

Bio for Judy Pakozdy:

As an experienced Pediatric nurse in Toronto and Iqualuit and then Director of Nursing at the Whitehorse General Hospital, Judy has worked since 1973 with babies, children, youth and adults living with FASDs.

Judy is a founding member of the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Society of Yukon and was the Executive Director for 12 years after retiring from nursing.

As the Mother of a young man with FAS and a frontline worker with youth and adults who are living with the effects of prenatal alcohol exposure, her interest and expertise around FASD grows on a daily basis.

As Executive Director of FASSY, her work included activities which support prevention of more babies being born with FASDs, diagnostic services for youth and adults with FASDs, support for families and individuals living with FASDs, prevention of secondary disabilities for those living with FASDs, community education and community development planning to address FASDs throughout Yukon and Canada.

Since retiring from FASSY, Judy has been teaching 3 FASD courses online for the Lethbridge College FASD Certificate Program and volunteering her time around Ontario at FASD activities. In 2012, she has co-founded a parent/caregiver support program for the Halton Ontario area.

She now runs 2 Parent/Caregiver Support groups in Yukon and acts as an FASD consultant with families and service providers in Yukon.

FASD is her passion and working with youth and adults living with an FASD is her joy.

Bio for Matthew Pakozdy

Matthew is a 1999 graduate of The Canadian College of Performing Arts in Victoria and worked as a choreographer and a Hip Hop Dance Teacher for 10 years. He then taught Zumba classes for three years.

He worked with The Cowichan Valley FASD Team as a Youth Mentor for 10 years before it was disbanded due to lack of funding. And for the past 5 years has worked part time in an office admin job at M'Acola Housing. He currently works as a Recreation Assistant at M'Acola in an Assisted Living Facility, is attending Camosun College for pre employment training in Food and Services. He is also a member of the Pandora Community Choir and attends frequent meetings of Life Ring, his sober support group.

He is a remarkable, kind and competent man who has lived with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome for 39 years, his whole life. He understands his disability and accepts that he will always need a support team to help him meet his goals in life. He directs his team and teaches them what he needs and how to support him successfully.

He volunteers his time working as an advocate and mentor for people living with FASDs and speaks at gatherings such as this to share his wisdom and experiences.

He lives a very busy and happy life in Victoria, BC. <http://fasdforever.com/matthew-pakozdy-and-fasd/>

<https://www.thesudburystar.com/2012/11/30/were-just-different/wcm/845b23d0-409b-3659-960a-94938ed6e1ed>