



2022 Annual Report

Volunteer Grandparents



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A Message from the Chair

From my humble perspective, the past year has been both historic and reflective – we are reminded on a daily basis of the inherent value of intergeneration volunteering and the heroic contribution of our volunteers.

If you are reading this, you have just made it to the other side of a once in a lifetime global pandemic – many did not - and many others, particularly our seniors, have developed long-term chronic conditions associated with their exposure. It is worthy of pausing for a moment to appreciate what all this means and why intergenerational programming matters.

For me, our volunteers can be extremely proud of their work during this extraordinary period. Whether it is the exceptional seniors letter writing campaign or the virtual engagement activates that were held, Volunteer Grandparents made a difference.

While registration in our 2022 program was generally lower because of risk and restrictions, we saw members increasingly become more comfortable with returning to in-person activities as the year drew to a close. We're happy to report that by end of 2022, operations at the Volunteer Grandparents were slowly returning to pre-pandemic levels.

The Board even capped off the year with our first in-person meeting since 2020, our annual Christmas Party. I want to thank my fellow Board members for their strong leadership, and Veronica for her dedication and heroic effort during this most extraordinary time.

2023 is also our 50 year anniversary since incorporation, a big thank you for being our member and for your volunteer service. Wow time flies when you are having fun!

Now that the pandemic is behind us, it's time for the celebration to begin!

Woosang Lee,
President of the Board
Volunteer Grandparents

2022 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Our Letters to Seniors Program continued to be extremely popular in 2022. In order to keep up with the demand from our partner care homes, we began collecting Christmas holiday messages early by creating a Christmas in July campaign. I am happy to report that our goal of collecting 1000 kind Christmas cards was surpassed!

Another great memory from 2022 was our summer social. We were lucky to score tickets to the Whitecaps FC II for our first summer social since the pandemic's beginning. We had a total of 63 program participants attend and we were so happy to see so many new and old faces!



CANADA SUMMER JOBS FUNDING

In 2022, Volunteer Grandparents received funding to hire a co-op student for the summer. Natalie Sparrow was hired as our Administrative Assistant.



'I've thoroughly enjoyed my summer working for this small yet mighty organization, where my title of "Administrative Assistant" proved to not even begin encapsulating my duties. I've done everything from creating automatic letter-tracking spreadsheets and interviewing participants to writing grants, managing social media accounts, and running a booth at a community fair. All of these projects helped me develop crucial skills that I can use in my future work experiences while giving me the chance to directly engage with the community, which is an opportunity I may not have had elsewhere. I am leaving Volunteer Grandparents with more confidence in my skills, an appreciation for the inner workings of non-profits, and a greater understanding of what I want to do with my future.'

Natalie

We thank Lorna, a dedicated school grandparent and active participant in our Letters To Seniors Program.

What advice would you give to yourself and to the younger generation?

'Believe in yourself. You have the ability to persevere and face the challenges, and also the joys, that life brings.'





Bridging Generations

LETTERS TO SENIORS

In 2022, a total of **1379 letters** were created in our Letters To Seniors Program: 1188 of these were handmade cards, drawings, and letters sent by participants in Phase 1 of the program, while 191 were longer letters exchanged between seniors and youth taking part in Phase 2 of our program.



NEW INTERGENERATIONAL CONNECTIONS

In May 2022 we reopened our Family Match Program and began processing waiting family registrations and volunteer applications.

We invite all of our supporters to help us spread the word about our programs in your community.

Together, we can *bridge and enrich* the generations!



Board of Directors

Woosang Lee, Chair
Sarah Fantin, Vice-Chair
Jeff Scheffel, Director
Kami Grovue, Director
Sally Olarte, Director
Pat Thomas, Director
Mackenzie Hoff-Bell, Director

Staff

Dave Baspaly, Executive Director
Veronica Grossi, Program Manager

We would like to thank all our volunteers, families, members, and community partners. Your support and generosity enabled our success in 2022!

Additionally we would like to extend a special thank you to our partners and funders, specifically the City of Burnaby, BC Community Gaming, the Federal Government of Canada Summer Jobs Initiative and Kids Up Front Vancouver. With your support, you have ensured that our programs continued to serve our community.



Burnaby is located on the ancestral and unceded homelands of the hə́ŋqəmiŋəm and Sḵwə́wú7mesh speaking peoples. Volunteer Grandparents is grateful for the opportunity to work and live on this territory.



“Our mission is to *bridge and enrich the generations* by fostering intergenerational understanding, communication and cooperation between the generations.”

CHARITY NUMBER: 108186347 RR0001