \$21,000 for Rehoboth programs in Calgary and this year we're raising funds that will go towards developing a library area for our vocational program. Go to [www.rehoboth.ab.ca](http://www.rehoboth.ab.ca) to register and for more information. Registration deadline is May 14. See you on the course!

### 28<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL REHOBOTH GOLF CLASSIC IN STONY PLAIN – JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup>

Help support adults with developmental disabilities: sign up for the 28th Annual Rehoboth Golf Classic fundraiser in Stony Plain. Register online at [www.rehoboth.ab.ca](http://www.rehoboth.ab.ca), or request a Registration Form by emailing to [golf-classic@rehoboth.ab.ca](mailto:golf-classic@rehoboth.ab.ca). This year, tournament proceeds will help build new cabins at Rehoboth Camp near Gull Lake!



## Invitation to the Rehoboth AGM – Saturday, June 16, 2018 –

Time: **10:30 AM**

Place: **Rehoboth Christian Ministries  
Hwy 845, Coaldale, Alberta**

The Board of Directors invites the membership of Rehoboth Christian Ministries to attend the Annual General Meeting on June 16.

Documents including bios of new board candidates (see also Joy Monsma's bio elsewhere in this newsletter), Audited Financial Statements, the new budget, and minutes of the 2017 AGM will be provided at the meeting. Members can also request them by emailing [ron.bos@rehoboth.ab.ca](mailto:ron.bos@rehoboth.ab.ca) or calling 780-968-8481.

#### Agenda:

Welcome and opening	Brian de Haan	<i>President</i>
Establish quorum	Brian de Haan	
Approval of minutes of the June 17, 2017 AGM	Alex Van Geest	<i>Secretary</i>
Approval of 2017-18 Audited Financial Statements	Stefan Dykema	<i>Treasurer</i>
Approval of 2018-19 Operational Budget	Stefan Dykema	
Motion to appoint auditor for 2018-19	Stefan Dykema	
Highlights of 2017-18	Ron Bos	<i>Executive Director</i>
Recognition of retiring board members	Johan Knol	<i>Vice-President</i>
Election/acclamation of new board members	Brian de Haan	
Question period	Brian de Haan	
Closing and adjournment	Sheldon Kok	<i>Director</i>

Attendees are invited to tour the Coaldale facility, and to fellowship with Rehoboth Board members over a light lunch following the meeting.

## FROM THE REHOBOTH BOARD PRESIDENT: MY REASON

## MEMBERSHIP

Over my past six years on the Board of Directors I have discovered that Rehoboth membership, staff, and supporters all have their own individual reason for their love of Rehoboth. For some, they believe it is our duty as church of God to look after *all* of God's children. For others, they have family members who are currently, or previously, been supported by Rehoboth. Some have fond memories of attending Rehoboth Camp, others volunteer at local Rehoboth events – each of us has a reason!

For me, my reason was to give back to Rehoboth for the many years of service Rehoboth provided to Liz Koning, my wife's aunt. She passed away on May 22, 2017, and I thought I would share some of the words that were spoken by her family at her funeral that so appropriately echoed and emphasized my reason for being a part of Rehoboth:



*"Our dear sister Elizabeth Evelyn was born on January 2, 1961. Within weeks of her birth, Liz had her first epileptic seizure, and this would be followed by a lifetime of seizure activity. These thousands of seizures would take a toll on her, physically and mentally and she suffered other handicaps in no small part, due to her epilepsy. In December of 1964, our mother passed away, and life for a family with a handicapped child grew more complicated and more challenging. In those days, there was no other option than for the young Liz to be moved out of the family home and to Red Deer, and take up residence in Michener Centre, an institution-like setting for children with handicaps. Our Dad passed away in November of 1995. Our step-mom Jetske Koning led the search for alternative housing options for Liz. Finally, a connection was made with the family of Steven Vanbelle, and Rehoboth Christian Ministries. A concept was developed, funding was found, plans were drawn up, much free labour organized, and a beautiful house was built, which came to be known as Five Gables. Liz was so excited to be moving into her own house; one time she came to church with a box she*

*had made in some craft class, and loudly declared to Mom that this was for her new house. In 1997, Liz moved in, together with Steven, Terry, Paul and Katrina, and this became her extended family. Life was good! The care of the Rehoboth workers was extraordinary! Her last months were good months. Liz was happy and chatty and loving and animated. Her last day, Sunday was good. During the night, Liz had three seizures and had vomited, so the house staff thought it best to send her to the hospital. We had no reason to expect her passing. Jetske was there with her, and suddenly and restfully, her life was taken from her, and God called Liz home. Sister Pauline described it so beautifully: it was as if God had been watching this precious child of His, and saw that life was not getting any easier, for her and for her loving family. And God said, "It's enough. Now let me take care of Liz here in heaven", and He took her unto Himself, where she is whole and happy, and freed from all brokenness and handicaps. We as family cannot begin to express what a blessing that Rehoboth Christian Ministries has been in the life of our special sister, and the blessing that you have been to our whole family. We pray that your organization will continue to be blessed and to be a blessing. In all she went through, we know that Liz's life had value and was precious and could bear witness to that love of her earthly family and the love of her heavenly Father. And so we say, "To God be the glory!"*

It is my prayer that each of you will continue to support Rehoboth, that you will pass on your reason for supporting this ministry to your children and grandchildren, and carry on the legacy of making room and helping all God's children flourish.

Thank you for all of your support, feedback, and prayers over the past six years. It has been a wonderful privilege to serve this organization - Soli Deo Gloria!

- Brian de Haan, president@rehoboth.ab.ca



### 2017 REHOBOTH MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN RESULTS

The Rehoboth Board of Directors offer a heartfelt thank you to everyone that contributed to last October's Membership Campaign! A total of 2,946 Rehoboth supporters renewed their annual memberships or became new members. The membership fees together with generous donations given during the campaign totaled \$149,308, which will greatly assist us in helping people with disabilities flourish.

We are also very grateful for the efforts of all our church canvassers who distributed campaign literature, phoned congregation members, tapped people on the shoulder, collected monies, and ensured everything was sent back to Rehoboth in good order. Thank you, canvassers! We literally could not run the membership campaign without you.

#### VISION

By the grace of God, all persons with disabilities have a meaningful and dignified place in society where they can live, contribute and fellowship with others.

#### MISSION

Rehoboth conveys God's love to persons with disabilities and their families by making room for them and enabling them to flourish.

#### VALUES

Rehoboth values are Christ-like, including: Serving; Compassion; Dignity; Inclusivity; Integrity; Commitment

#### BELIEFS

We believe:

- That Rehoboth is diligent in using the power of prayer
- That Rehoboth serves God through serving its clients
- That the work of Rehoboth is blessed by God
- That Rehoboth is deliberate in applying and nurturing the God-given talents of everyone involved.

# ACCREDITATION SUCCESS



## REHOBOTH EARNS HIGHEST ACCREDITATION DISTINCTION

In January, Rehoboth achieved **Level 2 Accreditation**, as designated by the Commission on Accreditation of the Alberta Council of Disability Services. Level 2 Accreditation means Rehoboth is an agency **providing a high level of excellence** in:

- service delivery;
- innovative practices;
- staff training and support;
- strategic planning and processes
- an ongoing commitment to quality improvement.

The Rehoboth Board of Directors congratulates staff for their commitment to excellence in achieving Level 2 Accreditation. Board President, Brian de Haan thanked the staff, stating:

*“Level 2 Accreditation is an incredible achievement, giving evidence to the passion of our staff in providing the best support possible to the individuals we serve. It also shows that, as an organization, Rehoboth is forward-thinking and has processes and procedures to best support our staff in the God-given work we do.”*

A few years ago, Rehoboth made the strategic decision to pursue this higher level of accreditation. Meeting its more stringent standards meant finding better ways to do our work, from frontline services to board and committee work. All of these demanding standards are designed to improve the quality of services provided to the individuals we support.

Level 2 Accreditation does not necessarily mean Rehoboth gets more funding from the government. It means families and guardians have an extra measure of confidence and trust in the higher standard of services for their sons, daughters, brothers and sisters. And it tangibly shows that Rehoboth walks the talk when we say we help people flourish.

Level 2 Accreditation is a three-year designation. In September 2020, Rehoboth will again undergo the extensive ACDS Commission audit process to renew our designation.



## ACHIEVING GOALS

Cheryl is a joy to be around and she is funny, smart, and outgoing. She is very kind and always has something nice to say to the people around her.

Cheryl has had many positive things happen in her life over the past few months, including becoming engaged to her boyfriend of seven years. Congratulations, Cheryl!

Cheryl studied very hard and was able to pass the knowledge test to obtain her Class 7 learners licence, a goal that was very important to her. She also secured a part-time job at Value Village organizing clothes, and she hopes to be trained on the till eventually.

Outside of work Cheryl volunteers at the humane society in the cat room, a pastime she really enjoys! In her free time Cheryl enjoys camping, watching movies, colouring, swimming, sewing, and learning how to cook.

This summer, Cheryl looks forward to learning how to drive, as well as planning her wedding.



## CHALLENGING ONESELF

For the last year the Central Region Vocational Program in Three Hills has made an emphasis on challenging ourselves to learn (or sometimes re-learn!) new things. It's important for all of us to keep learning because it helps us grow and have purpose in our lives. For example, this last year we received a computer program that offers brain exercise activities to promote better memory and attention, improved visual and auditory processing, stronger problem-solving skills, and more. Several individuals in the Vocational Program have enjoyed this program so much that we are purchasing another in order for more individuals to participate. We are so thankful for the fundraising efforts that help us do this.

Rachel is a wonderful example of applying oneself to learn. She attended school as a child but has recently expressed a desire to learn more academics. Rachel loves to send cards to her family, it's one of the ways she keeps in touch with them. She has been working hard on writing out the names of each of her family members by herself. She's also become quite proficient at navigating Facebook – it's another way she connects with her parents, siblings, nieces and nephews. She inspires others to not give up on things that are hard and to challenge oneself to learn new things.



## GOING TO THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS IN NOVA SCOTIA

By Sallie Szanik (Wade's Mother)

Big news! Wade Szanik has made Team Alberta and will compete in Athletics at the Special Olympics National games in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, July 29 to August 1, 2018. Wade won a Gold in the 100 meters, Silver in the 200 meters and Bronze in the shot put at the SO Alberta Provincial games this past July. Great work Wade – we are all so proud of you!

Wade will be working hard this year with extra training to help him do his best at the National games. Wade's family will be at the games cheering him on. Sisters Megan, Chelsea and Carly are hoping to travel east along with dad Richard to be Wade's cheering squad. Mom Sallie will be busy coaching at the games at the swimming pool. Special Olympics is a family affair for the Szanik's it seems. Best of luck Wade! Rehoboth and all the staff are extremely proud of you. Go Wade Go!



## PERSEVERANCE PREVAILS

Chris Stewart represents the extraordinary example of challenging oneself with their own stress and anxiety in order to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Chris resides in Spruce Grove with his family and entered the Rehoboth Vocational Day Program in Stony Plain in 2010. With Chris, dedication and hard work in maintaining his daily routine has allowed him to control his anxiety and make choices.

Over the past seven years Chris has grown to overcome obstacles and adversity, which at one time held him back. This milestone built on trust has helped Chris achieve a calm demeanour when encountering disruptions in routine. Chris' progress in many ways has opened avenues for him to excel at being happy with himself, increased interactions with his coworkers, and encourages him take chances in different environments. This growth has also been beneficial to Chris enjoying several weeks of summer RV travels with his family.

The new found skills Chris has acquired over the years will not only provide him with the tools to maintain his growth, but also provide new opportunities to flourish as additional experiences are presented to him, thus enriching his life journey.

## COMMUNITY INCLUSION

By Katalin Ormay (Andrea's Mother)

Andrea has been with Rehoboth for seven years. Seeing her grow, develop and flourish makes her family filled with gratitude for all the love, care and attention she is receiving from her staff. It is so fortunate that a residential space was available, and with much planning Andrea and her parents became ready for the move.

After a couple of months with Rehoboth, the signs of positive change were obvious. Her days were filled with activities: community outings, library, swimming, horseback riding, volunteering, study group, craft courses, picnics, special "O", and more. She took all these strides as her weight dropped, her smile increased, and her true personality shone. She became more comfortable around people, was able to participate in activities and started to develop friendships. Rehoboth staff were like family members to her. Andrea clearly flourished in "her" home with the loving and expert support from her workers.

The family dreamt about bringing her to church and participating in the service, but her fear of crowds and a strange fear of the church building posed a challenge for years. Everything happens in God's time. With the staff support and understanding from the church community, she was able to stay for the services. The singing and music is a large part of her church experience. She received her First Communion as part of her school group, and was confirmed.

With the support of her staff, she can accomplish so much more than the family could even hope for!



## CHARITY DAY DONATION

Charity Days at Park Lighting (Edmonton) and Cartwright Lighting (Calgary) are held several times each year. One hundred percent of sales on these four days are donated to named charities.

January 27 was Rehoboth Charity Day! Park Lighting and Cartwright Lighting sales donations totaled almost forty-six thousand dollars! This amazing generosity will enable Rehoboth to invest in:

- iPads for supported individuals enrolled in our Vocational Programs in Stony Plain, Calgary, Grande Prairie, Three Hills, and Coaldale
- Life skills training apps and course materials
- Music therapy instruments for supported individuals across Alberta
- Smart TVs for social interaction and community



- entertainment evenings for supported individuals at our facilities
- Portable public address systems for special events for supported individuals
- and much more!

Rehoboth Christian Ministries is filled with gratitude toward the management and staff of Park Lighting and Cartwright Lighting, and to all who shopped during Rehoboth Charity Day this past January. Thank you all!

## CAMP REHOBOTH SUMMER CAMP MINISTRY

Kevin Debree, Camp Program Manager

*God Takes Care of Everyone.* That's the theme of Camp this summer. When people come to Camp, I always tell them how firmly I believe that God places a dome of protection around the Camp facility and the activities we do. It's a safe place where people are allowed to be themselves and enjoy each other in a fun, encouraging environment.

This summer we will be learning all about Jacob and Joseph, and how God took care of them during their times of trouble. It's also a great opportunity to grow. For campers, it's growing in their faith, relationships, or their confidence to try something new. For staff, it's growing in their faith, relationships, or their appreciation for all of God's people.

We recently held a staff alumni retreat called ReConnect, and one of the highlights was a brainstorming session where we talked about what Camp meant to us and how we could make it better. Out of that discussion, some main points came to the surface, and these points have reinforced our goals for the Camp Ministry. As I go around the province and share what the Camp Ministry is all about, I talk about three of our goals:

**Goal #1:** To share the gospel and love of Jesus – this is our biggest priority! We want Camp to continue to be a safe, caring place where everyone can hear about how much Jesus loves them.

**Goal #2:** To provide a true summer Camp experience. If you can remember going to summer camp as a kid, that is exactly what we want to provide for our campers. Campfires, wide games, swimming, chapel, and crafts are all a part of our weeks. This year we are blessed to be adding archery, a hammock village, and a volleyball court (see Camp Facility Highlights) to our program!

**Goal #3:** To provide a week of respite for parents and caregivers. Supporting people with special needs is a special calling. Camp gives these people a much-deserved break. (Sometimes I joke that it gives parents of my teenage staff a week off from them as well!!)

As I mentioned before, this winter I have focused my time on sharing what Camp is all about to various schools and churches around Alberta. I love talking about Camp, and the difference it has made in my life, and the lives of campers and staff. This will be my 27th summer at Camp, and each year keeps getting better. I'm so encouraged by the support I've received, and what the future holds for our Camp Ministry, and I would love to have you be a part of it! I got my start as a Counsellor-In-Training when I was 13, and I've never looked back. We are always looking for volunteers in various capacities, and it would be fantastic if you could join us in this journey. All it really takes is the willingness to be a friend. Visit [www.rehoboth.ab.ca](http://www.rehoboth.ab.ca) or give me a shout at [camp@rehoboth.ab.ca](mailto:camp@rehoboth.ab.ca) to find out more.



## CAMP FACILITY UPDATE

"Fun and fellowship for people of all ages and abilities" is the mission statement of the Camp Rehoboth facility. That statement will be reinforced with the new projects we have planned for this summer. Now that the mess hall has been completed, our focus is on enhancing the activities and accommodations we offer to our campers and rental groups.

The last activities we built at Camp were the playground and mini-golf course, both over 15 years old. During the next few years, we are excited to be building some small projects for you to enjoy should you volunteer for our Camp Ministry or stay for a church/youth retreat, family reunion, or maybe a crafting weekend.

Here are some of the projects we are hoping to complete this summer:

- 1: Rebuild the mini-golf.** This is a priority for this spring. The course will be played in one square area rather than stretched out. It will be closer to the mess hall and consist of nine holes.
- 2: An archery range.** This is our most exciting project this year! In our commitment to provide a true summer camp experience, what better activity than to shoot a bow and arrow? The range will be located on the west end of the soccer field.
- 3: A hammock village.** What is a hammock village? It is a collection of 12 hammocks in the shape of a wagon wheel with spokes, where everyone can hang out, relax, read and reconnect. It will be situated between the firepit and Cabin 1.
- 4: Rebuild the volleyball court.** You asked for it and it will be back, relocated between Cabin 6 and the main washrooms.
- 5: Clear out short trails behind the RV park.** Part of our future development includes some short walking trails in the old tenting sites between the south ring road and the RV park. This year the plan is to clear out and prepare the trails and sites to include benches, sensory items, large brainteaser puzzles, or obstacles such as balance beams or monkey bars.

None of these projects are possible without support from our Camp community. A huge thank-you to the Joyful Noise Choir of Edmonton, which has been supporting Rehoboth for many years. Before the choir's Dessert Night Fundraiser, Director Rein Selles asked which projects Camp could benefit from and how much the choir would need to fundraise. Rehoboth decided on the archery range, hammock village, and volleyball court, at an estimate of \$3750. After the results were tallied, the Joyful Noise Choir helped to raise **that very amount!**

As we move forward, some of our future projects include replacing older cab-ins, and building more activities for everyone to enjoy. Come on down to Gull Lake and check it out.



# Serving people with disabilities. Helping them *Flourish*.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

From a governance perspective, Rehoboth Christian Ministries is led by a Board of Directors, whose members are elected to three year terms by the Society. Currently, the board consists of:

<b>Brian de Haan</b>	President	<i>Edmonton</i>	<b>Sheldon Kok</b>	Director	<i>St. Albert</i>
<b>Johan Knol</b>	Vice-President	<i>Coalthurst</i>	<b>Janet Postma</b>	Director	<i>Red Deer</i>
<b>Stefan Dykema</b>	Treasurer	<i>Calgary</i>	<b>Bob Dykstra</b>	Director	<i>Burdett</i>
<b>Alex Van Geest</b>	Secretary	<i>Lacombe</i>	<b>Henry Van Steenberg</b>	Director	<i>Edmonton</i>
<b>Wendy Abma</b>	Director	<i>Calgary</i>	<b>Jim Beusekom</b>	Director	<i>Fort Macleod</i>

## BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATE

Joy Monsma is the Chief Difference Maker at Teneo Consulting Inc., providing Organizational Development expertise.

She is trained as a Six Sigma Blackbelt, holds a Masters of Business Administration, and is the licensee for DisruptHR in northern Alberta. Her work includes managing change, engaging people, setting strategy, counselling leaders, writing, and public speaking. Solving people and process puzzles is what makes her heart sing.

Joy and her husband Greg reside on an acreage near Edmonton and attend Covenant CRC. With their own children grown and married, they are now welcoming grandchildren into their family. In between, family, church, and community commitments they enjoy exploring the world.



## ESTATE DONATIONS POLICY:

Rehoboth will be responsible in prudently managing financial donations from Rehoboth supporters.

All designated (restricted) donated funds will be used for the sole purpose for which it was earmarked for by the donating family as soon as appropriately feasible unless otherwise stipulated within the deceased's will and/or original terms of the donation.

All undesignated estate funds are to be placed in an internally restricted reserve for the purpose of funding significant capital projects. In order for funds to be withdrawn, the Executive Director will create a proposal and relevant business case to be presented to the Rehoboth Board of Directors. Pending board approval, the funds will be released for the design, necessary permitting, and construction of the project. Under no circumstances are the internally restricted estate donations to be used for general operating costs.