



Connecting Families

Annual Report
2019-2020

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

“We would like to acknowledge the shared, unceded traditional territory of the Semiahmoo, Katzie, Kwantlen and other Coast Salish Peoples on which we work, play and learn.”

INTRODUCTION

Semiahmoo Family Place (SFP) is a non-profit family resource and drop-in play center serving the South Surrey and White Rock area since 1991.

We provide a safe, fun, and semi-structured space for babies, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families to play and learn together. Parents and caregivers are given the opportunity to build on their skills, create relationships with others in the community, and engage with their children while supported by a team of competent, passionate individuals.

MISSION

To connect families through play.

GOALS

To provide a comfortable, safe, and stimulating environment at no or low cost to children and their families.

To implement age-appropriate learning and social experiences for children while keeping them together and with their caregivers.

To reduce isolation of caregivers and children.

To provide equipment and supplies not accessible to most families individually.

To integrate all families regardless of income, race, or social structure.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Happy greetings to our SFP families.

Coming on board a few days prior to the facility's closure has not been an easy feat. Finding my way as SFP's new Executive Director while navigating through our changing norm, I was (still am) constantly in doubt of whether we are able to fulfill the goals we have set out to do. However, the kind messages we have been receiving the past few months since launching our online programs have been very encouraging and we at SFP are all dedicated to keeping our community of families strong and alive.

With the support of Peace Arch Foundation's Rapid Response Grant, we were able to launch SFP Online in the absence of a physical space to hold our gatherings at. As we became comfortable with the changes in our community, we slowly introduced in-person programs at a local park which has been so well received by our families.

As the year draws to a close, we will continue to work together as one community. Whether we are in our beloved home in Kensington Prairie, at a local park, or online, everyone is welcome at Semiahmoo Family Place.

Monique Carlos
Executive Director
Semiahmoo Family Place

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Change and adaptation: this is essentially what makes up human existence. The end of our fiscal year was overwhelmingly dominated by one change that really tested our ability to adapt. Like many small businesses we worried about our finances, our staff, and our future.

However, we also worried about our families who each had their own unique challenges to adapting to this change. I'd like to thank our staff and especially our executive director Monique for quickly adapting how we work and using online platforms to connect families to resources, our staff, and each other.

During this time our board of directors also experienced a change when President Kristine Salzmann moved away from the area. I have temporarily stepped into this role but welcome inquiries from anyone interested in contributing their leadership skills. In fact, adding new board members is a change we always welcome.

As the Covid-19 numbers fluctuate and the body of knowledge improves I'm sure there will be more changes and uncertainty to come. At SFP we do not know exactly how our future operations will look, but there is one constant we know will not change and that is our commitment to our families. This may be a global phenomenon but it is the strength of our local communities that will see us through it.

Donna Mui
President
Semiahmoo Family Place Association

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2019-2020

Kristine Salzmann, President
(October 2016- May 2020)
Donna Mui, Treasurer
(October 2016- May 2020)
Donna Mui, President
(June 2020- present)
Elise Steeves, Secretary
(Aug 2018- May 2020)
Elise Steeves, VP
(June 2020- present)
Wendy Clendenin, Director

Stella Jiang , Director
(Oct 2017- May 2020)
Stella Jiang, Secretary
(June 2020- present)
Lucy Lin, Director
(Aug 2018- May 2020)
Lucy Lin, Treasurer
(June 2020- present)
Shay Bulich, Director
Chris Bulich, Director
Vanessa Wilson, Director

ADMINISTRATION

Last February 2020, Kate Lucas stepped down as Executive Director and SFP welcomed Monique Carlos to the role. As an educator for many years with a MA in Psychology, Monique had the vision and desire to enhance SFP programs to adhere to both early childhood and family resource program principles.

With the unprecedented changes in the worldwide health scene and our temporary lost of facility, SFP has had to adjust and find new ways to meet the needs of the community. We now mostly operate online with a few sessions at a public park all overseen by our ED.

FINANCIALS

With the onset of COVID-19, we've definitely experienced a tough year financially. Total income was reduced significantly due to city-required closure since the middle of March and ongoing. During October 2019, we also held an online auction which generated some income. Drop-in fees and punch cards revenues were fairly consistent on a monthly basis. Our greatest donation from a private entity still stands to be the Choices Star program, second in place being S-8024 Holdings in partnership with Gramercy Developments Ltd. Currently we have set up a donation link with Canada Helps to generate more support from our local community. We greatly appreciate all donors' support, large or small in helping us keep Semiahmoo Family Place functioning.

In terms of costs, rent was halted at the end of March 2020. The majority of our expense lies with wages and honorariums in keeping SFP running. After a few months of closure, we were able to slowly get back to hosting certain outdoor sessions with limited attendees and other virtual sessions to keep families involved. Going forward, if we expect SFP to continue with closure till the end of the year, our only main cost may be just payroll for staff, bookkeeper and our new executive director Monique Carlos who is currently doing an exceptional job working through the details of keeping Semiahmoo Family Place afloat.

As I recently just took on the position of Treasurer and was recently designated with a CPA accounting degree, I hope to quickly climb the learning curve and utilize my financial knowledge to the best I can for the benefit of Semiahmoo Family Place. Hopefully, we stick together and stay strong so that we can ride through this tough tide of COVID and arise more united than ever.

Lucy Lin, CGA, CPA
Treasurer
Semiahmoo Family Place

PROGRAM IMPACT

Family Place

Monday-Friday, 9:30- 12:00pm

A program for children up to 6 years old, Family Place provides a venue for the child and his or her family to make connections with others.

Activities include Circle Time, arts and crafts, Free Play indoors or at the gym, and Outdoor Play.

July 2019- March 2020

- 3,700 adults and children
- 1712 adults
- 1988 children
- 360 program hours

Baby Place

Tuesday-Thursday, 12:00- 2:00 pm

Providing a calm, safe environment for parents and caregivers to meet each other with their babies, Baby Place is a welcoming space to children 0 to 18 months of age.

Activities include everyone's favorite live music with Nelson, special visits from local health and development consultants, Tummy Time amidst age-appropriate materials.

July 2019- March 2020

- 1,119 adults and children
- 575 adults
- 544 children
- 150 hours

Active Saturday

Saturdays, 9:30am to 12:30 pm (September-June)

Like our Family Place program, Active Saturday offers a drop-in play space for children and their families to be able to spend quality time together all the while keeping active through physical activity.

Beyond the usual arts and crafts, free play and circle time, Active Saturdays is unique in that it features a 45-minute session with one of our community partners who lead families in activities such as dance, yoga, martial arts, and more!

Community Partners

- RibbonFit
- Yoga with Joani
- Wee Dance
- Seung-Ri Academy

September 2019- March 2020

- 323 adults and children
- 159 adults
- 164 children
- 30 program hours

Ask an Expert

A series of visits from local professionals and community resources, SFP families are able to access much needed information throughout the year during our Family Place and Baby Place Programs.

SFP invites speakers to talk about a wide-range of topics including postpartum care, mental health, early literacy, infant and child development, nutrition and more.

Experts

- Public Health Nurse
- Baby Sleep Coach
- Semiahmoo Library

Online Programs

"The programs are excellent and very well organized. We are really enjoying them."

Mommy Neemroz and Inaya

Gathering and Story

The online equivalent of Family Place, Gathering and Story features our SFP facilitators engaging viewers in songs, stories and Circle Time.



Music with Nelson

Recently testing the waters for holding the sessions at a local park, Music with Nelson is a favorite with SFP families wanting to sing along with a familiar face.



"Audrey really loves Nelson and his guitar so it would be great to have him back doing online once or twice a month and not just at Redwood.

Audrey loves when Gigi has a silly theme like beach day with decorations and dress up.

The parenting workshops presented were great. Very informative.

All is great and thank you for continuing to offer the online programs."

Sheana, Scott, Audrey and Chloe

Community Connections

Our online take on Active Saturdays, we invite a community partner to hold a 30-minute online session to get our families moving.



Family Matters Workshop

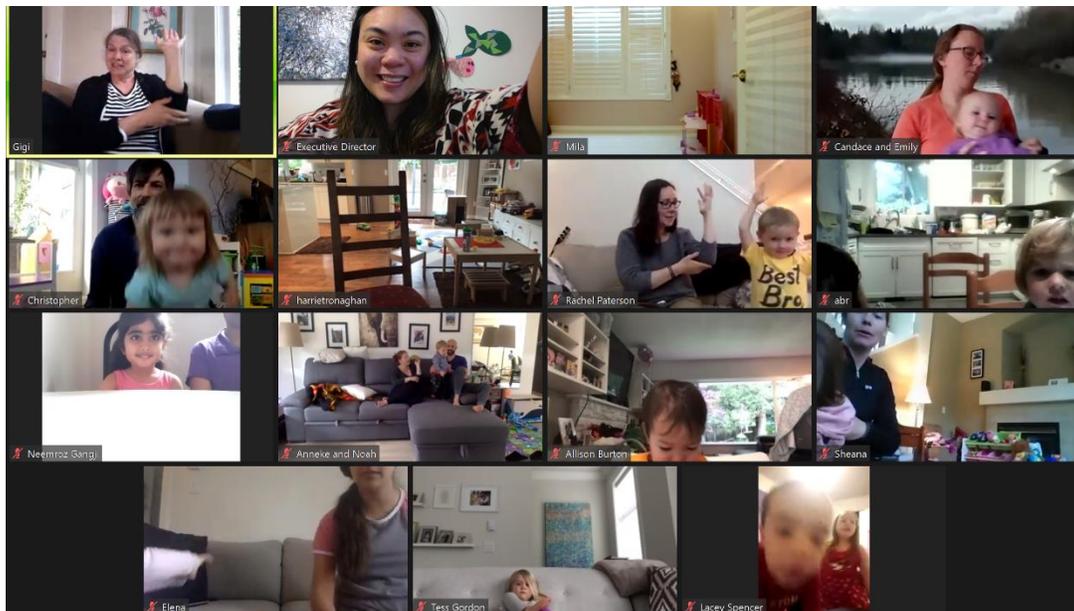
Particularly for our adults, this online program imparts parenting guidelines based on family and child development principles, counseling and child guidance strategies.

"I am daycaring my now 3 yr old grandson on Wednesdays. I appreciate the structure that zoom playgroup provides him and the familiar faces of Miss, Gigi, Alisa & Maria. It would have been a big loss to our morning routine if accommodation had not been found to deliver programing to children from the early years. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate this online weekly group, especially on the day that I am home with him."

I am also in appreciation of the online parenting groups. I attended a zoom on time out and learned some useful tips around preventing tantrums, and the suggestions have worked! I also am paying much more attention to the language that I am using in order to defuse a situation before it becomes a tantrum.

Thank you so much to Semiahmoo Family Place, you have my continued support."

Nana Diana, Violet and Declan



Collectively, our online programs reached 400 adults and children between May and June 2020.

OUTREACH

SFP works with other organizations in providing interactive activities for visitors to the following community events:

- Annual South Surrey Festival- July 27, 2019
- 9th Annual Kensington Prairie Fall Festival- September 14, 2019
- 9th Annual Indoor Tree Lighting Celebration- December 7, 2019

JOY OF GIVING

Last December 2019, through SFPs annual Joy of Giving campaign, we collected donations of unwrapped gifts to include in hampers of fresh produce and groceries, donated by Choices Markets and provided groceries to a total of 7 families.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Semiahmoo Family Place is grateful to receive funding and acknowledge the support of donors, sponsors, foundations, service groups and government agencies who make it possible to provide programs in our community.

Donors, Sponsors, and Gift in Kind

Amanda Harris

Catherine Cristoff

Choices Markets

Chris and Shay Bulich

Darlene Gao

Deborah Zhang

Diane Charleston-Barker

Diane and Bruce Burton

Edelman

Howard Wilson Construction Ltd.

Kate Lucas

Kim Gurney

Mike Bonneville

Ministry of Children and Family Development

Miracon Development Inc.

Peace Arch Hospital Foundation

Sarah and Andrew Gillis

Sheana Branden

Stephan Luking

Westland Insurance

White Rock Optometry

FUNDRAISING

In light of our facility closure, SFP has had the generous support of the Peace Arch Foundation Rapid Response Grant to be able to host our programs through an online platform.

Register

Join us in our online programs! Subscribe to our monthly newsletter to receive information about the month's schedule. Sign up at semiahmoofamilyplace.com

Volunteer

Whether you'd like to be in the play space, behind the scenes, join us often or just for special events, there are opportunities for everyone to be involved with their local family place. Visit our website or email ed@semiahmoofamilyplace.com to let us know how you'd like to help.

Donate

You can help Semiahmoo Family Place continue to connect families through play in a safe, respectful, family-centred environment where parents, caregivers and children can find support, resources, and new relationships. Give online, receive a tax receipt, and discover the benefits of support.

Subscribe

The monthly SFP newsletter provides parent education, child development, and early years learning information as well as upcoming, local, family-friendly events and activities. Sign up today at semiahmoofamilyplace.com.

Follow

Visit [Facebook.com/semiahmoofamilyplace](https://www.facebook.com/semiahmoofamilyplace) to follow our stories, photos, events, and more!

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