

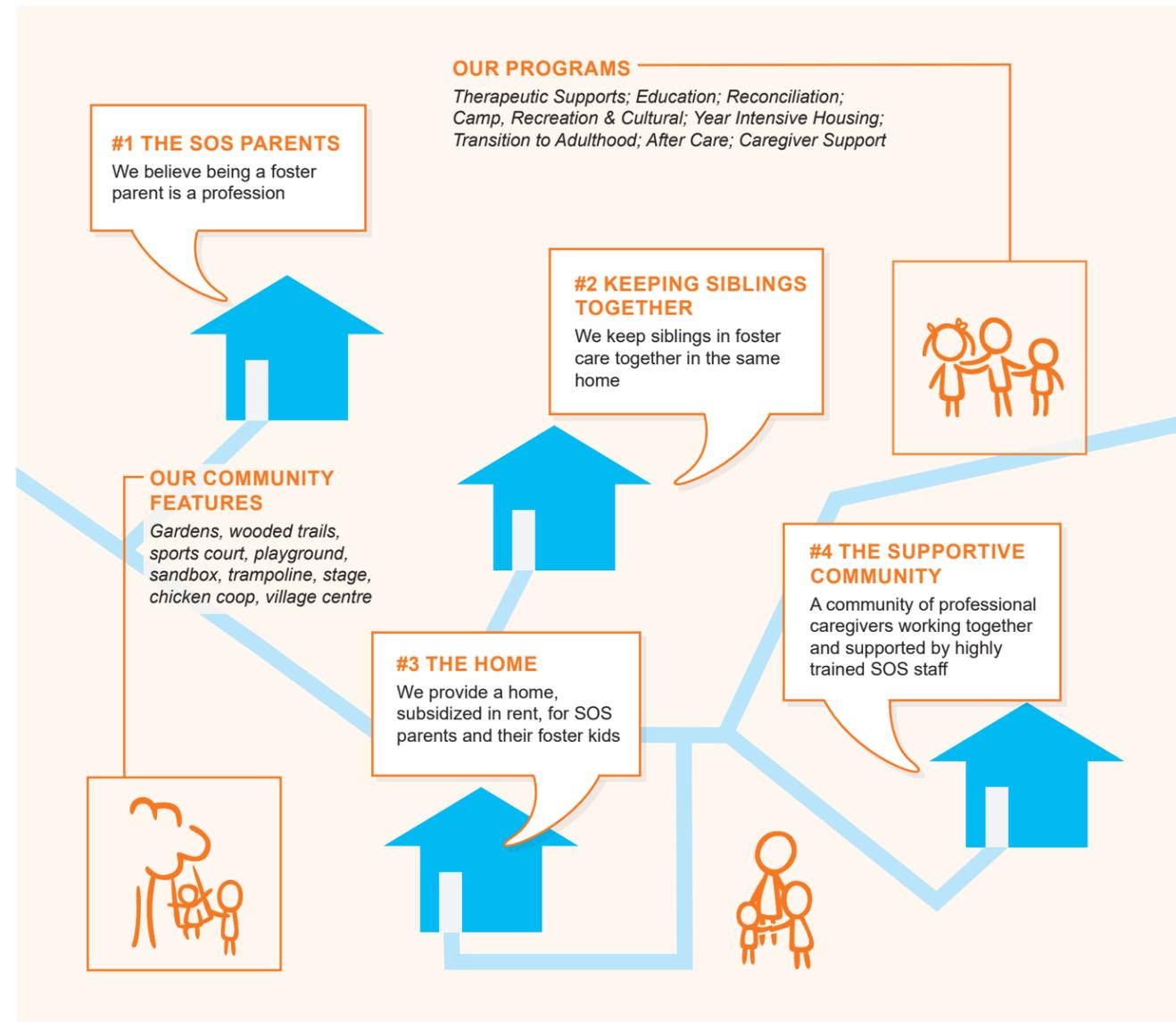
ANNUAL REPORT 2020



SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGE
BRITISH COLUMBIA



OUR MODEL OF CARE MADE POSSIBLE BY YOU



YOUR SUPPORT OF QUALITY CARE MADE AN IMPACT IN 2020

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|--|---|---|
| <p>Our Village of belonging in Surrey was home to 5 families, 30 children and youth, and 5 independent youth in Year Intensive Housing suites.</p> | <p>90 kids in total supported through their transition out of care since the Village first opened in 1999 (our SOS Alumni). Through your donations, you've helped raise these kids and changed their lives forever.</p> | <p>24 kids and youth received personalized educational support while attending school from a distance, ensuring they didn't fall behind during the pandemic.</p> |
| <p>50 youth supported in our Transition to Adulthood Program in the community. Because of you, these youth did not become homeless after aging out of care.</p> | <p>23 youth stayed connected through our After Care Program and received support, which in turn helped keep young families together.</p> | <p>42 SOS BC community members participated in weekly outdoor educational/cultural day trips and excursions that vastly improved mental wellness during COVID restrictions.</p> |
| <p>Trauma informed clinical services provided to children at the Village with one-on-one counselling, art therapy, and animal therapy on a weekly basis.</p> | <p>We had another year of a 100% graduation rate in our Village community.</p> | <p>Family Strengthening through camping opportunities in connection to local First Nations.</p> |
| <p>2 young mothers provided with wraparound support during an extremely difficult year.</p> | <p>5 youth in Year Intensive Housing received extended support, due to the pandemic and its ongoing impact on transition planning for youth aging out of care. Food security, shelter, and basic needs were always provided for.</p> | <p>16 foster parents supported weekly through our Caregiver Support Program and our 24/7 Child Protection & Child Safeguarding Team.</p> |

A MESSAGE TO YOU FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2020 was an unexpected year for all of us, with the pandemic starting in early March and causing a ripple effect in our communities and our day-to-day lives.

In a matter of what seemed like a few days, our SOS Children's Village BC team geared up and prepared to face our front lines by finding creative ways to continue our services and supports. We ensured that even youth and families in isolation were still connected to our unique model of belonging.

The year also presented many challenges due to recent events in North America. Our communities started to reflect on the injustices Black, Asian, and Indigenous communities face here in Canada, as well as the ongoing systemic oppression of Indigenous peoples.

SOS BC addressed the impact of these events in our organization and communities and geared up to take on inclusion, diversity, and awareness in all areas of our charity. We are strongly committed to ensuring the organization not only reflects the community we serve, but is also mindful and aware of how we move forward in solidarity with our communities.

With the support of our caring donors and team, we were able to not only provide supports and services to our children and youth, but we were also able to expand these services during the pandemic year.

We know that the efforts and impact would not be possible this year without the community that supports us, including our donors, board of directors, staff, and volunteers, and the very community members who rely on and receive our support.

2020 was a challenging year, and we want to deeply thank each one of you for making this year possible for the children, youth, and families we serve.

You gave us the room to stretch, to innovate, and to move quickly as a small nonprofit – in order to put our energy and effort where it mattered most. For that, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude.

Kistie Singh
Executive Director

LET'S BRUSH UP ON OUR SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE BC ESSENTIALS

OUR MISSION

We provide homes, a supportive community, and programs to help foster children and youth in need grow into caring, self-reliant adults.

OUR VISION

Every child belongs to a family and grows with love, respect, and security.



OUR VALUES

Courage: We take action.
Commitment: We keep our promises.
Trust: We believe in each other.
Accountability: We are reliable partners.

SOS Children's Villages is the world's largest non-governmental, non-denominational child development organization. In the past 70 years, SOS has established 559 Villages in 136 countries, with a seat at the United Nations to be the voice for the rights of children everywhere. **British Columbia is home to the only SOS Children's Village in Canada.**

We enhance the development and healing of foster children by holistically addressing their physical, social, emotional, and spiritual needs. **We actively create opportunities for children to become balanced, responsible, contributing members of society.**

We ensure long term stability for the foster children in our Village, with a strong focus on transition to adulthood. **Our proven, alternative model of care is trauma-informed and based on lifelong engagement and embracing the cultural heritage of each child.**



Did you know that the SOS in our name does not stand for Save Our Souls? In fact, it is an acronym of the Latin phrase *Societas Socialis*, which means socially responsible society.



YOUR IMPACT IN 2020: PROGRAMS



THERAPEUTIC SUPPORTS

Counselling services and expressive art therapies at SOS BC made significant impact with the children who live directly onsite, as well as at risk youth from the community – especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2020, our clinical counsellor and expressive art therapist were able to provide approximately 800 hours/sessions of therapeutic support to our Village community. Our kids were welcome to access counselling for as long as they feel they benefit from the service, which could vary from a few months to a couple years.

Through trauma-informed practice, the clinical team supported each child and youth through an array of opportunities, working to develop a secure trusting relationship, a sense of safety, and collaboration in the creation of therapeutic goals. **The therapeutic environment promotes the development of personal strengths and skills, including promoting self-acceptance and building on strengths to develop healthy coping behaviours.**

A unique aspect of the Village is the ability to work closely with the caregivers of the children we serve. **For every counselling session with a child, there was follow-up with the foster family, empowering them to play an active role in their child's healing journey.** Our clinical counsellor

also provided in-home support to families when needed. This was a key way that we strengthened our families, giving our foster parents the tools and knowledge they needed to feel efficacious and empathetic.

Throughout 2020, COVID-19 presented many challenges for our clinical team to face. Children, youth, and families were left in isolation due to mandatory quarantines, illnesses, and stay-at-home orders.

This resulted in an increased need for mental wellness support across all demographics of those we provide care for. Because of this increased need, our organizational capacity had to increase as well. Thanks to generous donors like you, we were able to continue to meet clients in person, providing safe and beneficial front line sessions.

The team also worked at creating an online space to continue sessions virtually when the pandemic would not allow for in person sessions. The clinical team rose to the challenge and were able to meet the mental wellness needs at the Village throughout one of the toughest years many have experienced.



RECONCILIATION PROGRAM

We continued important education and reconciliation work in 2020, with a specific focus on bringing diversity and reconciliation training to staff and community members.

Staff engaged in their second workshop with Hummingbirds Rising Consulting, where there was a focus on understanding the disadvantages of Indigenous community members and the privileges that are not afforded to all Canadians.

Human resources and program support were areas where new developments took place to help the organization move towards better inclusivity practice. **SOS BC continues to focus on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action to ensure they are implemented into our everyday practice and programs.**

Calls to Actions 1-5 in Social Welfare:

- Creating adequate resources to enable communities and child welfare organizations to keep families together where it is safe to do so, and to keep children in culturally appropriate environments, regardless of where they reside
- Ensuring social workers and others who support the well being of a child are properly educated on the impact and history of Residential Schools
- Ensuring workers are adequately trained about the potential for Indigenous communities and families to provide more appropriate solutions to family healing
- Requesting that all child welfare decision makers consider the impact of Residential School experience on children and their caregivers

Calls to Actions 10-12 in Education:

- Improving education attainment levels and success rates
- Developing culturally appropriate curriculum
- Enabling parents to fully participate in the education of their children



EDUCATION PROGRAM

A tremendous effort was made from donors and staff to ensure that children and youth were not impacted by education loss during the pandemic. SOS BC is aware that children in care already face gaps in the success rates of their education, before they were forced to face distance education in 2020. We are aware that the statistics of

children in care and success in education is at times limited. **While most children in care see a graduation rate of over 50%, rates of graduation for Indigenous children with care experience sits at just 12%.**

In response to these needs, but also due to the impact of the pandemic, we created a revised program in our education stream called the SOS BC Community School. Supported and run Monday to Friday by a BC Certified Teacher, children were able to attend school from a distance in the safety of the Village bubble. Because of this, we closed the school year ensuring our kids were prepared for the next year, and all youth eligible for graduation walked the stage!

It was a remarkable success and we are extremely proud of our staff who saw our children through, and in turn provided support to our foster families, who were overwhelmed trying to manage distance education on their own.



FEATHER CULTURAL CAMP PROGRAM

Due to the pandemic in 2020, we were limited in how we could utilize funding, considering health and safety guidelines, limits to how children could engage in outdoor and recreational activities, and overnight camp cancellations province wide.

So, to keep children and families safe and resourced, SOS BC encouraged whole families to engage in camps and recreation. We gave families opportunities and resources to hold camps and recreation while bringing



YOUR IMPACT

knowledge, awareness, and history to the local lands and Indigenous communities that they visited.

Our partnership with Fireside Adventures and Indigenous leadership continued, with spring break day camps and family camps that were a huge success! Children and families were able to disengage from COVID-19 safely, away from screens and day-to-day battles with mental wellness. A total of 42 SOS community members participated, thanks to you.



TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD PROGRAM

Our Transition to Adulthood (TTA) program supports at-risk youth in gaining life skills and navigating their first years of young adulthood. **While most programs end when youth age out of the foster care system at 19, SOS BC serves youth between the ages of 16 to 25.** We serve youth in the Surrey, White Rock, Langley, and Delta areas.

We strive to break through the many different barriers youth experience, so they can go on to gain independence and grow into healthy and contributing members of society.

In 2020, COVID-19 impacted the world in many ways. **More importantly, our vulnerable communities and youth were impacted the most.** The majority of youth had to transition from in-school learning to online education and many struggled with this. Thus, we saw a major influence on our youth clients' mental and emotional wellness.

Unfortunately, the pandemic impacted two major key areas of support: employment and housing. When the pandemic hit our communities, our TTA program was recognized as an essential service. We provided vital support to our youth through grocery supply drop

off, emotional/mental wellness check-ins, and any other additional support we could give. As BC started to re-open in the summer, many of our youth were struggling to find stable employment and secure housing.

One at-risk youth in particular, Rebecca, was provided quality support by SOS BC. She entered the TTA program in the fall of 2020. Rebecca's living situation with her little sister was not ideal.

We had to find a better living situation for the both of them, ensuring that we could also keep the sisters together. With support from SOS BC and others, we assisted the girls with moving and helped them learn essential life skills. Rebecca and her sister are now living in a stable and secure two-bedroom apartment in Surrey, near the Village. Rebecca is employed and simultaneously pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in political science.

This story reflects the remarkable journey our youth can have in creating a better life for themselves with your support behind them.

Youth have access to clinical support, camp, and recreation programs. **One of the unique aspects of our model is meeting youth 'where they are at', which means that we have extended our timelines to continually support youth through the pandemic.**

YEAR INTENSIVE HOUSING PROGRAM

This program plants the seeds for youth to grow and explore into young adulthood. It offers them the tools & skills needed to become independent at their own pace – and sustain independence – with the support of a youth housing worker. **This means one-on-one support in the safe and trusted living environment of our Village of belonging.** One of the unique features of the program is that youth are

awarded \$100 each month that they successfully pay rent to prepare for their exit at the end of their 12 month stay. At that time, \$1,200 is released, making their transition into the community easier and less burdened by the financial costs that come with moving.

In 2020, the pandemic halted movements within the program. Youth that had planned to move along with their goals, and ones that simply got stopped right in their tracks, had to re-plan. With public services, schools, and places of employment closed, connections with resources were lost.

It became apparent that the youth we serve were being impacted with mental and emotional wellness concerns. Our wraparound support provided counsellors who were available to meet the youth through online sessions, in person, and over the phone. **Our youth workers gave support by providing household essentials, groceries, and 24/7 on-call check-ins.**

Despite the pandemic, 2020 saw the successful graduation of 2 youth, who exited our Village housing ready and able to sustain independence. They were awarded their \$1,200 and were also able to take all the furniture in the suite with them to ensure the cost of moving remained low. These days are often teary eyed for Village staff. As care co-workers we hope so much for them in their new home.

In learning to advocate for themselves, youth have expressed concerns with the length of a year stay. The introduction of new policies helped us extend the program where we could, ensuring that our youth didn't have to worry or turn to homelessness.

AFTER CARE PROGRAM

The After Care program is unique to SOS BC and allows our youth workers to continue the connection to youth who are no longer directly involved with our services. After Care provides a check-in to see if youth are still stable in their recent independence, and an opportunity to reconnect and resource supports if need be.

In 2020, we served 23 youth in our After Care program. We also surveyed and evaluated the level of our impact with this demographic, including where youth are in their present situation (employment, school, identity). The report showed how we supported youth to independence and our impact and success we found through the program. We were happy to see that the services provided through After Care ensured that youth continued to sustain their independence, which is the whole aim of our program.



CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM

The children and youth at the Village grow with love, respect, and a strong sense of security, because of the unconditional care and support they receive from their caregivers. Our caregivers dedicate their lives to the children they serve, so it is vital that they receive the same love, respect, and sense of security as the children do.

Our caregivers never feel alone, because their neighbours are all doing the same amazing work and are only steps away when they need a friendly chat, or a helping hand.

This program is solely focused on the well being of our caregivers, because without healthy caregivers, you cannot have healthy children. **The need for support grew exponentially when COVID struck, not just within our Village, but throughout the fostering community.**

SOS BC responded by creating COVID-19 safety plans for families and staff, and purchased PPE, medication, and groceries to help cover higher than normal costs. **Our typical monthly caregiver meetings became weekly, and emphasized training, child safeguarding, and child protection.** The meetings also gave the caregivers the opportunity to share their successes, and their challenges.

We informed caregivers about any COVID updates, virtual events, virtual workshops being offered, and training opportunities. **Trauma informed staff were onsite, or on-call, 24/7 to provide support in times of crisis. Our counsellor gave one-on-one sessions to caregivers when needed.**

There were many customary events that could not take place in 2020, and respite for caregivers was challenging.



YOUR IMPACT

Staff had to constantly think outside of the box to make sure children, youth, and their caregivers followed all health authority recommendations, while also participating in some fun outdoor activities. **Thanks to our donors, we were able to provide ski passes to all the caregivers, so they could enjoy Mount Seymour as a family.**

There were many outdoor activities that SOS BC facilitated, including bike riding, beach days, fun in the park, swimming activities, and even learning how to take care of the Village chickens. You also provided funding for families to go away independently and relax at a place of their choosing.

Although 2020 was a very challenging year, we were still able to provide services to 16 foster parents and 3 reunified families that live at the Village & within the greater Surrey community.

The caregivers have built a culture where they look out for the well being of all the children living at the Village, and can depend on each other through transitions and challenges. The program team provides all the supports necessary to ensure foster parents stay healthy, informed, and validated.



SOS THRIFT STORE FOUNDATION

Wow, what a year this has been! How on earth could we have done it without the tenacity, courage, and fierce support from our Thrift Store volunteers. **Thank you for always wanting to be the calm in the storm, for showing your love for this organization, and for tirelessly and determinedly sharing our mission.** We also extend our heartfelt admiration to our wonderful, loyal, and patient clientele; thank you for your love of thrifting, and thank you for the donations that keep our store so beautifully stocked.



MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Looking back at 2020, I realize that if it taught us anything at SOS BC, it's that working remotely cannot be accomplished without adequate tools and support. At the beginning of the pandemic, our program team was faced with not only the challenge of an increase in demand of support for our children, youth, and caregivers, but also with the challenge of how to deliver this quality care remotely. Similarly, our administrative and development teams were challenged with continuing to support our program team remotely.

Thankfully, our quick-thinking development team reached out to you, our donors, and we began our two-year investment in improved technology. **Year one (2020) delivered the basic technology that team members needed to address our clients' needs.** Working remotely also created human resource challenges. We wanted to ensure our team had a manageable transition working from the office to working from home, so we reached out to experts to ensure we were exercising best practices, accountability, and security.

The costs of this investment is reflected in our administration and development expenses in 2020. We realize that donors prefer low administrative costs, but we trust that you, our donors, understand that strong administration investments are key for financial oversight and accountability.

Looking ahead, generous estate contributions over the last several years have provided SOS BC with surpluses that now allow us to plan and build the sustainable growth of our charity. **With this growth we can sustain our existing programs, expand our programs, reach more clients, and address our community's needs on a greater scale.**

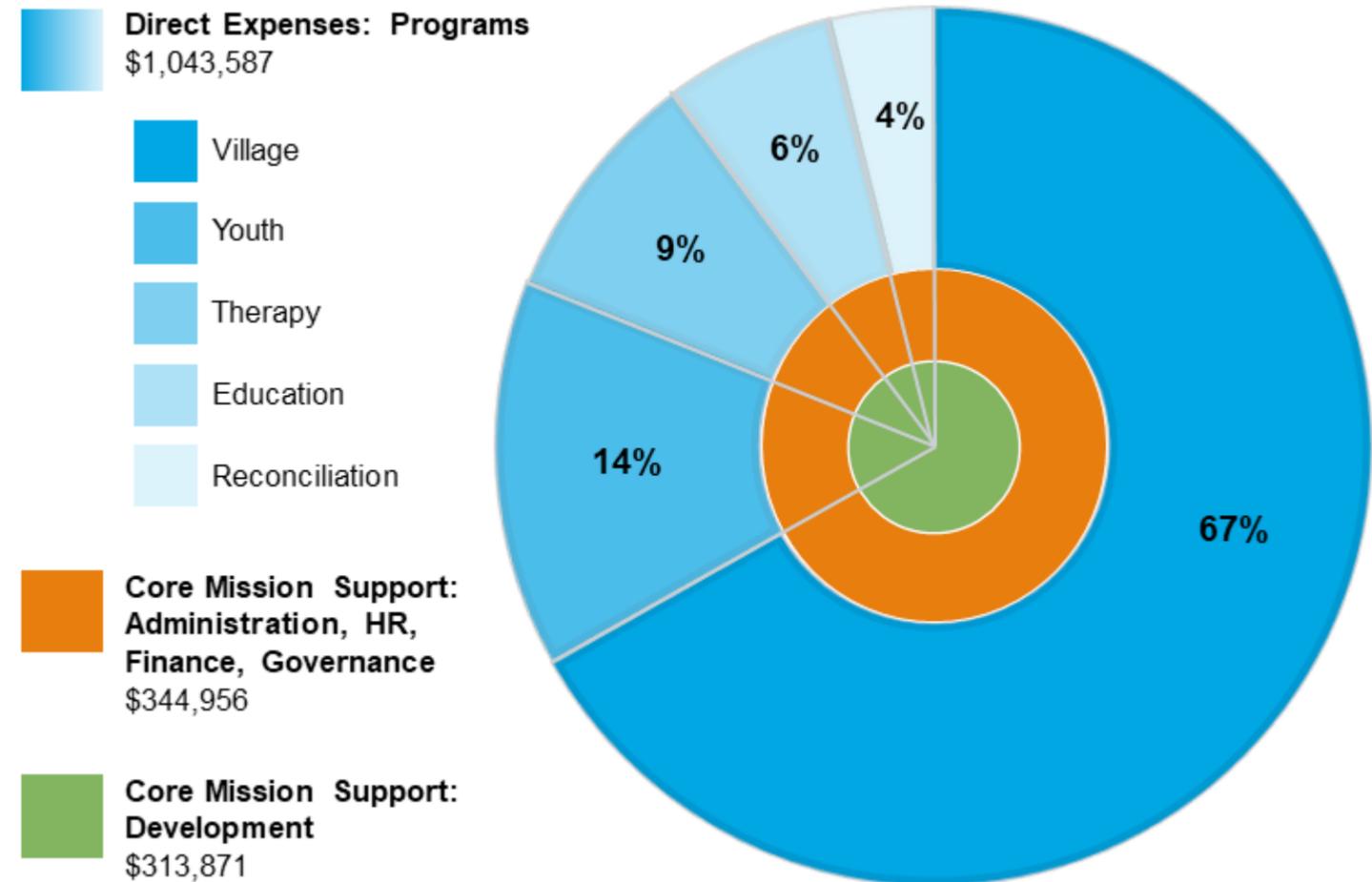
We have funding that the Board restricted in 2020 to begin the planning and building of sustainable growth. **The first allows our Village to continue to be maintained on a regular basis with our Village Maintenance Fund.** The second is the Reserve Fund which allocates six months worth of budgeted operating costs to proactively address situations that may arise if we are unable to temporarily collect donations. Finally, as I write this, our strategic planning is well under way. This plan will determine where more allocation of funds will be needed in the years to come.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support of SOS BC. It is because of you that we can continue to serve our community and grow our impact. Although we were faced with many challenges in 2020, it also gave us opportunities to grow our organizational capacity and prepare for the long term impacts of COVID-19. We look forward to engaging our dedicated donors and building long-term relationships with our new ones.

Rachel Dalton, CPA
Director of Finance

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE BRITISH COLUMBIA (CANADA) SOCIETY: 2020 EXPENSES

In 2020, we reflected on how to improve our financial summary report. We want to not only demonstrate to donors how their dollars were spent, but that all programs cannot function and thrive without the support of development and administration. This graph demonstrates that all resources to deliver programs are **true program costs**.



The 2020 financial statements were audited by HWG Chartered Professional Accountants. The information from the audited financial statements were used to create this chart. For full audited financial statements, please see our website here: www.sosbc.org/annualreport

THANK YOU TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Ministry of Community, Sport
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PROGRAMMING SUPPORT

SOS Kinderdorf International
SOS Children's Villages Canada
SOS Children's Villages Illinois
SOS Children's Villages Florida

While SOS BC is self-funded, we are proud members of the SOS Children's Villages International Federation. We wish to thank our wonderful colleagues at SOS Canada for their fine work connecting Canadians to our Villages overseas, while we work locally on the domestic programs benefiting foster kids. We cherish our great working relationship.



DONATIONS CAN BE SENT TO

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Surrey, BC V3X 0H6
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www.sosbc.org

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Charitable Business #12993-5011 RR0001.
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donations over \$20.

In case we inadvertently missed anyone in our
list of gratitude, please accept our apologies.



**SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGE**
BRITISH COLUMBIA