

Annual Report
2020-2021

A message from our CEO, Chantelle Krish



In many ways, KidSafe is a hidden gem. Our story began with a group of concerned citizens united by a vision of all children living in a safe community with the inspiration and support they deserve. Almost 30 years later, we continue to work in schools deliverina

programs that promote safety, security, and well-being for hundreds of children across the city. With 1 in 5 Vancouver children living in poverty, the unjust and common reality for tens of thousands of local kids is that school breaks are times of uncertainty. At KidSafe, we work

on the ground to help the children and families who need us most.

KidSafe fills an acute gap in care for many children who face unique challenges relating to poverty, inequity, and trauma. Our programs help with food security and build lasting connections with positive role models. Most importantly, we provide the environment for kids to just be kids, have fun and learn about who they are and what they can achieve.

The past two years have been challenging for everyone, but for vulnerable children and families, access to shelter, food and a safe environment has become even harder. Like many charities, we have experienced the devastating impacts of the pandemic and have had to make some difficult decisions to scale back operations in the short-term to ensure we are here for the long haul.

In this year's Annual Report, you will learn about the children we get to work with, our local impact and the incredible community of support that helps keep our doors open year after year.

I want to personally thank our generous supporters, staff, and volunteers for all that you do. Thanks to you, we can continue to provide a safe and consistent presence in the lives of some of Vancouver's most resilient children and youth.

Chantelle Krish
CEO, The KidSafe Project Society

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Letter from James MacInnis - Chair, Board of Directors

I have been involved with KidSafe as a Board member and volunteer since 2014. My involvement began in December 2013 with an email invitation to attend KidSafe's wrapping party, an annual event that brings together our staff team, Board, donors and volunteers to wrap the presents we distribute to the children KidSafe cares for every winter break. This invitation was my first opportunity to engage with KidSafe's story and the mission that has driven this society for more than a quarter century. If you are one of our supporters, you already know that hearing the story and understanding the mission is all that is required to get you hooked.

This pandemic has taken many things from us. One of the most important is our ability to casually gather and be together to share conversation. For KidSafe, this has always been how we meet new supporters. It is how we share our story and explain our mission. It is how we engage with you so you want to be part of ensuring KidSafe's difficult and essential work will continue.

If you and I had had the chance to meet at a KidSafe event this year, we could

have talked about KidSafe's origin story about how a committed group of community members came together in response to tragedy to ensure at risk children have supervised adult care during school break times. We could have talked about KidSafe as a grassroots charity that helps children and families living right down the road from where our own children play and thrive. We could have talked about how our deeply committed staff ensure quality programming and nutritional meals for several hundred professionally referred children and how all of our services are provided free of charge. We could have talked about how the need for our services is growing and the work has never been more critical. Or we might have just talked about how much fun the kids have when they come to KidSafe and how you cannot put a price on a happy childhood.

My hope is that this casual meeting would have started a much longer conversation. There is so much more to our story and mission and I hope we will be able to get together in person to share it with you soon. While we wait,



you may receive our mail-outs or receive calls from our staff looking for your support. If you've heard our story, then I expect that you have already been there for us. We still need you.

James MacInnis, Q.C.

Chair — Board of Directors

Vision

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

Our Purpose

To create a safe and nurturing environment for children facing adversity, when schools are traditionally closed. We provide vulnerable children with the safety, supervision, food security and educational programming they need and deserve but lack access to due to their challenging life circumstances.

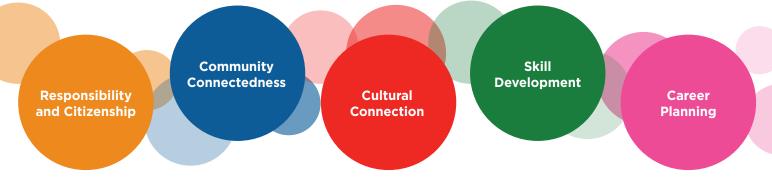
Since KidSafe was first formed in 1993, we have been serving Vancouver's most at-risk youth by providing a safe space, developmental care and nutrition to children ages 5-13 when school is not in session.

About KidSafe

KidSafe programs are free of charge and serve up to 700 children and youth annually from 45 elementary schools across Vancouver. Children are referred by social workers, educators and administrators due to barriers relating to poverty, inequity and trauma.

Hot meals and unlimited snacks are available throughout the day, as well as enriching and educational activities provided under the program areas of literacy, art, sport, nutrition, health & Safety.

Areas of Focus













Sarah Trinh a former KidSafe kid and now a valued team member



Sarah remembers lots of big, happy memories from her childhood relating to KidSafe particularly, a field trip to Playdome. Now as one of our staff members. Sarah loves being able to give back and create meaningful experiences for the children KidSafe serves, and helping them build confidence. Her favourite part of working for KidSafe is the look of happiness when the kids realize that they are capable of more than they think.

What made you want to work at KidSafe?

"As a kid, I found it really difficult to meet new people and struggled with talking to new people so that really limited my experiences. Once I joined KidSafe, however, I found myself comfortable enough to look forward to hanging out and talking with the other kids at KidSafe and the leaders as well. A lot of the big happy memories from my childhood came from KidSafe so I really wanted to make sure that I provided other kids the safety, comfort, and happiness that KidSafe

provided me because I don't think I would be who I am today without KidSafe!"

What is your favourite part of working here?

"My favourite part of working at KidSafe is honestly interacting with all of the different kids. There are so many personalities and interests and I love learning about each and every one of them. It is amazing what these kids can do and just being able to be a part of their playing and trying new activities is such an incredible experience. There are so many times where kids will believe they aren't capable of doing a planned activity but once vou try it together. the look of amazement and happiness when they see that they are capable of more than they think is such an inspirational experience and it's moments like these that I look forward to when working at KidSafe."

What is your favourite KidSafe memory from when you were a child?

"My favourite memory was definitely when we went to PlavDome. I remember being so nervous and scared but one of the leaders took the time to talk to me and she made me feel so safe and cared for and my friends from KidSafe were encouraging me as well so I ended up going on a ride. I finally understood that not only was my presence wanted and cared for by those around me at KidSafe, but that I would have missed out on how fun the ride actually was if I didn't take that chance. If it weren't for those around me at KidSafe. I never would have felt brave enough to do it or felt safe enough to take chances and that's when I knew I was completely at home at KidSafe."

When schools close, KidSafe opens

KidSafe's science themed Spring break program was an exciting few weeks, full of science experiments, explorations in STEAM and even visits from a mad scientist! The first annual KidSafe Science Fair was a resounding success. The children had the opportunity to create their very own roller coaster/marble runs, lava lamps and conduct experiments with milk and food coloring. At the end of Spring break, each child earned a certificate of completion.

As summer began, we hit the ground running with a nature-based focus for our summer break program. We hosted KidSafe's inaugural Apple Diversity Week in July! This tied into the kick-off of KidSafe's gardening program, encouraging the children to take a deeper look into where food comes from and how it

gets to our plates. It was a summer of exploration, community building and adventure. Many of the children cooled off on hot days at local water parks, took time to clean up the city's beautiful beaches and found balance through a weekly mindfulness and yoga practice.

Throughout the summer, KidSafe's Young Leaders program for grade 7 and 8 students, met weekly to gain first-hand knowledge and perspectives from community leaders on current issues. Young Leaders had opportunities to present or host a workshop each week with the support of local facilitators. The KidSafe Carnival was back again to end the summer with a bang, as the kids enjoyed cotton candy and playing carnival games all day.







Philanthropy & Farming: **Stable Harvest Farm** donates 10,000lbs of produce

A generous philanthropist throughout his 57 year business career, Syd Belzberg sold Budget Rent a Car and retired. After being retired for only two weeks, **Stable Harvest Farm** was born. Syd's dream, to provide fresh organic produce to those in need. In its inaugural season 2020, the Stable Harvest team produced over 90,000 pounds of produce which benefited various local community organizations.

In 2021, Stable Harvest Farm and the team led by Kristjan Johannson produced over 130,000 pounds of produce to provide to many food banks, Indigenous organizations, churches, and communities impacted by floods.

Throughout the summer of 2021, Stable Harvest Farm provided KidSafe with over 10,000 pounds of fresh, local, organic produce which went

home with over 350 children and their families each week of our summer break program. Several of KidSafe's youth also made the trip out to Langley to experience the farm in person, harvesting their own potatoes and learning about farming practices.

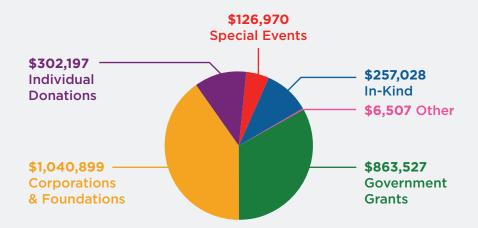
Stable Harvest Farm's future plans include a bigger focus on educating the younger generation on how the produce that they eat gets from the farm to their table. Areas of focus will include the importance of the ecosystem of bees, bats and birds in relation to the food that we eat! We are so grateful for the opportunity to partner with Stable Harvest Farm and look forward to continuing a bountiful relationship!



"The fresh produce we received from KidSafe definitely helped our family this summer. We have never received vegetables quite like this before at KidSafe!"

— KidSafe mom

Financial Overview



\$2,597,128 in revenue funded our programs in 2021. **67%** of this revenue was contributed by private donors.

We are grateful for the generous support of





Operations/Human Resources

By and large, KidSafe's most valuable resource is our people. The COVID-19 pandemic has immensely impacted the way KidSafe operates, and saw us adjusting the amount of kids we could serve at each location. In response to this change, we opened an additional five schools over the 2020-2021 winter, spring and summer breaks, totalling 17 school sites across Vancouver.

KidSafe onboards upwards of 80 sessional staff leading up to each of our break time programs, with a retention rate of approximately 80%. Retention of staff is key to our programs' success as returning staff are able to build strong, positive relationships with the children and provide much-needed consistency and support.

KidSafe was honored to be recognized as a Top Five Finalist for the 2021 CharityVillage award in the "Best Youth Engagement" category, which recognizes efforts to engage youth in the workplace. With over 80% of KidSafe's staff team being under 30 years old, we provide a work environment where younger people are able to give back to their communities, learn invaluable job skills and cultivate positive working relationships.

We remain committed to growing a diverse staff team representative of the populations we serve, ensuring that children have caring adults who they can see themselves in. By focusing on supporting our staff, we can elevate and enhance the experience for the kids who attend KidSafe.



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HIGH-FIVE and Professional Boundaries

> Socio-Emotional Learning Approaches

Violent Threat Risk Assessment





Staff Training Areas of Focus:

Indigenous Cultural Safety

> Trauma-Informed Perspectives & Approaches

Super Heros

\$100,000 +

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Heros

\$50,000 - \$99,000

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