



Annual Report

2018

## Letter from KidSafe's Executive Director



Letter from Executive Director  
Quincey Kirschner

Dear KidSafe Community,

What a year it has been! KidSafe's 25th anniversary year has been busy and productive. In all, we served more than 450 children over our Winter, Spring, and Summer break programs — that's nearly 135,000 hours of time that individual kids had access to healthy food, fun field trips, and caring adults at our six program sites. For our older kids, our KidLink and Young Leaders programs provided nearly 10,000 hours of one-on-one support and group activities.

In the coming years, we will work to grow KidSafe to meet the ever-increasing need we see in our communities. We will strive to improve and deepen our programming, strengthen our evaluation processes, and continue to grow our outreach into more areas of the city. Our team is full of big ideas and we are so excited to see them come to life.

On a personal note, I am thrilled to have joined the KidSafe Project

Society. I feel so fortunate to work alongside an incredibly dedicated Board of Directors, a passionate and skilled staff team, a fabulous group of volunteers, and an unbelievably generous group of donors, partners, and sponsors. I feel luckiest, though, on the days I get to spend with our amazing KidSafe kids. They are wonderful, hilarious, resilient little humans and spending time with them is a joy.

I am deeply grateful to every person and organization who has been a part of our work this year. It's because of your support that our kids have the opportunities they deserve to try new things, get creative, and feel safe and supported. When you support KidSafe, you are providing opportunities for our kids to see possibility in their own lives, and for that I am truly thankful.

All my very best,

Quincey

## 2018 KidSafe Board of Directors:

Carla Alexander  
Teri Christopher  
Zoe Grams

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Curtis Johansson  
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Krystyna Niziolek  
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KidSafe was deeply saddened this year by the loss of one of our greatest advocates and friends, Ralph McKnight, who was profoundly involved with KidSafe since our inception 25 years ago.

In 1993, Ralph was recruited by City Councillor Nancy Chiavario to join what would become KidSafe's first Board in 1995. Here he played an instrumental role in creating the KidSafe we know today, and worked tirelessly to keep school doors open during the breaks for Vancouver's vulnerable children.

He remained an active KidSafe supporter for the next two and half decades through his work on the Board, the Program Committee, and



*A tribute to  
Ralph McKnight*

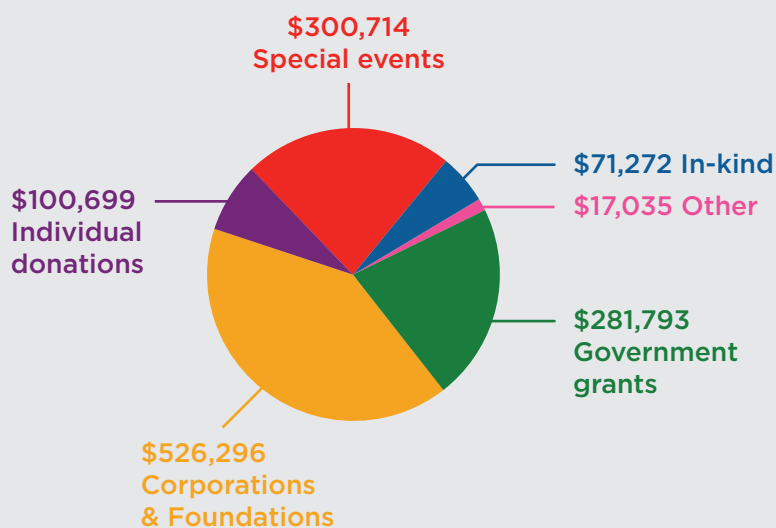
as a yearly sponsor of the Golf for KidSafe Tournament. Judy Gale, who served on and co-chaired the Board

with Ralph for many years, remembers working with him:

*"He was a wonderful colleague, the most agreeable of people. He always had my back — he always had everyone's back! ...Ralph jumped in to help KidSafe wherever he could"*

Children who have attended our Winter Break Program may better remember Ralph as Santa, a role he adopted with ease. KidSafe will deeply miss Ralph's kind-heartedness, generosity of spirit, and wisdom. He had a profound impact on KidSafe, and will not be forgotten. Since his passing, Ralph's friends and family have made significant donations in his honour and have begun volunteering their time in his memory.

## Financial Overview



**\$1,297,809** in revenue funded our programs in 2018.  
**78%** of this revenue was contributed by private donors.

KidSafe is proud to work with two major program delivery partners:



## Volunteer Contributions



**133**  
**Program**  
**volunteers**



**211**  
**Special event**  
**volunteers**



**13** Board &  
**39** Committee  
**members**

**11,129** hours = **\$274,762**  
**in organizational savings!**

## Donor Spotlight

Each year, one of our Summer Break highlights is our field trip to Big Splash in Tsawwassen. This year KidSafe supporters Harvey and Jody Dales generously donated the cost of admissions for all 350 children and 70 staff!



Jody explains how they got involved with KidSafe:

*"Our daughter introduced us to KidSafe a number of years ago. While a grade 10 student, she volunteered once a week helping KidSafe children with their homework. The experience was so enriching that she continued to be a KidSafe volunteer for the next 3 years supporting children during after school and summer programs. When she began to earn her own money, she transitioned from a KidSafe volunteer to a Kidsafe donor."*

*"It is true that our daughter enhanced the lives of many of the KidSafe participants, but those children enhanced our daughter's life even more."*

*"We have decided to financially support KidSafe in honour of our astounding daughter, in honour of parents who need extra assistance, and in honour of the beautiful KidSafe children!"*



## Break Programs

When school doors close for winter, spring and summer breaks, thousands of Vancouver children are left without the essential services they need and deserve. This is why KidSafe's programs are as critical today as they were when we were founded 25 years ago.

**6**  
Program sites:

Queen Alexandra  
Nightingale  
Thunderbird  
Xpey'  
Grandview  
Cook



**5**  
Program pillars:

Arts & Culture  
Literacy  
Leadership  
Science & Nature  
Health & Wellness

**450**  
Children  
Served

**8,400**  
Field trip  
admissions

Each weekday school was closed, KidSafe hosted Break Programs at six elementary schools throughout Vancouver, welcoming 450 children over the course of the year.

While in our Break Programs, children received services essential to their physical and mental health: safe shelter, nutritious meals, connections to peers, support and supervision from caring adults, and educational programming.

## Engaged Outreach Services

Many of the children referred to KidSafe do not have the means to attend our program regularly and whether it be due to competing family demands, grueling work schedules of parents and caregivers, or mental health challenges in the home, daily attendance can be a struggle beyond a child's control. Engaged Outreach is KidSafe's attendance strategy that helps ensure the children referred to our programs have the support needed to attend regularly. Engaged Outreach consists of two important services that transport children from their homes to KidSafe's programs and back: Driving school buses, and walking school buses.

Each Break Program session we offer Engaged Outreach services to approximately one-third of all our participants

**12**  
Driving  
buses  
(on the  
road!)

**5**  
Walking  
buses  
(on the  
sidewalk!)



**310**  
Children  
transported  
to and  
from  
KidSafe  
this year

# 2018 Program

## Young Leaders Program

**46**  
Youth  
served

**8**  
Field-  
trips  
provided



**8**  
Skill-building  
workshops  
provided

Young Leaders is an 8-week leadership mini-program that serves the grades 6 & 7 youth who are enrolled in KidSafe's Summer Break Program.

Led by a team of caring adult mentors, Young Leaders engages youth in specific workshops and field-trips designed to develop leadership and positive peer relationship skills, prepare youth for high-school transition, promote citizenry and increase job readiness.

We also recruit youth volunteers from our Young Leaders Program, who give back to future generations during our break programs. This year, we were happy to welcome 9 teenage volunteers who were once KidSafe participants!

# Year-at-a-Glance

## Kidlink Transition Program

KidSafe ensures that for the youth we serve, the transition into high school is not one they have to make alone. Each year, our KidLink Program coordinator supports our alumni as they transition into grade 8. We advocate for free or low cost placements in extra-curricular community programs of each youth's choice, and cover the cost when necessary. To ensure youth can attend their new program regularly and participate fully, we also provide them with a monthly bus pass, program equipment, and 1:1 mentorship, all entirely free of charge.

And, to keep youth connected to their KidSafe community, we host monthly "Alumni Events." 2018 events included a ballet show, laser tag, a trip to the Vancouver Art Gallery, cooking class, and more!

**40**  
Grade 8 youth  
served

**35**  
Youth  
matched with  
volunteer  
opportunities



**374**  
1:1 support  
hours  
provided

**10**  
"Alumni-  
Night" group  
activities  
offered

# Our Mission

To provide nurturing safe havens for vulnerable inner-city children when schools are traditionally closed.

## KidSafe's Vision

All children live in a safe community with the inspiration and support they deserve to become healthy contributing citizens.

## Our 2 Core Program Principals

### Programs are offered on a referral-basis

All children and youth who attend KidSafe's programs have been professionally referred as a student most in need of safety and support when schools are closed. School teachers, principals, and counselors are the primary referrers to KidSafe's programs. This helps KidSafe reach the children who need us most.

### All programs and services are free-of-charge

KidSafe's programs and services are always 100% free-of-charge. As such, we rely on community donations to make our programs possible.



#### Meaningful Activities

100% of youth felt that programs aligned with their cultural values and interests

93% of children participated in an activity that they had never tried before



#### Connections to Caring Adults

82% of children reported that KidSafe staff are caring adults that they trust

36 youth were connected to a new caring adult in an external community program



#### Positive Community Experience

35 KidSafe alumni were connected to a volunteer opportunity in their community

40+ community locales were visited during KidSafe field-trips

86% of children identified a moment at KidSafe when they felt proud



#### Good Health Habits

93% of children reported new skills and knowledge in health & nutrition

## Our Impact

KidSafe provides our children and youth with the five assets most critical to their overall health & well-being, as evidenced by research from the University of British Columbia's Human Early Learning Partnership. We are committed to measuring our impact after each program session, and consult with our staff, volunteers, partners, participants and their families. This helps KidSafe ensure that we're meeting the existing and emergent needs of our communities.



#### Connections to Peers

89% of children expressed a sense of belonging at KidSafe



# Story of Change

In our 25 year history serving the community, we have provided over 10,000 vulnerable children with safe, happy and healthy break programming. That's a lot of KidSafe alumni! We're very fortunate that many of our alumni have stayed connected to our KidSafe community as both staff and volunteers.

"Anthony" attended KidSafe at our Queen Alexandra Elementary site back in the mid-2000s, and had this to say:

*"Now as an adult I look back and see how much of an impact KidSafe has had on me. It kept me off the streets and taught me how to socialize with others and express myself through words instead of violence. It's great to know that KidSafe is still going on now 15 years later. Programs like these save and change lives. 100 thanks to everyone that's worked and continue to work with at-risk youth throughout the Lower Mainland"*



## **We chat with Louise, Youth and Family Worker at Britannia Elementary, and KidSafe kid referrer extraordinaire!**

What makes KidSafe different from other break program providers is that all our programs are provided completely free-of-charge to children who are specifically referred because of economic or emotional vulnerabilities that make them unable to access mainstream break programming.

### **What is your role at the Vancouver School Board and how do you support KidSafe?**

My role is a YFW or 'Youth and Family Worker', also referrer to KidSafe! I work with almost all of our students at one point or another! I do behavior support and family support. I refer to outside agencies as well as support our school team.

### **What is the most challenging part of your job?**

Finding outside resources like mental health without a wait list. Helping to find housing is also challenging.

## Behind the Scenes

Finding School Break programs that have subsidies or are free and easy to access, like KidSafe!

### **What do you enjoy most about your job?**

ALWAYS, ALWAYS the kids, the hugs, the smiles, the trust they give me, and the opportunity to support them to help empower the families.

### **Why do you think KidSafe is important?**

KidSafe provides a safe, entertaining secure place for children of families who potentially struggle with financial barriers and who could not pay for the program. They also provide social and responsible learning as well as providing food that some children would not have access to over the breaks. KidSafe works incredibly hard to ensure that the children in their program are well cared for and kept safe along with showing the children just how important they are.

### **Is there anything else you would like to share?**

I believe in KidSafe, and I would totally want my child to benefit from this program! It is well run and the intent is for children to have the opportunity to act as children, away from the pressures of adult concerns. Very few programs provide transportation and this is a huge factor for many of my families, getting the kids to the program when they are working or otherwise unable to use transportation. I am grateful to have been a part of KidSafe for many years and I wish all the very best in the continuation of a such a worthy program.

***Thank you Louise!  
We're grateful for all you do for the kids and KidSafe, too!***

# Thank you! KidSafe relies on the generosity of a community of donors to make our programs possible for vulnerable children in Vancouver.

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Dan & Ursula Bowditch  
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The Fletcher Family  
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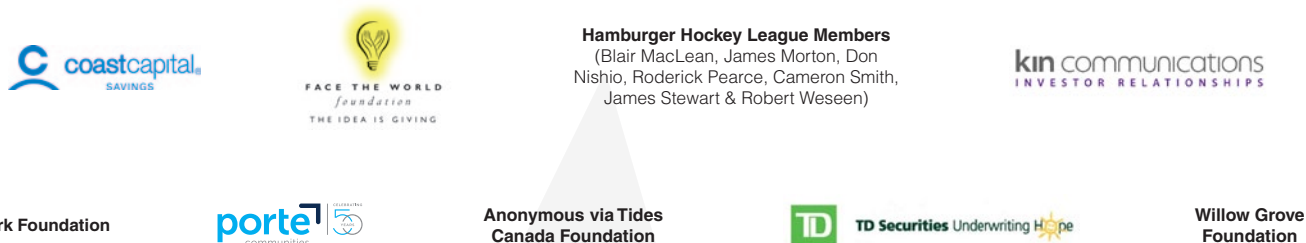


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## Gold



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 Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association  
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*Thank you!  
 KidSafe relies on the generosity of a community of donors to make our programs possible for vulnerable children in Vancouver.*



The KidSafe Project Society  
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Vancouver, BC V5N 1V6  
[www.kidsafe.ca](http://www.kidsafe.ca)



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