

Multi Sensory Environments Include:

- Lighting effects
- Cause and effect
- Rhythmical music
- Sensory activities
- Soft play items
- Tasting experiences
- Tactile experiences
- Sound effects
- Vestibular swings



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What Are Multi Sensory Environments?

A Multi Sensory Environment is a dedicated space or room where multi sensory stimulation is used to improve brain activity in individuals with cognitive challenges and other disabilities. These rooms are designed with two goals in mind: to promote intellectual activity and to encourage relaxation. These controlled environments are packaged for active or passive interaction, and matched to fit the perceived motivation, interests, leisure, relaxation and/or educational needs of the user.

Who Can Benefit

Research has shown that MSE can improve the health, social well-being and quality of life of persons with severe and profound intellectual disabilities including those with:

- Autism
- Cerebral palsy
- Profound multiple disabilities/
- Developmental disabilities
- Chronic pain syndrome
- Hearing impairment
- Alzheimer's and dementia
- ADHD and ADD
- Pervasive developmental delays
- Mental dysfunctions
- Brain injury
- Stroke
- Coma

Thanks to Our Donors – Who Made this all Possible

The extraordinary work of the Christopher Douglas Hidden Angel Foundation takes place from private and corporate donations. We thank all our donors and sponsors who have made this all possible. If you would like to make a Donation please visit our website: www.cdhaf.org. Click on CDHAF and then click on "HOW YOU CAN HELP". Or you can send your donation to the address provided in this newsletter.



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CHRISTOPHER
DOUGLAS
HIDDEN ANGEL
FOUNDATION

CDHAF

Newsletter

MSE ROOMS NEWLY OPENED

Portage Collegiate Institute, Portage La Prairie, Manitoba

Portage Collegiate's sensory room opened this year, thanks to the help of the Hidden Angel Foundation. This room, geared toward students with challenges like autism, cerebral palsy and multiple disabilities, provides a stimulating environment. Life Skills Teacher Albert Krynski says the room empowers non-verbal students and allows them to vocalize more.

Three MSE Rooms for the Centre of Readaptation, Montreal, Quebec

Centre de Readaptation, Benny St, Montreal, QB

The Hidden Angel Foundation recently donated installation and design services for a multi sensory room in central Montréal. This facility is devoted to adult services for individuals with development disabilities.

Centre de Readaptation, Kirkland, QB

The Foundation relocated and donated interactive, customized tactile panels and other equipment for a facility in Kirkland. The Kirkland Facility is focused on Alternative Day Programs for adults with disabilities.

Providing Multi Sensory Environments can improve the health and quality of life of individuals with disabilities by improving brain activity. Yet many of these individuals do not have ready access to therapeutic recreation and/or sensory stimulation in North America. A private struggle to give a person with disabilities what he or she needs is also a very public battle across the USA and Canada.

West Montreal Centre De Readaptation, Beaconsfield, QB

CDHAF Foundation previously funded training for the staff and provided additional equipment at West Montreal Readaption Centre (WMRC), a Child and Family Centre in Beaconsfield. This facility provides various services to a diverse client base. WMRC is committed to ensuring that a wide range of specialized services, adapted to the needs of children with disabilities and their families are available. WMRC offers social integration by giving persons with disabilities the support needed for maximum autonomy and quality of life.

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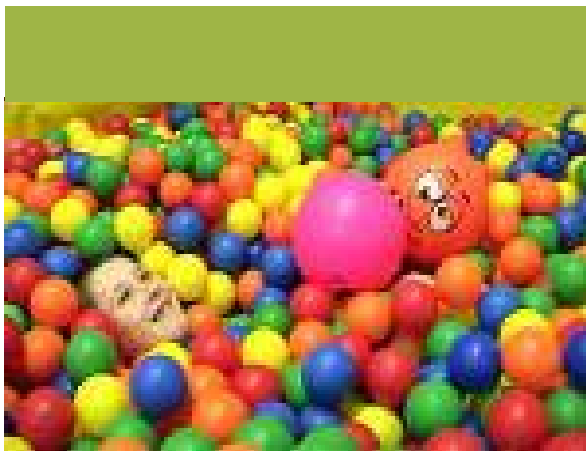
The Christopher Douglas Hidden Angel Foundation's mission is to enrich the lives, health, and social well-being of people with cognitive, emotional and physical challenges through the use of Multi Sensory Environments (MSE).

Their focus is on the design, development, implementation, funding and education of Multi Sensory Environments with the aim to enable productivity, inclusion, independence, and self-determination.

Our approach is based on well-documented studies of neurological cognition and emotional development.

CDHAF offers advisory and financial support for the establishment of integrated, publicly accessible Multi Sensory facilities as well as education.

We invite you to explore this site to find out more about the The Christopher Douglas Hidden Angel Foundation www.cdhaf.org



Rotary/Flames House

Calgary, Alberta

The CDHAF was instrumental in planning, designing, and installing the Multi Sensory Room at Rotary/Flames house.

The Rotary/Flames House is a community-based hospice serving families who are caring for a child with a progressive or life-threatening illness. This is a place of sanctuary for families and their children. Care is provided by a team of trained healthcare professionals offering a warm, friendly, home-like environment. Services include: 24 hour Respite Care - care of children on a temporary basis, to allow their families time for rest; Transition Care - when the child no longer requires an acute care setting, but whose family requires time to learn care routines. Symptom Management - care aimed at managing the adverse physical and emotional symptoms of the child's illness; and End of Life Care - comprehensive services for both child and family during end of life.

A Society for Treatment of Autism ...Calgary, Alberta

CDHAF donated 50% of the funding for the Multi Sensory Room at Society for Treatment of Autism (STA).

STA strives for excellence in the provision of treatment services for persons with autism and related developmental disorders and offers quality support and educational services to families and the community. STA believes in treating individuals with dignity and respecting their right to full participation in the community that enhances quality of life.

Central Wisconsin Center

Madison, Wisconsin

CDHAF donated equipment to make the effect projector in the established MSE room more functional.

Central Wisconsin Center is a state residential treatment facility for individuals with developmental disabilities. The supports they provide offer personal dignity and quality of life.

Anne Grady Center

Holland, Ohio

CDHAF donated 50% of the funding for the Anne Grady MSE Room along with doing the design and installation.

Anne Grady Services is a private, non-profit corporation providing services for adults and children with mental retardation and developmental disabilities. The history of Anne Grady dates back to 1976 when parents and guardians sought to find a place for their children with developmental disabilities to live. The Anne Grady Center was happy to welcome the new sensory room to their facility on February 23, 2009. The room provides sensory stimulation to children and adults with severe and profound developmental disabilities.

Miami Jewish Home and Hospital

Miami, Florida

CDHAF donated design and installation expertise to create a second MSE which aids those with Alzheimer's and dementia. The MSE room gives them enjoyment and creates a better quality of life.

The Miami Jewish Home and Hospital (MJH&H) has become the largest, most comprehensive provider of geriatric healthcare in the Southeast.

EDUCATION - Lectures And Research

1st Annual Idea FORUM.

CDHAF sponsored the 1st Annual Multi Sensory Idea FORUM, held July 5th- July 10th. One of the objectives of the Hidden Angel Foundation is to develop a theoretical and conceptual framework that stimulates new thinking around the practice and research of MSE in education, recreation and therapy. The foundation sponsored three experts in MSE, Ad Verheul, from the Netherlands, Paul Pagliano from Australia, and Linda Messbauer from New York. Other participants included Sandra Fornes and Bud Kirchner, founders of the CDHAF.

The aim of this MSE think tank was to stimulate new ideas and further develop current ideas around multi sensory environments.

The experts discussed the benefits of MSE, the Mind/Brain connections, Best facilitator training practices, techniques to change brain arousal, motivation, and behavior, how best to design rooms to empower and provide self-choice even for those with severe and profound disabilities, and best types of music to name a few. The proceedings of the Forum will be published in a position paper and available on the foundation's website, www.cdhaf.org.

Important Lectures on MSE

CDHAF sponsored two important lectures given by Ad Verheul. CDHAF brought Ad over from the Netherlands and arranged on July, 15th, 2009, a lecture in Montreal and on July 16th in Toronto. Ad spoke about the history of MSE and the many benefits for individuals with multiple disabilities.



2010 ISNA Conference – Birmingham Alabama

OCTOBER 1-3, 2010

www.isna2010.org

The ISNA Symposium offers a number of practice and research related presentations and workshops about Multi Sensory Environments. Main lectures and workshops are lead by national and international experts with years of experience in the field of Multi Sensory Environments. HAF is acting as coordinator and sponsor of the conference.

Ad Verheul

Since 1973 Ad Verheul has worked at the Hartenberg Centre, an institute for people with profound mental disabilities. Ad started as a therapeutic supervisor and after two years he was promoted to second manager of the department for Occupational Therapy. In 1976 he designed and built a special playground for children with profound disabilities at the Hartenberg Centre. Ad Verheul and his colleague Jan Hulsegge (Music teacher) introduced the idea of Snoezelen in 1976 with development of special activity for people with profound disabilities. It became a great success in a short time! They never thought that such a simple idea would provoke worldwide interest. Ad is senior advisor for special projects for people with a profoundly disabilities, he organizes seminars and courses in the Netherlands and in foreign countries. He works together with Professor Krista Mertens from the Humboldt University of Berlin, they have initiated the International Snoezelen Association.