

Thank you

We would like to thank all of our funders, partners, donors, and supporters. We also want to thank those donors who wish to remain anonymous. Know that your generosity and financial support goes a long way in helping us continue to deliver our programs and services and was a large part of making 2017 such a great success.

Our Funders

Province of BC: Community Gaming Branch
Government of Canada: Canada Summer Jobs

Our Partners

Mr. Paul Florio and the Florio Bursary Program
Kids Up Front (Vancouver)
Volunteer Burnaby

Board of Directors

Woosang Lee, President
Sally Kann, Treasurer
Jamal Dumas, Director
Janet Thompson, Secretary
Sarah Fantin, Director

Staff

Dave Baspaly, Executive Director
Veronica Grossi, Program Manager



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Our Donors & Supporters

18 Wheels Logistics
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Bard on the Beach
BC Ferries
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Bon Bon Bakery
Buy-Low Foods (Store #80066) (Parkcrest Plaza)
Capilano Suspension Bridge Park
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Core Games (Brentwood)
Costco Wholesale (Willingdon)
Cristos Greek Taverna
DAVIDsTEA (Store #00048) (Brentwood)
Earnest Ice Cream
Everything Wine (North Vancouver)
Evolution Beauty Salon
Fresh Direct Produce
GardenWorks (Lougheed)
Grounds for Coffee
H.R. MacMillan Space Centre
Head Waze Hair and Skin Studio
Hyak Wilderness Adventures
Kernels Popcorn (Metrotown)
Long & McQuade (Vancouver)
Lotus Café
Marketplace Events
Metropolis at Metrotown
Nando's (Metrotown)
Pacific National Exhibition and KC's Kids Ticket Donation Program
Panago Pizza
PriceSmart Foods (Store #2281) (Station Square)
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Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory
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Save-On-Foods (Store #2225) (Madison Centre)
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Science World British Columbia
Sfinaki Greek Taverna
Shoppers Drug Mart (Store #2127) (Burnaby Heights)
Shoppers Drug Mart (Store #2210) (Solo District)
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Stephanie Leach
Suki's
Sweet Factory (Metrotown)
The Cultch
The Flash (TV Show)
The Old Spaghetti Factory
Trail Appliances
Valley Bakery
Vancouver Canucks
Vancouver Puppet Theatre
Vancouver Symphony Orchestra
Victor Harrison Pottery
Waves Coffee House (Burnaby Heights)
WorkSafeBC: Helping Hands



Annual Report 2017

A message from the Chair



2017 was yet another good year for Volunteer Grandparents, full of change and progress. We worked hard as an organization to create a lasting and positive impact for our participants.

We're proud to be working with a wide range of dedicated caring individuals and organizations. From government through to the educational community, there's a genuine groundswell and focus on the value to intergenerational programming.

Our success is the community's success. With the ongoing support of our donors, partners, Board and volunteers, Volunteer Grandparents is ready for the challenges and achievements ahead.

I would like to thank my fellow directors, our staff and our volunteers for all of their excellent work.

As we move forward in 2018 and beyond, I am proud of what Volunteer Grandparents has accomplished in 2017 and I am excited about the future.

Worthy of pointing out, is that 2018 represents an important milestone for the organization. It is our 45th anniversary since incorporation.

On behalf of the Board, let me be the first to say, "Let the celebration begin!"

Woosang Lee
President, Volunteer Grandparents

Celebrating **45** Years of Service

2017 Program Highlights

This year we celebrated Canada150! With the support of our Ambassador Program volunteers, we were able to promote our organization at many community events including: Healthy Kids Preschool Fair, Hats Off Day, Canada Day at the Burnaby Village Museum, Edmonds City Fair, and the North Burnaby Community Fair. Thanks to a donation from Canadian Heritage, we handed out Canada flags, temporary tattoos, and mini maple leaf lapel pins at all these events and at our #lovecanada themed Annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic.

In mid-2017 we received funding from Canada Summer Jobs that allowed us to hire a university co-op student for 13 weeks from May to August. In addition to planning the Annual Picnic, the co-op student researched funding opportunities that our organization is excited to pursue. We also hosted a high school work experience student this summer who assisted with revamping the Media Coverage page of our website. It is on this new website page that you can read the interview of our work experience student and the article written by our co-op student, both of which were published in the Burnaby Now newspaper.

Through our profile on CanadaHelps.org, a platform that streamlines online donations, we received over \$400.00 in online donations. Additionally, the WorkSafeBC's employees donated \$260.00 through their Helping Hands Fund. It is with these generous donations and the generous contribution from our core funder, the Province of BC Community Gaming Branch that our organization continues to actively engage volunteers in our Family Match Program and School Grandparent Program. We would like to thank all of our amazing volunteers for their tremendous commitment and dedication.

#150 challenge

2017 marks Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation and Volunteer Grandparents celebrated by creating the #150challenge. Launched in mid-May, this ambitious social media campaign's goal was to create 150 posts before the end of July. We wanted to engage people locally and nationally to be part of the Canada150 celebrations and have our organization reach a wider audience so using all three of our social media platforms we decided on the hashtag #150challenge and got straight to work. Our posts promoted Canada Day events around Metro Vancouver and thanked the community partners for their generous support of our Annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic. Other posts featured local community events, including ones that we participated in like Hats Off Day as well as interesting Canadian facts. To everyone that 'liked' and 'shared' our posts during the campaign, thank you for being part of our #150challenge as we celebrated Canada 150!



Annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic

Happy Canada 150!

Our 11th Annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic was held on July 15, 2017 with the theme being #lovecanada to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation. We invited our grandparents, school grandparents, ambassadors and grandchildren with their families to enjoy this special occasion. The event also gave us the opportunity to recognize the valuable contributions of our program participants and volunteers. With the support from many community partners, we received over \$6,850.00 in donations. Vancouver Puppet Theatre performed a wonderful puppet show for us to enjoy. Also, there were food and beverages generously donated by Panago Pizza, PriceSmart Foods, Fresh Direct Produce Ltd., Save-On-Foods, Clearly Canadian, Starbucks, Bon Bon Bakery, and DAVIDsTEA. Thank you to everyone for making the event a huge success!



A Fond Farewell to Stephen Sjoberg

We would like to thank Stephen for his long-term commitment to our Board of Directors. Stephen joined the Volunteer Grandparents Board in 2005, starting as a director, moving to the Treasurer position in 2006, and finally he was our President from 2008-2017. With his enthusiasm and dedication, he has helped shape the governance culture that Volunteer Grandparents has thrived under. He can be proud that the organization has been stable, effective and financially sound under his inspiring leadership. We thank Stephen for his commitment and dedication to our intergenerational programs.



Kids Up Front

Kids Up Front is non-profit organization that redistributes donated tickets to local events. Volunteer Grandparents has been a proud member agency of the Vancouver Chapter of Kids Up Front since 2009. Over the past eight years we have been able to send children from our Family Match Program, along with their families and volunteer grandparents to see BC Lions and Vancouver Whitecaps games, live performances by Theatre Under The Stars and Vancouver International Puppet Festival, plus many other great events. In 2017, our organization received 209 tickets at a total value of \$8316.30.



Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers

In 2016, Volunteer Grandparents nominated Mr. Kehar Aujla for the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers, a prestigious award that recognizes the valuable contributions and achievements of volunteers in their community. On June 7, Volunteer Grandparents and Kehar's family had the honour to watch Honourable Judith Guichon, Lieutenant Governor of BC, present the Sovereign's Medal of Volunteers to Kehar at Government House in Victoria, BC. "I was very excited and honoured to receive the Medal of Volunteers," exclaimed Kehar. The Sovereign's Medal of Volunteers is his eighth award since he started volunteering in 2006. His first award was the Simon Fraser University's Gerontology Research Centre's Senior Leadership Award, which Volunteer Grandparents nominated him for in 2010. We are so proud to be a part of Kehar's long standing achievements and volunteer journey. His extraordinary dedication and significant volunteer contributions to the Volunteer Grandparents Organization and the community of Burnaby is without a doubt making a valuable legacy in Canada. Congratulations Kehar!



Get Involved

Become a Volunteer Grandparent! Share family occasions, explore and be a part of your community with a grandchild. Become a single grandparent or volunteer with your spouse or partner. It doesn't matter if you have grandchildren or not – what matters is that you care and you want to be involved in your community. As a Volunteer Grandparent, you will be joining a growing number of seniors who are dedicated to building strong communities through intergenerational connections. Applications are accepted throughout the year from individuals and couples. Visit www.volunteergrandparents.ca today!