



Annual Report

2021

Individualized. Interactive. Inspired.

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PALS School Advisory Council:

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Dr. Vikram Dua
Diane Gerrard
Anna Matchneva
Shannon Muir



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS KATY HARANDI

At the entrance of the UN building in Manhattan, there is a poem written by Persian Poet Saadi.

*"Human Beings are members of a whole,
in creation in one essence and soul,
If one member is afflicted with pain,
other members uneasy will remain.
If you've no sympathy for human pain,
The name of a human you cannot retain."*

The pandemic taught all of us the true meaning of humanity. We need to all work together for the greater good. We also need to adapt to change and be ready to innovate by accepting the challenges of our times. The resilience of all of us at PALS was put to a test last year. I can confirm that staff and families worked together to ensure another successful year for all.

We are grateful for the dedication of the staff at PALS, for all their hard work in ensuring our students remain safe and their ongoing commitment to educate and support the students through all the challenges of the pandemic. We appreciate all the volunteers who dedicate timeless hours to help grow our society in operations and in all areas of fundraising. A million thanks to Gala Sponsors, Foundations, Corporations and Private Donors who have shared our belief and supported us in changing the lives of our students and their families. We continue to look to the future to support as many individuals on the spectrum as possible.

Living with autism is extremely challenging for the individuals struggling with the condition and for families trying to provide the best possible life they can for their children. We are doing our part, thank you for doing yours.



President and Chair

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL ANDREA KASUNIC

I am proud to share that PALS students and staff were able to safely attend full-time, on-site programming, from the first day of the 2020-2021 school year to the last. If someone was required to self-isolate, we were able to quickly organize and offer “PALS at Home”, a remote participation option, so there was no lapse in learning or pause in work when appropriate. I commend the families and staff for protecting each other by diligently following the ever-evolving health and safety guidelines. And I give many thanks to the AMS of FISA-BC for hosting a much appreciated weekly support group for independent school administrators, giving smaller independent schools an avenue to learn from each other on how to continue leading and educating during the ongoing pandemic.

Although we still weren't able to welcome visitors and volunteers into the building last year, we discovered new ways of sharing the program with others, such as virtual student performances ([watch here](#)), an in-depth virtual school tour ([watch here](#)), virtual school consultations with psychiatrist Dr. Vikram Dua, and also meeting outside on the front lawn with many understanding supporters!

During winter enrolment, we were able to welcome two new, young students who brought a bright energy into the classroom as they quickly settled into PALS student life. With easing restrictions in the spring, and the comfort brought on by vaccinations, we were able to re-introduce Occupational Therapy consultation again and accept a full-day volunteer work experience for some transition-age students at Farmers on 57th as well as another volunteer job with the New Westminster Farmers Market. In the summer, we were able to go on several field trips to favourite places such as the movie theatre, Granville Island, Watermania, Stanley Park, and of course, Playland! We celebrated the graduation of four long-term students who all grew up together at PALS. At the ceremony, staff shared heartfelt messages of how much we've learned from them just as much as they have from us ([watch here](#)). Despite seeing only half of their teachers faces all year, students still made excellent progress towards their individualized education goals in the areas of communication, academics, social skills, life skills, and self-regulation.

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PALS AUTISM SOCIETY

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

Unfortunately, we said goodbye to several students who experienced increased challenges correlated to the ongoing pandemic and some extreme features of autism. Having limited degrees of cognitive capacity and executive functioning skills needed to cope with long-lasting changes to routines meant these particular students displayed more dangerous behaviours than expected, such as severe self-harm and severe aggression, at levels beyond what could be safely maintained in a school setting. This is an important reminder of why it's so vital that students with autism have access to the life-changing education at PALS. Even when the outcome is not graduation, our students and their families are fully supported until all teaching strategies have been tried.

I extend my sincere appreciation to all of our donors, supporters, families, staff, therapists, volunteers, and board members for helping to see PALS through yet another unique year.



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PALS AUTISM SOCIETY

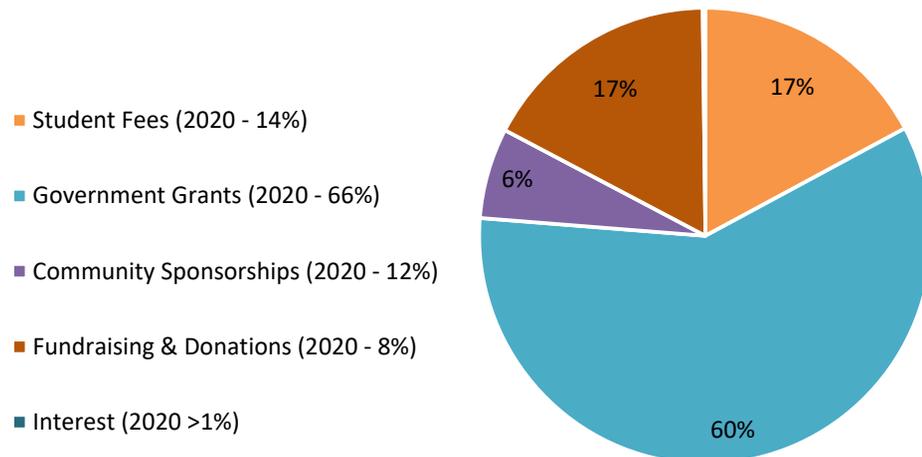
A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

ALLISON ARAI

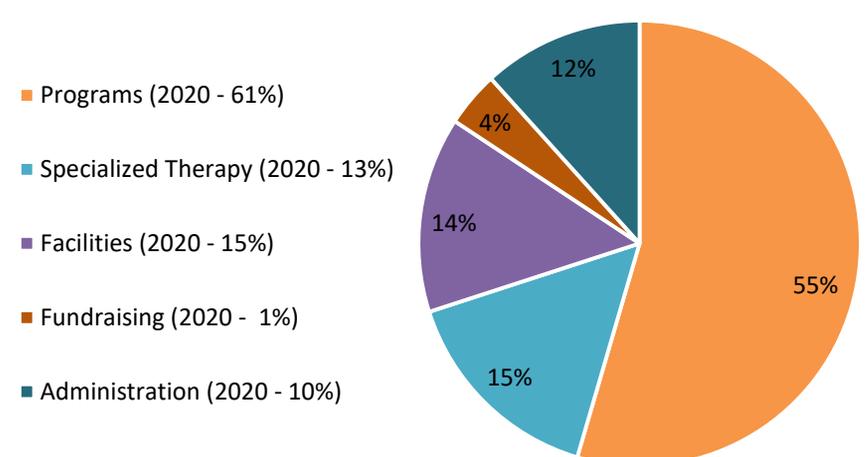
Gratitude is the word to describe the Society's year. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the adult program was able to move into its new home and transition to PALS Adult Services Society effective September 1, 2020. The School program continued to operate full onsite instruction to the students throughout the year under the thoughtful guidance of our Head of School and our dedicated, highly skilled team of staff. During the year, our Head of School took on the role of Senior Development Director to expand opportunities for Community Support and Donor Fundraising. The Society is so grateful to all the supporters whose generosity enables the continued operation of the School and Before/After School Care Program.

The financial results for the year ended June 30, 2021 reflect the adult program operations for 2 months and the full year of operations for the School Programs as follows:

SOURCES OF REVENUE



WHERE WE SPEND



A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER (CONTINUED)

To highlight, as a total of Society revenues, there was a 3% increase in Student Fees received and a 6% decrease in Government Funding. The School Programs have higher student fees and receive less government funding than the adult program despite continuing to receive the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy. Community Sponsorships decreased to 6% from 12% which reflects the loss of third party fundraising events due to the pandemic. Fundraising and Donations increased 9% to 17% due to the success of the 2nd Virtual Gala fundraiser held in April 2021.

In terms of total Society expenditures, Program Expenditures decreased 6% to 55% of total expenditures as Specialized Therapy (Speech, Occupational and Behavioural) increased slightly by 2% to 15% to address the individualized needs of each student. Facility expenditures decreased to 14% and this year a new category, Fundraising, was created. Fundraising expenditures increased slightly with the creation of PALS first virtual gala program successfully chaired by the Senior Development Director. The one hour exciting virtual gala program was watched by over 260 supporters who generously bid and donated. Lastly, Administration expenses increased 2% to 12% reflecting the support required to oversee the safe operation of the School Programs during the pandemic.

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PALS AUTISM SOCIETY

A MESSAGE TO OUR DONORS FROM SENIOR DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR ANDREA KASUNIC

This year has been a testament to the commitment of the PALS community. Determined to overcome the continued challenges brought on by the pandemic, we worked together to ensure all our students had access to our exceptional education programs. Over the year, we safely resumed our programs, recommitted to finding new community-based experiences, rekindled relationships with supporters, and built amazing connections with new ones. We were grateful to have you with us as we celebrated student achievements via the virtual graduation ceremony and the virtual holiday variety show, as well during the oh-so entertaining virtual Armchair Gala. You have always been right alongside us — providing your unending support and dedication to our mission and our students.

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the Foundations, Organizations and Private Donors listed below who have contributed \$5,000 or more to the Society for the period from November 1, 2020 to October 31, 2021.

Thanks to the generosity of the **Mary and Gordon Christopher Foundation** (speech and language therapy and social communication skills training) and **Ames Family Foundation** (occupational therapy), our students continue to benefit from critical developmental therapies. These foundations have supported PALS therapeutic programs for many years, and we could not offer these programs without their support and belief in our mission.

Families often struggle with the financial burden of raising a child with autism. PALS School fees can become prohibitive for students from single income homes or lower income families. Again this year the pandemic increased the financial stress felt by our families as one or more parents suffered job loss, job reduction or the inability to work due to the need to self-isolate or care for a child at home who was required to self-isolate. PALS would like to extend our sincerest appreciation to the **CCSF Autism Foundation** for providing significant donations to the PALS School Tuition Bursary Fund.



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PALS AUTISM SOCIETY

A MESSAGE TO OUR DONORS (CONTINUED)

PALS is committed to making every reasonable effort to enable students to remain in school while working through regressive, self-injurious or other challenging behaviours. Thanks to **Grosvenor Americas**, which has endowed PALS Behaviour Support Bursary Fund for a 3 year commitment, families are eligible to receive financial assistance to pay the cost of additional one-to-one support for children experiencing temporary periods of challenging behaviours.

The PALS Before and After School Care Program is a critical lifeline for our families who require out of school care to continue their child's enrollment in the school program. PALS Autism Society would like to extend our sincerest appreciation to **The Wolrige Foundation** for making this program affordable and accessible to all our students.

PALS Autism Society would like to recognize and thank our newest benefactor, **Save a Child International Foundation** for their very generous donation to the speech and language therapy program. It was a joy to welcome them onsite this fall for a tour and cheque presentation –our first visitors inside the school since the start of the pandemic.



In addition to the foundations listed above, PALS Autism Society would like to recognize and thank the **Burnaby Firefighters Charitable Society In Memory of Alan and Marilyn Codyre**, for their annual pledge, which is part of a 20-year commitment for PALS School Tuition Bursary and the Post-Secondary Scholarship Fund. These scholarships are designated for PALS School Students who would benefit from an additional year of schooling and life skills training upon completion of their Grade 12 year.

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A MESSAGE TO OUR DONORS (CONTINUED)

PALS Autism Society also wishes to express our gratefulness to **Townline** for so generously helping us make necessary safety repairs to our weathered school building so we can safely continue teaching students with autism in a warm, welcoming, and specialized teaching facility. The heritage home which houses PALS is very significant to us as it provides the foundation for our essential work.

PALS Autism Society's 14th Annual *Imagine...* Gala was turned digital for another year, and the armchair event was a resounding success thanks to the help of our sponsors and supporters. We had over 260 households tune in to view the 1-hour live show with hosts Fred Lee and Global BC's Sophie Lui ([watch it here](#)), and guests were star-struck upon hearing a message of support from Vancouver's own Seth Rogen ([watch here](#)). With a prosperous online 50/50 raffle, extravagant silent auction, and generous Fund-A-Therapy pledges, we successfully met our fundraising goal.

PALS AUTISM SOCIETY
PALS ARMCHAIR GALA 2021
Total Raised: \$146,965

Sponsors:

Comments

- Kenneth Leung: Charcuterie box is grossaside!
- Kenneth Leung: Love the background music
- Carolyn Taylor: I agree with Kenneth!
- Jayne Allen: yes, Charcuterie is fabulous!
- Karin Terado: Thanks for your support everyone-enjoy the Gal!
- Spritz PALS & PASS: Shout out to PASS Head of Program, Karin!
- Kenneth Leung: WOOOOHOOOOO Karin!
- cindy larsen: Leo's Gramma has tuned in from Kelowna!
- Spritz PALS & PASS: Hi Denise! Thank you Air Canada Foundation!
- Kenneth Leung: Hello Leo's Gramma
- Spritz PALS & PASS: Hi Leo's Gramma!!!
- Spritz PALS & PASS: We love Port Moody!
- Sandy Tanaka: Hi Everyone
- Spritz PALS & PASS: Welcome Sandy!
- Dianne Leach: Hello everyone, Dianne and Derek
- Stew Mattman: Hello from my back deck in now west!
- Amir Alagheband: Hello hello, tuning in from Vancouver
- Linda Gibbs: Hello Vanessa. Hope you are sipping a glass of something. :)

BID FUND A THERAPY BUY 50/50

Need Some Help?

Bid Lorne Folick \$490 Donation Lynn O'Leary \$100 Bid John McCulloch \$275 Bid John McCulloch \$275 Bid John McCulloch \$275 Bid Azar Poudrad \$220 Donation Sharon Grams \$100 Bid Dan Scarrow \$250 Bid Susie Wong \$130

PALS
Armchair Gala

THANK YOU!
We could not have raised
\$360,000
without you all.

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

PALS AUTISM SOCIETY

A MESSAGE TO OUR DONORS (CONTINUED)

Platinum Sponsor	Wesco Industries Ltd.
Gold Sponsor	Arte House & Visas Consulting Group Grosvenor Pure Integrative Pharmacy Reliance Insurance Agencies Ltd.
Bronze Sponsor	Alexander Holburn LLP Buntain Insurance Group David Davies, Vice President at CIBC Private Wealth Management McMillan LLP Pourdad Capital Partners Scotiabank Value on Liquor Store
Supporting Sponsors	980 CKNW and Global BC Karim Kamrani, Real Estate Advisor The Sutton Place Hotel



As I round out my first year as Senior Development Director, I want to extend my thanks to you — our families, staff, and supporters. Together, we continue to provide the highest quality education to our students and comprehensive care to PALS families and the greater community. Please enjoy this video highlighting what PALS means for the families of the students who attend, and why it is such an important organization ([watch here](#)).



DONOR RECOGNITION

Individualized.
Interactive.
Inspired.

As of October 31st, 2021

We wish to thank everyone who has generously contributed to the creation and fostering of the PALS Autism Society. Since opening in 2007, these donors have helped provide specialized education, adaptive programming, therapeutic training, and innovative technology for all PALS student and families.

This wall honors those whose cumulative contributions have exceeded \$5,000. We would like to thank all our donors including those who wish to remain Anonymous.



Partner: \$100,000+

Ames Family Foundation
Anonymous
The Arai-Wong Family
Canucks for Kids Fund
Els for Autism Canada
The Harandi Family

Mary and Gordon Christopher Foundation
Methanex
The Raffii Family
The Sutton Place Hotel Vancouver
The Wolrige Foundation

Advocate: \$50,000

The Aquilini Family
Burnaby Firefighters Charitable Society
CCSF Autism Foundation
CKNW Kids' Fund
Corix Water Products-Golf For Kids

Face the World Foundation
Iranian-Canadian Benevolent Foundation
Hal and Anna Kettleon
The Morris and Helen Belkin Foundation
Variety-The Children's Charity

Loyal: \$25,000+

Bill Alexander and Linda Deluca
Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans Unit 100
Autism Speaks Canada
Peter Chan and Candy Lim
The Christopher Family
Diamond Foundation
The Esfahani Family
The Grams-Jekubik Family
Grosvenor Americas

James and Kelly Kerr
The Maghsoud Family
Music Heals Charitable Foundation
Arjang and Golrokh Nowtash
Devi Sangara and Matt Queree
TELUS
Vancouver Foundation
Y.P. Heung Foundation

Supporter: \$15,000+

Ladan Assemi
Ace Architectural Millwork
Peter and Leslie Blake
Oliver and Shirin Bock
Carolyn Anderson and Kevin Chester
Philip and Cynthia Cook
Philip Louis and Julie Fu
David and Jennifer Gunasekera
Michael Nauss and Leslie Jones

David Jang and Susie Wong
Takao Ozawa and Elizabeth Wai
President's Choice Children's Charity
Ronald McDonald House Charities
Save A Child Foundation
Brian and Tamara Standerwick
Garth and Anne Stoll
David and Stephanie Williams
Jimmy and Alice Wong



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Friends of PALS: \$5,000+

100 Men Who Give A Damn
 Fahimeh Abghari
 Hamidreza Ahmedian
 Bruce Aitken
 Hossein Amanat
 Farshid Assemi
 Nicholas and Stania Bedford
 Eric Carlson
 Carriere Foundation
 Robert and Ann Carson
 Richard and Gwen Chan
 Graham Coutts and Helen Wong
 The Edith Lando Charitable Foundation
 Lorne Folick and Shannon Taylor
 Foundation for Youth
 Linda Gibbs
 Grosvenor Americas
 The Hamber Foundation
 John and Virginia Hou
 Margarete Jekubik
 John Hardie Mitchell Family Foundation
 Julie and Bill Rühle Foundation
 Timothy and Tammy Kalla
 Al Kanji
 Karim Kassam
 Irv and Naomi Laskin
 Doug and Brenda Lau
 Jeff Lee and Amanda Goodman Lee
 Rainold Lee and Catherine Kriekenbeek-Lee
 Kenneth and Aida Leung
 Allan and Kim Low
 Bill and Vivian Macdonald
 Dr. William and Joanne McDonald
 Hossein and Golnaz Malek
 Shahrokh Malek

Stewart and Cindy Maltman
 Muskoka Capital Corporation
 Mulgrave School Students—Cap Program
 M.Y. Capital Management Corp.
 Marjan Navabi
 Kevin Ng and Caroline Kriekenbeek
 Naz Panahi
 Pezzente Holdings
 The Please Mum Foundation
 Greg and Michelle Polok
 Mark and Monica Porter
 Maryam Pournasrollah
 Queen Alexandra Foundation
 Foad and Lida Rafii
 Raymond James Canada Foundation
 RBC Foundation
 Robert L. Conconi Foundation
 Royal Canadian Properties
 The Sahiholnasab Family
 Senft Family Foundation
 Amirreza and Sudy Sherkat
 Robert and Christine Shields
 Sinneave Family Foundation
 Courtland Smith
 Craig and Donna Smith
 Leo Smyth and Jane Loftus
 Shaune and Lee Stoddard
 John and Verna Stewart
 T&T Supermarket
 Vincent and Marie Zelig Tan
 Jun and Karin Terado
 Michele and Graham Thom
 Murray and Shirley Thomson
 Vincent and Lillian Tong
 Tricor Pacific Capital Inc.

As of October 31st, 2021

Harvey and April Twidal
 Dave and Denise Ure
 Vanguard Pipe & Fittings and CB Supplies
 Versatech Holdings
 Visas Consulting Group Inc.
 Michael Watt and Monique Badun
 The Windsor Family
 The Yeganegi Family
 Abbas Yousefian



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