



# Annual Report 2019

Individualized. Interactive. Inspired.

## **PALS Board of Directors:**

Allison Arai, Treasurer  
Katy Harandi, Board Chair  
Tammy Kalla  
Sahar Kanani  
Cindy Maltman, Board Secretary  
Robert Standerwick, Q.C.  
John Stewart  
Vincent Tong

## **PALS Administrators:**

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Andrea Kasunic

### **Head of Adult Program**

Karin Terado

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Colin Ross

### **Vice Chair**

Carol Humphrys

### **Treasurer**

Rainold Lee

### **Secretary**

Ehsan Kassaian

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Diane Gerrard  
Anna Matchneva  
Shannon Muir  
Alexia Stack

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Hesha Phillips  
Julie Ruehle  
Vincent Tong

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Dr. Kristin McFee  
Shannon Muir  
Kathryn Theroux

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Katy Harandi  
Kelly Kerr  
Yuko McCulloch  
Sandy Tanaka

## **PALS Housing Committee:**

Allison Arai  
Katy Harandi  
Dan Jekubik  
Kelly Kerr  
John McCulloch  
Aldyne Myara  
Nick Smith



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

### KATY HARANDI

*A dream you dream alone is only a dream. A dream you dream together is reality.*  
*John Lennon*

2019 was a milestone year for PALS Autism Society. The dream of opening a specialized school for children struggling with the challenges of autism became a reality in 2007. However, the facility we occupied had constant challenges. The dream of owning a school property became a reality in 2019. The perseverance and expertise of the Board of Directors of PALS coupled with strategic and successful negotiations resulted in the purchase of a home for PALS in New Westminster. The dream of educating the students in an authentic school environment finally materialized.

Also, 2019 was a year of successes for the adults of PALS Autism Society. The program expanded to address the long waitlist and increased the number of paid and volunteer work opportunities in the community by attracting inclusive employers to the benefits of employing adults with autism. The Social Enterprise increased its product offerings enabling more opportunities for work training and sales. One of the future goals of the program is to develop housing opportunities for adults struggling with the challenges of autism.

On behalf of the board of PALS Autism Society, I would like to thank the committed staff of PALS for their ongoing work to educate and support the students. Also, gratitude to all the volunteers who dedicate timeless hours to help grow our society. A million thanks to our foundations, corporate and private donors who have shared our belief and supported us in changing lives for our students and their families.

Looking ahead, the need for support is ongoing. Fundraising goals have to be met and budget restrictions adhered. This is only possible with the help of our donors and the community. Thank you for helping us change lives.



Katy Harandi, President & Chair



# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

PALS AUTISM SOCIETY

## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF ADULT PROGRAM

### KARIN TERADO

In 2019 the adult program welcomed four new young adults for a total of 31 part time and full time participants as we continue to develop our on-site and community-based programs. New classes, such as a computer coding class, mapping/discovery class and performing arts (dance/boot camp and drama) enrich the program curriculum, and new employers have been added to our roster. The employment programs are composed of volunteer, paid and social enterprise positions that include work with 19 local neighbourhood houses and community centres, grocery stores, health authorities, arts organizations and high-tech industries, to name but a few. 20 of the young adults who attend the program have community-based employment, 15 volunteer on a weekly basis, 9 are paid employees of the Social Enterprise and 6 are paid by their community employers.



# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

PALS AUTISM SOCIETY

## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF ADULT PROGRAM (CONTINUED)

PALS Social Enterprise continues to grow its product line. In addition to its popular, quality, hand-crafted candles, PALS Social Enterprise now offers Aromatherapy Atomizers in either eucalyptus or pine, Beeswax Wraps (in 3 different sizes) for an eco-friendly option to plastic food wrap, and Basil Infused Premium Olive Oil. And, as with our candles, the young adults who attend the program make, prepare and package all of the social enterprise products.



As we acknowledge the achievements of this past year, I would like to thank all staff, volunteers, donors and board members for their dedication to teaching training programs to young adults with autism to support employment, communication, social skills, life skills and community involvement.

# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

PALS AUTISM SOCIETY

## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL ANDREA KASUNIC

After 12 years of operating out of a small office building in East Vancouver, PALS Autism School purchased and moved into a large heritage house in New Westminister in March 2019. Over a period of 5 days, staff and families worked tirelessly to pack, unpack, and settle in so the students could walk into class on Monday morning and feel at 'home'. One common characteristic of autism is resistance to change in routine, so imagine our surprise when the students' reactions were entirely positive. Their new commutes, new classrooms, and new playground did not go unnoticed; however, these were all a welcome change.



The extra space was just what we needed, and the new programs we are able to provide as a result are game changing. Students have more opportunities to learn practical life skills such as cooking on a stovetop, doing laundry, and making a bed. They have more opportunities for physical exercise such as using scooters around the neighborhood, playing basketball on the playground, and finishing a 9 station gym circuit complete with an elliptical machine, treadmill and recumbent bike. Academics and 1:1 classes can be completed in quieter areas, and we

# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

PALS AUTISM SOCIETY

## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL (CONTINUED)



finally have a dedicated room for parent meetings and staff resources. The City of New Westminster has been very welcoming, and we have secured 3 new volunteer work placements for our Student Transition Program. We look forward to having even more placements at local businesses by the end of the year.

The School Program recently completed a Monitoring Inspection by the Ministry of Education. I am pleased to report we passed again with flying colours. All of our policies, procedures, student records, staff files, special education budget, building maintenance, and teaching practices are in compliance with the expectations of the Ministry of Education.

There is strong interest in the PALS educational model from other professionals who want to visit the school and learn what we do. Furthermore, we continue to build partnerships with new foundations and nurture existing ones by welcoming donors to visit the school.

I extend my deepest appreciation to all of our donors, supporters, families, staff, volunteers, and board members for being an integral part of making this major milestone possible.

# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

PALS AUTISM SOCIETY

## A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER ALLISON ARAI

Now in our 13<sup>th</sup> year, it is rewarding to see and hear the accomplishments of our students thanks to our amazing team of dedicated staff, volunteers and contractors and our generous donors.

This past April, the Society held it's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual "OPA! Our Big Fun Greek Gala" fundraiser, which was our most successful Gala to date. Thank you to all our supporters for raising over \$525,000 to further the learning opportunities of our students! Our Gala Honouree, the **Iranian-Canadian Benevolent Foundation** was recognized for their generous continued philanthropy to the Society. PALS Autism Society would like to acknowledge and extend our heartfelt thanks to the 2019 Gala sponsors:

<b>Diamond Sponsor</b>	The Sutton Place Hotel Vancouver
<b>Platinum Sponsor</b>	Wesco Industries Ltd.
<b>Silver Sponsor</b>	Grosvenor Americas
<b>Auction Sponsor</b>	Surrey Mitsubishi/ Legacy Cars
<b>Bronze Sponsor</b>	Scotiabank, Progressa, Vanguard Mortgage Investment Corporation, David Davies-Vice President of CIBC Private Wealth Management, Nammos Estiatorio
<b>Reception Sponsor</b>	Sandra Knowler-Partner of McMillan LLP, Buntain Insurance
<b>Entertainment Sponsor</b>	Parisa Adrangi of RE/MAX City Realty
<b>Gala Raffle Prize Sponsor</b>	Westjet
<b>Evening Booklet Sponsor</b>	Stirling LLP
<b>Giveaway Sponsor</b>	Carly Monahan-Investment Advisor at Odlum Brown



Gala Honouree  
Iranian-Canadian Benevolent Foundation



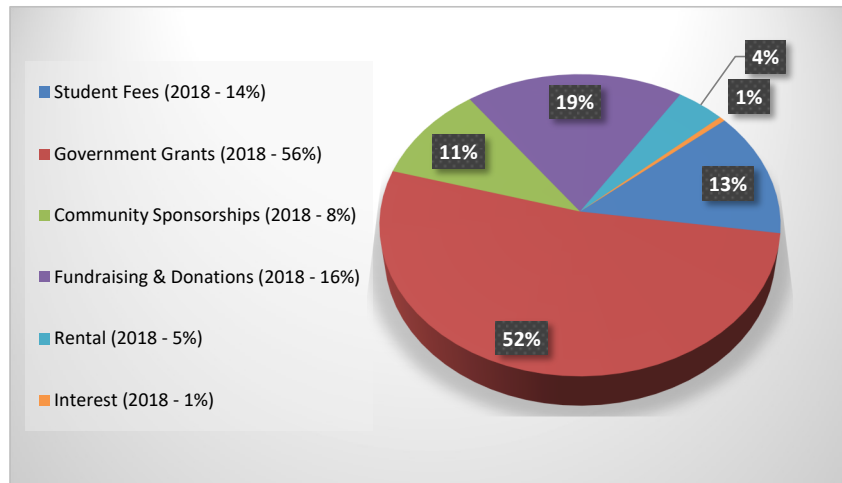
# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

PALS AUTISM SOCIETY

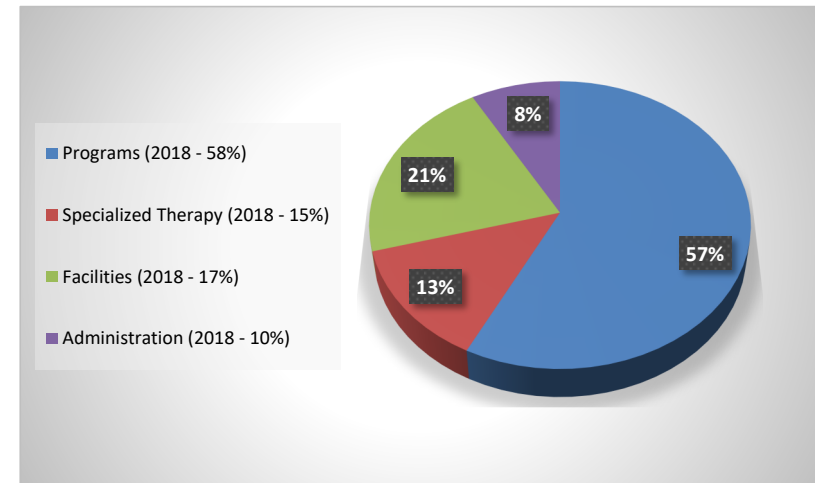
## A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER (CONTINUED)

The following summarizes the results of the Society for the year ended June 30, 2019:

### SOURCE OF REVENUE



### WHERE WE SPEND



You will see a slight increase in facility expenditures from the prior year as both adult and school programs moved during this fiscal year.

This past May, a new Society called PALS Adult Services Society (PASS) was incorporated and is currently awaiting approval of its registered charity status. Once obtained, the adult program and its related committees will transfer to PASS. PALS Autism Society (PALS) will continue to oversee the school and before and after school programming. The separation into two Societies is a positive sign of our growth, which is needed as the adult program plans to expand its day programming into Housing and Respite services.

# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

PALS AUTISM SOCIETY

## A MESSAGE TO OUR DONORS FROM BOARD DIRECTOR

TAMMY KALLA

The Board of Directors of PALS Autism Society, staff and families would like to thank the following foundations and corporations who have donated over \$5,000 during the period November 1, 2018 to October 31, 2019. Their generous philanthropy and support for PALS vision has enabled both the school and adult programs to grow and thrive during the past 13 years.

Developmental therapies such as occupational therapy, music therapy and speech and language therapy are core components of PALS programs. PALS is very grateful to **The Mary and Gordon Christopher Foundation** (speech and language therapy and social communication skills training for the School and Adult Program), **Ames Family Foundation** (speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and sports and fitness equipment for the School Program) and **Music Heals Charitable Foundation** (music therapy for the Adult Program). These generous foundations have provided multi-year support for PALS therapeutic programs, and we could not offer these programs without their financial aid and belief in our mission!

The financial and emotional burden of raising a child with autism is a fact of daily life for PALS families. School or adult program fees can become prohibitive for some of our single parent families, single income families, or lower income families. PALS would like to extend our sincerest appreciation to the **Canucks for Kids Fund** and **The Morris & Helen Belkin Foundation** for providing support for PALS students and young adults and their families through their commitment to the PALS Tuition Bursary Fund for the School Program and the Adult Program respectively.

This year the **Burnaby Firefighters Charitable Society In Memory of Alan and Marilyn Codyre** doubled their 10 year annual commitment to PALS Autism School, with an extension of their annual pledge to 20 years! Their donation will be allocated to the PALS Tuition Bursary Fund and the PALS Year 13 Bursary Fund. The Year 13 Bursary Fund assists Grade 12 special needs designated students to attend the school program for an additional year. The British Columbia Government has made all Grade 12 special needs students eligible to attend secondary school programs up to the age of 21, however Provincial funding is reduced for students attending PALS beyond the age of 19.

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 appreciation to **The Wolrige Foundation** and the **Diamond Foundation** for helping families access an affordable Before and After School Program at PALS this year.

# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

PALS AUTISM SOCIETY

## A MESSAGE TO OUR DONORS (CONTINUED)

In March 2019 PALS Autism School relocated to its new home in New Westminster. Although the building was previously used as a school, considerable costs were incurred to adapt the premises for students with autism. We are tremendously grateful to **Corix Water Products – Golf for Kids** for providing proceeds from their annual golf tournament to help offset both the school relocation and building adaptation costs. We would also like to thank the **Raymond James Canada Foundation** for their donation which was used to help offset costs of the school move to New Westminster.

**The Sutton Place Hotel Vancouver** has generously continued their support for PALS by hosting multiple philanthropic activities benefitting the Society. They bring autism awareness to our community while fundraising for PALS Enriched Summer School program through their Diamond Level Sponsorship at the PALS Gala, proceeds from their Annual Just “Fore” Fun Golf Tournament, and their Annual “Home for the Holidays” Christmas tree decorating event. PALS summer programs offer recreational, therapeutic and community-oriented activities although no funding from the Ministry of Education is available to help subsidize the cost. Year-round programming is a necessity for students with autism. By maintaining a year-round program, PALS minimizes the risk of student regression, which commonly occurs during extended school breaks. This allows parents to continue working throughout the summer months, knowing that their children are in a safe, nurturing, and appropriate educational environment. Unfortunately, the Lower Mainland offers very limited, affordable summer camps or childcare placements for children with autism. We are so very grateful for our partnership with The Sutton Place Hotel Vancouver and their support for PALS school students throughout the years.

PALS Autism Society would like to recognize and thank our newest benefactor, **CCSF Autism Foundation** for their generous donations to the school program and their desire to generate increased community awareness of the urgent needs of children living with autism. Proceeds from their Annual Gala and Client Appreciation Casino Night will be allocated toward specialized therapies and support for our school students.

The board members, staff and families would like to thank all of our generous foundations and corporations who have donated their financial resources and volunteered their time, passion and energy to support PALS Autism School and the PALS Adult Program.

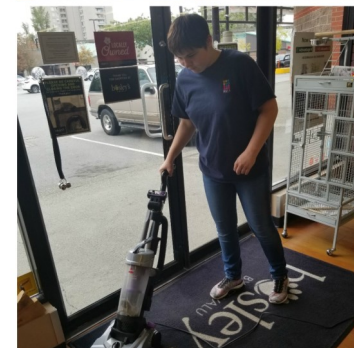
# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

PALS AUTISM SOCIETY

PALS Autism Society would like to thank the following inclusive employers who enable our students and young adults to receive invaluable work experience:



**Bard on the Beach**  
**Base's Family Thrift Store**  
**Bosley's**  
**Canucks Place Children's Hospice**  
**Double Negative Visual FX**  
**El Santo**  
**Employee and Family Assistance Program of BC**  
**Frog Hollow Neighborhood House**  
**GO Studios**  
**The Good Chocolatier**  
**Greens Organic Market**  
**Grosvenor Americas**  
**Kitsilano Neighborhood House**  
**Kiwassa Neighborhood House**  
**Le Meadow's Pantry**  
**Nada**  
**Raising John**  
**St. Paul's Hospital**  
**Stanley Park Ecology Society**  
**Steeves Manor Neighborhood House**  
**Sweetery Café**  
**White Spot (Downtown Vancouver)**  
**White Spot (Richmond)**



# PALS ADULT PROGRAM



# PALS SCHOOL PROGRAM





# DONOR RECOGNITION

Individualized.  
Interactive.  
Inspired.

*As of November 30th, 2019*

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

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

## Advocate: \$50,000

The Aquilini Family  
CCSF Autism Foundation  
CKNW Kids' Fund  
Corix Water Products-Golf For Kids  
Face the World Foundation

Iranian-Canadian Benevolent Foundation  
Hal and Anna Kettleton  
Methanex  
The Morris and Helen Belkin Foundation  
Variety-The Children's Charity

## Loyal: \$25,000+

Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans Unit 100  
Autism Speaks Canada  
Burnaby Firefighters Charitable Society  
Peter Chan and Candy Lim  
Diamond Foundation

The Esfahani Family  
The Maghsoud Family  
Arjang and Golrokh Nowtash  
TELUS

## Supporter: \$15,000+

Linda Deluca and Bill Alexander  
Peter and Leslie Blake  
Oliver and Shirin Bock  
Candy Lim and Peter Chan  
Carolyn Anderson and Kevin Chester  
The Christopher Family  
Philip and Cynthia Cook  
Angela Grams and Dan Jekubik

James and Kelly Kerr  
Music Heals Charitable Foundation  
President's Choice Children's Charity  
Devi Sangara and Matt Queree  
Ronald McDonald House Charities  
Brian and Tamara Standerwick  
Jimmy and Alice Wong  
Y.P. Heung Foundation





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## Friends of PALS: \$5,000+

*As of November 30th, 2019*

100 Men Who Give A Damn  
Fahimeh Abghari  
Ace Architectural Millwork  
Hamidreza Ahmadian  
Bruce Aitken  
Hossein Amanat  
Ladan Assemi  
Eric Carlson  
Carriere Foundation  
Rob and Ann Carson  
The Edith Lando Charitable Foundation  
Lorne Folick  
Foundation for Youth  
David and Jennifer Gunasekera  
The Hamber Foundation  
John and Virginia Hou  
Margarete Jekubik  
John Hardie Mitchell Family Foundation  
Julie and Bill Ruehle Foundation  
Al Kanji  
Karim Kassam  
Irv and Naomi Laskin  
Jeff Lee and Amanda Goodman Lee  
Rainold Lee and Catherine Kriekenbeek-Lee  
Kenneth and Aida Leung  
Philip Louis and Julie Fu  
Bill and Vivian Macdonald  
Dr. William and Joanne McDonald  
Hossein and Golnaz Malek  
Shahrokh Malek  
Muskoka Capital Corporation  
Mulgrave School Students—Cap Program  
Michael Nauss and Leslie Jones  
Kevin Ng and Caroline Kriekenbeek  
Takao Ozawa and Elizabeth Wai

Naz Panahi  
Pezzente Holdings  
The Please Mum Foundation  
Greg and Michelle Polok  
Mark and Monica Porter  
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  
Jane Loftus and Leo Smyth  
Garth and Ann Stoll  
Brian and Tamara Standerwick  
John and Verna Stewart  
T&T Supermarket  
Marie Zelig Tan  
Murray and Shirley Thomson  
Harvey Twidal  
Dave and Denise Ure  
Vanguard Pipe & Fittings and CB Supplies  
Versatech Holdings  
Visa Consulting Group Inc.  
Michael Watt  
David and Stephanie Williams  
The Windsor Family  
The Yeganegi Family  
Abbas Yousefian





[www.palsautismschool.ca](http://www.palsautismschool.ca)

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PALS Adult Program - 101 - 2020 Yukon Street, Vancouver, BC V5Y 3N8  
Phone: 604.872.7257 Fax: 604.251.1627

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