



Annual Report  
2019

## Letter from KidSafe's Executive Director Quincey Kirschner



I often say that talking about KidSafe is one of my very favourite things to do. I love this organization and I'm incredibly proud of our team and what we've accomplished over the past year, so I am naturally very excited to write this message to all of you, our members and supporters.

This has been an amazing year of growth for our organization. Over the course of spring and summer breaks we added three new school sites for our break time programs, bringing our current total to nine sites (with more in the planning stages). We are also working hard to deepen our programming, focusing on giving our kids access to skill-building opportunities like swimming lessons and music classes, and helping them build deeper connections in their own communities.

Our new wrap-around food security program, generously funded by an anonymous donor, has allowed us to dramatically expand our work in this area with our kids and families; our community dinners, nutrition education programming, and fresh food distribution has been such an exciting area of growth for us this year and we look forward to continuing to build on this work.

In the coming years as we work to expand to meet the growing demand for our programs, we will continue to focus on deepening our program as well; ensuring that we're providing each of our kids with access to all kinds of enrichment activities, that they feel safe and connected within their own communities, that their bellies are full, and that they know they can count on us.

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 can show up to KidSafe and know that we are unconditionally in their corner, and for that, I thank each and every one of you.

All my very best,

Quincey

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## Behind the Scenes

As demographics in Vancouver are shifting, KidSafe is expanding to respond to the ever-growing need for our programs. This past year KidSafe has opened 3 new sites throughout Vancouver, one of which is at Cunningham Elementary School. We recently checked in with **Cunningham's Principal, Rosemary Thomas**, to ask her how it's going so far.

*"One of the things we've noticed in the neighbourhood is a lack of community centers within walking distance. A lot of our kids aren't able to access other resources, and the kids who have attended KidSafe previously were being bussed to other KidSafe sites outside*

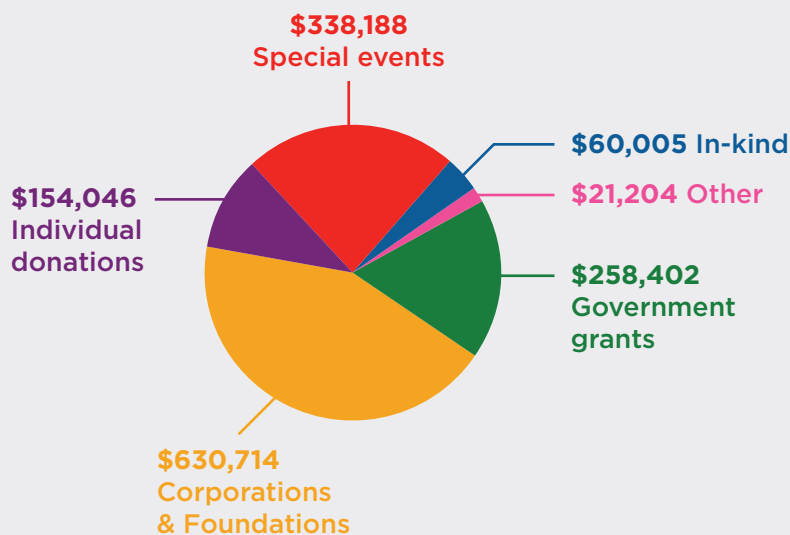
*of their community. Having KidSafe at Cunningham and the walking school bus to get to the program is a fantastic addition. Kids are learning how to navigate their own neighbourhood now that they can attend KidSafe in their own school. Some kids may not feel comfortable venturing out after school, but having KidSafe here breaks down some of the barriers for our kids when school isn't in session.*

*KidSafe is helping to bridge the gap between home and school for our most vulnerable kids, helping them and their families alike to build the confidence to connect with their communities in a more meaningful way than they have previously been able to."*

When we asked Rosemary about kids returning to school in the fall after a summer break at KidSafe, she told us that the feedback has been incredibly positive.

*"One child in particular who had been hesitant to attend KidSafe was so excited to tell me about it when he came back to school. He told me that 'Summer was great! I went to KidSafe and it was great!'. It's not something I would have expected from that specific child, as he had been on our radar as someone who was especially isolated. KidSafe has been such a great experience for him in coming out of his shell and connecting with his peers."*

## Financial Overview



**\$1,462,558** in revenue funded our programs in 2019.  
**82%** of this revenue was contributed by private donors.

KidSafe is proud to partner with the Vancouver School board.



## Volunteer Contributions



**134**  
Program  
Volunteers

**260**  
Special Event  
Volunteers



**11** Board &  
**36** Committee  
Members

**6,666** hours = **\$164,559**  
in organizational savings!

## Donor Spotlight



KidSafe relies on the support of hundreds of community members who generously open their wallets as well as invest their time. Patrick "Paddy" Hatch generously lends his support to KidSafe both financially and by frequently stopping by our Queen Alexandra site to visit with and read to our kids. Paddy started grade one at Queen Alexandra Elementary School on September 4th, 1939, and attended through grade 8.

*"When I go back to Queen Alexandra and sit in the exact same places that I sat as a kid, the memories just come rushing back. I struggled in school back then, so when I hear these kids nowadays at QA reading out loud perfectly clearly, it blows me away!"*

Paddy adds that he got straight A's at Simon Fraser University, and he believes today's QA KidSafe kids are on track for success as well.

We asked Paddy what inspires him to support KidSafe's programs with his donations, and what keeps him coming back to Queen Alexandra:

*"When I came back to QA for their 100th anniversary, I learned about a lot of the challenges the kids were facing at home. For a lot of these kids, if they don't go to school and didn't have KidSafe in the break times - they don't eat. They don't ask for much, and the joy I get by being able to give them something feels almost selfish. When I stop by to visit with them they run up to me, yell out my name and hug me around the knees - that's just worth everything to me."*

## Break Programs

School is the center of the universe for many children. It's where they learn, play, eat, make friends, discover role models, develop life-long social skills, and find help if a crisis arises.

Too often, opportunities that are essential for healthy development simply disappear for vulnerable children who may not have access to adequate nutrition, healthy adult relationships, positive social opportunities, or basic skill development outside of the school context. That's why when school doors close, KidSafe Break Programs open to serve nearly 500 of Vancouver's most vulnerable and resilient children.

Each day of break, our kids have access to healthy and delicious meals, enriched programs to help them learn and grow, and exciting field trips and activities. Our highly-trained staff provide programming and support that is trauma-informed and universally designed. Kids are supported in building happy and supportive peer relationships, developing friendships that grow stronger each break.

At KidSafe, we want to know each of our kids as the unique, amazing humans they are. We take special care to understand what each kid needs to be successful in our program. If kids need help getting to site, we include them in one of our walking or driving school buses. If they need specific emotional support, we make sure our highly trained Child Support Workers know what's going on. If a child shows up at our program without proper clothing or equipment, staff have access to our Compassion Fund to purchase necessities on a case-by-case basis. Because each situation, child, and family is different, we work to meet the unique needs of the individuals we serve.



## 2019 Program

### Food Security Program

No child should go to bed hungry, and no parent should ever have to choose between food and rent. KidSafe's food security program provides wrap-around nutritional support to our kids and their families.

Each Friday of our break time programs, we send kids home with bags of fresh wholesome foods to share with their families. For families who have been identified as dealing with severe food insecurity, we ensure that extra food is always available to take home.

Because we know that cooking is an essential life skill, each of our kids take part in weekly nutrition education programming. Each week our young chefs-in-training learn a new healthy recipe and go home at the end of the day with everything they need (including ingredients and kitchen utensils) to recreate the dish at home for their families. Because learning doesn't stop when kids become adults, we offer nutrition education workshops for our families as well, focusing on creating family meals that are budget-friendly, healthy, and delicious.

And since we know that eating together is such a great way to build community, KidSafe holds Community dinners at our nine school sites in the lead up to winter, spring, and summer breaks. These fun, family-friendly events are a great way for families and kids to get to know KidSafe staff, reconnect with friends they haven't seen since last break, and gear up for another fun-filled KidSafe program. Families always leave at the end of the evening with bags of fresh bread, produce, and other delicious treats.



## Year-at-a-Glance

### Leadership Pathway

At KidSafe, we're lucky that very often, our kids start coming to our programs in Kindergarten and stay engaged with us through high school. Our leadership pathway, starting in grade 6, gives our kids the tools they need to become engaged, contributing members of the broader community.

In grades 6 and 7, we focus on skill development - kids have access to first aid training, more advanced swimming lessons, financial literacy programming, and opportunities to contribute to the community through volunteerism.

Starting in grade 8 and going through grade 9 we work towards preparing our kids for their first part-time jobs; our youth are given the opportunity to participate in a supported volunteer program at our sites, and we work with each kid to make sure they have basic structures in place that will allow them to be successful - things like a real bank account, a Social Insurance Number, and access to safe transportation.

Finally, the summer between grades 9 and 10 our youth are invited to apply for our Junior Activity Leader program. In our experience, our youth are an amazing asset to our break time programming. It's a win-win proposition: our kids have an "in" for a great part-time job, and our programs get the benefit of the enthusiasm, energy, and empathy that our Junior Activity Leaders bring to our sites.

# 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

### 1 Programs are offered on a referral basis

All children and youth who attend KidSafe's programs have been referred to us by school staff or social workers as the most vulnerable children in their neighbourhoods. This helps KidSafe reach the children who need us most.

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

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



#### Community Connectedness

Art Showcase  
Community Dinners  
Transit Police Dog Visits  
Library Program



#### Cultural Connection

Indigenous Arts Program  
International Penpals  
Museums and Galleries



#### Skill Development

Swimming Lessons  
Art Program  
Cooking Classes  
Golf Program  
Dental Health Program



#### Responsibility and Citizenship

Community Cleanup  
Junior-Senior Buddy Program  
Youth Volunteer Program

## New Areas of Focus

At KidSafe, we are always working to create programming that will help our children to feel more connected within their own communities as well as to diverse cultures. We want our kids to see themselves as an integral part of the community and plan for their futures.

**Our 5 key areas of focus** form the basis for all of our program planning. Our kids participate in exciting adventures throughout their time with us that build skills and form a foundation that we hope will serve them well throughout their lives.



#### Career Planning

Career Fair  
Office Visits  
Internship opportunities

# Story of Change

There is nothing we love more than to see our Kidsafe Alumni grow up and fly from the nest only to return as volunteers and even better — as KidSafe staff.

**Meet Max!** Max attended KidSafe in elementary school, as breaktime for him would have otherwise been a long, lonely stretch of time. *“I’m pretty extroverted,”* Max told us recently, *“and being around other people over school break was really awesome for me.. Especially on field trips. It was always fun to see the schedule each day and which out trips were coming up, or just playing games in the gym.”*

Over the years Max has remained an important part of the KidSafe family, volunteering in the kitchen with Ray (who makes a famous baked pasta and is known for his salad dressing) and is now working at as a Junior Activity Leader. Max knows that kids are coming to program hungry, looking forward to pasta day or taco bars as much as he did. He takes a lot of joy in being able to help make the breaktime great for the next generation of KidSafe kids.

Max is currently in the 10th grade and will speak at length about his school’s International Baccalaureate program, of which he is passionately working towards. He plans to attend University in a couple of years, putting his efforts toward science, specifically Chemistry.



*KidSafe relies on the generosity of a community of donors to make our programs possible for the resilient children of Vancouver. Thank you to our amazing KidSafe family!*

## SUPER HERO

**\$100,000 +**

Anonymous Foundation

## HERO

**\$50,000 - \$99,000**

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Crofton House School  
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## CHAMPION

**\$25,000 - \$49,999**

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*Our kids rely on KidSafe for essential services when schools are traditionally closed. We couldn't be there for them without the support of people like you!*



The KidSafe Project Society  
201-211 Georgia St East  
Vancouver, BC V6A 1Z6  
[www.kidsafe.ca](http://www.kidsafe.ca)



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