

SUPPORTING , ENCOURAGING, BUILDING: *Children, Families, Communities*



Annual Report

2013—2014

Report of Executive Director and Board Chair

This has been a year of consolidation and preparation. Most importantly, we have completed a strategic planning and foundational framework document. This process involved the entire board, management and supervisory staff. Through it we have confirmed and reiterated our organizational commitment to improving the lives of children.

At an operational level we have reviewed our work processes as well as our management and supervisory infrastructure. This has resulted in considerable improvements in efficiency and effectiveness. In addition, accreditation preparation continued through the diligent effort of all employees with Helgi Rimmelg as the lead for this initiative. We wish to thank all staff for their accommodation and assistance. These improvements would not have been possible without the participation and support of everyone.

We continue to offer a wide range of programs and services for children and families. This annual report contains a summary of them. Many are provided in conjunction with the Ministry of Children and Families and we thank them for their support as we work together to help vulnerable children and their families. In the interest of improving these services, we have this year set the groundwork for discussions with the Ministry to combine funding under unitary multi-year agreements. This will help to ensure the continued innovation, stability and relevance of services to the community.

These achievements now position the organization to move to a new phase of development and growth. We will be expanding our efforts to tell the story of The Children's Foundation and grow our circle of support. Our mission to improve the lives of children demands a concerted effort to rally all those who know the importance of this goal.

Thank you to everyone, funders, donors, board, staff, volunteers and others. There are so many who support our work, however, as there is much to do, there is always room for more. We look forward to working with all of you in the coming year.



Elizabeth Demner
Chair of Board of Directors



Dennis Dandeneau
Executive Director

Program Highlights and Achievements

Alderwood Family Development Centre

Program Highlights and Achievements

- Seclusion eliminated and restraints reduced
- Over 1,600 hours of practicum student training offered to UBC, Adler Counselling Students, UBC Social Work Students, Capilano Music Therapy Student, UBC Occupational Therapy Student and Douglas College Child Care Counsellors
- Continued financial support from the Wolridge Foundation for children's Hot Lunch Program
- Continued community partnership with St. George's for the Each One, Teach One Mentorship Program
- Continued community partnership with Town and Country Equestrian, Southland Riding Club, and Kids Helping Kids Foundation for our Horse Power Program
- Continued small group learning in intensive day treatment service stream
- Continued identification of client characteristics (who we serve) and development of supports to reduce barriers to service
- Continue to address gaps in current systems and provide quality strength based service to complex children and their families
- Longitudinal CAFAS Outcome Program Analysis completed
- New Playground installed

Program Outcomes

- 37 Children Served
- 642 hours of Children's Clinical Group Time
- 760 hours of Individual or Family Therapy
- 60 hours Parent education with 234 attendances
- CAFAS Severity average at intake is 81.48 and at transition is 61.62, which means that children experience a clinically significant change for the better in their severity ratings from intake to transition
- Furthermore children are maintaining those gains from transition to closing (6 months after treatment)
- At intake only 63% of children are attending school fulltime, and at transition 93% are attending school fulltime
- At intake 80% of children are living in a family placement, and at closing 85% of children are in a family placement
- At intake only 25% of children are reading at grade level and 1% are at grade level in math
- At transitions 40% are reading at grade level and 27% are at grade level in math

Stakeholder Feedback

- Family Survey – One year later – 100% self reported that they continued to use the skills learned at Alderwood
- Family Survey – One year later – 100% self reported that they felt their relationship with their child improved
- Family Survey – One year later – 80% stated that their child continued to use the skills learned at Alderwood
- Children's Survey – 69% self reported they could use a strategy when upset
- Children's Survey – 81% self reported that they had changed since coming to Alderwood

Key Worker Parent to Parent Support Program

Achievements

- Increased Public Education
- Developed new public Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) education “10 Top Great Things About Kids with FASD”
- Streamlined Intake and referral process
- Children’s Groups Increased
- Continued identification of client characteristics (who we serve) and development of supports to reduce barriers to service
- New Playground installed

Program Outcomes

- Positive feedback from community regarding public education presentation
- 38 children served
- 637 direct individual or family service hours provided
- 24 hours of Parent Education and 52 attendances
- 19 Public Education Presentations provided by key Worker – 39 hours and 357 attendances
- 96 hours of Children’s Group Work
- 60% of children improved their functioning from intake to closing



Stakeholder Feedback

- 100% of family members stated they had learned skills that would help them parent a child living with FASD
- 100% of community members stated that the Key Workers had demonstrated the effectiveness of the Key Worker Program in their public presentation

Cedarwood Family Program

There are three components to the Cedarwood Family Program: A program for families, based in Surrey known as Cedarwood; Cedarwood Langley Family Therapy Program which provides therapy for families referred by Langley Child and Youth Mental Health, and The Four Star Connection Program which is a collaboration with Langley Child and Youth Mental Health, Langley School District #35, and The Children's Foundation.

Cedarwood Family Program (CFP) offers individual, family and couple counselling to families whose child(ren) who are under the age of thirteen are experiencing challenges in their lives. The anticipated goal for the family is to learn new and more effective parenting techniques, to expand on the strengths they have, and to acquire a strong sense of competency by participating actively in CFP. The family may utilize a variety of services such as family therapy, couples and individual counselling, group therapy, and expressive therapy. Most families remain involved in the program and receive services for approximately 12 months. All families are referred by the Ministry of Children and Family Development, although not all will have open files with either the Ministry of Children and Family Development or Child and Youth Mental Health.

2013-14 saw a significant increase in the number of families being referred to Cedarwood with over ninety referrals being received. Many clients when they come into the program have shared that they have benefitted from the waitlist group that runs once a month. In the past year ninety families were served by the Cedarwood Team, either in individual, family and couple counselling or by attending groups. Of the nine parenting groups run this year, the most successful group with sixteen parents attending was Parenting Children with Challenging Behaviour which focuses on supporting parents in developing their understanding of ADHD. The team includes two internships from local universities who are in their second year of study for their Master's degree. Their contribution provides a great service to the program. As part of their internship they, together with the Expressive Therapist, provided Expressive Therapy to seventy children throughout the year.

The Langley Family Therapy Program provides short term therapy for families referred by Child and Youth Mental Health where the child/youth is up to nineteen years of age. The office is based in Langley to provide families easier access to this service. This year twenty-four families received service.

The Four Star Connection Program offers classroom wide interventions and runs in collaboration with Langley School District #35 and Child and Youth Mental Health by teaching children and staff about the importance of social and emotional growth. This year the therapist was involved in two new schools, serving fourteen classrooms and approximately four hundred children. The therapist ran information sessions for both parents and professionals about the importance of social and emotional development as well as providing a Connect Parenting Group to the parents in Aldergrove.

Communities Caring for Children

Communities Caring for Children offers the *Right from the Start (RFTS)*, *COPEing with Toddler Behaviour (CWTB)* and *Triple P Positive Parenting Program (Triple P)* to Surrey Families with children 0-6 years of age. All programs are open to all community members and are self referral with no cost to the participants. Childminding and bus tickets are offered to those who need them and refreshments are served at every group.

These groups are offered three times a year, Spring, Fall and Winter at various locations in Surrey. With partnerships with Surrey schools, city facilities such as libraries, and connections to the faith community, we offer these programs in various venues. One of the highlights this past year is working with the local Gurdwara's and benefiting from their generosity to provide free space and support.

Over the past year we have made enhancements to our RFTS program. We have secured connections with Infant Development, Public Health, and Kwantlan College Nursing program. During the parenting program we will have guest speakers from these agencies to discuss and share information. Infant Development shares information on healthy development, milestones, and the benefits of infant massage. Public Health comes to share information on immunization and nutrition. The nursing students are connected with Public Health.

We were also fortunate to partner with Guilford Rec Centre to provide Parent Education for children in the 'middle years', 6 – 12 year old range. Through the 'My Zone' recreation programs we invited parents to participate in a monthly session where the family had dinner together and then discussed topics of interest that pertained to parenting issues. This was facilitated by a family counsellor and also by two outreach workers whose role was to identify any families who may require more services. Many of those who participated were immigrant families.

Another exciting opportunity for us this year was being involved in the filming of a CBC Documentary 'Angry Kids/Stressed Out Parents.' The production company filmed two of our Triple P classes and followed two specific families throughout the duration of the group, and they were highlighted in the documentary. After the airing of this film, we were inundated with calls of interest from families throughout BC. With this interest, we are now looking on how to meet this demand outside Surrey area.

This year 320 families and children were served through the Communities Caring for Children Program. Our success comes from working with our committed and skilled facilitators, child-minders and the community partners. We also continue to enjoy being involved in community events such as the Surrey Early Years Festival, Cloverdale Early Years Festival, Public Health Baby Time, and Kensington Prairie Family Fair.

It is a great pleasure to be involved in the community and to provide this service to the families of Surrey.

Educational Transition Centre

As we enter into our fourth year working collaboratively with the Surrey School District and the Ministry of Children and Family Development, we continue to grow within the classroom and our surrounding community. Our team is comprised of Deborah Wilkins, Classroom Teacher, Darcy Bird, Education Assistant, and James Stumph, TCF Program Coordinator. We are proud to highlight our achievements:

- Intake for 25 students this year (up from 22 last year). Some referrals have been fast tracked to intake within 2 days of completing the referral form.
- Successful transition for 22 of our 25 students. Michael Jacob, our Surrey School District Behavior Specialist, has done a remarkable job advocating and setting up successful placements for our students. Our classroom collaboration with school counsellors, teachers, and parents has optimized the opportunities for successful transition.
- The majority of our students have completed school curriculum towards year end credits. Our vast library of resources has allowed students the opportunity to challenge themselves with a subject of interest to work towards completion.
- Our Foods program has been a hit every Monday as students learn the basics of cooking and baking.
- Students have also completed grade 8 and 9 curriculum for home economics, earning credits towards graduation in music, foods and textiles.
- Our continued and always increasing community relations have offered our students many activities that would not otherwise be available.
- We utilized our woodwork shop almost every day. Projects completed were picture frames, tic-tac-toe games, football goal posts, skateboard racks, bookshelves, soapbox car, and more. Our wood projects were donated by Home Depot along with \$200 in Home Depot gift cards. We used the gift card to purchase the supplies needed for our BIG project, a soap box car. When we completed the car, there was a huge sense of accomplishment for our students as it was an ongoing project for over 3 months. Students have also assisted Harry, TCF building maintenance worker, on a few small projects. From painting to building, the students have found value in accomplishing jobs for adults throughout the building.
- Ms. Wilkins was able to secure a community garden box not far from the classroom. This was a great opportunity for the students to buy seeds, plant and grow flowers and vegetables. We had one of our students' wood burn a sign that read "The Children's Foundation" to be placed on our individual garden box.
- Continued partnership with Michael Kingscott and the TCF Music program, Noteworthy Program. The Children's Foundation's Family Counselor, Michael Kingscott has donated his time to teach music to a few of our students. Michael has secured many instruments for our students to use. James also taught a student guitar for a month while she was attending our program. Instruments donated this year include an electronic drum set, amplifier, flute, clarinet, guitar, trumpet, and piano.
- We have had a full classroom since January with an ongoing waitlist.
- Students continue to provide crafts and goods for sale to the building staff. Every Monday we had a cooking/baking class. Black bean brownies, cookies, omelets, fruit smoothies were just some of the wonderful food items we made this year.
- Social and recreational outings include bowling, ice skating, beach, Grouse Mountain, Extreme Air Park, George Reifel Bird Sanctuary, and more.
- Weekly use of a school gymnasium over the year.
- The continued use of two iPads for the students, including the extremely popular and diverse library of free educational apps provided by the Surrey School District. Ms. Wilkins went to a course on maximizing the learning power of the iPads.
- Kids Up Front opportunities have included Canucks game, Whitecaps game, and BC Lions. We also had tickets for concerts, food vouchers, museum admission, and more.
- We had one student referred from TCF's Out of Care Support Program.
- Successful collaboration and sharing of services with our Cedarwood Program. Four students have accessed our Art therapy program this year.

Family Care Support Program

The program has been operating at capacity for much of the last year, including the Saturday Social Programs, and the School Break Social Program.

Collaborations with the Out of Care Support Program have continued, and will likely be expanded in the coming year so that youth from the Out of Care Support Program can benefit from the School Break Social Programs.

Caregiver Training Groups given by TCF staff have included the following:

- Positive Behaviour Supports
- The Alert Program
- Youth Addiction, Vicarious Trauma
- Grief and Loss Workshop
- FASD workshop
- Self Regulation

Feedback has been very positive for all of these training groups. Due to lack of interest, the Peer Support/ Like Books groups were discontinued in the fall.

Two children from the program participated in “Dreams Take Flight” which is a program that takes children to Disney Land for a day. Once an agency is selected, there is the opportunity to send five children per year for five years to Disney Land.

Under the category of volunteer hours, Family Counsellor Michael Kingscott set up and ran the music program, Noteworthy Program. During the 3rd quarter there were four students, and three volunteers who worked for a total of 18 hours and Michael volunteered his time for a total of 36 hours. This program finished at the end of May.

Family Support Counsellors	1,464 Hours	Direct service hours for the year include the following:
Family Support Workers (RSW)	3,830.25 Hours	
Socialization Program Hours	1,278 Hours	
Boys Group Hours	48 Hours	

This year we have implemented Survey Monkey, an online survey to gauge satisfaction levels of service recipients. We look forward to reporting the results next year.



Kennedy House Assessment

Kennedy House experienced another year of many achievements and celebrations. Highlights include successes with clients, staff demands, and close collaboration with the Ministry for Children and Family Development (MCFD), Community Care Licensing, BC Housing, and private donors.

This past year we had the pleasure to work with a variety of client ages, diagnoses, and behavior. In particular, there were three exceptionally challenging children who required extended stays in our program until MCFD could arrange suitable placement, to meet their individual needs. We continue to receive high praise from Resource and Guardianship Social Workers as well as the families.

Running a program that operates 24 hours/day always poses a staffing challenge. But in the past year, two long term staff accepted permanent positions here at Kennedy House and three new Child Care Counsellors and two Night Custodians were added to the team. Furthermore, our team day on September 26th was a huge success. Suicide Awareness training and ADP Time Attendance introduction were completed. There was great discussion on current Kennedy House current practices and new initiatives.

We celebrate for the third year in a row that Kennedy House received a 'Low risk' rating from Community Care Licensing.

Early in 2013, BC Housing confirmed approval to replace the kitchen & foyer laminated floors. During the January 2014 BC Housing inspection, we requested the following works:

- ceiling in 2 bedrooms to be painted
- funds be requested to: power wash exterior of the home
- replace heating fan downstairs
- vinyl floor replaced for deck
- storage shed replacement
- bike shed replacement
- fencing replacement;
- building a ramp for front to bring garbage up to sidewalk
- to paint the interior for the home

Additionally, to keep the program facility functioning smoothly, we participated in the agency wide clean-up day on October 2, 2013, and we were able to clear out the cloak room and get rid of unnecessary items. This event allowed space for six new bikes that were donated to Kennedy House from a contact made at the Alderwood Program.

The bikes were not the only donation this past year. Kennedy House celebrated Christmas with a special dinner and a visit from Santa Claus on December 18th. He returned on Christmas Eve with presents (donated) for every resident at Kennedy House during the holiday season.

Out of Care Support Program

All families in this program tend to have very high service needs in multiple areas.

As of April 1, 2013, the new Family Relations Act which allowed for care providers to apply for 54.01 custody, meant that the program file had to close once the clients were successful in obtaining custody, whether or not they still had support needs. Due to ill health and/or combinations of ill health, severe financial constraints, and volatile relationships with the bio parent(s), some caregivers are not able to adequately support the needs of the children in their care. Support needs include counselling, dental, medical, prescriptions, assessments, transportation needs, respite for themselves, legal advice, and daycare, etc.

Removing the discrepancy of financial and service difference between out of care kinship options and (restricted) foster care are welcomed.

Collaboration with the Family Care Support Program have continued, and will likely be expanded in the coming year so that youth can benefit from the school break Social Programs. Caregiver Training Groups have included the following:

- Positive Behaviour Supports
- The Alert Program
- Youth Addiction
- Vicarious Trauma
- Grief and Loss Workshop
- FASD Workshop
- Self Regulation

Feedback has been positive for all of these training groups.

Direct Service Hours for the year were 609.25 hours. During the year, there were 6 files opened and 12 files closed.

Both social workers and clients alike, have very positive feedback for the work provided by Faye Causley, the program's Family Support Worker.

Respite Program

The Children's Foundation Respite Program provides weekend respite services to families who are caring for children and youth with Autism and other significant developmental challenges. We continue to have very committed Respite Care providers who open their homes and families to the children and families we serve. The TCF Respite program continues to be very fortunate to have committed Respite Caregivers who provide caring and stable environments for the clients.

The clients who are referred to the Respite program often come with diverse needs but the one common element is that they are loving and committed families who are in desperate need of a break from caring for their special needs child. Often this one weekend a month of 48 hours of continuous care is what makes the difference from the family being able to cope and to carry on. This break also serves the child who gets to have a different experience than they otherwise may have had. When a child goes to respite, this is an opportunity for them to engage in other social interactions and activities. One example of this and a highlight for this child and family was the opportunity to go camping with the respite caregiver and her family. The child had never experienced this before nor would have as the natural family does not camp. This child and his family both were so grateful.

Over this past year we have also had two situations where two separate families were experiencing extreme circumstances where there was no choice but to place the children into foster care. With one family we were able to support the family through the transition by providing extra services. This family received prolonged respite of up to 14 days and a child care worker mid week when the child was at home. In the other situation it was the respite care provider who came forth when it was evident that the child was going into foster care. Due to her relationship with the child and family, it was what would be best for the child. The relationship was secured and would be less impactful for the child to be in her care.

Another highlight/success this year was that we were able to provide services to a family with a son who has Cerebral Palsy. Due to the nature of his circumstances and the need for a specialized environment and equipment, we had to find a respite caregiver who was willing to go into the family home to provide the respite. We were successful and the family is able to get away one weekend a month knowing that their son is being cared for in the comfort of his home and with all that he requires.

We also have families where the child's behavior needs are so challenging that we need to provide another level of service where we have a child care worker do one on one out in the community. This service can be provided to those who are waiting to be placed into a family for respite, as an add on to the respite they are already receiving, or the only service they receive for those who do not require the full respite service.

This past fiscal year we have served 22 families, in total giving 10,179 of direct service hours (this translates to 1165 hours of one to one child care worker hours and 376 days of overnight respite services).

Overall, the Respite program is operating at full capacity, with very committed caregivers, appreciative families, and very satisfied stakeholders who look to our service as a valuable resource for the community.

Both our clients and the funder continue to give us very positive feedback on the work that is being done.

Surrey Family Preservation Program

The Surrey Family Preservation Program provides intensive support and treatment to families who face the imminent risk of having their child(ren) placed outside of their home. The issues these families face are multiple and complex. We were experiencing a 35-40% re-referral rate largely due to the fact that the 8 week duration was not giving the families sufficient time to integrate the new information, develop new strategies, and set up the support networks and resources needed to maintain their success. This past year we were successful in negotiating an extension of service up to 90 days. This not only gives families a higher chance of success the first time they participate in our program, but also has brought increased efficiencies to the overall program.

The Surrey Family Preservation Program continues to play a prominent role in the Domestic Violence Collaborative which consists of MCFD and two partner organizations. The Staff Development Committee supported the Family Preservation Program in bringing Dr. Sandra Stith, a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and a Professor and Director of the Marriage and Family Therapy program at Kansas State University, to Vancouver to do two day training on Couples Therapy for Domestic Violence. The treatment is based on a solution-focused therapy and targets couples who choose to stay together after experiencing situational Intimate Partner Violence. The treatment program is offered to individual couples and to couples participating in multi-couple groups. All of the Surrey Family Preservation team has been trained along with our collaborators and community partners. The Children's Foundation and the Surrey Family Preservation in particular will be the first to pilot a Couple Therapy Group working with families where low to moderate domestic violence is the prominent issue. The first group will begin in the Fall of 2014.

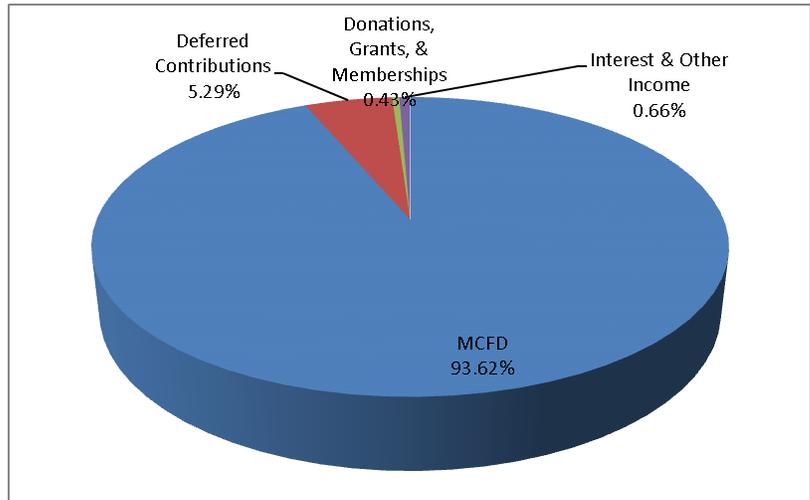
This has been a year of change within the team. Alfred Faan resigned and moved on to explore other opportunities and Donna Townsley retired.

The clients of the Surrey Family Preservation Program have also benefitted from services from Cedarwood and Communities Caring for Children. The ability to work collaboratively within our own organization, to make a referral to another program where services are offered in a more timely manner, has helped the families succeed.

When we see a family under going extreme hardships we have been able to access the Make A Difference Fund for extra support. A good number of our families struggle to put food on the table, provide appropriate clothing and housing, so in emergency situations we have been able to apply to the Make A Difference fund to support these families to get through the rough patches. Often times this has been what has enabled the family to stay together. One of the recipients of the Make a Difference Fund was a mother with cerebral palsy who has two small children. Her speech has been impacted to the point where she is basically non verbal, leading to her isolating herself from the community and jeopardizing her ability to develop a strong bond and attachment with her children. When you have no voice and no alternate method of communication, developing relationships is severely impaired. This has impacted her self-esteem, ability to parent, and her family life. With the help of the Make A Difference Fund we were able to equip her with an iPad with a specific program to support her ability to communicate. She is now able to communicate with her children, help them with the homework, ask for help, advocate for her family, and have the confidence that she can make herself understood by those she is trying to communicate with. Hope and happiness has replaced frustration, sadness, and hopelessness.

Revenue Sources for the Year Ended March 31, 2014

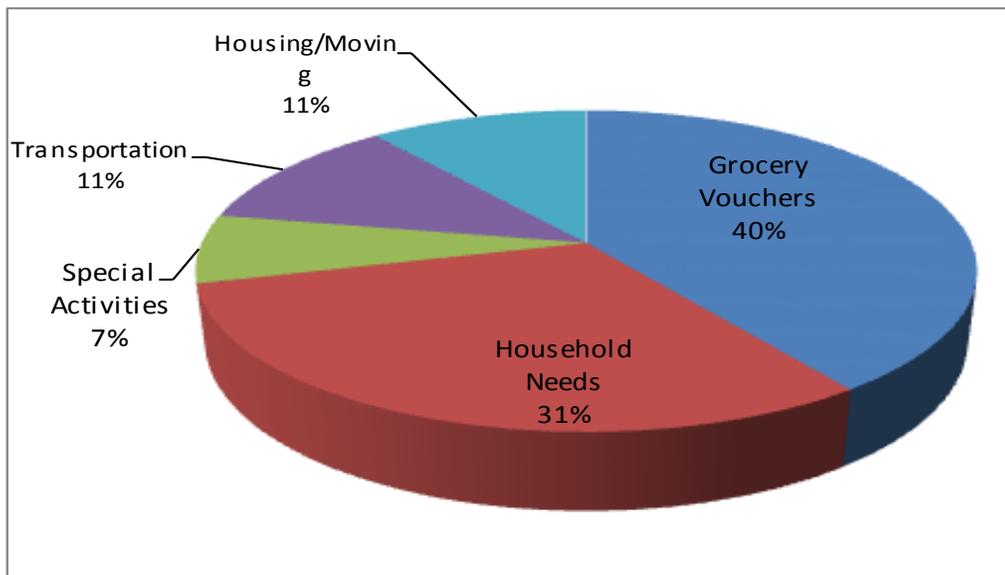
	<u>March 31, 2014</u>	
MCFD	5,496,179.00	93.62%
Deferred Contributions	310,654.00	5.29%
Donations, Grants, & Memberships	25,342.00	0.43%
Interest & Other Income	38,711.00	0.66%
	<u>5,870,886.00</u>	<u>100.00%</u>



Differential Emergency Fund Spending April 2013 to March 2014

Thank you to those donors who supported our *Differential Emergency Fund*, a resource that enables us to assist financially disadvantaged client families with urgent needs such as food, housing and childcare.

The following chart shows the distribution of Differential Emergency Funds during the past year:



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Elizabeth Demner, *President*

Earl G. Phillips, *Secretary*

Simon Chen, *Treasurer*

John Ashbridge

Les Boon

Rupi Dhaliwal

Barbara Constantine

Avtar Sundher

Alison Schatz

Emily Larsen

Danny Lee

Donovan Plomp



Donors

Thank you to the following donors whose financial support helped make a difference in the lives of children and families we work with:

Organizations/ Schools

St. George's School
 Southland Riding Club
 BC Hydro Power Pioneers
 Vancouver Sun Children's Fund Society

Businesses & Corporations

Banana Grove Market
 Telus
 Vision Critical
 FS Financial Strategies Inc.
 Commercial Vent Cleaning Ltd.
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Foundations

Andrew Mahon Foundation
 Connor, Clark & Lunn Foundation
 Kids Helping Kids Foundation
 The Wolrige Foundation
 Mytributegift Foundation

Individuals

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Andreas Berguland and Melanie Higgs

Art and Louise Leowski

Avon and Heather Mersey

Avtar Sundher

Bella Pamandanam

Bob and Anna Ling

Carolyn Parry

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Craig Drake-Johnson

D L AuYeung

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Kent Elliott

Mark Tindle

Mark and Louise Griffiths

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Richard and Susan Lee

Rita Baldwin

Robert Larose

Rosario Kuhrt

Rose Isla

Sarah Toigo

Sook Jeong Moon and Tae Kyung Kim

Stephen Hockey

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Todd Mason

Van Roeung Chek

Zdeno Rusnak

The Children's Foundation also acknowledges and thanks those who wished to remain anonymous.



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