



Annual Report 2022

Individualized. Interactive. Inspired.

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Head of School/Senior Development Director

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

KATY HARANDI

As a parent of a beautiful, young lady with autism, I know too well the struggles of these individuals, the challenges faced by their families, and the obstacles they confront in the community. The need for a school like PALS is essential to allow our children to gain confidence, learn essential academic skills, be included in a community, flourish socially and make life-long friends. The families of our students are able to find much needed support, make friends who “get it,” and experience instances of a “normal” life while their children are learning in school. At PALS we create communities, which improve the mental and physical health of all involved, while empowering our students to be the best they can be.

We are grateful for the dedication of the staff at PALS, for all their hard work ensuring our students remain safe and for their ongoing commitment to educate and support the students throughout the 2021/2022 school year. 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.

Thank you for believing in our vision and making a difference in the lives of families living with the challenges of autism.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katy Harandi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

President and Chair

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PALS AUTISM SOCIETY

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

ANDREA KASUNIC

The 2021/2022 school year was filled with both mixed signals and mixed emotions! The staff diligently followed ever-changing health and safety protocols, and the students were flexible in handling every step forward, and every step backward, with relative ease. We were fortunate to see the return of many familiar school activities and with familiarity comes comfort. It was a great relief for the students and staff when physical distancing and mask requirements were lifted and we could all truly connect once again (*while maintaining the healthy hygiene habits we learned in 2020 of course!*)

We were happy to be able to welcome back school visitors, which allowed us to expand the opportunities offered to the students. In the winter, we started weekly Art Therapy sessions with practicum student, Miyu Gagnon. In the summer we were fortunate to have the Neurodiverse Robotics Society bring a 4-week robot building program on-site for every student to participate. We were also able to start weekly Music Therapy sessions with Music Therapist, Christina Neale – a favourite amongst both students and staff! With Christina’s background as a Métis woman, she led the whole school in a powerful drumming activity in honour of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Lastly, Fraser Health nurses resumed in-school immunization clinics, and after months of intensive teaching to learn how to tolerate simulated vaccine injections, several students were able to successfully receive their routine childhood immunizations at school, thus taking an often dreaded task off the plate of their families!

The Ministry of Education conducted a routine monitoring evaluation to ensure PALS is operating according to the Independent School Act. The inspection found PALS continues to be in excellent standing and the staff are to be commended on their organization and expertise.

I continue to be thankful to the AMS of FISA-BC (Associate Member Schools of the Federation of Independent School Associations in BC) for hosting biweekly support group meetings for independent school administrators. With a shift away from talking about how to manage the pandemic and a move towards discussing common school themes such as supporting the mental health of students and staff, school governance, and resource sharing, the AMS has become an invaluable community.

We celebrated the graduation of two resilient grade 12 students who are both now enrolled in Pals Adult Services Society (PASS), where they are continuing their journeys to an adult life that is as independent as possible. With several other students also moving on from the school for various reasons, a number of openings became available for new families to join us from the waitlist. Getting feedback such as “My son was never able to attend school for longer than 2 hours and now at PALS he can stay all day” reminds us why our mission and vision are vital to uphold.

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PALS AUTISM SOCIETY

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

PALS Autism Society's vision is to be a sustainable model learning environment that supports the needs of individuals with autism, and the Society's mission is to provide year-round, scientifically validated educational programs designed to encourage individual growth and personal achievement.

Last year, the BC Government announced a plan to drastically change the way children and youth with support needs will access services and therapies beginning in 2025. With little information available right now, PALS is uncertain how the changes will affect the school program, but we are certain it will affect the amount of funding PALS families receive towards autism intervention, which is money they can use to pay for integral therapy provided at the school. Parents of children with special needs already experience some of the highest levels of stress a person can endure, and now they have the extra worry of reduced funding for their child's therapy. The support of PALS donors will be more important than ever going forward as PALS strives to always be a sustainable learning environment for students with autism.

I extend my sincere appreciation to all of our donors, supporters, families, staff, therapists, volunteers, and board members for helping sustain PALS Autism Society School Programs. A special thank you to all our long-time PALS staff who 'retired' this year, PALS-4-Life!



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PALS AUTISM SOCIETY

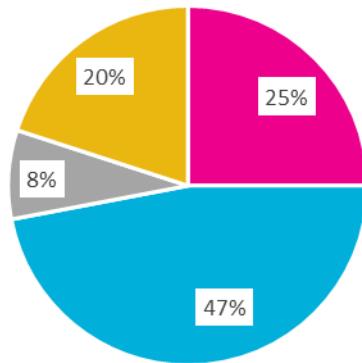
A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

ALLISON ARAI

The thoughtful leadership from the Head of School and the dedicated team of staff and therapists enabled full onsite instruction to the students throughout the year, including field trips and volunteering experience in the community. The “new normal,” complete with all covid precautions, ensured safe and effective learning. Your generosity enables PALS students to learn using best practices in the School and Before/After School Care Program.

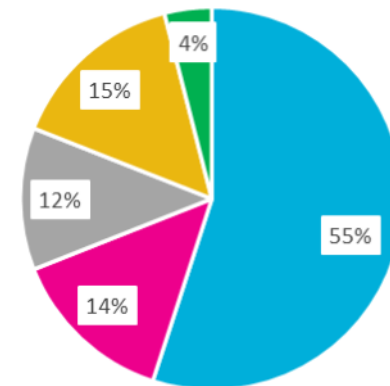
The financial results for the year ended June 30, 2022 reflect solely the operations of the School Program and are summarized as follows. The comparative year of 2021 includes the Adult Program operations for 2 months and the full year of operations for the School Programs.

Sales Revenue



- Student Fees (2021 - 17%)
- Government Grants (2021 - 60%)
- Community Sponsorships (2021 - 6%)
- Fundraising & Donations (2021 - 17%)

Where We Spend



- Programs (2021 - 55%)
- Facilities (2021 - 14%)
- Administration (2021 - 12%)
- Specialized Therapy (2021 - 15%)
- Fundraising (2021 - 4%)

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PALS AUTISM SOCIETY

A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER (CONTINUED)

To highlight, as a total of Society revenues, there was an 8% increase in Student Fees received and a 13% decrease in Government Funding. The reason for the change is the School Programs have higher student fees and receive less government funding than the Adult Program, and the Society continued to receive the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy or Canada Recovery Hiring Program funding but at a significantly reduced amount. Community Sponsorships increased to 8% from 6% reflecting the need and generosity from Foundations. Fundraising and Donations increased from 17% to 20% due to an increase in private donations received.

In terms of total Society expenditures, Program Expenditures remained at 55% of total expenditures while Specialized Therapy (Speech, Occupational and Behavioral) increased slightly by 2% to 17%. Facility expenditures decreased by 3% to 11% with the Adult Program transitioning in 2021 to its own Society. Fundraising expenditures increased slightly by 1% due to upgrades to website and tax receipting software and the reflection of a full year of wages for the Senior Development Director position. Lastly, Administration expenses remain unchanged at 12% reflecting the support required to oversee the safe operation of the School Programs during the year.

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PALS AUTISM SOCIETY

A MESSAGE TO OUR DONORS FROM SENIOR DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

ANDREA KASUNIC

With many fundraising lessons learned from the year before, we found our expectations were more easily managed this year and outcomes exceeded what was anticipated. The PALS community worked together again to ensure all students had uninterrupted access to our exceptional educational programs. Thanks to technology, we were still able to stay closely connected with our supporters who come from near and far, and Zoom is something we anticipate using indefinitely. That being said, we are eager to once again provide an exciting, Italian themed guest experience when *'Imagine... Gala'* 2023 returns to our pre-pandemic in person format on Friday April 28, 2023.

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 November 1, 2021 to October 31, 2022.

Thanks to the hard work and generosity of the **CCSF Autism Foundation** (speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, bursary), PALS students continue to benefit from critical developmental therapies, even when financial assistance is needed to attend the school. The members of the CCSF Autism Foundation organized several successful fundraisers directly benefiting PALS such as a Christmas Gift Bag sale, a Lunar New Year campaign, and a Las Vegas Night Gala. Not only does the CCSF Autism Foundation raise much needed funds for the school, they also raise autism awareness and autism acceptance in the Chinese community by frequently bringing donors to visit the school and sharing our mission with them.

Thank you to the **Mary and Gordon Christopher Foundation** (speech and language therapy and social communication skills training) for their continued generosity. When families share success stories of their children going from being non-verbal to verbal, it is thanks to the support of the Mary and Gordon Christopher Foundation, year after year.

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**, which has endowed PALS Behaviour Support Bursary Fund for a 3-year commitment, families are eligible to receive financial assistance to pay for additional one-to-one staff support, additional consultation from Board Certified Behaviour Analysts, and additional cost of materials and environmental modifications for students experiencing temporary periods of challenging behaviours.

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PALS AUTISM SOCIETY

A MESSAGE TO OUR DONORS (CONTINUED)

The PALS Before and After School Care Program is a critical lifeline for our families who require out of school care in order to work full-time hours so they can afford PALS school fees and subsequently 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.

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.



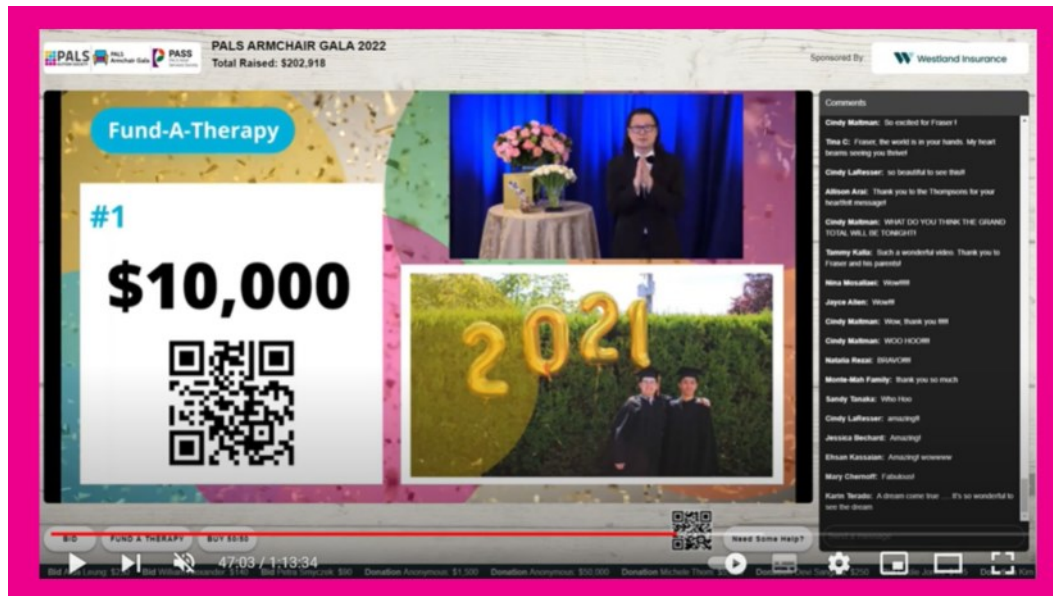
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A MESSAGE TO OUR DONORS (CONTINUED)

With the risk of pandemic restrictions still limiting event planning, the decision was made to present the Society's 15th Annual *Imagine...* Gala virtually again, appropriately themed "Home Sweet Home". Despite the very successful results indicating Zoom fatigue had not fully set in yet, we expect it will be our last online gala! We had over 230 households tune in to view the 1-hour live show with hosts Fred Lee and Global BC's Sophie Lui ([watch it here](#)). A heart-warming video transported virtual guests into our 'PALS home', offering them a glimpse of the impact the PALS program has on students and their families ([watch here](#)). With a prosperous online 50/50 raffle, extravagant silent auction, and generous Fund-A-Therapy pledges, we successfully met our fundraising goal.

I want to extend my thanks to you for being a part of the PALS organization. Together, we continue to provide the highest quality education to our students and comprehensive care to PALS families and the greater community. If you missed this video before, please enjoy these highlights of what PALS means to the families of the students who attend, and why PALS is such a vital charity ([watch here](#)).



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PALS AUTISM SOCIETY



2022 Sponsors

Thank you to all our sponsors for their generous support of PALS Armchair Gala.

Platinum Sponsor	Wesco Industries Ltd.
Gold Sponsor	Arte House & Visas Consulting Group Canguard Mortgage investment Corporation Grosvenor Reliance Insurance Agencies Ltd.
Silver Sponsor	Alexander Holburn LLP David Davies, Vice President at CIBC Private Wealth Management Odlum Brown, Shelly Appleton-Benko, VP Portfolio Manager Pourdad Capital Partners Scotiabank Value on Liquor Store
Bronze Sponsor	Buntain Insurance Group Westland Insurance
Media Sponsor	980 CKNW and Global BC
Giveaway Sponsor	Karim Kamrani, Real Estate Advisor
Meal Delivery Sponsor	Parisa Adrangi, Real Estate Advisor
In- Kind Sponsor	The Lazy Gourmet The Sutton Place Hotel

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PALS AUTISM SOCIETY

IN LOVING MEMORY OF JOHN STEWART, PALS DIRECTOR PALS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

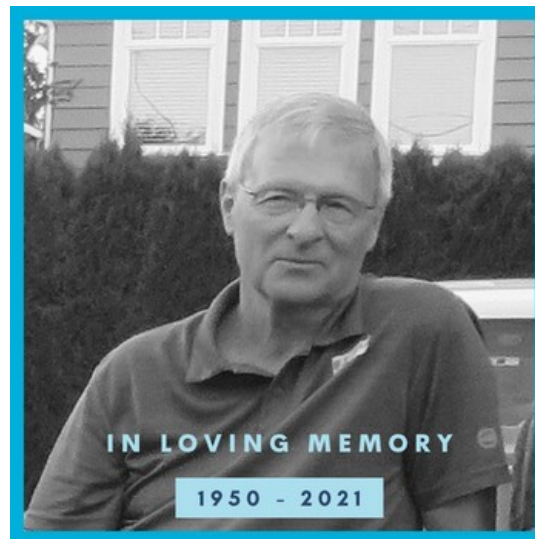
The PALS family lost a dear friend, mentor and long time director, John Stewart this past December.

John excelled in everything he set out to achieve. John joined the Burnaby Fire Department in 1972. He was active in the Burnaby Firefighter Union Local 323 serving as Union Secretary for 14 years. After rising through the ranks, John was promoted to the Department's Fire Chief from July 14th 1999, to August 31st 2007, and provided outstanding leadership for the department and the city.

The Legacy that remains from John Stewart's many accomplishments during his time with the Burnaby Fire department and the charitable endeavors he quietly and massively supported throughout his life are without equal. John was a co-founder of the Burnaby Firefighters Charitable Society which continues to raise money for community groups and non-profit organizations.

Upon his retirement, John joined PALS Autism Society in early 2008. The Society was very fortunate to have John serve on the Board of Directors as he was a strong advocate for children with autism. He worked tirelessly for many years to find a permanent location for the School program. In 2017, John was instrumental in obtaining the School's forever home in New Westminster.

We would like to thank Verna, the love of his life, for allowing John to volunteer his time to improve the lives of children with autism. We will all miss John's quiet presence, wisdom and friendship. The world is a better place because of John's dedication to serving his community.





DONOR RECOGNITION

Individualized.
Interactive.
Inspired.

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 students 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.



As of October 31st, 2022

Partner: \$100,000+

Ames Family Foundation
Anonymous
The Arai-Wong Family
Canucks for Kids Fund
CCSF Autism Foundation
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

Anonymous
The Aquilini Family
Burnaby Firefighters Charitable Society
CKNW Kids' Fund
ICONIX Waterworks-Golf For Kids
Peter Chan and Candy Lim

Grosvenor Americas
Face the World Foundation
Iranian-Canadian Benevolent Foundation
Hal and Anna Kettleston
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
The Christopher Family
Philip and Cynthia Cook
Diamond Foundation
The Esfahani Family
The Grams-Jekubik Family
David and Jennifer Gunasekera

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

Supporter: \$15,000+

Anonymous
Ladan Assemi
Ace Architectural Millwork
Peter and Leslie Blake
Oliver and Shirin Bock
Carolyn Anderson and Kevin Chester
Philip Louis and Julie Fu
Michael Nauss and Leslie Jones
David Jang and Susie Wong
Rainold and Catherine Lee

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 Denise Ure
Visas Consulting Group Inc.
Michael Watt and Monique Badun
David and Stephanie Williams



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Friends of PALS: \$5,000+

100 Men Who Give A Damn
 Fahimeh Abghari
 Haideh and Foirz Adab
 Hamidreza Ahmadian
 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
 Barbara Grossman
 The Hamber Foundation
 Samuel Haptom
 John and Virginia Hou
 Margarete Jekubik
 John Hardie Mitchell Family Foundation
 Julie and Bill Ruehle Foundation
 Timothy and Tammy Kalla
 Al Kanji
 Karim Kassam
 Irv and Naomi Laskin
 Doug and Brenda Lau
 Jeff Lee and Amanda Goodman 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
 Melanie Olsen
 Naz Panahi
 Pezzente Holdings
 The Please Mum Foundation
 Greg and Michelle Polok
 Mark and Monica Porter
 Azar Pourdad
 Maryam Pournasrollah
 Queen Alexandra Foundation
 Foad and Lida Rafii
 Helaleh + Mohammed Rashidpour
 Raymond James Canada Foundation
 RBC Foundation
 Robert L. Conconi Foundation
 Rolin Resources
 Royal Canadian Properties
 The Sahiholnasab Family
 Senft Family Foundation

As of October 31st, 2022

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.
 Harvey and April Twidal
 Vanguard Pipe & Fittings and CB Supplies
 Versatech Holdings
 The Windsor Family
 Boaz and Jean Wong
 The Yeganegi Family
 Abbas Yousefian



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