

Summer Heat program builds skills and self-confidence in inner city youth

“We rely heavily on organizations like CLICK to provide the financial support to address the needs of our at-risk youth and give them an enriching summer experience.”



IMAGINE being a teen living in Vancouver and not having the financial means or support to experience the North Shore mountains. That is the reality for many children and youth living in poverty in our city.

But thanks to the CLICK-funded Summer Heat Youth Leadership Camp, offered by Strathcona Community Centre, inner city teens have access to new and inspiring experiences.

The eight-week summer program is for 11 to 14 year olds and, with adult mentors, takes the youth on day trips across the Lower Mainland, with outdoor recreation being the biggest part. Participating youth not only face the financial barrier of families who can't afford enrolment in any recreation opportunities, they also face personal challenges such as low self-esteem and personal insecurities, as well as inconsistent family supports.

Through activities such as hiking, kayaking, swimming and community projects, participants learn important life, social and leadership skills and develop a sense of community.

“It's the life skills especially we're hoping to give these youth, as well as the happy memories and friendships that are created with other participants. The program also focuses on the skills and tools that the youth entering high school in the fall will need,” says Sally Chan, Community Youth Worker at Strathcona Community Centre.

Sally notes that CLICK funding is key to being able to offer programs like Summer Heat. “We rely heavily on organizations like CLICK to provide the financial support to address the needs of our at-risk youth and give them an enriching summer experience.”

IN THIS ISSUE

Donor Profile

John Fuerst and Pat Gill

Events

4th Annual CLICK Conversations

President's Message

Beside all the buzz and growth, a tough struggle

Inner City Kids Week in Vancouver

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JOHN FUERST AND PAT GILL have made acting on their values central in their lives. And one of those values is that children in difficult economic and social circumstances need and deserve our support.

Having worked as a speech and language pathologist in inner city schools, Pat had first-hand experience with children whose home life made it difficult for them to overcome barriers. On a daily basis she was reminded how important community supports are to children facing challenges. “The closer a family lives to amenities, the better children do in school.”

Originally from the United States, she and John, a tax accountant, moved to Vancouver from Seattle in 1994. Soon after, Pat began volunteering with KidSafe, an inner city program that provides vulnerable children and youth with support during school breaks (KidSafe is a CLICK funding

recipient). She also joined the boards of KidSafe and Mount Pleasant Community Centre.

John served on the KidSafe board for 10 years, using his accounting background to help them achieve financial stability. He also served on the board of the Homework Club, which provides tutors to high school students who are at risk of dropping out of school.

Why do Pat and John support CLICK?

“Because CLICK supports organizations that work with inner city kids. CLICK knows where the needs are and which organizations are making a difference,” says John.

4th Annual CLICK Conversations

ON MARCH 6th, CLICK hosted the 4th annual CLICK Conversations.

Representatives from the 2017 grant recipient programs shared successes and challenges with CLICK donors and board members. It was also an opportunity for the organizations to meet others in their sector who support children and youth living in poverty in Vancouver.

The 67 programs that CLICK supported in 2017 ranged from urban gardening, healthy food preparation, literacy programs for refugees, safe out of school programs to sports and the arts.

Here’s one participant’s review that sums up the sentiments of many of the attendees:

Thank you so much for a great CLICK Conversations. It is rare that you see such a mix in one room: program delivery staff, executive directors, board members, donors and fundraisers (like me!). Even though we come from different perspectives - with varying tools, resources and methods at our disposal - we are all working towards the same goal.

The afternoon gave CLICK the encouragement to know that we are making progress in our mission: to engage the community by raising funds for programs that support inner city kids so they can succeed.





Beside all the buzz and growth, a tough struggle

WHEN I MOVED to Vancouver in 1985, the city was, to put it mildly, very different than the one I see around me today. If you were middle class, and even making minimum wage or a little above that, you could find some sort of housing in the city. Those days, as we all know, are long gone.

In certain streets in this city – one in my neighborhood – there are old RVs parked at the side of the road. People are clearly living in them for lack of affordable housing. In a city where a one-bedroom apartment is now renting for around \$2,000 a month, what does a working poor family do?

When families – many of them headed by a single parent – can't find decent housing, it's not just adults who feel the consequences. The huge stress that puts on parents is inevitably felt by their children in multiple ways. Food is scarcer and there is little money for bus fare, clothes, sports and so many other opportunities.

But there is hope – and the organizations CLICK funds provide that to kids every day. So please consider a donation to help CLICK reach its 2018 goal of \$110,000. And because poverty is a daily reality for one in five children in Vancouver, please also think about becoming a CLICK monthly donor (see back page for details).

Vancouver may have grown into a big, bustling international city... but it still takes a village to raise a child.

Catherine Atyeo
President

THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS PARTNERS



You have made a difference in the lives of inner city kids in Vancouver.

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In your city...

One in five children in Vancouver lives in poverty.
In 2018 CLICK's goal is to raise \$110,000 to help ensure that as few of these children as possible fall through the cracks.

May 7-13 is Inner City Kids Week in Vancouver

You can help CLICK help kids.

- Make a one-time donation to help us reach our goal
- Become a monthly donor because kids need our help year-round
- Organize a fundraiser for CLICK at home or in your workplace
- Promote Inner City Kids Week in your organization (contact CLICK for products)

Here's how your donation can help Vancouver's inner city kids year-round

\$50

covers a full season for an inner city kid to play a sport, including league fees, transportation, tournaments and coaching.

\$100

covers two weeks of summer camp or a holiday safe place for an inner city kid.

\$200

purchases a full season of arts and craft supplies for an after-school program.

\$500

covers a season of healthy snacks for an after-school program.

Yes, I want to help inner city kids in Vancouver and will donate.

\$20 \$50 \$100 \$ _____ Other

TO DONATE BY CHEQUE

- Please make cheque payable to CLICK and mail to:
CLICK
c/o Britannia Community Education
1001 Cotton Drive
Vancouver, BC V5L 3T4

TO DONATE ONLINE

- Go to our website clicktokids.ca and click on the **DONATE TO CLICK** button
- Please consider a monthly donation - the needs of inner city kids are year-round

Tax receipts are provided for all donations over \$20. Please ensure name and address are on cheque or included with donation.

A NEW WAY TO DONATE TO CLICK

You are now able to donate securities or mutual funds to CLICK simply by clicking **Donate Securities** on our CanadaHelps donation page, accessed via our website clicktokids.ca. This method of donating is becoming very popular in Canada because when you donate your securities directly through CanadaHelps, your capital gains aren't subject to tax.

HAVE QUESTIONS? Get in touch at contact@clicktokids.ca.