

A message from our President

Greetings from all of us at BASES! We are settling into our new store location with all the help of the vast number of donations we've received, the hard work of some new volunteers that have come our way, the continued thrust of our long-time volunteers, and the stellar leadership and energy of our amazing staff. Greg, as our new store manager, is a true asset with his warm demeanor and enthusiastic care and communication with customers and us all.

The work of BASES has expanded due to the profitability of the thrift store. In December, BASES was able to increase the amount of our school grants over last year, adding generous donations to the New Westminster School District and Burnaby School District. Our total donations of funds were over \$100,000 in 2025. The good work of providing enrichment for children, youth, and families by enabling equitable access to after school and out-of-school activities continues. BASES is passionate about funding enhanced experiences in their school communities which build independence and personal and physical growth.



Recently, I spoke with a customer at our thrift store who had found a Scrabble game to purchase. She smiled and looked at me, saying, 'My daughter just participated in a program at her school that was funded by BASES.' She then said she would come shopping more often and greatly appreciated the experience her daughter had had. Her eyes were glowing. We all love our children dearly and want the best for them.

BASES is focussing on spreading the word in New Westminster about our presence and working hard to embrace this community as our new home. Our commitment to Burnaby continues and we just feel so fortunate to be offered a location in Columbia Square through the generosity of Edgar Development. Their philosophy of building resilient, connected, and thriving communities holds true to the values of honesty, integrity, authenticity, and connection in building communities. We are honoured to receive the financial benefit from their values.

• *P. Woodroff*



Taking things in Stride

Last fall, students in Grades 6 and 7 had the opportunity to participate in Girls Group. The program was offered to female students who had an opportunity to hang out in the Community Room and participate in a variety of structured activities. Students were offered healthy snacks to eat and discussed different ways to nourish their bodies and minds. Throughout the program emphasis was placed on building positive self-identity and healthy self-esteem. Developing strong relationships with their leaders and peers was encouraged through conversations and role-playing activities. Here are a few quotes from participants:



“Something I liked about girls group is that we made slime and bracelets.” -IO

“I felt included in every activity.” SA

“I really liked Girls Group because it was open and we could talk about anything. It was fun because my friends were also there.” SK

“In girls group, I really get happy because everyone is listening to each other and not judge each other.” DM

“Somethings I learned from Girls Group were about friendships and lots of fun facts that would help us right now or later in life.” PM

“I enjoyed that it felt like a safe place you could talk about your feelings without feeling judged.” LC

In the spring, students will have the opportunity to walk up to Edmonds Community Centre afterschool to continue participating in various youth programs. Leaders offer programs throughout the school year as well as through the summer break. We are grateful for the support of our community members!

-Philippa M - Youth Connect Worker & Sandy K - Coordinator

Help BASES grow

- Make a financial donation
- Donate your stuff
- Donate your time
- Shop at our store

BASES Family Thrift Store

1001 Columbia Street
New Westminster, BC
Phone: 604-540-0110

Open: 10am - 5pm everyday
Donate: 10am - 4pm everyday

