



2021  
COMMUNITY  
REPORT

  
**Sunshine**  
DREAMS FOR KIDS SINCE 1987

Sunshine Dreamer:  
*Julia, age 18 from BC*  
Sunshine Dream:  
*Home Exercise Equipment*

**We change lives.**



# A Message From Our President & CEO



Dear Sunshine Friends and Supporters,

The Canadian disability rights movement arose in the latter half of the 20th century. It includes multiple social movements that take a similar but distinct approach advocating civil rights for almost four million people with physical, sensory, and cognitive impairments—nearly 14 per cent of the Canadian population.<sup>(1)</sup>

The Sunshine Foundation of Canada was born during this movement and was founded in 1987 by a family at their kitchen table—truly a grassroots idea to help Canadian children and youth see their disability as an aspect of their identity, not the defining feature of themselves. Its mission sought to help children develop independence and self-affirming lives through experiences they designed themselves (our Sunshine Dreams program) or as a group in the happiest place on Earth, Disney (Sunshine DreamLift program).

Fast forward 35 years, and today we have made gains in the rights of all children, specifically the children Sunshine serves—those with severe physical disabilities. However, biases, stereotypes, and fears that result in stigma, still exist. Barriers and slow compliance with legislation, challenge access and true inclusion. Sunshine perseveres, with the support of communities and donors from coast to coast to coast, to help children and youth see a future full of possibility and contribution while we continue to advocate for improvements and urgency in change. Our mission is more important than ever now, due to the significant negative impact of the isolation during the pandemic.

While the year 2021 continued to see coronavirus mutating and attacking the global community with new variants at regular intervals, Sunshine kept taking steps to stay hopeful and positive in our quest to make a tangible difference in as many lives as possible. We continued to find innovative ways to serve our children and youth, reach out to our donors and partners, and make a difference each day.

Thank you so much for being a part of our efforts. We worked with 51 children and youth across the country and raised just over \$2M. We secured two new national corporate partnerships and launched a successful live-streaming fund-raising strategy. And we implemented a robust assessment initiative to better understand our impact on the mental health and wellness of our participants.

As you read through the following pages, we hope you feel the joy, encouragement, and hope that your support has made possible. As you continue to deal with the impact of the ongoing pandemic, in whatever way it has affected you, please know that the children and youth of Sunshine are looking to the future with a more positive outlook because of you.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Nancy Sutherland". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

**Nancy Sutherland**

(1) Dustin Galer; Disability Rights Movement in Canada, The Canadian Encyclopedia 2020


 **51** Youth served

 **145** Organizations from 17 Canadian industries supported Sunshine Dreams

 **8** Office volunteers & student interns

 **2** Virtual + 1 in-person events organized

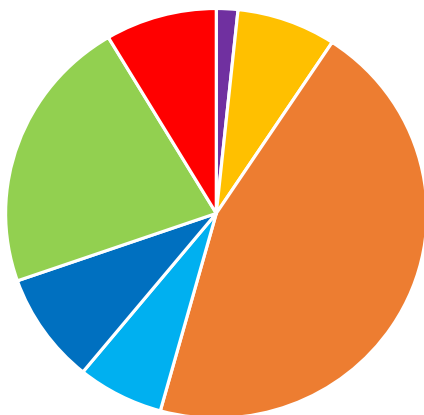
### Social Media Followers

 **5,022**  **1,356**  
 **1,923**  **797**



**Ethan's** personalized adapted bike has allowed him to stay physically and mentally healthy during the ongoing pandemic.

### How Funds Were Raised



To view the audited financial statements, please visit [www.sunshine.ca](http://www.sunshine.ca)

# Future-Boosting *Sunshine Dreams*

Since its inception in 1987, Sunshine has been changing the lives of kids and youth living with severe physical disabilities by fulfilling their future-boosting dreams. With new variants striking the country's healthcare system, Sunshine continued to focus on safe and non-travel dreams, under these categories:

## Types of dreams fulfilled in 2021



**Tech Gear:** Entertain, connect with peers, and inspire future careers.



**Connection:** Improve morale, companionship, and support.



**Fitness & Fun Movement:** Get moving, be part of a team, and compete with peers.



**Outdoor Adventure:** Have fun, and enjoy the outdoors with friends and family.



**Creativity & Style:** Turn passions into career opportunities, help improve mood, provide tactile stimulation, and support friendships.



We continued to pause the Sunshine DreamLift program in 2021, in the interest of health and safety for everyone.

## Faith's Musical Rendezvous with Mary Lambert: *A Sunshine Dream Story*

Faith is a young music enthusiast who lives with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, a disease that weakens the body's connective tissues and presents occasional mobility and medical challenges, often accompanied by fatigue, anxiety, and depression.

Faith enriches her life with music. Her long-cherished dream was to meet with her favourite celebrity idol, Mary Lambert, a famous American singer, songwriter, and spoken word artist, and talk about converting her passion for music into a successful career. The Sunshine Foundation of Canada decided to make this dream come true for her by arranging four one-on-one virtual sessions with Mary on singing and life coaching.



Faith received a personalized video message from Mary ahead of the sessions and was ecstatic about them. *"I'm completely floored and so incredibly overwhelmed by my dream. I am just so overjoyed and cannot wait to meet Mary!"* she said. After her first private session with Mary, this is the message Faith sent to Sunshine: *"Yesterday was absolutely magical and beyond anything I could have hoped for! I felt like I was talking to a long-lost friend and had the best time talking to Mary."*

The news of her musical rendezvous was covered by CTV Hamilton, and was live streamed for her friends and special Sunshine supporters to watch.



# Dreams with Impact 2021

For 35 years, together with supporters like you, we have provided life-changing dream experiences to children and youth, ages 7-18 years, during the most critical stage of their development. These dream experiences help them discover new possibilities, build independence, and improve mental wellness.



**Julia's** fitness equipment helps her exercise regularly, and curb the side effects of her medications.



**Lily** is developing her animation skills with her new design equipment, and her renewed sense of ambition.



**Cameron's** outdoor spa eases his chronic pain, and helps him reconnect with his family members.



**Ryan's** new Xbox Series X allows him to focus positive energy on his friendships with entertainment and relaxation.



**Curtis' dream** encourages him towards converting his "sneakerhead" passion into his own business venture.



**Chenoa's** new GRIT Freedom Chair allows her to connect with her friends and family on fun adventure activities.

# Communities *Get Involved*

Community fundraisers and workplace supporters are individuals like you, who have organized various events to extend support towards the Sunshine Dreams program. In 2021, the ongoing pandemic and its emerging variants continued to affect many of the groups we had originally planned to work with. However, it did allow us to strengthen relationships with our communities, express our gratitude, explore new and safe possibilities, and build new connections as well.

And like the previous year, those that could, did their best to come together and host COVID-safe fundraisers, virtual events, and donated portions of the sales of their products or community funds. For this, we are grateful to:

1. Amanda Marascio Circle Of Hope Tournament – Uxbridge, ON
2. Arthur J. Gallagher Charity Picnic – London, ON
3. Balpex Members' Event – Niagara Falls, ON
4. Barry's Birthday – Ontario
5. Forest City Road Race – London, ON
6. Lucan Biddulph Car Raffle – Lucan, ON
7. Momtaz Soap – Ontario
8. Rival Office Golf Tournament – London, ON
9. Side By Side Online Auction – National

## *Stream For Dreams*

Sunshine hosts a month-long livestreaming campaign on Twitch, where digital streamers support us by organizing online fundraising streams.

There are multiple ways by which streamers reach out to their existing subscribers and followers, and aim to raise a targeted amount during the live stream. These "streaming charity events" can be related to music, gaming, or just about anything that the influencer wishes to organize for their followers.



## *Sunshine's Board of Directors*

The Sunshine Foundation of Canada is governed by a volunteer-based, national Board of Directors comprised of highly-regarded representatives from health care, finance, and community/public service, who meet regularly to establish our strategic direction, and monitor financial matters.

A huge thank you to our board members who continued to provide guidance virtually in 2021: Jim Cassidy (Chair), Catherine Parsons Dhamija (Vice Chair), Steve Sauve (Treasurer), Michele Mannering (Secretary), Michelle McNeill, Marco Pasqua, Dan Pompilii, Tim Brown, Lisa Gibson, Judy Plotkin, Tisha Rattos, Jennifer Yao, and Brian Henderson.



# Thank You!

## Business and Community Group Supporters

The following corporations, foundations, associations, community events, and endowments have supported Sunshine from January 1 to December 31, 2021. Thank you!



Provincial Nevada Break Open Tickets Program



Bill White Memorial Dream Endowment Fund



County Heritage / Stevenson Hunt Endowment Fund



Mio / Manz Sunshine Endowment Fund



Coffee Dome Donut



Lucan Biddulph Recreation Committee



The Village General Store

Reggie's West



(A-Z)  
 Above Board Carpentry  
 Amanda Marascio Circle of Hope  
 Amherstview Lioness Club  
 ARLANXEO  
 Art2Ride Saddlery  
 Balpex Inc.  
 Bed Bath & Beyond  
 Best Buy Store #936  
 Big Bear Food Mart  
 BlueStone Properties Inc  
 Brymark  
 Cambridge Highlands Lions Club  
 Canadian Spa Company  
 Carr's Delivery Service  
 CertaPro Painters of Waterloo  
 Charterhouse Studios  
 Circle K 65066  
 Circle K 66039  
 Cloverdale Legion Branch 6  
 Conestoga College Police Foundations Program  
 Datto Enterprises Inc.  
 Dietrich Metal Products

Dunn Family Foundation  
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 EllisDon Forming Limited  
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 Finch Auto Group  
 Flaman Fitness Langley  
 Great Lakes Copper Inc.  
 Green Shield Canada  
 Harrison Pensa Lawyers  
 Hi Way Variety  
 Highstreet Asset Management  
 IG Wealth Management  
 J.S. Cheng & Partners Inc.  
 John Scott Memorial Fund  
 Jono & Laynie  
 JWW-8 Family Foundation  
 Keystone Technologies  
 KMJ Industrial Contractors Inc.  
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 Lerner LLP Barristers & Solicitors  
 LiUNA! Local 837  
 Lohn Foundation  
 London Police Association  
 Lutheran Social Services (London)

Mac's 61575  
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 Mac's Winks 1294  
 MasterClass  
 McCormick Canada  
 Melrose Wheelchairs  
 National Bank of Canada  
 National Seating and Mobility Canada  
 Northern  
 Oshawa Family Convenience  
 Peter Clark Contracting  
 Rand Kildare Charitable Foundation  
 RBC Dominion Securities Inc.  
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 RBC Royal Bank  
 River Adventures Grand Bend  
 Riverside Brass & Foundry  
 Rockland Variety  
 Roger & Edith Davis Foundation  
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Stacation Pools  
 Stephen Smith & Dorothy Woltz Foundation  
 Sudbury Comedy Gala  
 Tepperman's  
 The Altamira Foundation  
 The Brick Surrey Central City Mall  
 The Charles and Ethel Cohen Family Foundation  
 The Greygates Foundation  
 The Hamber Foundation  
 The Henslow-Brown Foundation  
 The Tricar Group  
 The Village General Store  
 TK Elevator Canada  
 Unifor Local 200  
 United Steelworkers Local Union 2251  
 VersaBank  
 Walmart Canada Corporation  
 Wilf and Jean Bell Foundation  
 Windley Ely Inc.  
 WOW 1 Day Painting

For a full list of Sunshine's caring family of supporters, visit [sunshine.ca](http://sunshine.ca)

Contributions of \$1,000+

# Bright Futures Ahead

Unlike other wish-granting organizations, a Sunshine Dream experience is not a last wish, but an opportunity that helps kids and youth build confidence, independence, and optimism, leading to improved mental health, and a brighter future!

Sunshine Dreamer:  
Liam, age 14 from ON  
Sunshine Dream:  
Pop Culture Bedroom Makeover



Get In Touch  
Join Us in Changing Lives.  
Call Us: 519-642-0990  
Email: [info@sunshine.ca](mailto:info@sunshine.ca)



[sunshine.ca](http://sunshine.ca)

Charitable Registration #12995 4822 RR0001