

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



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Charitable Registration 133974949 RR0001

Semiahmoo Family Place (SFP) offers a wide range of programs designed to support families in building stronger connections, fostering resilience, and promoting overall wellness. Our family resource programs (FRPs), family wellness programs, and community outreach provide vital services to families with children from infancy through the teen years. These include parent/child interactive drop-ins for young families, as well as parent participation wellness programming for families with children of multiple ages.

Rooted in inclusivity and the diversity of our community, SFP's programs are designed to enhance parenting skills, create engaging and stimulating environments for children, and strengthen family and community connections. Our trauma-informed approach prioritizes prevention, early intervention, and comprehensive family supports, helping thousands of BC families—particularly those facing vulnerabilities—access meaningful programs and resources each year. With services tailored to meet the unique needs of every family, we strive to create a welcoming space where all families can thrive.





LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is with great pride and gratitude that I stand before you today as President of the Board of Directors. This past year has been a year of growth, resilience, and tremendous community support for Semiahmoo Family Place. Our continued success would not be possible without the dedication of our staff, volunteers, board members, and of course, the families that we serve daily.

At Semiahmoo Family Place, we strive to be a welcoming haven for families, a place where parents, caregivers, and children can come together to learn, play, and build lasting connections. It is our mission to create an environment that fosters inclusivity, support, and development, and we remain committed to that vision today and moving forward.

One of the highlights of this year has been our ability to continue expanding our programs and services to meet the evolving needs of the community. We've introduced new resources, enhanced our support for children with diverse need and their caregivers, and also deepened our partnerships with local organizations to ensure that every family who walks through our doors feels supported.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the entire board, whose collaboration and passion have been invaluable. Our team has worked tirelessly to ensure that we are not just meeting but exceeding the expectations of our community. I also want to recognize the incredible contributions of Alyssa (our Executive Director) and staff. Their commitment to excellence in service delivery makes all the difference in the lives of the families we touch.

I must also acknowledge the invaluable contributions of our donors, volunteers, and community members. You are the lifeblood of SFP, and without your generosity, we would not be standing here today, reflecting on such a successful year. Your support has allowed us to grow, expand our services, and continue being a space where families feel welcomed, supported, and empowered.

As we look ahead to the coming year, I am excited about the opportunities before us. We will continue to strengthen our programs, seek out new funding opportunities, and ensure that Semiahmoo Family Place remains a cornerstone of this community for years to come.

Thank you for your ongoing trust and support. Together, we are making a difference, and I look forward to working alongside all of you as we continue to build a stronger, more connected community.

Karan Sood
Board President



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dear Semiahmoo Family Place Community,

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude and pride for the incredible strides we've made together to nurture and support families in South Surrey and White Rock. At Semiahmoo Family Place, our mission to create a warm, inclusive space where families can thrive has never felt more vital. Thanks to your unwavering support and collaboration, 2024 has been a year of remarkable growth, innovation, and community impact.

Expanding Our Reach and Programs

One of our key accomplishments this year has been the expansion of our Family Wellness Initiative, now operating within *Nature Mornings*, *Baby Place*, *Family Place*, and *Super Saturdays*. These programs integrate mental, emotional, and physical wellness into everyday experiences for families. With activities like mindfulness, art therapy, active play, and community meals, we've focused on providing holistic support that strengthens family bonds and builds a resilient community.

Super Saturdays have become a cornerstone of our wellness programming, bringing families of all ages together for shared experiences such as indoor hockey, basketball, Bhangra, Zumba and other family dance classes, art therapy, mindfulness, peer support, and multicultural sharing. This unique program, supported by the Peace Arch Hospital Foundation in 2024, exemplifies our commitment to creating opportunities for families to connect and grow together.



At our new second location in Sunnyside Hall (Bakerview Park), we've introduced beloved programs such as Parent/Caregiver Support and Baby Place, strategically situated on a central bus route to increase accessibility. This location has welcomed an influx of new families, many of whom have expressed gratitude for finding a place to connect, receive support, and access essential services. Soroptimist International White Rock has been an amazing friend to our organisation, fully funding our Parent/Caregiver Support for 2024 which included weekly meals, and weekly experts and therapeutic sessions as well as peer support. We have grown in number significantly at our Sunnyside Hall location where families are able to walk to us or use local transit. We have many newcomers and immigrants accessing our programs at this location as well and are working in partnership with the Surrey Local Immigration Partnership Council (of which we are a member) as well as other local partner organisations in order to offer further supports.

Addressing Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Isolation

Semiahmoo Family Place proudly reflects the diversity of Surrey, welcoming families from many cultures and languages. For some, SFP is a critical lifeline, offering connection and community to families navigating poverty, immigration, or the challenges of building a new life. Our space is a sanctuary where families feel safe to share their struggles and access resources without fear of judgment.

In today's economy, where many families struggle to afford basic necessities, SFP is an answer to social isolation and loneliness. By fostering meaningful connections and offering culturally safe programming, we help families build the support systems they need to feel emotionally well and thrive.

Strengthening Community Resources and Partnerships

Our commitment to helping families grow stronger includes continuously enhancing our referral system. Through partnerships with organizations like Moving Forward Family Services and the Vancouver Art Therapy Institute, we've provided low-barrier access to mental health support and creative outlets. This December, we're excited to partner with Choices Markets to distribute food baskets to families in need, ensuring no family goes without during the holiday season.

Food security has been another key focus this year. Thanks to our partnership with Cobs Semiahmoo, we collect bread twice weekly—one pickup supports our drop-in programs, while the other serves a local low-income housing community. These partnerships demonstrate our commitment to addressing the practical needs of families alongside their emotional and social well-being.



Trauma-Informed Practices and Volunteer Contributions

To better serve our families, we completed Trauma and Resiliency Informed Practice training for all key staff and volunteers this year. This training ensures every interaction is rooted in understanding and compassion, enhancing our ability to support families facing unique challenges.

Our amazing volunteers are the heart of SFP, working tirelessly to make our programs successful. Their dedication enables us to deliver high-quality services on a limited budget, and we are profoundly grateful for their commitment and energy.

Looking Forward

As we look ahead, we are excited about opportunities to further expand our programs and reach even more families. While challenges remain—particularly around securing sustained funding—I am confident in the resilience of our SFP community. Together, we will continue providing vital programs that make a profound difference in the lives of families across South Surrey and White Rock.

Thank You

Thank you to our participants for bringing their authentic selves to all of our programs and for helping to create such a loving and accepting atmosphere for all families. I want to highlight also the incredible board of directors who have given so much of themselves to ensure the success of our organisation's work with a particular thank you going out to our President Karan Sood who has gone above and beyond to provide both direction and assistance whenever his expertise was sought. Thank you to our wonderful staff who always put their hearts into their work, caring for families and creating a home away from home where all are welcome. To our partners, donors, and volunteers—thank you for being part of the Semiahmoo Family Place journey. Your generosity, belief in our mission, and shared commitment to building a stronger, more connected community make all of this possible. Together, we are creating a brighter future, one family at a time.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Alyssa Roberts
Executive Director
Semiahmoo Family Place

THANK YOU!

A huge thanks to all those in the community who support us with gifts in kind as well as cash donations.

Semiahmoo Family Place is funded in part with the support of a City of Surrey Cultural Grant.

We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia.

Some of our programs are generously funded by a Peace Arch Hospital Foundation Healthy Community Grant.

We acknowledge the shared traditional territory of the Coast Salish First Nations on which our venue is located – Katzie, Semiahmoo and Kwantlen.



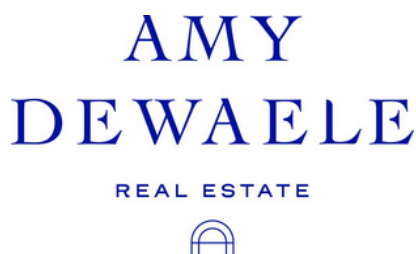
COBS BREAD



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women



moving forward



gramercy



PROGRAM IMPACT

SFP served 575 unique local families this year!

Family Place was open on 160 different days throughout the year. The timing of each session has varied throughout the year but was usually three to four hours.

- 297 unique families served
- 1069 family service visits
- 2321 individual service visits (counting both children and adults)

Baby Place has provided a vital community benefit by offering a nurturing and supportive environment where parents and caregivers of infants can connect, access valuable resources, and gain peer support, promoting early developmental milestones and fostering strong family bonds.

- 219 unique families served
- 524 family service visits
- 1112 individual service visits (counting both babies and adults)
- Baby Place was open twice a week throughout most of the year
- 73 program sessions were ran. Each drop-in session lasts two hours.

Nature Mornings ran for the summer term for 9 sessions. This year Nature Mornings was immensely popular, with some program days seeing over 20 families attend a single session! Total participant count was between 40 and 50 for most sessions.

Super Saturday / Family Wellness was a new all-age family program that has been very popular with the community.

- 191 unique families served
- 451 service visits, by family
- 1300 individual service visits

Creative Cottage brought together entire families (parents and children) to prepare two musical theatre productions together, then performed at Seniors Homes, connecting young children and young families with an older generation and thereby combatting social isolation for all. 47 participants imparted joy and delight to approximately 200 seniors across 4 different locations in this popular intergenerational program thanks to Surrey Cultural Grants and Gaming BC.

Truth & Reconciliation This year, we were honoured to participate at the 4th Annual Walk for Truth and Reconciliation by hosting a popular SFP early years booth that allowed us to stand in support of the Semiahmoo Nation and the truth of Indigenous lived experience. Our staff were very also very thankful to learn and reflect during the *Stories from Our Land* Indigenous History event hosted October 11th by the Surrey Local Immigration Partnership and the Surrey Indigenous Youth Advisory Committee.

Community Outreach focuses on addressing local needs through key activities such as collecting weekly Cobs Bread donations, packaging, and distributing them to families in need; representing our organization and promoting our programs at various community events; and delivering Christmas hampers filled with food generously donated by Choices Market to low-income families. In total, we distributed 280 crates of Cobs Bread, 57 bags of fresh produce from Mary's Garden, and 12 Christmas hampers to families in December!

CONNECT WITH US

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 operations@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 or at SFP, receive a tax receipt, and discover the benefits of support.

Subscribe

The 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

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