



2021-22

Annual Report

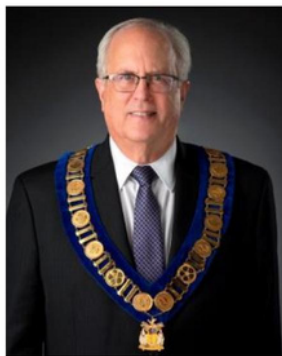


City of
Richmond

Malcolm D. Brodie
Mayor

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GREETINGS FROM THE MAYOR:



On behalf of City Council and the residents of Richmond, I am honoured to extend greetings to the staff and volunteers at the Richmond Family Place and congratulate you all on another successful year.

Established in 1979, the Richmond Family Place (RFP) is a non-profit multi-service family resource that plays a critical role in our community. The RFP offers a safe and welcoming environment to all families by providing programming that supports children in reaching their full potential. With the RFP's support services and outreach programs, the RFP continues to positively impact and improve the social fabric, emotional health and well-being of families, youth and children in Richmond.

Working together, the City and key community partners such as the RFP have made Richmond an international benchmark community for liveability. The Richmond community certainly appreciates and applauds the RFP's significant contributions.

Congratulations again for your outstanding service to our community, and please accept my best wishes for continued growth and success in the years to come.

Malcolm D. Brodie
Mayor

From the Board Chair & Executive Director

The past two years have been difficult for many Richmond families. The Covid 19 pandemic has affected all families, not just those who were already struggling. However, the impact of the pandemic has been especially devastating for low-income families. Our organization saw a sudden & massive increase in families needing 1:1 services as a result of the crisis, a need that continues still. The pandemic has left many families with fewer paths to move toward self-reliance and success.

Fortunately, our long time collaborations with many other organizations helped us respond. These strong partnerships allowed RFP to be the conduit for funding & in kind donations from the business sector, foundations, provincial & federal agencies to RFP could rapidly increase support to the families.

Our social services, deemed “essential” by the Province of BC, meant our team were constantly working, adapting & flexing to meet the needs of families. Expanding access to food, gift cards for food/basic needs, early learning materials to help parents continue their children’s education at home & referrals to other partners providing other critical services.

We are working at the community level to gauge the continuing effects & impacts of the pandemic, quickly learning to adapt to emerging needs. At the same time, we continue to align with other non profits to serve families in new ways by linking support systems in order to be more effective.

This annual report shows how we’ve worked over the past year to promote healthy & resilient families. We will continue to work with our members, all levels of government & stakeholders to advocate for the families of Richmond.

We look forward to continuing our work, with your support, to ensure a better future for all Richmond families, ensuring they become more resilient & self-sufficient as we help to create healthy communities.

We sincerely appreciate the trust you place in us.

Maria Robinson
Chair

Janice Lambert
Executive Director



**We acknowledge that we
live, work and play on the
ancestral, traditional, and
unceded territory of
xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam)
and Hən̓q̓əmin̓əm speaking
people**

Mission & Goals



Richmond Family Place is a Family Resource Program dedicated to 'ensuring that every child reaches their full potential'. We offer a safe and welcoming environment to all families by providing programming that supports families in all aspects of life. Promoting family navigation through relationships, providing support where resiliency & capacity are built through connection, promoting community belonging based on respect & inclusion & helping families to create a social support system.

We deliver our programs through the lens of The BC Early Learning Framework (ELF), which was updated & revised in 2019. This set of interconnected ideas & principles is intended to "promote dialogue about understanding of childhood, knowledge, education & learning" (ELF pg. 11)

The programs & services that Richmond Family Place provides are guided by these principles and uphold the ELF vision of

"Respectfully living and learning together"

Principle 1

Children are strong, capable in their uniqueness, and full of potential

"Every child is a gift, strong & capable in their uniqueness, full of potential, living & growing in complex interdependence with humans & all world relations"



97%
of participants
reported that they
felt comfortable
asking questions
and giving
suggestions about
programs

As each child is unique, so is each family. This is the strength of RFP, gathering the individuals together to create community. Offering a wide variety of programs, times, days & locations provides countless opportunities for each individual family to find the 'perfect' fit. Within every program multiple activities & play invitations provide pathways for each individual to learn & explore at their own pace within their comfort & skill level.

*"As Family Support Workers,
we try to support families
as best to our ability, in
hopes that we make a
difference in their lives."
RFP Staff*

Over
6000
Families
served



Principle 2

Families have the most important role in contributing to children's well-being and learning

Family Support Workers come alongside care givers who stay & play together with their children in all our programs. Within our Family Resource context, family learn & grow together, having access to a wide variety of drop in & parent education programs to support their parenting journey.

"Families are the first teachers, the primary caregivers & the knowledge-holders of their children. Families have the most important role in promoting their children's well-being and learning."

Principle 3

Early years spaces are inclusive

"Classrooms & early care & learning settings are welcoming, inclusive & enriching places where every child and family feel they belong. Each child has histories, contexts, gifts, capabilities & potential that can be honoured & nurtured with responsive practices & environments. Regardless of socio-economic status, geographic isolation, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, abilities & learning needs, family structure & values, every child should be welcomed and empowered to pursue their gifts"

RFP honors every family as unique & worthy of our time & energy. As a multicultural community, we strive for increased understanding so that we may build relationships of mutual support with each other. This year staff have engaged in extensive JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion) learning to further grow in this area. Identifying & working towards the goal of becoming a truly inclusive space for all.



"I never knew how much love and support I could receive within the community and always felt like there wasn't much for support for parents, until my co worker told me about RFP. I will be forever grateful for everything that has been done for me and my family." RFP Member



Principle 4

People build connection and reconnection to land, culture, community and place

Acknowledging our need to engage in the work of reconciliation has been a high priority for RFP this year, leading to staff & Board wide learning. Examining program practises through an equity lens led us to create our first ever 'Winter Celebrations Around the World' event. Families gathered to explore & learn about the variety of ways winter is welcomed and celebrated. Shifting from old 'ways of being' to new possibilities keeps us curious about & connected to the people we serve.

"Children develop a sense of place when they connect with their local communities & outdoor environment. Early learning is "of a place" when children & educators engage with local histories with respectful curiosity & a desire to contribute & share. Indigenous peoples have been the knowledge keepers of these places for hundreds of generations. Indigenous languages are some of the voices of these places"



Principle 5

Relationships are the context for well-being and learning

"People thrive in responsive, reciprocal, respectful relationships with others, & with place & culture educators are living & learning alongside children & families, with an openness to new possibilities. Strong relationships are nurtured through respect, time, care & understanding"

With a starting point of the parent as 'expert' on their own child, we come alongside families to support, encourage & resource. Through this process we build strong relationships of trust with the people we serve. Our Peer Support Program provides an opportunity for caregivers who wish to 'give back' through a 10-week training where participants learn to work alongside program staff & RFP families. Within this context they learn to support & build relationships of mutual support. This builds a strong, respectful & inter connected community.



Over
3,500 hours
of outreach to
families

Over
5,300 hours
of program
delivery



Principle 6

Play is integral to well-being and learning

Child led play is at the heart of RFP's work. Creating inviting spaces & preparing enticing invitations to inquiry based play, staff offer ways for families to "learn, grow & make meaning" side by side. At any of our Drop in Programs, families will find opportunities for purposeful play in all domains of learning (social, emotional, physical, literacy, sensory etc.) This year, as we navigate through the pandemic, a focus on health & wellness & resilience has provided ways for children & caregivers to explore emotions in the aftermath of the last 2 years. Mental health supports & activities have been a crucial part of this process.

"Play is vital to children's learning, growing & making meaning."

"Throughout the Fall and Winter, we run a Play in the Park program at Paulik Park. We have one new family who started coming to this program in May. The child was very hesitant to join us the first time they came. Over the past few weeks, the child has really opened up, and become very comfortable. Now when they come to the program, the child leads the way, and points which direction we will be going to look for items." RFP Staff

Principle 7

Environments are integral to well-being and learning

"The importance of the early care & learning environment – sometimes referred to as the "third teacher" – cannot be underestimated in shaping the experiences of children & adults. They live & learn in relationships with the people around them but are also profoundly affected by their relationships with spaces & materials."

Covid pushed us outdoors into the natural environment. Here we discovered a new 'classroom' full of possibility. Always taking our lead from the child, families found a new way to connect with their child & the environment. Our Wednesday morning 'Play in the Park' program has been extremely popular & staff have engaged in outdoor learning to grow their skills in this area.

Principle 8

Educators are researchers and collaborators

Working 'alongside' as opposed to the 'expert' allow RFP staff to collaborate. Understanding that caregivers have insight & knowledge to share provides a pathway for support & mutual growth. Listening to caregivers informs programming as we are guided by interests & expressed needs. Programs like our Male Caregiver Drop-in are an example of 'observe, listen & experiment' cycle. Parent education is responsive to the needs of the community & current research trends.

"Educators collaborate with children & their families as partners in research. This means educators are continually observing, listening, & experimenting with an openness to the unexpected ... Educators work in relationship with children, and strive to ensure children feel safe, confident, motivated, and listened to."



Principle 9

Learning is holistic

"People learn with the mind, body & spirit & in a relationship with others & the environment. Children are gaining knowledge as they create & test theories, explore the world & express ideas"

At RFP all play is purposeful, multi-faceted & supports all domains of learning including well-being & belonging, engagement with others, materials, and the world, communication and literacies, identities, social responsibility, and diversity. This can be witnessed through such innovations as our gardening, Sing & Play & Project Connect programs.

Our Programs

Drop In

Play and Learn: make new friends and play in a rich, learning environment; enjoying singing, music, and stories.

Play and Learn in the Park: Enjoy our Play & learn program with a nature based approach outdoors year round.

Sing and Play: An opportunity for young children to sing, learn rhymes & hear stories while parents connect with each other.

Male Caregivers Play and Learn: Male caregivers come together & share their experiences & questions about parenting while spending time with their children.

Toddler Time for Chinese Speaking Families: In partnership with Touchstone Family Association & Richmond Public Library. A Play & Learn drop-in program for Chinese speaking caregivers & their children, with a focus on family resources in the Richmond community.



Food Security

Gardening Fun For Families: Families tend, weed, water & harvest the produce at our main location. Caregivers learn how to make healthier meals, grow their own food & about food preservation.

Virtual Meal Program: 6 week cohorts where families receive 'take home' ingredient bags. An uploaded video 'cook along' is provided each week with a new recipe & instructions.

Gift Cards: Over \$74,000 in gift cards were distributed offering much needed grocery support to families.

Parent Education

Nobody's Perfect Parenting: A 6 week program where parents can bring their questions while learning about child development, health & behavior

Baby Babble: In partnership with the Infant Development Program, for parents with children 0-11 months old, this program helps new parents connect with their child and peers while learning what to expect during the first year of the baby's life.

Conversation Circles: Twice weekly parents have the opportunity to facilitate group conversations around any topics that they choose.



Parent Connections

A Vancouver Coastal Health Smart Fund program, this 10 week training provides opportunities for caregivers to build their support skills, grow in work experiences & help build connections between families.

This year Peer Support Workers offered support in program delivery, assisted in our Thrift Store, collaborated for our 'Winter Celebrations Around the World' event & worked on 'behind the scenes' projects like home activity bags.

Early Years Bridging Project

Supported by IRRC funding, the Early Years Bridging Project supports refugees & newcomers with children 0-6 to settle into parenting in the Canadian context. Some highlights from this year include: get more Ukrainian families.

- Weekly drop in programs were delivered via a blend of in-person and virtual programs.
- Conversation Circles & 1:1 support creating connection, breaking down isolation & connecting new comers to resources in the community
- Parent Education classes allowed refugee families to learn about parenting in the Canadian context.
- Gift cards and meal support provided much needed help to financially vulnerable refugee families.

"I am very happy that RFP is here and so readily available in our community.

The staff is very friendly, encouraging and makes you feel incredibly welcome. I'm generally a shy person, but the staff can break you out of your shell and make you feel like you're with close friends." RFP Member

Thrift Store

During the height of the pandemic we continued to support those in need within the Richmond community with clothing & housewares through our gift certificate program. After nearly 2 years of shortened store hours, during the 2021-22 year we were finally able to re-establish consistent store hours and recruit new volunteers. Adhering to Provincial Health guidelines, we slowly reopened our doors to paying customers. By the fall of 2021 we were welcoming customers back on a daily basis to shop for gently used items. Thanks to the tireless efforts of our many volunteers, we have seen a steady increase in Thrift Store revenue. All profits are reinvested directly into the operating of all aspects of Richmond Family Place.

Funding & Donations

The pandemic has impacted our sources of regular funds, including the thrift store & prevented us from hosting an annual golf tournament, traditionally our major fundraising event. As a result, we established alternative ways to fundraise.

During the year, we ran two virtual fundraising campaigns (Giving Tuesday & the Great Canadian Giving Challenge) &, thanks to a generous corporate sponsor, benefited from two additional fundraising campaigns.

We focused our efforts to increase our monthly donor base, creating a video highlighting the benefits & impacts of monthly donations. This resulted in an increase of monthly donations.

We continue to seek regular donors & invite you to consider supporting RFP on a regular basis.



Additionally, we adapted & expanded our holiday hamper program to allow for safe drop-offs & pick-ups.



Supporting Richmond Family Place can take many forms from direct financial donations to corporate fundraisers, but also through in-kind donations like the beautiful new signage provided by Carol Day at Cat Signs and Graphics.

We were thrilled to received a **\$10,000 prize from the TELUS' #FriendlyFuture Days contest** in May 2021! Zoe Ahlstrom and her daughter Maya Harpool were nominated for their contribution to "making the future friendlier and giving back during the pandemic". Zoe & Maya collected, washed & returned clean, our laundry each week, donating hundreds of hours to our organization.

Board of Directors & Staff

Board Chair: Maria Robinson

Vice Chair: Sherry Sinclair

Board Members:

Jennifer Chin

Erica Chow

Jessica Chung

Mahvash Derakshan

Jeff Hsiao

Grace Luo

Masud Khawaja

Stephanie Martin

Grace Tsang

Louise Yeoh



Family Support Workers:

Maha Abdelhamid

Marilou Almendrala

Diane Castillo

Elaine Chiu

Nada Ghanim

Rachel Gilder

Victoria Liu

Grazella Stephan

Emily Yacobian

Cultural Brokers:

Ferhan Aktar

Hoda Gouda

Executive Director: Janice Lambert

Program Director: Ruth Taverner

Office Administrator: Valérie Allen

Early Years Bridging Project

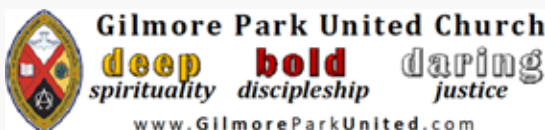
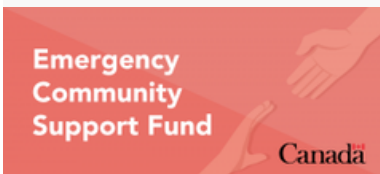
Coordinator: Hala Kapani

Parent Connections Team Leader: Cecilia Manriquez

Thrift Store Team Leader: Sara Hii



Funders, Sponsors & Donors



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