

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 2019 such a great success. We extend a special thank you to the individuals who made program donations in memory of our founder, Marjorie Anderson. We would like to acknowledge the financial contribution willed to Volunteer Grandparents from Nancy Kirk.

We would also like to thank the City of Burnaby for their In-Kind Printing Grant to help us with our printing costs in 2020.



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
West End Seniors' Network
Gordon Neighbourhood House

Our Donors & Supporters

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Origins Parkour
Pacific Breeze Winery
Panago Pizza
PNE
Pure Float
Safeway
The Cultch
The Keg Steakhouse
The Naam
Victor Harrison Pottery



Annual Report 2019

A message from the Chair

As Chair of the VG Board of Directors, I want to help celebrate another fantastic year of service to our members. The year has passed quickly, but we have accomplished many wonderful things. Here are just a few examples:

- In January, the Board held a successful strategic planning session. As a result, we developed several powerful strategic priorities. As a Board, we are committed to aggressively pursuing these priorities.
- We effectively delivered intergenerational matching and school support programming throughout the year.
- We held our annual intergenerational picnic for a large number of our program participants in the summer. This event was once again nothing less than outstanding!
- Through our Kids Up Front partnership, we provided numerous unique opportunities for our grandchildren that would not have otherwise happened without our support.
- We achieved our funding objectives and balanced our budget in an ever-changing and competitive environment.
- Perhaps most importantly, we successfully advocated for our intergenerational volunteers, and through our programming, moved our mission and vision forward.

On behalf of our Board, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the wonderful staff and the amazing volunteers.

On a serious note, I want to acknowledge that as I write this message we are in the midst of a global pandemic. Our next Annual Report will detail our response to this unprecedented circumstance – from my perspective, our response has been nothing short of exceptional. We will no doubt be better as a community for how we responded and for our collective experience.

Woosang Lee,
Chair, Volunteer Grandparents



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2019 Program Highlights

In 2019, Volunteer Grandparents continued to offer three programs to our community: our Family Match Program, the School Grandparent Program, and our Ambassador Program.

Highlighting a New Connection...

Volunteer Grandparent Merle has been matched with Nicole, her husband Sammy and their four lovely kids for over a year now. Within a year's time, they have connected so exceptionally well that they truly feel like a close-knit family now. They are even planning on going on a family trip to Palm Springs together in the winter! The idea of taking on a family of four kids sounded a bit intimidating to Merle initially, but she decided that if she were to go into this program, she would give it her all.



Merle and her grandkids

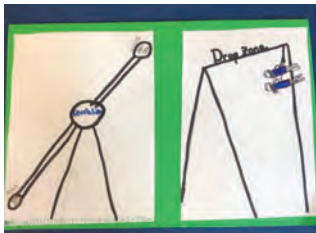
"Among my friends, there are many who don't have grandchildren who would dearly love grandchildren. But Nicole and her kids, they're taken, no one can take them now, this is our family."

Kids Up Front

Kids Up Front is a 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 ten 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 2019, our organization received 144 tickets at a total value of \$4,813.45.



Xaria at Playland



Xaria's 'Thank You' card

Annual Volunteer Appreciation

On July 27th, 2019 we held our 13th Annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic at Confederation Park. This event is dedicated to recognize the invaluable time and effort that our wonderful program attendees and volunteers have contributed. We decided to celebrate another year of successful program delivery with a Hawaiian theme and thus had the pleasure of inviting the lovely ladies from Waialele Wai Wai to perform their traditional hula dance at our picnic! They delivered an outstanding performance and seamlessly engaged our attendees to follow along with their beautiful dances. Our picnic would not have been the success it was without the support from our community partners such as Panago Pizza, Fresh Direct Produce Ltd., and Costco. This cherished day gives families and volunteers the chance to get together and celebrate yet another year of bridging and enriching generations. We're thankful for everyone who came out to celebrate with us and more importantly for their ongoing support and participation in the program! We look forward to continuing to bridge and enrich generations for many years to come.



In mid-2019 we received funding from Canada Summer Jobs that enabled us to hire a university co-op student, Cindy Huynh, for 16 weeks from May to August. In addition to planning the annual picnic, Cindy also completed a number of program participant interviews, capturing their unique intergenerational connections that have been created through our Family Match Program.

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!



Merle and her family