

**SOUTH VANCOUVER
FAMILY PLACE**

**IN-PERSON
MEETING**

7:00 - 8:00 P.M.



**— ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING**

South Vancouver Family Place Society

7710 Nanaimo Street,
Vancouver BC V5P 4Y2
Email: ed.svfp@gmail.com
Phone: 604 325 5213
Website: www.svfp.org

Kidscare Preschool

7715 Muirfield Drive,
Vancouver, BC V5S 2L5
Kidscare direct line: (604) 325-2222
Email: kidscarepreschool7715@gmail.com



**GRAPHIC DESIGNER
SARA MEHRTASH**



C O N T E N T S

02	MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR
03	MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
04	SVFP STAFF TEAM
05	MISSION & VISION
06	FUNDERS & PARTNERS
07	DONORS LIST
08-15	SVFP PROGRAM STATS
16	FINANCIAL SUMMARY
17	NUMBERS & STATISTICS
18	VOLUNTEERS
19	LETTERS FROM OUR PARENTS
20-22	SUCCESS STORIES
23	EMAILS FROM FAMILIES
24	GALLERY

Message From the Board Chair



On behalf of the Board of Directors, welcome to the 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of South Vancouver Family Place (SVFP)! We would like to acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the xwməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil- Waututh) Nations.

2021-2022 continued to be another year of adjustment for SVFP during the roller coaster of the global pandemic, as provincial health restrictions oscillated before beginning to ease and lift. Kids Care Preschool programs continue to operate under provincial health authority guidelines, with some major upcoming changes in staffing as we bid farewell to our beloved Erika this summer. While our drop-in program continues to thrive, we remain to seek an alternative permanent indoor location in River District.

As part of our strategic plan, we continue to expand and enhance our programs and services, whilst building financial sustainability for the organization. We are pleased to report that the organization has diversified its funding sources and is able to provide staff wage increases to offset the increasing costs of living in the GVRD. We are extremely proud of the committed staff team who persevere to deliver innovative programming to our communities in person and online.

Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the dedicated staff and volunteers who support SVFP, as well as the volunteer board of directors who work with me to govern this wonderful community organization. We share our successes with our partners, funders and donors, whose ongoing support is more important than ever during these difficult financial times.

We look forward to your continued patience and cooperation as we navigate through the rebuilding and expansion of our programs and services in the year ahead, and hope that families in our community remain safe, healthy and happy.



Message From the Executive Director



Throughout the past year of the global pandemic, at South Vancouver Family Place (SVFP), we have witnessed an unwavering commitment and dedication—from all levels of our organization—to the children and families we serve.

Of all the things we've learned this past year, one of the most significant is that our organization has continued to demonstrate resilience, flexibility, and potential to navigate the unknown, adapt quickly and find new solutions to adversity. We are proud of our ongoing, strong staff and board. Our investment in evidence-based practices that promote and advance excellence in early learning and family engagement are the cornerstones of our mission and vision.

In 2020, the Federal Government acknowledged the role of childcare and its critical importance to the workforce and economy. We celebrate this recognition and how it serves to recognize the contributions of educators and home care providers across the sector for their skills, expertise, and invaluable contributions, day in and day out. Our agency has also embraced the Federal Government's commitment to creating a National Child Care Strategy this year.

We look forward to these potential plans unfolding in the province of British Columbia.

We have noted how the global pandemic has highlighted the disparities, particularly across racialized people of colour and Indigenous communities. As we develop and deliver our programs and services, we will continue to strengthen our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion across our organization. SVFP is proud of the rich cultural diversity represented at all levels of the agency. This richness is critical to leveraging our strength as an inclusive organization where staff, families and communities can grow and thrive together.

Working in partnership with our governments and community partners, we have found new ways to overcome the many obstacles created by COVID-19. We have worked hard to promote health and safety and ensure that children and families continue to receive quality care and support.

Highlights of our past year include:

- Our growth - a new ECE Certificate Project will decrease the shortage of ECE workers in this industry
- Our focus on outdoor learning - this pedagogical approach is well integrated into our culture. It has been significant in promoting well-being, particularly in the face of the pandemic.
- Our investments in infrastructure - our new investments in robust technological systems will keep us efficient and innovative.
- 2022 marks the 46th anniversary of the founding of South Vancouver Family Place. As we commemorate this milestone, our ability to adjust and innovate amid the pandemic is significant.

We are also proud of and thankful for your dedication, patience and commitment to our families and programs. We couldn't have done it without you.



Our Board of Directors

FY 2021-2022

We humbly acknowledge that we live, learn, collaborate, grow, work and build communities on the unceded, ancestral, traditional and occupied homelands of the xʷməθkʷəy̍əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Board of Directors

Wendy H Ma – Chair
Carole Wong – Treasurer
Sumitra Quiring – Secretary
Andrea Pohlers
Lal Dhillon
Rob Listeck
Jannie Szeto
Tiffany Lee

Family Resources/ Parenting Programs

Ann Asselstine
Carrie Cassidy
Renee Parker
Eva Joung
Ingrid Rios
Kenia Borges
Farida Yasmin

Relief/Other

Rojean Murillo
Michelle Blardony
Angelica Jose Gaspar
Manjit Garcha
JiaQi Guo

KidsCare Preschool Staff

Maiya Aliyeva
Kelly Li Chunyan
Erika Siu
Sofia Relota
Rona Mapili
Krestal Abundo
Hanna Shin
Timea Quon

Administration

Julio Bello – Executive Director
Victoria Ragas – Chief Finance Officer/ Office Administrator

Our Staff Team



Mission Statement

South Vancouver Family Place's mission is to support and strengthen all families with young children in building healthy relationships and community networks by providing services and programs in a welcoming, nurturing, stimulating, and respectful environment.

Our Vision

South Vancouver Family Place Society envisions a connected community of happy, healthy families where everyone is safe, engaged, and welcome.



a year's overview

Funders & Partners



FUNDERS

City of Vancouver
Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD)
BC Gaming
Prospera Credit Union
Canada Summer Jobs
BC Centre for Ability
Community Food Centre
Community Workforce Response Grant (CWRG)
UBC
Wesgroup Development
Donors and Friends of SVFP

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

VanCity Credit Union
5 Family Place Partnerships
South Vancouver Neighbourhood House
Pacific Immigrant Resources Society (PIRS)
South Vancouver Health Centre
Growing Eden
Family Services of Greater Vancouver



community food centres
CANADA good food is just the beginning



DONORS LIST

Thank you for your most generous and vital Support

Donors List Thru Canada Helps

Ken A.
Robyn J.
Lisa L.
Etha
Dr. Jessica M.H
Sarah S.
Felicia St. P.
Janice b.
Ashley C
Louis M.F.
Marc S.Y.W.
Karen S.
Connie L.
Jamie F.
Heather L.
Marilyn L.
Haylie S.
Vanessa B.
Sarah K.
Edgar B.
Harprabhjit R.
Nicholas W.
Michelle V.
Tessie S.
Tiffany L.
Amy C.
Debra L.
Port Moody Firefighter Charitable Society



last year's

SVFP Program Stats

Family Drop-in

includes Family Place Main, and Fraserlands location

300

Number of Days Offered

Family Place and Fraserlands

17,997

Total Visits

8,900 Adult visits + 9097 children visits

1,223

Number of Individuals served

520 adults and 703 children





last year's

SVFP Program Stats

Parenting Education and Adult Support

12 Number of workshops offered
Family Place and Fraserlands

Workshops

*Nobody's Perfect in Chinese, Spanish and English;
Positively Inspired Parenting; Recycling Craft activities
parent/child; summer run; mother, Recycling Craft
activities parent/child; summer run; mother goose etc*

56 Sessions over **123** hours



572 Total attendances
Adults and Children





last year's

SVFP Program Stats

Community Outreach

1,155

Hours

Number of hours invested in providing referrals and community support to families



459

Number of new families outreached





last year's

SVFP Program Stats

Early Years (MCFD)

139 *Number of days of service*

350 *Hours of service offered*

2,115 **Total visits**
Adults and children

Activities offered: Group support outdoors and indoors; tiny toes parent/child interactive program; Healthy recipes; Yoga, parent wellness; sing, dance & play





last year's

SVFP Program Stats

Mental Health and counselling

92

Families

Individual counselling sessions was offered

523

Hours

Invested in 1:1 adult support





last year's

SVFP Program Stats

Food Security Program

390 Families Served

\$36,000

Worth of groceries in gift cards distributed to families in South Vancouver funded by Community Food Centres Canada between February to June 2022.

\$3,000

Worth of groceries in gift cards donated by Mr. Terrence Stonehouse distributed to 30 families in December 2021.



last year's

SVFP Program Stats

Food Security Program

Response from some Recipients



1

Yes, during the pandemic i was unable to make my ends meet as a single parent. at times, i wrote down my shopping list before going to the supermarket I often struggled to decide whether I should strike some of the items off the list in order to lower my spending of the week, however, with your help I was able to pick up those items again that were substantially important to my daily consumption

2

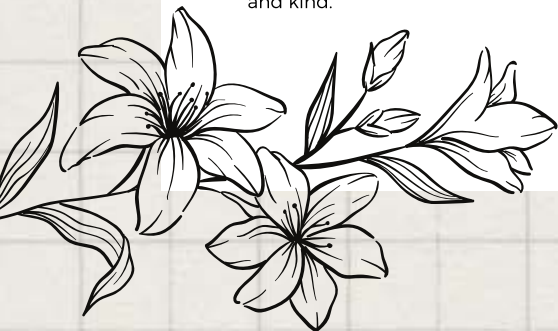
HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACQUIRE FOOD PRODUCTS AND OTHERS TO WHICH I DO NOT HAVE MUCH ACCESS. FOOD FOR MY SON, THANK YOU VERY MUCH. Some food and clothes for my kids bought my groceries clothing, milk, and snacks for the kids. Milk, bread, juice boxes, packed snacks, pull-ups, wipes and fruits. I bought milk, diapers, food, housewares, paper, wet wipes, and shower gel We got vegetables, fruits, meat, chicken and essentials like toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo and over-the-counter medication too.

3

My family and I are very grateful for these gift cards, we send you much love and blessings from the bottom of my heart. I would like to say thank you very much who sponsoring the gift card. It's a big help for me as a single mom in my everyday needs for me and my baby. I am so grateful. God bless your big heart. You are amazing and kind.

4

Creo que mis palabras no alcanzar a expresar toda mi gratitud por la noble ayuda que brindaron a mi pequeño hijo y a mi. Puedo testificar que aún existen ángeles en la tierra. Gracias por la oportunidad concedida y amor expresadas en un valioso regalo.





last year's

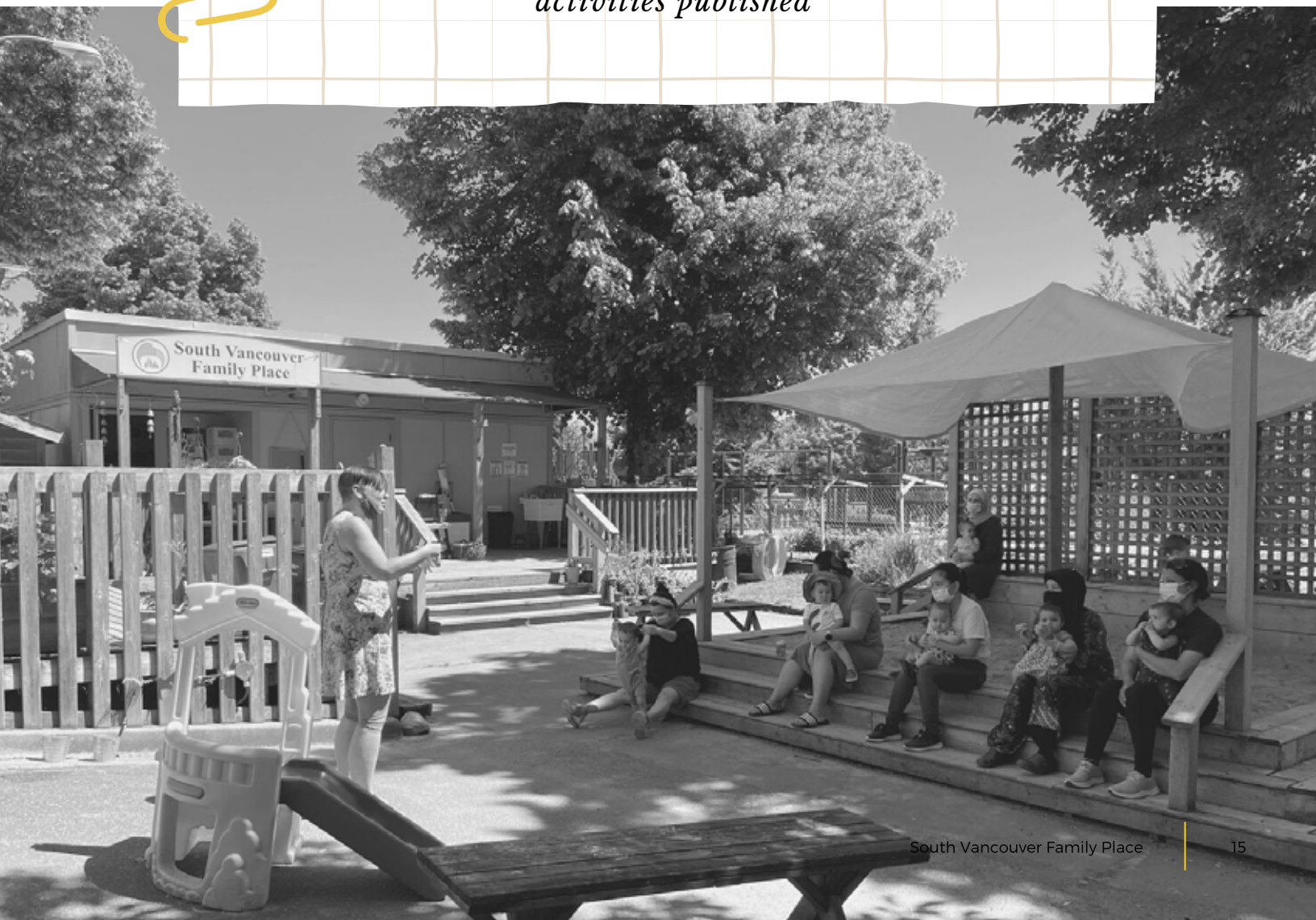
SVFP Program Stats

Social Media Outreach

13,922 *Total Website visits*

548,215 *Total Facebook hits*

276 *Total website Early Literacy activities published*





last year's

Financial Summary





last year's


Numbers & Statistics

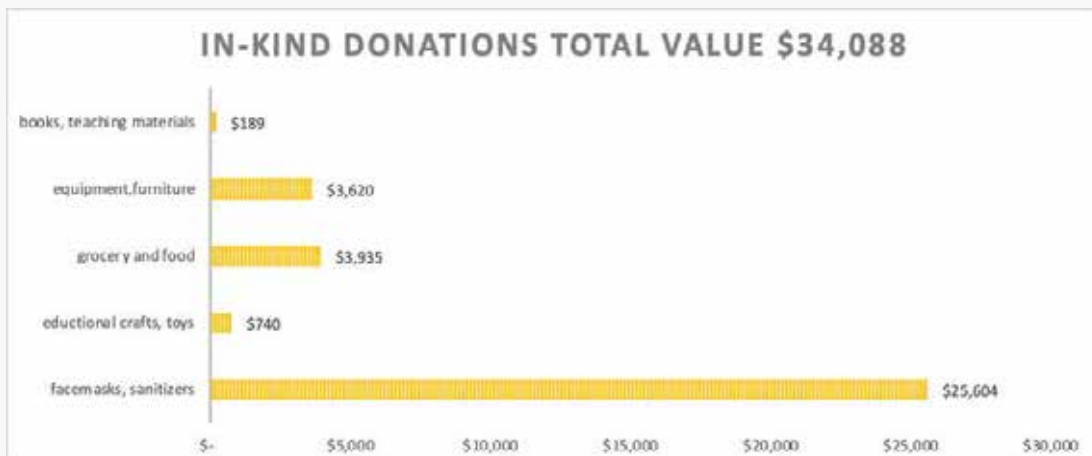
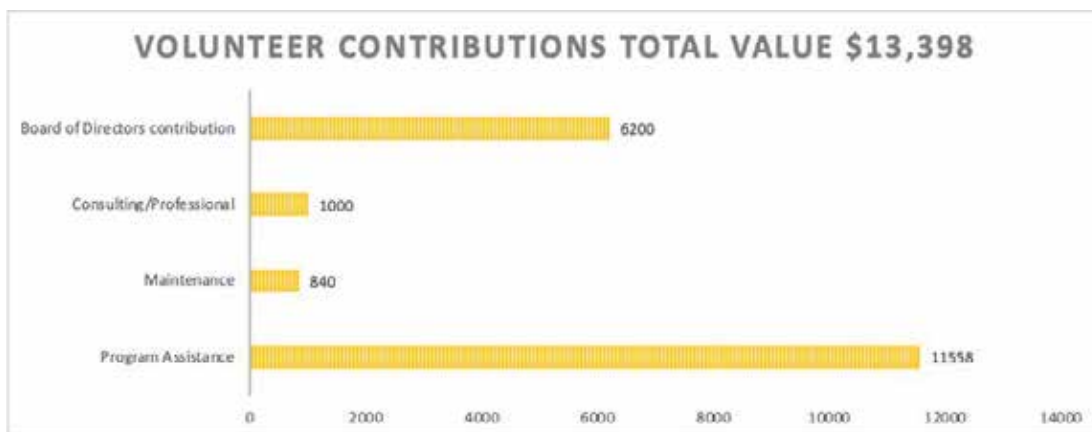
There were 28 volunteers donating 848 hours of service. The Board of Directors contributed 248 hours of support and guidance to SVFP.

28 *Volunteers*

848 *Hours*

Board of Directors

 **248** *Hours*

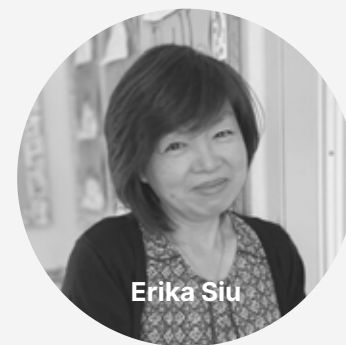




Our Volunteers



Letters from our parents



KidsCare Preschool FY 2021-2022

Teacher Erika Siu is retiring in June 2022, after over 25 years of Supervising and teaching the Bilingual preschool. SVFP and Kids Care appreciate her long time dedication and faithful service.



Good Evening Teacher Erika,

Thank you for being Amilya's teacher and being part of her journey in life. You have made a impact on her life and I believe she will keep you in her heart for a very very long time. So much joy has been brought to her from you and we are forever grateful.

It will be sad that Kaydi will not be able to have the honour to have you for her teacher but this next step is well deserved and congratulations!

Thanks
Carol

Hi Erika,

It brought tears to my eyes reading your letter. I am very grateful that Cora had a chance to have you for both her years at KidsCare. You are a wonderful teacher and showed so much compassion and patience to Cora. You will leave very big shoes to fill and will truly be missed. I hope you have a very well-deserved and wonderful retirement!

Thanks
Yvonne

Oh teacher Erika,

I'm so sad to read your letter but also want to congratulate you on your upcoming retirement. I feel so lucky that Jett was able to get into your class in your final year of teaching. Thank you so much for everything you've taught her so far.

She remembers everything you say to her and tells me at night. You will be so missed by everyone.

Jessica

Dear Erika,

We are saddened that you will be retiring at the end of the year, but happy for you at the same time. We heard many great things about you from our friends, which was a big part of enrolling Skyla at KidsCare Preschool. Thank you for all the sacrifices you made and for all your hard work and dedication you made not only to Skyla, but to all your students.

We wish you all the best in your upcoming retirement and know that you've made a big impact in our children's lives. We'll miss you dearly!

Sincerely,
Vincent and Michelle

Success stories



Program Participants

April- March 2021-2022.



Story #1

A new participant explained that her 2 1/2-year-old is not speaking yet and doesn't seem to understand her. She was exhausted and said, that she is always having to pull him away from things that are unsafe, and he has many tantrums she said that she is on a long waiting list for an assessment to determine if he is on the spectrum. She wanted to know how to help him in the meanwhile. I walked alongside her while he rapidly moved from place to place, and observed many atypical and sometimes dangerous behaviours. I verbally guided her to respond using methods based on attachment theory.

She said she was surprised how using these methods increased her successful communication with her son, de-escalated tantrums quickly, and how much he now paid attention when she explained that something was dangerous, instead of just saying "no". She realized he understands much more than she thought.

She expressed gratitude that just a half-hour together during playtime taught her so much about how to mother her son.

Story #2

A new mother in the program suspects that her toddler is on the spectrum. She was referred to us by her friend to receive support because her friend stated that we had expertise in this subject.

The outcome was that on her first day she was given information on how to have her child assessed and what to communicate to her doctor for a medical referral. And, how to help her cope and manage her sons' behaviours. Renee walked the parent through the process by modelling and verbally guiding her.

On her second visit to us, she reported on seeing her GP and stated that he agreed to refer her and her child to Sunny Hill for assessment. However, she was also told that it is a 1 to 3-year waiting time. She then requested if there was a faster route for assessments. I (Renee), suggested going through the private although not that much quicker and expensive. She stated that she might consider the private option. She also stated having used Renée's tips over the past week has helped a lot.

Success stories



Program Participants

April- March 2021-2022.



Story #3

One parent who is not a member of our program was referred to SVFP for counselling as he went through court regarding custody of his child. He wanted to speak with a counsellor outside of "the system" who could be neutral as he discussed his frustrations with the system, the feelings of frustration and discrimination he was feeling. He wanted to also be able to discuss the impact on his child with someone who understood children's development.

The court case concluded, but he anticipates continued struggles with the family situation. He really appreciated being able to explain himself and explore the situation in a neutral environment. He wishes to be able to continue to access counselling at SVFP occasionally in future when issues arise.

Story #4

SVFP filled a very important role for a father in the community who was applying for shared custody of his children. His lawyer advised him that it was extremely important to take the Nobody's Perfect parenting group and have a certificate as soon as possible for inclusion in his file before his court hearing. But there were no NP groups in the community which would be able to meet the deadline.

He and his team were very happy that over January SVFP could provide 6 intense 1-1 sessions by zoom to cover all the NP topics and give him a certificate in time for this to be included in his court submissions. He said that he learned a lot and was glad he had taken it, as well as it being an important part of his custody application

Story #5

One mom was really struggling with being a single mom for the upcoming Christmas Holiday, and it also being the anniversary of both her parents' deaths in a car accident. She really appreciated having several zoom counselling sessions to help her be emotionally present to give her children a good Christmas.

Success stories



Program Participants

April- March 2021-2022.



Story #6

A mom with a two-and-a-half-year-old son, who attends Fraserlands, came to me with concerns about her child rejecting his dad in the evening at bedtime. She said that her husband didn't have time to be with him all day, so he was feeling very hurt when his son rejected him at night. I helped the mom use the NP problem-solving technique set of questions, and we discussed the implications of her answers to those questions. When she looked carefully at her child's day, and the interaction with the dad, she saw that with the father working at home and being in many meetings, the child can hear his voice and knows he is there but is rejected by the father whenever he tries to go in and see dad. He recently stopped trying, and it is since then that he will no longer engage with the father when he approaches him at night.

We looked at this through the lens of attachment theory, and the mom could see that the child is too young to understand that the dad loves him, when the child repeatedly has had feelings hurt by their father's rejection. The child has adapted to this and is protecting himself from experiencing more hurt by emotionally detaching from his dad. We brainstormed ideas to help him reconnect with the dad, such as having the dad engage with him before work and have at least one break where he engages with his son and then a warm group reception again immediately after his work. Also, to begin times of 1-1 time with the father since the child has never been away from his mom yet. The mom was enthusiastic to talk to the father about this and decide what to do together. She said she felt hope.

Story #7

At the Fraserlands outdoor drop in, I noticed a young woman walking past us and pushing a very young baby in a carriage and I approached her to let her know about our program. She was surprised that such a program existed. She explained that she and her husband had just immigrated to Canada while she was pregnant and left all their family and friends behind. She said that since having her baby had not been to any programs or made friends with any other parents. She described how lonely she was and was glad I stopped to invite her. She was so happy to know that she would be seeing many of the same parents from week to week and hoped to make friends, as well as learn from talking to moms with children a little older than hers, and that her baby would learn, by watching the older children.



Emails from families



April- March 2021-2022.

I wanted to thank you for being such an important part of our lives this past year! Especially since it was a year filled with many uncertainties and stress for us, the family place has been such wonderful support and we have appreciated your patience and understanding with us so much when we weren't able to attend. You are all so amazing and we will miss you very much!!

We hope you have an amazing rest of the year filled with success at the family place and hope to keep in touch.

Lots of love from my family!

"Thanks so much - we really love the drop-in centre and would like to continue supporting you! Your staff and services are really amazing and we feel lucky that Noah can participate :)"

"Happy new year to you and Renee and all the other wonderful ladies. I really looked forward to my time there. You and all the ladies are so great. It was a pleasure meeting you and thanks for the help and support."

On Thursday, March 31st, we quickly talked about my situation. First, I want to thank you for your support and for giving me the tips for Potty training my daughter Nyla. I started 2 hours after we talked, and she went to the bathroom to sit on the pot, but she didn't do anything.

Hi Eva,

I want to express once again how much I love you all and appreciate what you do for families, young moms and grandmas.

To be able to get out and go somewhere with no expectations is a blessing more often than you may know. To engage in conversations or not, to just be quiet, and even go to the bathroom without 1, 2, 3 or even 4 kids in tow, while they can safely hang out and play, is a BIG deal... it's all that I consider a gift in these busy and challenging times.

Thank you. Teresa- Grandma of 4

I have really enjoyed our time at Family Place: all the conversations around resources with Renee and yourself on Amaya's development, the activities with Ingrid and the delicious food from Kenia, and of course Rojean's always warm welcomes!

And who can forget that Amaya always thinks Julio's picture is her own daddy! Lol.

Would love to stay connected and thank you to the larger team!

Amaya, Sonia and Seth

Gallery

 April- March 2021-2022.

