



**Kids  
Up Front**

**EMPOWERING KIDS  
THROUGH ENRICHING  
EXPERIENCES**



---

**2025**  
VANCOUVER'S  
ANNUAL REPORT

---

**Joy. Inclusion. Strong Communities. Enriching Experiences.**

# KIDS UP FRONT FOUNDATION VANCOUVER

Kids Up Front Vancouver started in 2004 with a simple goal: share empty arena seats with kids and youth who would not otherwise have access to those opportunities. For more than 20 years the Vancouver chapter has worked to build a strong network of donors, vendors, promoters and sponsors to link local family serving charities to the amazing events and experiences offered within the Lower Mainland and across the Fraser Valley.



We are **The Ticket Charity**. Our mission is to enhance the well-being of children and families by building connections, promoting inclusion, and strengthening communities through free access to unforgettable experiences. We empower kids and youth to cheer in the arena, be inspired by live performances, and join events that spark skills and hope. Through our flagship programs, **InterActive** and **All Access**, donated tickets and opportunities remove barriers and are transformed into moments of joy, offer kids a sense of belonging, and encourage youth to trust in a future of possibilities. We are thrilled to report that we increased our numbers in all of our key indicators of success: charities supported, events offered, tickets distributed, and families served: \$931,475 in value added for kids, youth and families in need of support and encouragement.

The ripple effect for these shared experiences is one indicator we can't measure but we try! We know from the feedback and thank you comments we get that the fulfilment of our mission has a lasting impact. **Thank you** for helping us succeed in bringing joy, hope and a sense of inclusion to the kids and families we serve. We cannot do this without our ticket donors, financial supporters and the agency partners we worked with in 2025.

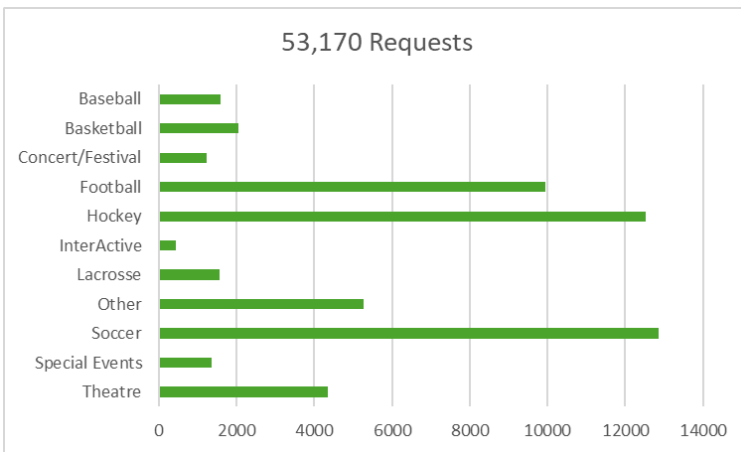
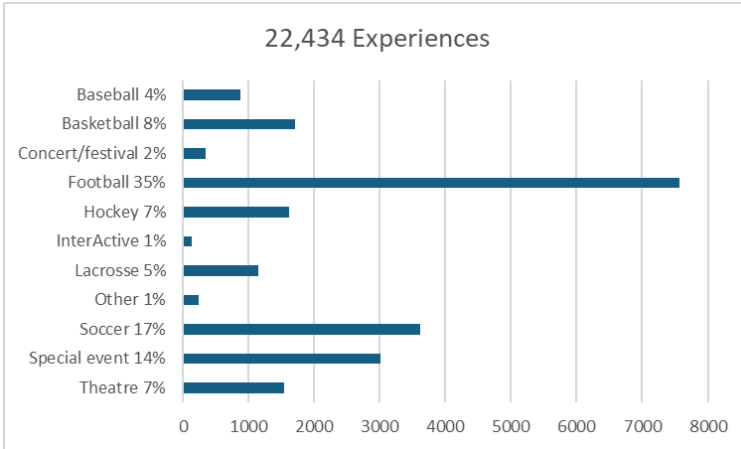


*Lisa Zastre*

Lisa Zastre  
Director of Charity Relations and Administration  
[lisa@kidsupfront.com](mailto:lisa@kidsupfront.com)

a. Suite 334 #186 – 8120 No. 2 Road,  
Richmond, BC V7C 5J8

**Vancouver \* Edmonton \* Calgary \* Toronto \* Ottawa \* Halifax**



Joy. Inclusion. Community. That’s what our marquee programs create. We cannot individually thank all of our donors in our 2025 Annual Report but we can extend our sincerest gratitude because together we gave local kids, youth and families access to **562 events**.

Transforming unused capacity into opportunities that provided respite care for hurting families and inspiration for kids in need of hope. Bonding with family and friends offers joy and encouragement. Shared community engagement offers a sense of inclusion. Through more equal access to cultural and recreational opportunities we help build stronger social connections and reduce feelings of isolation. Together we empower children and youth to explore their interests, develop talents, and broaden their horizons by creating lasting memories, offering hope and encouraging brighter futures.

Some of our top requested experiences include:

- BC Lions
- World Supercross FIM Championship
- Vancouver Canadians
- WNBA
- Royal Canadian International Circus
- Canucks, Abbotsford Canucks
- Vancouver Rise
- Theater Under The Stars
- Whitecaps
- HSBC RugbySvns
- Vancouver Giants
- Minimakers
- Freeform Studio
- Vancouver Warriors
- Fly Over Canada
- Richmond Country Club Summer Camp
- Sound the Alarm - A Whole New World
- Vancouver Bandits

and of course... The Lion King

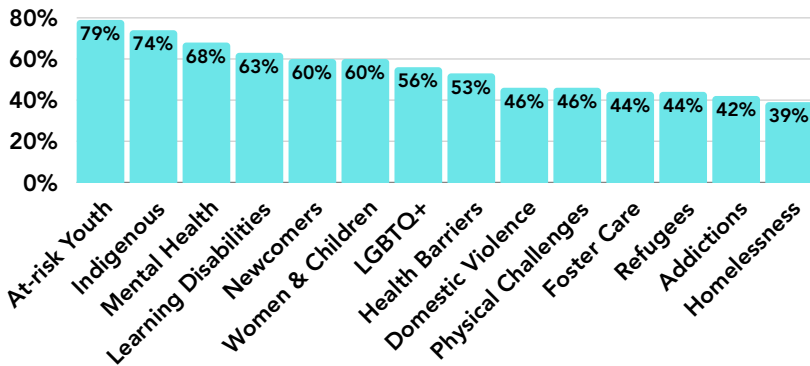
\*\*top requested are listed in no particular order



# WE ARE THE TICKET CHARITY

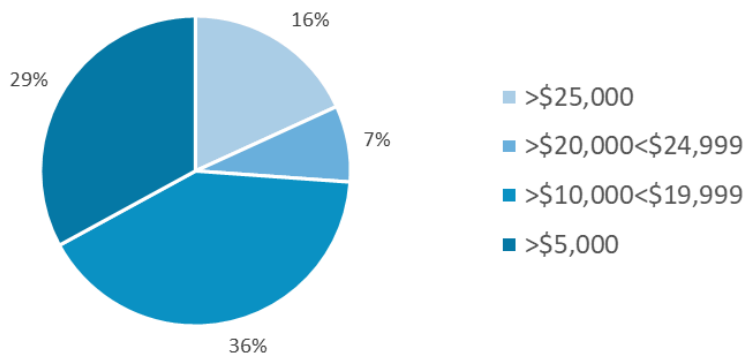


**% of Our Agencies that Support Each Community Type**



At its core, our program is about removing barriers and ensuring that every child, regardless of their circumstances, has the chance to experience the joy, inspiration and sense of belonging that comes from attending an event. Whether it's a child in care reunited with siblings or a family navigating difficult times, these experiences provide so much more than just entertainment, they offer hope, connection and cherished memories to the kids and youth we serve.

**"Value Added" to Our Agency Partner Budgets Impacting Their Community**



Our partner agencies make a tangible difference in the lives of those facing complex and overlapping challenges: poverty, chronic or terminal illness, emotional and developmental difficulties, minority or newcomer status, abuse, broken families, and more. Our **mission** is to serve those families and support our agency partners with experiences and opportunities their budgets and mission can't accommodate.



Donations to our **All Access** and **InterActive** programs enable us to give healthy, family friendly experiences to kids and youth, mentors and parents and sometimes to agency support staff who work to make a difference in the day to day challenges faced by so many families across the Lower Mainland, Fraser Valley, Southern Vancouver Island and in some cases, across BC.

We are grateful for their commitment and our mutual appreciation for the work we accomplish together!



“Great event. It’s a great experience to be down on the field at BC Place.” - YWCA East Vancouver

“One dad ranted that this was the most amazing event! His boys were the perfect age for all the activities and dad was so surprised that there was also food provided and ice cream for \$1. His experience has been that we may give free admission tickets but that once the family gets to the event, there is a lot that still needs to be paid for (food, toys, rides, activities). He was thrilled that there were no additional costs for a fun family event.” - West Coast Family Centres

# MORE THAN A MOVIE

We are incredibly grateful for your generous support of [Kids Up Front’s](#) and our [More Than a Movie](#) event at BC Place Stadium. Thanks to your commitment and the generosity of your organization, we were able to distribute 1,200 free tickets - our highest number to date!

This year’s [More Than a Movie](#) was truly special. The stadium’s roof was still open from an earlier event, offering families an even brighter and more open atmosphere to enjoy before settling in for the movie. The field was full of laughter and positive energy as kids enjoyed face painting, interactive drills, activities, and visits from our beloved local mascots. Watching the roof close just before the movie began was a magical moment for many.

At [Kids Up Front](#), we know that access to live theatre, sports, and first-hand experiences is so much more than a ticket. It’s about connection, confidence, and community. Support from sponsors and ticket donors helps us create joyful, lasting memories for the children and families we serve. [Thank you](#) to our donors, Tommco Cares, [PAVCO volunteers](#) and event sponsors for being a vital part of this unforgettable day. We couldn’t have done it without them!



# KARDS FOR KIDS

Our annual holiday card campaign featured an original painting by Vancouver artist [Jon Affolter](#) who offered us two beautiful holiday card designs.

Custom holiday cards are created and sold through our [Kards for Kids](#) campaign. Proceeds raised enable us to generate unrestricted revenue that can be used to give kids and their families access to live events and unique experiences they would not otherwise have access to. Proceeds enable [Kids Up Front](#) to purchase discounted tickets graciously offered through some of our vendors and unique partnerships. Being able to buy discounted seats in theatres, arenas and neighbourhood camps allows us to stretch every dollar and fulfill a greater number of requests. Despite more than 22,000 opportunities being shared in 2025 we had 53,170 requests. Requests for theatre tickets often outpace supply by 5:1 and for [InterActive](#) experiences demand often outpaces supply by 7:1.

Proceeds from our [Kards for Kids](#) campaign enable us to bridge that gap and fulfill more requests from the kids and families we serve.

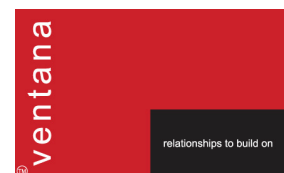
Despite another postal disruption this year, we had a successful campaign and are grateful for the ongoing support of our [Kards for Kids](#) corporate partners.



22.03.2025

STANLEY PARK, VANCOUVER

Jon Affolter



Assante  
Vancouver Centre

Joy. Inclusion. Strong Communities. Enriching Experiences.

# THEATRE FOR ALL

The **CIBC Theatre For All** program helps **Kids Up Front** offices across Canada give our kids, youth and their families the opportunity to experience the gift of a live production like theatre, dance, opera or the symphony.

With **CIBC's** support, Vancouver kids and their families had access to 34 different enriching experiences and the countless benefits that a live performance offers. These opportunities help develop young minds, nurture creativity and encourage a long-lasting connection with the arts.

With the unwavering support of CIBC, kids and youth are embracing new, enriching experiences in theatre, dance, and at cultural performances!

As a valued corporate partner we were able to offer **Theatre For All** to 1,602 kids and their families. **Theatre For All** gave them access to live theatre regardless of finances, circumstances or barriers. **Kids Up Front Vancouver** is very grateful to **CIBC** and our donors who shared \$61,613 worth of experiences.



*"It was a beautiful show! My daughter loved it and said she wants to be on stage too. She's still repeating lots of phrases she had from the show. She remembers almost all the lines of Alice and statements made directly to her."*

*- Little Mountain Neighborhood house*





# HOCKEY FANS IN THE STANDS

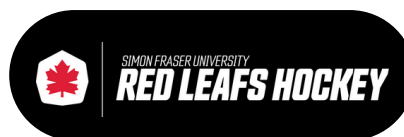
**Hockey Fans in the Stands** is the hockey component of our **All Access** program. Its purpose is to fill empty seats at hockey games with as many new fans as possible.

Across Canada, thousands of children, youth and families got to experience a hockey game first hand which as every fan knows, a hockey game is so much more than a ticket. Every ticket gives someone the opportunity to cheer on their hockey heroes! **Hockey Fans in the Stands** offers engaging and enriching opportunities for vulnerable kids from coast to coast.

We are grateful to the program sponsors and our hockey team partners who enable us to distribute tickets to games as well as offering unique experiences through special VIP events. 2025 was a record year for **Vancouver Giants** fans as they helped us host 1,620 **Kids Up Front** recipients! **Hockey Fans in the Stands** allows kids and families to fully participate in an event, feel included in popular activities, and be active in their local community.

Every ticket offers opportunities for joy, laughter, inclusion and the wave! Thank you **Hockey Fans in the Stands** for including kids and families from our partner agencies at 111 of these fantastic games. The gross value of these hockey experiences was \$50,919 in 2025.

*"The boys took full advantage of winning the lottery being gifted tickets. They went for the pregame skate, had autographs signed and were the last to leave the stadium. Thank you for providing this opportunity to kids, who would otherwise not be able to attend a game" - Kwayhquitlum Middle School*



# All Access The Ticket Program



All Access opens doors to arts, culture, and sports for children, youth, and their families. Across Canada the program combats feelings of social isolation and loneliness by distributing donated event tickets. Through our network of child serving agencies we provide access to moments that inspire and connect.

We are grateful for all of our donors, vendor partners and one of a kind event hosts!

# InterActive The Participatory Program



InterActive connects children from equity-deserving groups with free opportunities to play, learn, and grow. By empowering active participation in day camps, workshops, lessons, and clinics, InterActive removes barriers and creates inclusive experiences that nurture skills, confidence, and community belonging.

We look forward to building stronger participation programs in 2026 and thank our current partners.



Joy. Inclusion. Strong Communities. Enriching Experiences.

# All Access The Ticket Program



All Access opens doors to arts, culture, and sports for children, youth, and their families. Across Canada the program combats feelings of social isolation and loneliness by distributing donated event tickets. Through our network of child serving agencies we provide access to moments that inspire and connect.

We are grateful for all of our donors, vendor partners and one of a kind event hosts!

# InterActive The Participatory Program



InterActive connects children from equity-deserving groups with free opportunities to play, learn, and grow. By empowering active participation in day camps, workshops, lessons, and clinics, InterActive removes barriers and creates inclusive experiences that nurture skills, confidence, and community belonging.

We look forward to building stronger participation programs in 2026 and thank our current partners.



Joy. Inclusion. Strong Communities. Enriching Experiences.

# LOOKING AHEAD FOR 2026

## Our Mission

To create joy, promote inclusion and strengthen communities by connecting children and their families to enriching experiences.

## Our Vision

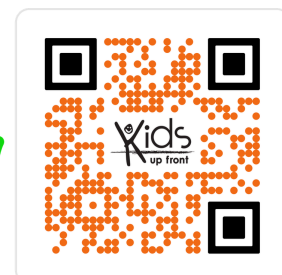
- Increase the number of experiences we provide in 2026
- Increase the opportunities and diversity of the events and activities offered throughout 2026
- Engage with new vendors to increase the geographic reach of our service area to include Southern Vancouver Island
- Increase the number of partner agencies and charitable organizations we serve on Vancouver Island
- Build stronger relationships with theatres and neighbourhood program providers to give kids and youth hands-on activities and adventure experiences within their neighbourhood
- Raise our monthly donor base so we can fulfill individual requests and meet the overall demand for popular experiences

**Help us help kids! It's so much more than a ticket!**

**Become a monthly donor today through one of our Canada Helps campaigns! Scan the QR code for your preferred campaign and make a difference in the life of a family in your community today!**



*Fan Friday*



*More Than a Ticket*

Abbotsford Youth Unlimited  
Aboriginal Mother Centre Society  
Aleph in the Tri-Cities Society  
Atira Women's Resource Society

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Langley  
Boundless Vancouver (The Salvation Army)  
Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada  
Britannia Community Services Centre

Cameray Child & Family Services  
Capilano Community Services Society  
Carrier Sekani Family Services  
Children's Foundation (The)  
Children's Heart Network  
Children's Organ Transplant Society  
Chinese Community Policing Centre  
City Gate Housing Cooperative  
Collingwood Neighbourhood House  
Connections Community Services Society  
Coquitlam Alternate Basic Education (CABE)

Dixon Transition Society

Family Services of Greater Vancouver  
Foundry Abbotsford - Adolescent Day Treatment Program - East  
Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association  
Fraser River Indigenous Society  
Fraser Valley Foster Parent Association  
Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House

Greater Vancouver Youth Unlimited

Helping Spirit Lodge Society  
Hillcrest Centre, Vancouver Board of Parks & Recreation  
Hollyburn Family Services  
Hope and Health for Life Society

JDRF Canada  
Jewish Family Services

Keknow Indigenous Programs Services Society  
Killarney Secondary School  
Kwayhqitlum Middle School



*Good event, family friendly. We really appreciate all the events Kids Up Front has helped us go to that we never would have gone to without the program! It's exposed our kids to a lot of great ideas and diversity. - Learning Disabilities Associated Fraser South Chapter*



*They absolutely loved it. None of our youth have ever seen it before they had so much fun! Thank you again for the opportunity. - PEAK House*

Langley Community Services Society  
Learning Disabilities Associated Fraser South Chapter  
Little Mountain Neighbourhood House  
Love Cora Program  
Lower Mainland Down Syndrome Society

MCFD - Indigenous Family & Child Services  
Métis Nation BC  
Milieu Children & Family Services Inc.  
Mom2Mom Child Poverty Initiative  
Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House

Pacific Community Resources Society  
Parent Support Services Society of BC  
Peak House - Pacific Youth & Family Services Society  
PLEA Community Services of BC

Queen Alexandra Family School

Ridge Meadows Association for Community Living

Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association of BC  
Spirit of the Children Society  
Squamish Nation Chief Joe Mathis Centre  
St. Leonard's Youth and Family Services  
Starlight Children's Foundation (YVR)  
Strathcona Community Association  
Surrey School District #36

Vancouver Aboriginal Child & Family Services Society  
Vancouver Aboriginal Health Society - Indigenous Early Years  
Services  
Vancouver Coastal Health - Child & Youth Mental Health Team  
(Tupper Nova)  
Vancouver Coastal Health - YADO - Youth Alcohol & Drug  
Operation Program

Walter Moberly Elementary School  
Watari Counselling & Support Services Society  
Westcoast Family Centres  
Whytecliff Agile Learning Centre  
Young Life of Canada East Vancouver  
Young Life Victoria  
YWCA - Crabtree Corner  
YWCA British Columbia

*The children's eyes were glued to the show and they were cheering and on the edge of their seats! They found it very exciting and were so happy to spend a day there. The moms are very grateful for these tickets and know they are not cheap and that they would not be able to afford them. One says it's an eye-opener and that it "broadens their horizons."*

*Thank you very much for granting these tickets to us to spend a carefree day without thinking of their troubles. - Dixon Transition Society*



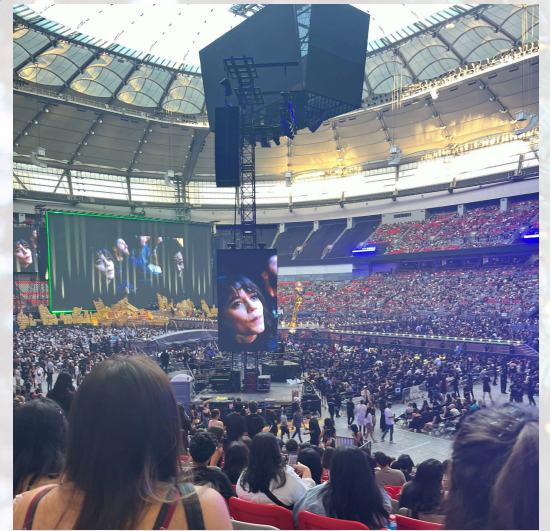
*thankyou*

Sea to Sky Community Services Society  
Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association of BC  
Spirit of the Children Society  
Squamish Nation Chief Joe Mathis Centre  
St. Leonard's Youth and Family Services  
Starlight Children's Foundation (YVR)  
Strathcona Community Association  
Surrey School District #36

The Bloom Group - Springhouse Women & Children  
Timms Community Centre  
Touchstone Family Association  
Trout Lake Community Centre  
Tsleil-Waututh Nation  
Urban Native Youth Association

Vancouver Aboriginal Child & Family Services Society  
Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society  
Vancouver Aboriginal Health Society - Indigenous Early Years Services  
Vancouver Coastal Health - Child & Youth Mental Health Team (Tupper Nova)  
Vancouver Coastal Health - YADO - Youth Alcohol & Drug Operation Program  
Vancouver Rape Relief Society  
Volunteer Grandparents

Walter Moberly Elementary School  
Watari Counselling & Support Services Society  
Westcoast Family Centres  
Whytecliff Agile Learning Centre  
YWCA - Crabtree Corner



*Many thanks to the sponsor for donating the tickets . It was the first time our family of six watched this kind of game live, and it was truly amazing! What touched me the most was seeing my mom so happy — she usually doesn't like going out, but today she said it was totally worth it. She really enjoyed the game and kept recording videos the whole time. The kids had a great time too. They learned about never giving up, sportsmanship, and how athletes push through even when they're injured. It was a memorable experience for all of us. Thank you again for your generosity. We are truly grateful for this wonderful opportunity! - Chinese Community Policing Centre*



# Kids Up Front

Lisa

Director of Donor Relations and Administration

Kelsie

Senior Programs and Administration Coordinator

Charity

Programs and Community Partnerships Coordinator

Tessa

Programs and Community Partnerships Coordinator

## Current Team Members

## 2025-2026 Volunteer Board

Jenny Beazley, interim President

Iqbal Shanghera, Treasurer

Suzanne Solsona, Secretary

Wayne Smith

Lauren Travan

Heather McKay

Andrew Biletskyi

AJ Orena

Theresa Bagshawe

Trevor Roemer

Sanam Hadavi

## Kids Up Front Vancouver

Suite 334 #186 – 8120 No. 2

Road Richmond, BC V7C 5J8

778-302-7346

[vancouver@kidsupfront.com](mailto:vancouver@kidsupfront.com)

[www.kidsupfrontvancouver.com](http://www.kidsupfrontvancouver.com)

CRA #861952075RR0001



@kidsupfrontvan

**Joy. Inclusion. Strong Communities. Enriching Experiences.**