semiahmoo FAMILY PLACE



ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

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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 (FRP), family wellness initiatives, 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 my pleasure to present the President's Report for Semiahmoo Family Place (SFP) for 2024–2025. This has been a year of deepening impact, renewed energy, and steady growth as families continue to rely on SFP as a safe, welcoming place to play, learn, and build meaningful Connections.

Over the past year, our Family Wellness programming has become a vital anchor for many new caregivers and children. Throughout our programming, parents and caregivers have had a place to catch their breath, share a meal, access community resource referrals and meet with community experts to support physical and mental wellbeing of both children and their families. These programs are not just "extras" – they are a lifeline for all families, who are these days navigating stress, isolation, and the rising cost of living.

A key part of our vision is parent support and navigation. For many families, Semiahmoo Family Place is the first door they walk through when they are not sure where to turn. Our staff team can help families feel seen and understood, and connect them to further supports, making a real difference in their lives. This may mean referrals to counselling, health services, newcomer supports, or local food resources. It may mean walking alongside a parent through post-partum struggles or helping a family who is new to our community, or even Canada, find their footing in a new community.

We are grateful for the expert visitors and partners who have joined us this year to support families' overall wellness. Guests from mental health, dental health, women's health, early childhood development, nutrition, and food security have come into our programs to share practical information and compassionate support in a warm, informal way. Families are able to ask questions, learn about available resources, and build trust with professionals in a familiar setting where their children feel comfortable and welcome.





Our core Family Resource Programs – including our long-standing Family Place drop-ins and Baby Place – remain the heart of SFP. These play-based programs give babies and young children a strong start while offering caregivers a sense of community and encouragement. We have also continued to grow our creative and intergenerational programming, bringing our family designed shows to seniors homes and uniting generations through the creative arts and lessening social isolation for children, families and seniors.

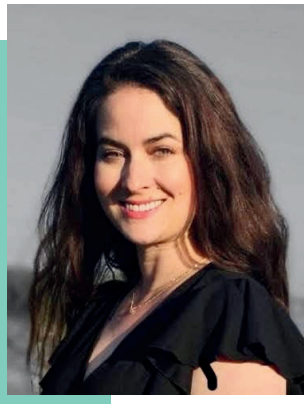
None of this work would be possible without the dedication of our staff team, the generosity of our volunteers, and the guidance of our board. We are also deeply thankful for the ongoing support of our funders, donors, and partners.

Financially, we remain stretched yet stable, but aware that the need in our community continues to rise. We are committed to doing everything we can to keep our programs low-barrier and accessible, and we will continue to seek out partnerships and resources that allow us to respond to families with care, creativity, and resilience.

As we look ahead, our focus remains on sustainability, strengthening community partnerships, and enhancing the experience of every family who walks through our doors. Together, we will continue to build connection, learning, wellness, and a genuine sense of belonging for all families in South Surrey and White Rock.

With appreciation,
Nicole Allen
Board President
Semiahmoo Family Place





EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dear Semiahmoo Family Place Community,
Participants, staff, contractors, partners, directors, and society members,

It is with deep gratitude and pride that I reflect on the year from June 2024 to July 2025. This has been a year marked by meaningful growth, renewed connection, and an unwavering commitment to the families of Surrey, White Rock, and beyond. Guided by our vision of ensuring the well being of children and families, and rooted in our mission to support families through services that strengthen wellbeing and build a connected community, our work has continued to reflect the values that define Semiahmoo Family Place: inclusivity, belonging, collaboration, and care. Our long standing commitment to "connecting families through play" has never felt more vital, especially as families continue to navigate loneliness, increasing financial pressures, and the need for safe, welcoming places to find support, friendship, and joy.

A Year of Connection and Care
This year has reaffirmed what makes Semiahmoo Family Place so special. We are far more than a play space. We are a stigma-free hub where parents, caregivers, and children find warmth, belonging, and guidance. Families often walk through our doors seeking support, community, or reassurance, and find a village ready to welcome them.

Across all our programs we have continued shaping experiences that nurture the whole family. This year we introduced more opportunities for calm, creativity, movement, and connection, offering families a blend of early learning and gentle supports for emotional and social well-being. Super Saturdays have brought families of all ages together for activities such as art-making, dance, sports and games in the big gym, as well as free play, family fun, mindfulness moments, art therapy and informal peer support. These shared experiences have strengthened friendships, eased feelings of isolation, and created joyful memories for children and caregivers alike.

This was also a year where beautiful stories emerged. Our partnership with South Rock Films produced heartfelt testimonials that captured the spirit of our community—none more moving than Stephanie's Story. Through their thoughtful work, families' voices were elevated with dignity and compassion, helping others understand exactly why places like SFP matter. Their films have become an important part of how we communicate our mission, reach new families, and advocate for community wellness.







Growing Partnerships and Community Support
Fraser Health has been a steadfast supporter of our work and an invaluable partner in strengthening the wellbeing of local children and families. One of the most impactful initiatives this year was our partnership with Fraser Health, the BC Lung Association, and Simon Fraser University to deliver hands-on air-cleaning workshops ahead of wildfire season. Families learned how to build their own filtration units to take home, equipping them with practical tools to protect indoor air quality during periods of heavy smoke. These sessions were empowering, accessible, and deeply appreciated—particularly by families with infants, pregnant parents, and those living in smaller or shared housing where poor air quality can pose significant risks.

This year we worked on both policy and programs focused on the health and wellness of children and families. Semiahmoo Family Place was honoured to sit on the following committees: Surrey LIP (Local Immigration Partnership), Learning and Embedding Indigenous Perspectives working group, CAFI - Community Action Food Initiative, Surrey/White Rock Children & Youth Table, TRIP Community of Practice (Trauma & Resiliency Informed Practice), and FRPBC (Family Resource Programs of BC.)

This spirit of partnership has been reflected across our entire network. Our collaborations with Moving Forward Family Services, the Vancouver Art Therapy Institute, the Surrey Child Development Centre, Pacific Post Partum Society, the South Surrey/White Rock Division of Family Practice and many others helped us offer wraparound support for families navigating child development concerns, mental health challenges, and early parenthood. Each partnership enriches our community in a unique way and strengthens our belief that care is most impactful when shared.

We were also proud to expand operations into Sunnyside Hall in Bakerview Park - a bright, central space that now hosts our Family Place with Parent Support Group and Baby Place programming. Families new to the community, especially newcomers, have found this location to be a welcoming doorway into connection and friendship.

Our Community Pantry continued to be a lifeline for families experiencing financial strain. Through the generosity of local partners - Cobs Semiahmoo, Mary's Garden, Starbucks Ocean Park, A Rocha Farms, and others - we offered fresh food with love. Caring for families holistically is an essential part of supporting their wellness, and providing snacks, meals and take home bread/produce remains a core part of our caring service for families.

We continued to receive generous support from our community this year, including significant contributions from the Surrey Fire Fighters Charitable Society, White Rock Rotary Club, Choices Markets' Star of the Season program, Soroptimist International White Rock, and UNITI Self Advocates. We are also grateful for vital grant funding from BC Gaming, the City of Surrey, and the City of White Rock, as well as the many heartfelt private donations from our loyal community members. We were also fortunate to receive substantial in-kind support. This included donated rent from the City of Surrey and Alex Neighbourhood House for our space at the Kensington Prairie Community Centre, and from the City of Surrey for our program space at Sunnyside Hall.





We are also grateful to welcome several new community partners whose support we look forward to highlighting in depth in our 2025/2026 Annual Report. These include United Way through a Work Experience Opportunities Grant (WEOG), our wonderful partnership with UNITI, and new support for our Family Wellness programs from Coast Capital. The families of Surrey, White Rock, and the surrounding areas feel the impact of this growing village of support — especially as our region continues to attract young families at a remarkable pace.

Celebrating Volunteers

Our regular program volunteers have truly been the heart of Semiahmoo Family Place this year. Their kindness is present in every corner: welcoming families, assisting staff, preparing food, and offering a steady helping hand wherever it is needed. They also gave an extraordinary amount of behind-the-scenes support: designing materials in Canva, preparing rooms before programs began, organizing supplies, baking weekly treats, helping with setup and cleanup, sorting donations, creating signage, tending play materials, and assisting staff with countless administrative tasks. Their efforts ensured that every family who walked through our doors was met with a warm, thoughtfully prepared, and loving environment.
Our volunteers embody the spirit of generosity. Semiahmoo Family Place truly shines because of them.

In Appreciation

To our Board of Directors: thank you for your leadership, wisdom, and ongoing support. To our dedicated staff and contractors: your compassion and energy are the foundation of everything we offer. And to our volunteers: your generosity lights up our spaces and fills them with warmth.

Most importantly, to the families who join us week after week: thank you for trusting us. Thank you for showing up exactly as you are. You bring life, laughter, and community into our spaces. You welcome newcomers, support one another, and help us create a gentle, inclusive village where everyone belongs.

As we look ahead, we invite you to continue walking with us. Whether through volunteering, program sponsoring, sharing our story, offering your voice, or simply returning to play and connect, you are part of what makes Semiahmoo Family Place extraordinary.

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.

With thanks to the City of Surrey and the City of White Rock.

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

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

coastcapital SAVINGS

United Way British Columbia

COBS BREAD

uniti

CHOICES MARKET

SOROPTIMIST Best for Women

Surrey Fire Fighters Charitable Society

Rotary Club of White Rock People of Action

Alex House

AMY DEWAELE REAL ESTATE

Miramar Village Dental

moving forward

MARY'S GARDEN A FAMILY RUN BUSINESS

PROGRAM IMPACT

SFP served our growing community at two locations this year!

Community impact of children & family drop-in programs

251 sessions held
593 service hours
546 unique families
2,921 family service visits
1,287 unique persons in programs
6,885 total service visits

Truth & Reconciliation In September 2024, 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.







PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Family Place

The Family Place Program, a cornerstone of our organization, provided a safe, inclusive, and nurturing environment for families. It offered educational and play opportunities for parents and young children, fostering healthy parent-child relationships, building community, and enhancing early childhood development. The Family Place Program was a holistic initiative designed to address a range of vital needs, including mental and emotional well-being, access to educational resources, and the development of strong parent-child relationships.

The SFP Family Place program embodied the mission of "Connecting Through Play," manifest in various ways:

- Our commitment to creating connections, fostering attachment, and supporting mental health underpined everything we do. We aimed to continue on this journey of nurturing relationships, building a strong community, and enhancing the lives of caregivers and children alike.

- We engaged with families through five core areas of service:
  - Family Support
  - Play-based Learning
  - Early Learning and Literacy
  - Parent Education
  - Information and Referrals

- As a Family Resource Program (FRP) Semiahmoo Family Place provided parent/child interactive centers designed for families with children 0–6 years with older siblings welcome. Our program reflected the diversity of the community, and services were designed to strengthen parenting skills, provide stimulating environments for children, and promote family and community engagement.

Linking Families to Resources: We acted as a bridge, connecting families to a diverse array of community resources that enhanced their well-being.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Baby Place

This year, Baby Place has continued to provide 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. With the addition of Baby Sensory Time, families are now further supported in encouraging early developmental milestones, while strengthening family bonds and reducing feelings of isolation during the first year of life.

We also offer Family Navigation for community resources for any extra needs including post-natal depression, anxiety, child development, mental health and more!

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Super Saturday

Super Saturday created a warm and inclusive weekend gathering place where families could connect, play, and recharge together. Through low-cost(or free) drop-ins that included arts, sports, dance, family games and creative activities, families built friendships, strengthened relationships, and reduced isolation. The program supported children's growth and confidence, caregivers with meaningful social connection, and helped nurture stronger, healthier, and more resilient families and a connected community.

Saturdays have been a key part of our Family Wellness programming and we focused on the holistic health of the family including physical (nutrition and exercise), social connections and emotional/mental wellbeing through various healthy family activities in our gym and plaspace at our Kensington Prairie Community Centre location.

The Super Saturday program at Semiahmoo Family Place has continued to be a vibrant hub for community engagement and family wellness over the past year. A key highlight included the successful "DIY Air Filtration Unit Workshop" held on June 14, 2025, and previously on April 26, 2025. These free, hands-on workshops, conducted in partnership with the Simon Fraser University Engineering team, provided around 50 families with the opportunity to build their own air filtration units. Beyond the workshops, each Super Saturday event consistently offered a welcoming environment with crafts, snacks, coffee, and a dedicated play space, fostering social connections and combating isolation within the community.

A significant development in the program was the establishment of a partnership with Moving Forward Family Services, which commenced in September 2024. This collaboration enriched Super Saturday by introducing vital family wellness activities, including mindfulness sessions, relaxing breathing exercises and normalising everyday conversations about stress and mental health. These additions further solidified the program's commitment to supporting the holistic well-being of families.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Family Place with Parent Support

This year, Family Place with Parent Support has continued to provide a vital community benefit by offering a welcoming and inclusive space where caregivers and children aged 0 to 6 can play, learn, and grow together at our Sunnyside Hall (Bakerview Park) location.

Families built supportive peer networks, shared practical parenting strategies, enjoy expert visits and workshops and enjoy a weekly parent support circle with a free lunch. These opportunities reduce social isolation, support positive mental health, and strengthen family connections while nurturing healthy early childhood development.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Creative Cottage

The Creative Cottage Intergenerational Theatre Program provided a meaningful twofold benefit to our community this year. First, it offered families a unique opportunity to create, learn, rehearse, and perform together, strengthening parent - child bonds through shared creativity and teamwork. Parents and children worked side by side to develop acting, storytelling, and performance skills while building confidence and connection.

Second, the program extended its impact beyond participating families by performing the completed productions at local seniors' homes. These joyful intergenerational performances created powerful moments of connection between young children, their families, and elders, reducing social isolation for seniors while helping children develop empathy and respect for older generations. Through laughter, music, and storytelling, the Creative Cottage program built bridges across ages, nurturing a more compassionate and connected community.

Semiahmoo Family Place



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Community Outreach

Our community outreach program encompasses these main activities:

1. Picking up the Cobs bread donation on a weekly basis, bagging and distributing to families in need.
2. Picking up Mary's Garden donation of fruit and vegetables, for use in our programs
3. Representing our organization and promoting our programs at various community events
4. Delivering Christmas hampers of food donated by Choices to low income families.

- 260 crates of Cobs bread distributed to needy families
- Weekly distribution of bread to local low income family housing cooperative.
- 150 bags of Mary's Garden produce distributed
- 14 Christmas hampers distributed to families in need












FIRE
Surrey Fire Fighters
Charitable Society
Date Feb 22, 2023
Semiahmoo Family Place
$ 10,000.00
Ten Thousand

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 friendships. 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.

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