

# THE 2020 REACH NEWSLETTER

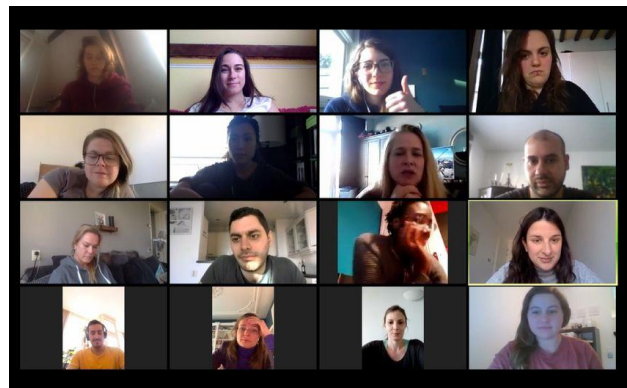


## REACHing ZIN in 2020!



It's official! REACH is a contracted care center with The Hague municipality and the nine surrounding municipalities! This means that we will now be able to offer more sessions and services to our kids and families and so many others in The Netherlands! We are beyond excited for what the future holds. Stay tuned.

## REACH goes virtual!



Beginning March 2020, the Netherlands started its lock down period due to the COVID 19 pandemic. The REACH team sprung into action and created an online program for many of the REACH clients. We even had virtual team meetings and Friday game night with staff.

## REACH OPEN'S ITS DOOR AGAIN!

On 1 June, REACH opened its door for sessions after a two month lockdown period. We followed disinfecting guidelines daily to keep our children and staff safe.



## GOOD LUCK VICTORIA!

Due to the pandemic, Victoria Burney, one of our BCBA's at REACH needed to move back home to her home country of New Zealand. Victoria was an incredible asset to the REACH team and we will miss her terribly. Please join us in wishing her all the best in her new adventure.

## WELCOME TO THE TEAM LIDEWIJ!

Lidewij von Bonninghausen, MSc, NVO Basic Orthopedagoog studied Orthopedagogics at VU University Amsterdam. Her passion is to make a positive contribution to the development of children by working from their talents in a playful way. Lidewij considers it important to create a warm and safe environment in which children feel accepted. We are excited to have her on our Team.



## REACH MOM'S TAKE TO THE AIRWAVES

In October 2020, three REACH Mom's joined the Global Autism Project's podcast 'Autism Knows No Borders' and shared their experiences with their children on the autism spectrum.

Moji Swartjes shares what it was like when COVID-19 created global shutdowns and the impact it had on her family. She shares how difficult it was to explain to her autistic child that he could not see his father due to quarantine, he would not be attending school, and they could not leave their home.

Catherine Verhoeff-Schauf is the Founder and Owner of Stitching REACH in The Hague. In this episode she shares what motivated her to open up a Center in The Netherlands and how her experience has been as a mother to an autistic child in a country that she feels has very little understanding of autism.

Enesa Muratovic is a mother. She shares about the differences she sees in the level of understanding in her country of origin and The Netherlands. She shares how although there is room for improvement in The Netherlands, the sense of understanding was further along than in Bosnia.

## REACH HAS IT'S FIRST VIRTUAL HOLIDAY PARTY!



The Team made the best of the 2<sup>nd</sup> lockdown period before Christmas and had its holiday party virtually! Good time had by all.

After this year of lockdowns and uncertainty, REACH is looking forward to saying goodbye to 2020 and hello to 2021. We have a lot of exciting developments in store for the year ahead. We have been working hard to renew our contract with H10 beginning in 2021. Stay tuned!