



Name of Organization: Arbutus Shaughnessy Kerrisdale (ASK) Friendship Society Adult Day Program

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Challenges and opportunities: This is ASK's third year requesting funding through the Building Capacity project's Dementia Ventures Implementation Fund. ASK runs an Adult Day Program for its clients, over 80% of whom have a formal dementia diagnosis. Their key outcomes from previous years have been to develop and enhance programs. During the closure in 2020, ASK sent cards on special days, sent packages such as masks to keep their seniors safe, and sent activity packages for them to join the online programs. All of this is still happening today. ASK has had to purchase extra supplies, like craft and games items since, due to Covid, clients have not been able to share. But adapting to the pandemic has given ASK the opportunity to build their activities, and for the past 2 years they've offered virtual services, fresh meal delivery, and expanded their caregiver supports. These activities have started out small and can be expanded on as resources permit.

What's envisioned for next year? For the 2022 Proposal, ASK is requesting the funds so that a range of paid staff can participate in Dementia Ventures training opportunities. Having staff replacement funds is vital for their participation in Dementia Ventures, as for the past 3 months at least 30% of their staff have been off sick due to Covid or other seasonal illnesses. The funds will help staff attend activities outside of their normal work, and at the same time ensure the Day program is staffed with the proper client to staff ratio. This avoids the need to reduce the number of clients attending the program on any given day on short notice which can be difficult for caregivers if staff needs to tell them on short notice that their loved one can't attend. It is important that caregivers get the break they need to avoid caregiver burnout.

ASK is able to accept new referrals, so if partners wish to make a referral or encourage an individual or caregiver to make a self referral, with one phone call, ASK staff can walk them through the process as well as connect the individual to local Health Units and Long Term Care. If partners wish to contact ASK they are more than welcome to call and find out more information to see if a potential referral is appropriate.