

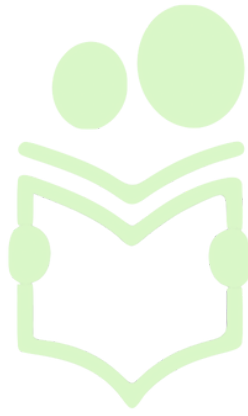


LEARNING
Buddies
NETWORK



2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER

LBN started with a simple idea of offering weekly help to kids who were falling through the cracks at school. A group of idealistic high school students—my daughter and her friends—mentored Little Buddies at DLG school under the guidance of my co-founder, Alison Lee, a UBC undergrad student, now a Pediatric ER physician. We have come a long way since those days in 2008! We now reach children in over 35 schools, across the Lower Mainland, even as far as Bella Bella. We were exclusively online during the pandemic, and now we are returning to some in-person programs in schools, community centres and libraries. We have a dedicated cadre of 50 volunteer leaders who are passionate about their work, who themselves lead another 200 volunteer mentors who do the one on one mentoring.



ALISA LIPSON
PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER

Our mission is to help kids. The LBN 'secret sauce' is the relationship that develops between the dedicated mentor and the buddy, through which true self-esteem emerges from the hard work done together. We have learned through the years that there are many practical elements that need to coalesce seamlessly for our Little Buddies to experience successful mentoring relationships. We expend great efforts to make our programs of as high quality as they can be.

Our dedicated volunteers contribute not only their work with their Buddies but also many creative ideas and initiatives that we have incorporated into our systems. We are incredibly proud of them, many of whom learn the deep satisfaction of giving of themselves to help another person.

This year is an exciting one as we now have the capacity to roll out programs to new communities in BC, under the outstanding leadership of our new Executive Director! Thank you to all who support our work, without which we could not help our Little Buddies!

MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This past year has been very exciting for LBN. We provided programs to 384 buddies, each with a whole term of mentoring. Our incredible volunteers generously contributed over 21,000 hours of their time of which over 9000 hours were direct tutoring hours with a Little Buddy.

We went into the Fall 2021 term with staff in new roles and a revised Program Committee structure. To ensure volunteers are adequately trained, we started our Moodle Project in January of 2022 with the goal of creating digital online training modules. Since then, we have created our own portal and are now launching and implementing asynchronous training for all of our volunteers. Having experienced Teacher Liaison support once every other session has also greatly improved the quality of our program delivery.

I would like to thank our staff team for being open to new opportunities. You are the ones that make everything possible. I would also like to thank all of our amazing volunteers – mentors, coordinators, volunteer team members, and our volunteer board. Your dedication is what makes it possible for LBN to offer programs completely free of charge.



OWEN FAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Dr. Alisa Lipson
VP: Margaret Kalaski
Treasurer: Travis MacDonald
Secretary: Joanna Xie
Member: Joshua Millard
Member: Dr. Kenneth Cole
Member: Bernard Pinsky
Member: Ian Johnson
Member: Tina Leung

2021/22 SPONSORS

- The Province of British Columbia
- CKNW Kid's Fund
- TD Bank
- Google
- Richmond Chinatown Lions Club
- Telus Future Friendly Foundation
- Diamond Foundation
- Chris Spencer Foundation
- Vancity Community Foundation
- Edith Lando Charitable Foundation
- Mel & Geri Davis Charitable Foundation
- Phyliss and Irving Snider Foundation
- GMR Foundation
- Anonymous Donor
- UBC Center for Community Engagement
- SFU Surrey TD Center for Community Engagement
- Canucks Tickets for Kids

OUR STORY SO FAR

OUR MISSION

1. To provide free extracurricular tutoring through mentoring to elementary school children who are struggling with basic academics
2. To improve academic skills, self-esteem and attitude to learning in these children through teaching, one-on-one mentoring and group activities;
3. To provide young adults a meaningful and rewarding volunteer experience with an opportunity to act as a role model to children and develop leadership and communication skills

OUR IMPACT

Research shows that well implemented mentoring programs can result in significant improvement on standardized measures of reading and math achievement. Such programs not only improve test scores, but have a positive impact on student attitudes toward academic skills as well as on learning in general. The strong relationships formed with volunteer mentors enhances self esteem and suggest the mentoring program contributes to long term success in school. Our approach at Learning Buddies Network is to initiate early intervention into the lives of students who would otherwise not receive the help they need.

Equal to the learning outcomes, a second impact of our program is to promote and build volunteerism in young adults around the lower mainland. Every year, we train and support over 300 young people as reading and math mentors, many of whom stay with us for multiple terms. LBN encourages our volunteers to use their own talents and creativity. Many seek leadership positions and learn valuable personal skills. We are proud that our volunteers become leaders and active global citizens.

Since the introduction of LBN in 2008, we have helped nearly 5,000 children from more than 40 schools and organizations across the Lower Mainland.

LEARNING BUDDIES PROGRAMS

OVERVIEW

Learning Buddies Network operates reading and math tutoring programs in weekly sessions after school in elementary schools in the lower mainland. During the summer, we operate our programs three times weekly in community centres. Each tutoring session typically involves 8-12 pairs of mentors and children, where the children are tutored one-to-one. All participants are together in a group location, such as the school library or designated meeting room. Group activities are included in the tutoring program as well. The population served is elementary school-aged children who are falling behind in basic academics in reading and math. These children are selected by their resource or classroom teachers as suitable for our program. Many of our students come from families who are not able to augment the school program with a parent or paid tutoring support. In order to fully support our students without placing an extra financial burden on them, our programs are free.

Currently, we run a total of 16 programs during the school year, servicing 30+ different schools and organizations. During the summer we run programs in Vancouver, Burnaby, and Surrey.

In 2021, through the efforts of
550 volunteers, Learning
Buddies Network provided over
9,000 HOURS
of free tutoring

STAFF

PROGRAM DIRECTORS AND PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Bev Hamm and Marlene Konyves have filled this role to implement monthly meetings to address specific concerns that arise in sessions and increase communication with Teacher Liaisons.

ADMINISTRATOR

Responsible for managing and improving the organization's administrative systems, organizing all digital resources required for programs, and with bookkeeping.

LMS DEVELOPERS

Two developers were hired to take lead and develop our brand new Moodle platform. A learning management system that will assist us with training along with allow us to offer increased quality of online sessions for buddies.

PROGRAM SYSTEM CONSULTANTS

Responsible for assisting the Program Committee with technical support and the creation of new resources, and with program resource support.

LANGUAGE SUPPORT TEAM

A TEAM OF 22 VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST WITH INQUIRIES AND REGISTRATION IN:

- Japanese
- Cantonese
- Mandarin
- Farsi
- French
- Punjabi
- Korean
- Hindi
- Bosnian
- Croatian
- Serbian
- Arabic
- Malayalam
- Urdu
- Portuguese
- Vietnamese

PROGRAM DATA & FEEDBACK

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"Your presence has benefited many children and parents in our community with security, increased confidence, and hope. Trust that the work that you do here has a profound effect in making our future more caring, more aware, and more kind. My gratitude for LBN runs deep, and I look forward to continuing our connection into the next school year."

-Teacher Sponsor

”



99%

OF PARENTS RATED
READING BUDDIES 4-5/5

100%

OF PARENTS RATED
MATH BUDDIES 4-5/5

85% of math
volunteers and
96% of reading
volunteers felt a
part of a team

96% of math volunteers
and
95% of reading volunteers
felt connected to LBN's
mission

98% of volunteers would
recommend volunteering
with LBN to others



“

"Everyone's ideas are truly taken into consideration and that makes me feel as if my contributions are deeply valued, irrespective of age or experience"

- Staff Member

”

2021-2022 EVENTS



VANCOUVER CANUCKS AND WARRIORS

The Canucks Tickets for Kids Program allowed us to send 20+ LBN volunteers to Canucks and Warriors games, for free!

UBC CCEL
READING WEEK 2022

Volunteer:
Feb 21-26
Project 4/4

UBC CCEL

Project Highlight

UBC MENTORSHIP AND ON-CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT

In this 3-day project, UBC students will work to create an engaging after school event that supports David Lloyd George Elementary School students and students tutored by the Learning Buddies Network to experience UBC campus and receive positive university mentorship.

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Centre for Community Engaged Learning

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA READING WEEK PROJECT

With the help of our partners from UBC's Center for Community Engaged Learning and David Lloyd George Elementary, we brought 34 kids to UBC for a tour of their campus.



2021 SCOTIABANK HALF MARATHON

Businesses, friends, and family came together to virtually run either 5k, 10k, or 21k for a good cause. Through this event, attendees were able to raise over \$16,000 towards Learning Buddies Network!



TD FINANCIAL LITERACY WORKSHOP

'Ways to Save' was a virtual financial literacy workshop run in collaboration with TD Bank. During the workshop young attendees were guided through ways to save and how to be tax efficient. Many of our own staff were in attendance, and even learned some helpful tips.



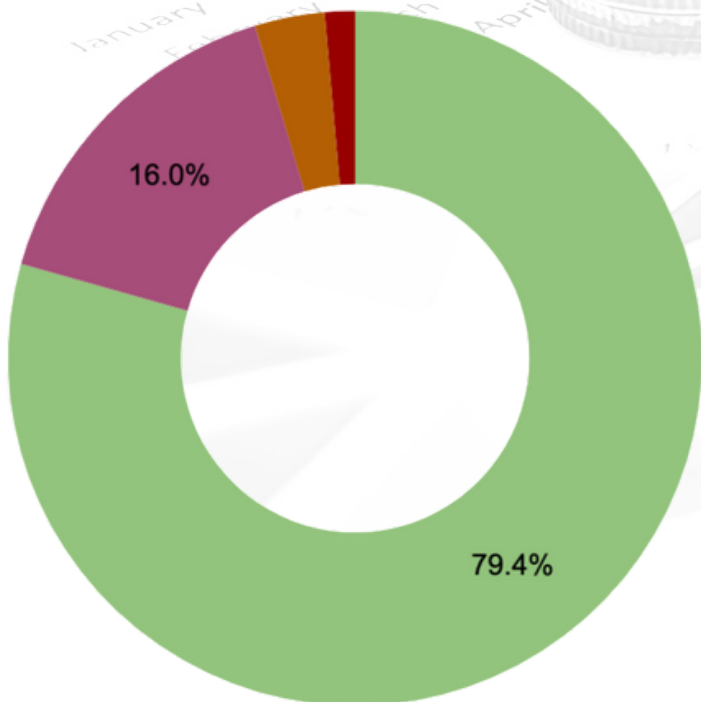
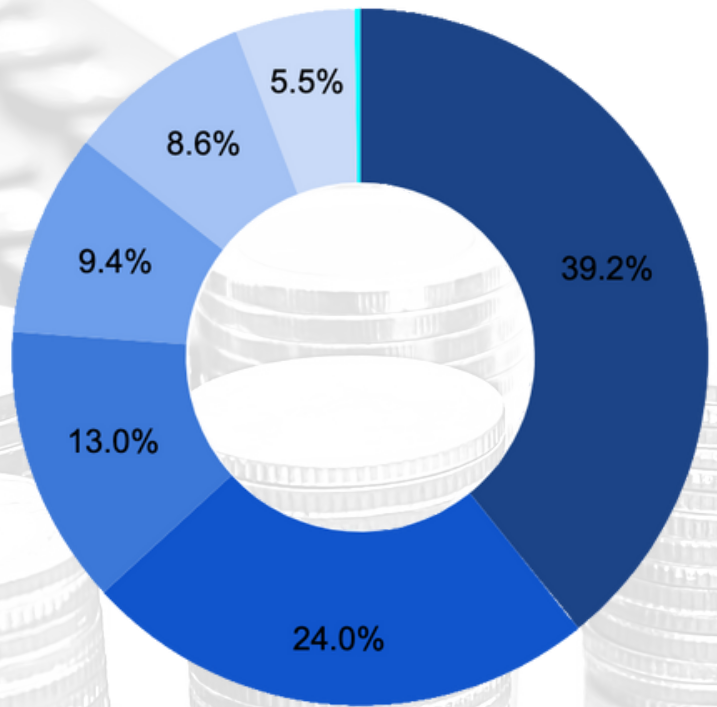
FINANCIAL REPORT

Income

Total Income

\$173,439

- Community Boards
- Province of BC
- Family Foundations
- Individual Donors
- Events
- Directed Funds
- Interest



Expenses

Payroll	\$122,272
Direct Program	\$24,573
Administration	\$5,025
Fundraising	\$2,163
Total Expenses	\$154,033



LEARNING
Buddies
NETWORK

Learning Buddies Network would like to sincerely thank all of our amazing volunteers, staff, and sponsors for helping us continue to make a difference in young students' lives.

Executive Director

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Julia Law

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(647) 309-7193

General Inquiries

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“ From a Little Buddy “I like learning new things with my mentor. Other kids should join Learning Buddies to make them smarter.” ”



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