



Down Syndrome
Resource Foundation

Together. Hand in Hand.

2020

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

661
program spaces filled

243 Speech Language Therapy

122 Occupational Therapy

142 One to One Reading & Math

11 Mental Wellness

7 Behaviour Support

79 Group Leisure Programs

57 Group Education Programs

HIGHLIGHTS

- launched **virtual health and education services** within 4 weeks of the start of the COVID-19 lockdown
- created **over 60 Learn at Home exercises** for families supporting their children's learning
- vastly expanded DSRF's web presence with **198,000+ web views** - doubling the reach of our digital health and educational resources
- launched **The LowDOWN: A Down Syndrome Podcast** with 19 episodes
- released **"Home Sweet Home" housing video** (16,000+ views)



Revenue
\$1,944,958*

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

20%

Spending
\$1,736,040

FUNDRAISING

80%

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

84%

FUND-
RAISING
9.5%

ADMIN
6.5%

*includes \$364,126 in Government COVID-19 emergency funding



DSRF IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

2020 marked the 25th anniversary of the Down Syndrome Resource Foundation. It was not what any of us imagined. The COVID-19 crisis completely upended everything we had planned for this special milestone year.

When our normally busy classrooms emptied for spring break, we had no idea they would stay that way for the rest of the school year and into the summer.

By March 18, all our staff were working from home, and all classes and therapy sessions were cancelled indefinitely.

But with every crisis – even one as dire as COVID-19 – comes opportunity. At a time when many of our students were forced into unfamiliar learning situations that were not well suited to their unique needs, DSRF's specialized Down syndrome support became more important than ever.

Our dedicated staff quickly reimaged every aspect of our programs and services, and by early April we were pioneering online classes and teletherapy services. These virtual sessions were offered at no cost to families facing financial strain through the creation of a COVID-19 bursary. The remote service delivery model opened new doors by allowing us for the first time to directly serve clients outside our immediate geographic area. There was a learning curve, but online services proved to be a lifeline for many families. One family even shared that DSRF is more important in the life of their child than school.

The pandemic also spurred the development of a host of online resources for families, including 3.21: Canada's Down Syndrome Magazine, The LowDOWN: A Down Syndrome Podcast, new videos, more than 60 Learn At Home lesson plans for families, new webinar series and more. As difficult as it has been, COVID-19 has shaped the future of DSRF in some very positive and exciting ways.

We are tremendously grateful to have come through COVID-19 not just surviving, but thriving. It has only been possible through the overwhelming generosity of faithful supporters like you, who see the value in what we do and continued to invest in individuals with Down syndrome through your own trying times.

As we emerge from the pandemic, we are looking ahead to a future that we couldn't have anticipated, but which has us very excited. As we begin to re-engage in our more typical forms of in-person service, and mix that with the new approaches we've developed over the past year, our ability to empower individuals with Down syndrome will be greater than it has ever been.



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