

# Annual Report 9-2020

### Letter from KidSafe's Executive Director Quincey Kirschner



#### Dear friends,

At the beginning of the 2020, we had what we thought were some big plans. We were expanding into more sites for our break-time and after school programs, developing an innovative curricular framework and evaluation plan, and growing our food security programming. We were focused on broadening our reach and deepening our programs, and we had a solid plan mapped out to help us achieve our goals. Essentially, we planned and the universe laughed.

In March, when it was announced that kids wouldn't be returning to school after spring break, we realized we were dealing with something really big. We did a ton of thinking and talking about what we should do, how we could best keep our kids safe, and what KidSafe's role should be in the broader pandemic response. We came up with more questions than answers, but we found that we knew one thing for sure: we would show up for our kids and their families.

When I look back at 2020 and forward into 2021, the theme of showing up is central to KidSafe's work. I am enormously proud of our organization and our community for how we faced, and continue to face, this evolving pandemic landscape.

Our staff team jumped head first into unexpected new tasks: packaging and hauling thousands of pounds of donated food, building emergency WorkSafe plans, and figuring out how to open food pantries and new program sites in school

What we can do, and what we are ethically called to do, is create a space where all kids can walk in and, for that day or hour, take off the crushing weight of their armor, hang it on a rack and open their hearts to truly being seen."

– Brene Brown



gyms with just a day or two of notice. The team faced this time of crisis and ambiguity with good humour and deep commitment. I couldn't ask for a better group of colleagues.

I am also enormously grateful to work with an incredible Board of Directors. In terms of showing up, this group sets a very high bar. Board members came to our food hub to pick up and deliver food to our homebound families every single week for months. As a group and as individuals they provided expertise, support, and guidance as well as handson help. They are an amazing group and I am thankful for them.

Our community showed up for us in ways that exceeded even my wildest hopes. At the beginning of March, I was literally asking people and organizations for their time and support without knowing exactly what we would be doing - only that our kids would need to be kept safe, and we were committed to doing what needed to be done. I was essentially saying that we were jumping, and asking our community to be our net. I cannot describe how grateful I am to our giant, amazing net.

Our kids definitely showed up. Our incredible group of small people brought their very best selves to our sites every single day. This group of kids, who were facing some of the harshest effects of the crisis, spent their time at KidSafe trying to help. They wrote thank you letters to essential workers and first responders. They made bird feeders because they were worried about their feathered friends. They were kind to each other and to our staff. This group of kids inspires me every single day, and I am grateful to know them.

Looking forward to 2021, KidSafe will keep showing up. We will do whatever we can to keep our kids safe and fed and happy and healthy. I am grateful for the opportunity to do this work with all of you.

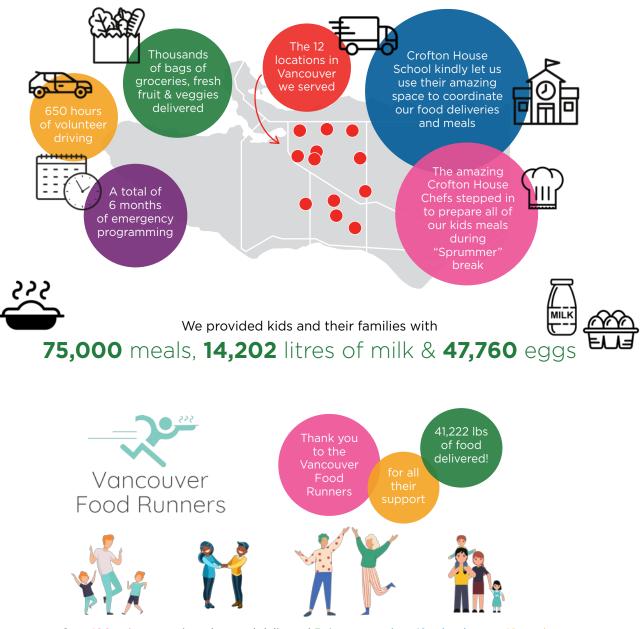
All my very best,

Quincey

### KidSafe COVID Emergency Response Program at a Glance

We couldn't have done it without YOU!

Many thanks to the amazing volunteers and community members who made this time of uncertainty a whole lot easier.



Over 100 volunteers signed up and delivered 5 times a week to 12 schools, over 18 weeks . . . volunteers included individuals on their lunch break, families, former employees, and Board Members.

# 2019 - 2020 Programming

### KidSafe's 3 Core Philosophies On-Site

#### **Trauma Informed Practice**

Trauma Informed Practice is an approach which recognizes and acknowledges the possibility of trauma and its prevalence, alongside awareness and sensitivity to its dynamics, in all aspects of care and time spent with the children on site.

#### Universal Design for Learning

Universal Design for Learning is a framework based on research in the learning sciences, including cognitive neuroscience, that guides the development of flexible and adaptable environments that can accommodate individual needs and differences.

#### **Place Based Curriculum**

In short, KidSafe place-based curriculum helps our kids understand and build a sense of comfort within their community by introducing them to their local firehouses, librarians, restaurants, recreation center, grocery stores and other useful resources in their neighborhood.

#### Development of the Youth Pathway & KidLink Program

KidLink is our youth program for KidSafe kids who are moving on to secondary school. The program exists to help our kids link in with other supports in the community as they transition into grade 8. Kids are matched with a KidLink vouth worker who meets with them one on one or in small groups to provide support and healthy role modeling. Youth workers work with kids to figure out what their interests are. and KidLink provides financial support for kids to follow their interests - if they can dream it, we help them do it.

Recognizing that our kids have big goals and tons of potential, this year we worked to expand the KidLink program by developing our new Youth Leadership Pathway. The summer following grade 5, interested vouth are invited to join our Young Leaders program during summer break. Over the next couple of years, our Young Leaders are given lots of interesting training opportunities, with the end goal being that by the age of 14, they have everything they need to join KidSafe as paid onsite staff. We work with our kids to make sure they have opportunities for personal development and pre-employment training including First Aid, FoodSafe and High5.

It's not all hard work and training though! Our youth also enjoy lots of fun adventures, like trips to PlayLand and bubble soccer. We're excited to continue to grow KidLink and the Youth Leadership Pathway, and can't wait to see where this next year takes us.

### Introduction of Online Training

In the course of the pandemic, we introduced a new platform for training our on-site staff. KidSafe now offers specific training for all our staff at the tip of your fingers! This mandatory training incorporates an in-depth look into all areas related to working on site with our kids. from our Covid-19 protocols. procedures and safety plan to shape of the day, "what to-dos", and helpful tips. This training platform also provides our staff with information on KidSafes 3 Core Philosophies while working with our kids. We are eager to continue developing this platform in greater depth to support the staff and children further!



"2020 was the year that the world was turned upside down. We continue to be proud to have kept our doors open and ensured that for our kids and their families there remained at least one consistency . . . KidSafe."

Katie Manning Director of Programs

# Food Security

2020 was a challenging year. More than ever, our kids and families have relied on our organization to make it through. While we had to quickly adapt the way we run our Food Security Program, we still achieved our goal of putting food on our families' tables and keeping tummies full!

For many of our kids, school provides their only consistent meals. When the pandemic



hit in March, schools closed. Thanks to our amazing KidSafe community we were able to continue to provide much needed food security to our kids and their families - we set off to the grocery stores, received donations from organizations, and created "Grab-and-Go Food Pantries" for all 450 kids and their household members. This support continued throughout summer where we would provide fresh takehome groceries everyday, including bread, milk, eggs, fresh produce, pantry items, and hygiene products.

With a number of our families home-bound due to COVID-19 exposure, KidSafe was their first call for necessities and groceries. To ensure they were supported, we created an Emergency Food Response program providing home deliveries. By the time our winter program rolled around, we saw an alarming level of anxiety regarding food security in our kids. To combat this we dedicated a lot of time reassuring our kids and building trust that there would still be food available the next day.

Overall, whilst we had to quickly switch gears from business as usual, we successfully ensured that no KidSafe child went hungry. This truly could not have been accomplished without our amazing network of support. I am looking forward to this next year as we continue to work towards dismantling the barriers to food security in our kids' lives.

Yours truly,

Victoria Sunwoo Manager of Food Security Programs





# 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.

# 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

# Continued 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.

Whilst we had to adapt many of our activities due to the pandemic, our 5 key areas of focus continue to 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

#### Responsibility and Citizenship

Community Cleanup Junior-Senior Buddy Program Youth Volunteer

Program

# Winter Break 2019

# Like any family, at KidSafe we have our holiday traditions and this year was no exception.

On Christmas Eve every child received their own stocking from Santa and a handpicked gift (wrapped by our amazing army of volunteers at the annual wrapping party).

In a 2 WEEK break we managed to fit in 27 TRIPS across our 9 sites. Trips included an incredible visit to Grouse Mountain where our kids got to enjoy the Light Walk and visit the Gingerbread Village, as well as trips to Orchards Bowling Lanes, Templeton Pool, Science World and of course the annual ice skating trip!

To end the holidays on a high, we held our annual New Year's Eve pajama party, ensuring that every child got a new warm, cosy pair of pjs to call their own.





Sam had never received a gift just for himself before. When Santa called his name he took his stocking and unlike the other kids he sat quietly gripping it tightly to his chest, like someone might have made a mistake in giving it to him.

It is moments like this that remind me why KidSafe is so important. So our kids can leave whatever trauma or issues they are dealing with at home and simply be kids."

Katie Manning, Director of Programs

# KidSafe Connect After School Program

# We ran our After School 'KidSafe Connect' programming at both Grandview and Hastings Elementary.

We know that the hours after school are a time of particular vulnerability for at-risk kids. We also know that those same hours hold tons of potential for extra learning, connection, and fun! KidSafe Connect, our after school program, gives our kids a safe, engaging place to connect with each other and our staff.

KidSafe Connect offers a bunch of fun classes for kids — from Art with Jane, to cooking and nutrition, to our famous Brainiacs Learning Club. It also gives us a chance to support social connections among our KidSafe kids in between break



time programs. As well, KSC provides a year-round platform for our food security programming — we serve wholesome and delicious snacks, and kids take home a variety of fresh and shelfstable foods to share with their families at the end of the day.

In the 2019-2020 school year, KidSafe Connect programs ran at Hastings and Grandview elementary schools. In the coming years, we look forward to opening KSC at more of our partner schools!



At a staff meeting just before COVID-19 arrived in Vancouver, the KidSafe team were strategizing about what the coming months would look like if schools had to close.

When this became a reality, and spring break led into summer break, we coined the term 'Sprummer'. Our kids loved it so much that it stuck!

### **On-site care**

In partnership with Vancouver School Board, we extended our spring break program at four sites throughout Vancouver, running 6 months of emergency programs. In this time, we were able to provide nutrition, safety and engagement for our kids who were most in need of a safe space to spend their days.

"Sprummer"



### **Food Pantries**

With one in five children in Vancouver living in poverty, their families still faced food insecurity. KidSafe operated as many as 13 food pantries each week throughout the city to ensure our families had access to the nutrition and supplies they needed.

### **Home Deliveries**

When our families couldn't come to us, we went to them! With families having to quarantine at home we were in regular contact to ensure that we could deliver things they needed. From fresh food to lightbulbs and diapers we made sure that we were there for our kids and families. These home deliveries were also an amazing opportunity to check in on our kids and offer support as required, including



KidSafe Bike Club

bringing them toys, books

and games.

One of our incredible supporters sourced and serviced over 30 bikes for the kids. For most kids, learning to ride a bike is a rite of passage. For many of our kids they have missed out on this opportunity. Bike riding mastered, they all took their new bikes home with them!

### Creativity

Yes, we had to cancel trips and at the drop of a hat think up rolling weeks of onsite fun. No. this did not stop us having the best time ever! All of our site coordinators went above and beyond to ensure that as ever KidSafe's kids were never short of endless fun, games and arts and crafts. We focused on as many outdoor activities as possible to keep our kids safe. Handwashing became a sport with kids competing to wash stamps off their hands throughout the day!





# at KidSafe

### Community

As ever, our kids did us proud. They created wonderful thank you cards to key workers, chalked positive messages for those walking past in the playground and made some incredible pieces of thought provoking art around dismantling racism in response to the Black Lives





Matter Campaigns. Yes, they were in the midst of a global pandemic but this did not stop them for a second thinking about those around them!

During 'Sprummer' — KidSafe provided six months of continuous emergencyresponse programs to support our kids and their families through the pandemic.

# KidSafe Spotlight: Joseph Abai

We are absolutely thrilled to have Joseph, a long standing member of the KidSafe family, joining the Board Slate for election.

We asked Joseph to share his KidSafe story with us:

My KidSafe journey starts back in the late 90's at Nightingale Elementary. While I cannot recall exact details of my time at KidSafe as a child, when reflecting back as an adult what really stands out to me is the amazing energy and support of the staff; every day they showed up, made it fun and exciting and were there in whatever capacity was required.

In 2011 I went on to support KidSafe as an Activity Leader returning to my old school, Nightingale Elementary, to assist with sports and activities. From there I became a full time member of the KidSafe Team in 2016, first as a programmer and then shortly after as the coordinator of the KidLink program.

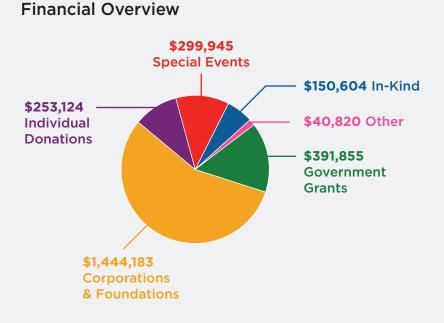
Following my time at KidSafe, I made the decision to embark upon a new career joining the Vancouver Police Department as a Constable. I continue to cross paths with former members of KidSafe out and about in the community and it is wonderful when I get to hear what they are up to now. I am honoured to join the Board Slate and I am excited to continue to support an organisation that I feel truly makes an impact.

# "For me KidSafe is all about opportunity.

'Normal' is different across every family. What KidSafe offers is a positive and safe environment. From participating in arts and crafts to just needing to talk to someone. KidSafe offers endless opportunity to be in a positive environment.

Everyone has a different deck of cards they are dealt as a young kid. As an adult, we have the opportunity to help kids shape that deck."

While he is not one to mention it, we would like to point out that Joseph still volunteers at KidSafe during his days off and could be found this Winter Break in goal at Nightingale saving some mean soccer shots.



#### **\$2,580,531** in revenue funded our programs in 2020.

**84%** of this revenue was contributed by private donors.

KidSafe is proud to partner with the Vancouver School Board.





# KidSafe Carnival Day

Since we couldn't take our kids to Playland this summer, we bought a KidSafe-sized carnival to each of our 12 sites.



Carnival day included lots of outdoor games in the sunshine, splashing in sprinklers, making and eating fresh popcorn and cotton candy, testing who was strongest on the Strength Tester and taking a swing at our 'driving range'.

There were inflatables, face paints and for some of our staff a pie in the face!

Many of our kids had never ordered from an ice cream truck . . . so we brought one to site and let them order to their heart's content.

The first Carnival Day was such a roaring success that it is now set to be another of our KidSafe family traditions!







# Crofton House School

The Crofton House School community have been long term supporters of KidSafe — when the pandemic first hit they didn't hesitate to open their doors to ensure that KidSafe could continue operating.

In fact, as weeks turned into months, Crofton House became like a second home for the KidSafe staff. We wanted to take this opportunity to thank their entire community who rallied together to ensure our families and kids were supported. The wonderful Crofton House Kitchen team provided delicious warm nutritious meals for our sites, many of which were delivered by Crofton House parents and their families. The space provided by Crofton House



became our emergency food hub, allowing us to accept and distribute donations.

We wanted to take this opportunity to thank the entire Crofton House Community — we couldn't have done it without you!



Crofton House School Est. 1898

# WildPlay!

A huge thank you to Gordon Ross & Jay Fiddler for kindly organising a wonderfully hair raising day of tree-top tight rope walking, zip lining and trapezing at WildPlay.





Our senior kids made their way intrepidly from tree to tree and it was wonderful to see some of them grow in bravery (so much so that we think we might have some trapeze artists of the future). Nothing could beat the excitement and proud smiles at the end of the day.

It was such a success that we later discovered some of the kids had been planning to hide at the end of the day so that they could stay at WildPlay forever!



2020 KidSafe Board of Directors James MacInnis Krystyna Niziolek Jonathan Wong Alison Sinclair Burns Cece Angus Curtis Johansson Inspector Howard Tran Keith Jensen Kirk Rattray Kris Kotzer Sarah Roth Peter Schwab Samantha Stepney

### Letter from James MacInnis - Chair, Board of Directors



The American writer James Lane Allen is often cited for his observation that adversity does not build character, it reveals it. In 2020, our staff team was tested like in no other year and they showed their character by keeping the promise KidSafe has made to the children and their families that we serve. The team started spring break expecting to provide 10 days of programming. As our public schools shut down with little notice in the face of a global pandemic, the team shifted into high gear to keep the doors open for 25 consecutive weeks. They had to throw out their playbook, embrace uncertainty, and reinvent the KidSafe service model. In this unique and challenging year, KidSafe's inspirational staff team rose to every challenge these uncertain times asked of them. They were role models as front line workers, doing what needed to be done to ensure our children and families received necessary support as the need increased beyond anything we had seen before.

This year, the only message from the Board of Directors that seems appropriate is gratitude. To Quincey and her team, you inspired us by meeting every demand this unbelievable year put to you. To the volunteers who helped pick up and deliver supplies to our sites to meet the increasing food security needs faced by our families, we could not have done it without vou. To our donors who stepped up to meet the unprecedented need and whose generosity exceeded all of our expectations, we would not be here without you. On behalf of KidSafe's Board of Directors, I say to all of you that there are no adequate words to convey how much your efforts have meant to us.

I also want to single out one person for his unique contributions to KidSafe's governance over the past decade. Jonathan Wong joined the Board of Directors in 2013. Sharing with us his expertise as a CPA with KPMG, he has overseen our financial reporting as Treasurer and Chair of our Finance, Audit and Risk Management Committee for many years. In 2019 he Chaired the Board of Directors having previously Co-Chaired the Board for 5 years. His calm and collegial demeanor and steady hand helped us navigate many challenges. He is leaving the Board in February 2021 much stronger than he found it, and we wish him well. But our most sincere wish - which we hold for everyone who volunteers with us - is that he will always remain part of the KidSafe community, supporting our children in other ways until the work is done.

James MacInnis, Q.C. *Chair -* Board of Directors

#### **Super Heros**

#### \$100,000 +

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada

Vancouver Sun Children's Fund Society Adopt-A-School Project

#### Heros

#### \$50,000 - \$99,000

BC Ministry of Finance, Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch

Canucks for Kids Fund United Way Vancouver Foundation Victory Square Wheaton Precious Metals Corp.

### Champions

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

Bank of America Cause We Care Foundation Government of Canada (Canada Revenue Agency) Mary and Gordon

Christopher Foundation Port of Vancouver The Grayross Foundation,

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#### \$15,000 - \$24,999

Blue Planet Links Foundation Harvey and Jody Dales Mealshare Norton Rose Fulbright (on behalf of the Cottonwood Foundation) RBC Foundation Seedlings Foundation TD Securities Underwriting Hope Fund

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Tides Canada Foundation – Dr. Bik May Wai & Dr. Chung Nin Lam Endowment Fund Timothy C Kerr Family Foundation Trulioo

#### \$10,000 - \$14,999

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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!

#### Mentors

#### \$5,000 - \$9,999

Brian & Trish Hurl Canadian Western Bank Chris Spencer Foundation CLICK Danielson Group Wealth Management David & Teri Christopher Dayhu Group of Companies Dentistry for a Cause **Diamond Foundation** Earlston Investments Corp Elm Foundation Face the World Foundation Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP Graham Moore Hamburger Hockey League Members: Van Gale Joe La Leggia Alexander Langer Airn Mackenzie Blair MacLean James Morton Don T. Nishio Adrian Smith Cameron Smith Jenny Muir Marcia Sauder McMillan LLP Mogo Finance Technology Inc. Munford Family Foundation

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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!

#### Buddy

#### \$500 - \$999

78th Fraser Highlanders Association of Vancouver Aida Leung Amanda Magee Anonymous Anonymous Arlvn Bantog Barbara Gordon Bernhard Schwab Bonnie Watts Cathy Christopher Chervl Scott Chris Burns Cindy Cheuk Crystal Lark Johns David & Georgia Black Deborah Astles Deborah Hodge Denise Nawata Diane Milne Elizabeth Macleod Fei Disbrow Garv Craig Harley Owners Group Vancouver BC Chapter Helping Hands of WorkSafe BC Jane Davidson Jeff Louie Jocelyn Lewis John and Sharon McNeill

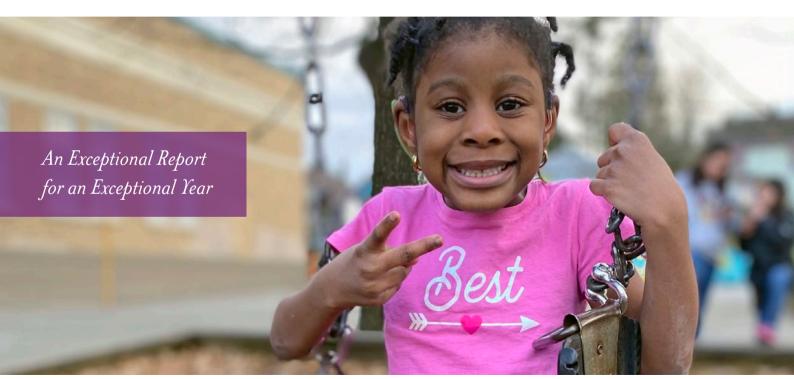
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Our mission is to provide nurturing safe havens to vulnerable inner-city children when schools are traditionally closed The KidSafe Project Society 201-211 Georgia St East Vancouver, BC V6A 1Z6 www.kidsafe.ca

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