



# Caring for Kids

**The SDC (Support Diversity in Children) Blue Ribbon Foundation was formed by a group of teenagers who wanted to make the world a better place for children with disabilities. In 2010, David J. Wang started SDC, and the foundation continues to make a difference in children's lives.**

**OWL had a chance to speak to David about the foundation.**

**OWL: What made you interested in helping kids?**

**David:** I have a younger brother who has disabilities, so that made me aware of the issues affecting people with disabilities. I then visited a school in China for children with disabilities, and the school was nothing like what I had expected. The living conditions of the children were nothing comparable to the living conditions my brother has back home in Canada. The children were looked down upon. After that trip, I realized I had to do something to help children with disabilities in my community.

**OWL: What is the Blue Ribbon Foundation all about?**

**David:** The SDC Blue Ribbon Foundation is an organization that is solely run by youth who want to help change the world. The main goal of the organization is to raise money for children with disabilities so that we can implement programs in the community to help them. The funds go directly to those who reach out to us and are in need of extra financial support. One program that we developed is the SDC Blue Ribbon After School Connection in B.C. The program uses music therapy to develop the children's social and creative skills. Since the program's creation two years ago, the parents have told us they have noticed significant improvements in their children. For instance, many of them have been able to make their first friends at school.



The SDC Blue Ribbon Foundation staff interacting with kids in the After School Connection program.

**OWL: What has been a particularly memorable moment for you since starting the Blue Ribbon Foundation?**

**David:** After the last session of the After School Connection, a participant asked if we were going to continue the program. He said that the program has been the only place he has been able to make friends, learn, and have fun, and most importantly, the only other place outside of home that he is able to feel comfortable.

**OWL: What are the biggest challenges of starting and running an organization?**

**David:** For me, it was initially getting support from the community. When I first came up with the idea, everybody I talked to told me not to do it and to go play video games at home. They said that I had no experience and I couldn't possibly change the lives of children with disabilities. Even though it was difficult, my team and I ignored these statements and continued to venture through, trying our best to accomplish the mission we'd set out. After three years, we have reached hundreds of members, set up a program that has been running for two years, and improved many people's lives.

## David's Tips on How to Start Your Own Organization

- Find something about society that you want to change.
- Find a couple of friends who have the same mindset as you and are willing to help you each step of the way.
- Do a lot of research on your issue.
- Register your organization with the government (there is a lot to learn about this process).
- Obtain initial funding, from your own pocket, your parents, or a community member.
- Plan your first event and reach out to people in your community.
- Have fun!

For more information on the SDC Blue Ribbon Foundation, visit [www.sdcbueribbonfoundation.org](http://www.sdcbueribbonfoundation.org).

Photos courtesy of the SDC Blue Ribbon Foundation.