

Easter Seals BC/Yukon



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ABOUT US

Easter Seals House has been a home-away-from-home since 1955 for families and adults throughout BC and Yukon who have to travel to Vancouver for medical treatment. Located just blocks away from Vancouver's best hospitals and treatment centres, Easter Seals House is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. With 49 individual double occupancy suites, each with their own full kitchen, the House provides personal autonomy to guests so they can relax, cook and live in their own space. This convenience is important to everyone, particularly those with compromised immune systems and special dietary needs. Having similar comforts to home helps alleviate some of the stress for guests staying in an unfamiliar city, for what may be one to two nights, a couple of months, or more than a year. Easter Seals House provides over 30,000 bed nights every year.

Easter Seals Sleep Away Camps have offered a week-long, fully-accessible camp experience for 51 years to more than 35,000 children with diverse abilities. There are three Easter Seals Camps: Camp Winfield near Kelowna, Camp Shawnigan near Victoria and Camp Squamish. Our camps service the full range of both physical and intellectual disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder, down syndrome, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy and many others. The camp program provides a high camper to staff ratio with leaders who are enthusiastic and highly trained to support the needs of every camper. Along with onsite medical care, specialized meals and customized programs, Easter Seals Camps offer a magical experience for campers to build confidence, develop a positive self-image, enhance skills, create friendships and it gives families and caregivers an important respite.

Easter Seals Camp@Home was initially developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to bring the adventure and skill-building fun of the camp program to the home of our campers. The program filled a truly valuable gap for so many families that the program was extended to other high need periods throughout the year. The online program continues to provide campers with a sense of community and peer to peer support while also extending a much-needed respite to caregivers.

HISTORY

In 1947, a group of Lions Clubs in BC decided that they could make a difference in their community by providing transportation to children with disabilities so that they could attend school, doctor's appointments and other important events. The BC Lions Society for Children with Disabilities was established shortly thereafter, and the development of a province-wide accessible bus system began. While BC Transit has taken over the bus service since, other services for children and their families began to take shape, and with the integration of the Easter Seals franchise came the development of Easter Seals House and Easter Seals Camps.

OUR FUTURE

We are in the 3rd year of our 10-year plan to see our facilities evolve into dynamic year-round community hubs, which still offer summer camps for kids, in addition to skills and employment development opportunities, mixed housing, social enterprises, and so much more. This groundbreaking plan allows us to amplify the impact of donor dollars on vital support services and programs, increase and support all individuals with diverse abilities, while also improving operational and financial efficiencies to ensure the organization's long-term sustainability. This bold new venture will begin with Camp Shawnigan on Vancouver Island.

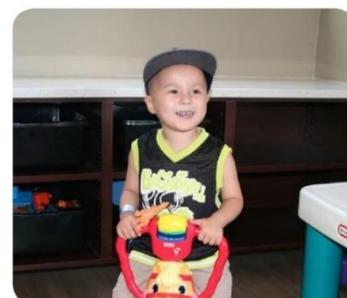
STORIES



For Marco, Easter Seals Camp shaped his future. Marco was born three months premature and was soon diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy and began his early childhood both shaped and defined by his wheelchair. Then Marco attended Easter Seals Camp which would set the path for his future. At camp, Marco wasn't the only one with a disability and he wasn't defined by his wheelchair. Instead, it was a place where he was encouraged to push himself beyond his idea of 'disability'.

Marco spent the next ten summers developing skills, confidence, and a sense of independence. He also made friendships and found a community that he hadn't found elsewhere. Today, Marco runs his own business consulting with a network of business leaders to help increase employment for persons with disabilities across BC. Marco also recently joined Easter Seals Board of Directors.

Battling cancer meant travelling for treatment and staying at Easter Seals House for Dayton. Two-year-old Dayton was diagnosed with Leukemia and spent three years coming to stay at Easter Seals House. When first diagnosed he and his mom, Racheal, spent a long nine months living at the Easter Seals House. Away from the usual support system Racheal had to deal with a heart-breaking diagnosis, an infant daughter and a brand new city. Fast forward three years and the Easter Seals House is a second home to Racheal and Dayton. We are so happy that chemotherapy treatment has finished for Dayton, but when he comes to Vancouver every three months for his checkups, the Easter Seals House is here for him and his family to stay.



"Emmett has been just loving every minute. We are so impressed with how Easter Seals has managed to translate the magic of in-person camp to this virtual format. The amazing staff and camp counsellors have gone over & above to ensure all the campers engaged and entertained. It's been so much fun and we're so happy to have been a part of it."
~ Paula (Emmett's Mom)

"This was Edward's first experience with Easter Seals and he loved the Virtual Camp and loved the whole Camper Kit."
~ Edward's mom

EVENTS & CAMPAIGNS

Month	Event/Campaign	Location	Description
March	Easter Seals Month	Province-wide Campaign	Details TBD
April	Easter Seals National Paper Egg Campaign	Province-wide Campaign	Each Spring, Easter Seals corporate and business partners across the country will encourage their customers to purchase colourful Easter Seals paper eggs at the store's checkout counters. Or, visit www.paperegg.ca and send an Easter Seals Spring e-Card to family and friends.
May	Accessibility Week	Province-wide Campaign	Details TBD
June	Chrome & Cocktails	Vancouver Event	Details TBD
September	Drop Zone Events	Kelowna, Burnaby, Surrey and Vancouver Events	Drop Zone challenges participants to fundraise for the rare opportunity to rappel down a skyscraper. Individuals or teams can register. Superhero costumes are optional!
December	Giving Tuesday Campaign	Province-wide Campaign	Hot off the heels of consumerism with black Friday and Cyber-Monday, comes Giving Tuesday - a global movement for giving and volunteering.
Year-Round	Community Events	Province-wide Community Events	All year-round our supporters host a variety of different fundraising events in support of Easter. Golf or poker tournaments, bowling challenges, musical concerts...etc.

VOLUNTEERING

COVID-19 UPDATE:

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the vulnerable nature of the people we serve, we are unable to facilitate in-person tours of our facilities at this time.

Easter Seals BC/Yukon offers a variety of volunteer opportunities in support of our programs and services. Whether it's an individual, a group of colleagues, family or friends, there are several projects that could use the generous gift of time and skills from volunteers.

Easter Seals House	Easter Seals Camps	Other
• Room renovations	• Virtual program content delivery	• Special events
• Urban Camp Program	• Spring cleanup	• Administration
• Gardening	• Skills workshops (in-person or online)	
• Garage cleaning	• Talent Show Judging (in-person or online)	
• Holiday decorating	• Painting	
• Painting	• Basic landscaping	
• BBQ/Social event	• General repairs	

TOUR OUR FACILITIES

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Under different circumstances, a tour of **Easter Seals House** in Vancouver can be arranged all year-round. We can accommodate up to 10 people on each tour. During the tour we will walk you through a guestroom, lounge, courtyard garden and office space, all while learning interesting facts about the people we service and our history.

The in-person **Easter Seals Camp** sleepaway program is available the summer months at Camp Winfield (near Kelowna), Camp Shawnigan (on Vancouver Island) and Camp Squamish. On this tour you will explore the beautiful surroundings of the property where our outdoor activities take place and the indoor facilities where the dining, sleeping and indoor activities occur.

The **Easter Seals Camp@Home** program in response to the COVID-19 pandemic takes place during high need periods throughout the calendar year including the summer months, statutory holidays, the holiday break, spring break...etc. We invite you to join us virtually to take part in select online camp activities!