

# FALL 2023

## 25th Anniversary



FRIENDSHIP • SUPPORT • COMMUNITY

It has been an honour to be a member of Lifetime Networks for twenty-five years. In fact, I have been a member for longer as I was part of a small group of parents who laid the foundation for the present day organization.

Initially, we came together as parents of children with developmental disabilities who were looking for solutions to how best provide the supports they and we needed. We wanted to create safe and secure futures for our children. The biggest question on our minds was “what will happen to my child after I am gone?”

We had all attended a workshop given by the non-profit PLAN from Vancouver who promised some answers to this question. We heard how they were successfully establishing volunteer Networks of friendship and support for their children without government funding, Networks they promised would last a lifetime. This was an amazing and irresistible idea we all wanted to explore and put into action. The work had just begun and now we were on our own to create a local ongoing organization that could raise funds, find new members, sustain the Networks and work towards delivering on the promise of a lifetime. A tall order!

It was exciting to get the first Networks in our group up and running. The next stage came when we knew we needed to hire someone to act as coordinator of all the Networks. As fortune would have it, that person turned out to be Wendy-Sue Andrew. She was hired for 10 hours a month.

Eventually Wendy-Sue became our Executive Director and with her experience in non-profits guided us through establishing a Board of Directors. Lifetime Networks was born!

Soon after, Wendy-Sue hired Carlene Thompson and they took our small group's initial aims and expanded on them tenfold. The vision grew beyond Networks to building an organization that included as many people with disabilities as possible, offering them a variety of person centered and group supports while always keeping Networks at the center and never wavering on the promise of a lifetime. They weren't daunted by the task of fundraising, a huge challenge for our small group, and to our amazement jumped right in and organized Lifetime's first Gala, a major fundraiser ever since and one that helped put Lifetime on the non-profit map.

In twenty-five years, I believe Lifetime Networks has become the organization that can fulfill the promise of a lifetime to every family they serve. An amazing accomplishment!

As a parent the question “what will happen to my child after I am gone” is always at the back of my mind but now I feel a greater sense of peace of mind and security about his future.

I know that as long as Lifetime Networks exists he will always have a Network of caring friends, get the supports he needs and be a member of the Lifetime family.

Happy Anniversary!

-Patricia Murray

# 2023 GALA & AUCTION THANK YOU

On the evening of October 13th, 2023, the Lifetime Networks 18th Gala Auction Dinner unfolded as a true testament to the power of friendship, support, and community. This year's Gala highlighted the importance of providing opportunities, nurturing talents, and promoting independence. From inspiring success stories to captivating testimonials, the event showcased the remarkable progress and achievements of individuals who have been touched by Lifetime Networks' programs. It was a powerful reminder that inclusivity is not merely an ideal but a realizable vision made attainable by community support.

The Lifetime Networks Gala Auction Dinner would not have been possible without the invaluable support of our sponsors. We extend our deepest gratitude to those who have joined hands with us, recognizing the significance of building an inclusive society.

Our major sponsors, Max Furniture, The Wilson's Group, Country Grocer, and Western Design Build have exemplified their commitment to social responsibility.

We would also like to express our sincere thanks to 1550's Pub Style Restaurant, 5th Street Bar and Woodfire Grill, H2 Accelerator, Inclusion BC, Inclusion by IBEX, Maximum Express, Peninsula Co-op, Applied Office Solutions Ltd., Baker Tilly, Derma Spa, Gilmour Plumbing, Proline Management, WestJet, Times Colonist, Business Examiner, and Cold Comfort Ice Cream.

At the heart of the Lifetime Networks Gala Auction Dinner is the need for ongoing support.

The funds raised during the event play a vital role in sustaining and expanding the organization's programs and services. Each contribution is not just a donation; it's an investment in building a more inclusive world.

1. Empowering Individuals: The Gala supports programs, job placement initiatives, and independent living training, Networks of Friendship, and more. Each contribution reduces financial barriers to essential resources that empower individuals with disabilities to thrive in their communities.

2. Expanding Reach: Lifetime Networks aims to reach even more individuals who can benefit from their services. Fundraising enables the organization to extend its programs, workshops, and resources to a broader audience.

3. Life-Changing Impact: The stories of individuals who have overcome barriers and achieved their dreams through the organization's support are truly inspiring.

Every dollar raised during the Gala Auction Dinner directly contributes to our organization's mission. Lifetime Networks continues to provide community support, facilitate genuine connections, create and find employment opportunities, and nurture a sense of belonging for individuals with disabilities.

# Thank you!



## 2023 Gala Auction Donors and Supporters

- 1550's Pub Style Restaurant
- 5th Street Bar and Woodfire Grill
- Adventure Clothing
- Applied Office Solutions Ltd.
- Baggins Shoes
- Baker Tilly
- BC Place/BC Lions
- Ben Dorman & Catrina Johnson
- Beehive Wool Shop
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Victoria
- Big Wheel Burger
- Bon Macaron Patisserie
- Browns Social House Uptown
- Browns the Florist
- Bubby Rose Cafe
- Buddies Toys
- Business Examiner
- Butchart Gardens
- Cam Culham
- CBC/CHEK
- Chateau Victoria Hotel & Suites
- Chemainus Theatre Festival
- Cinecenta
- Cold Comfort Ice Cream
- Country Grocer
- Crystal Pool
- de Vine Wines & Spirits
- Delta Victoria Ocean Pointe Resort and Spa
- Derma Spa
- Earth's Option Cremation & Burial Services
- Fairmont Empress
- Fernwood Coffee Company
- Fireside Grill
- Flying Fish Winery
- Flying Squirrel
- Fresh Air Tours
- FX Connectors Ltd
- Glow Jar Beauty
- Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Victoria Shakespeare Society
- H2 Accelerator
- HAVN Saunas
- Highland Pacific Golf
- Huntingdon Hotel & Suites/Pendray Inn and Tea House
- Il Covo Trattoria
- Il Terrazzo Ristorante
- Inclusion BC
- Inclusion by IBEX
- Inn at Laurel Point
- Irish Times
- Iron & Wood Golf Simulators
- Janine Diddens
- John's Place Restaurant
- Karen Jensen Residential Sales
- LA Limousines
- Lifetime Networks Clothes Drop
- Lifetime Networks Staff
- Gilmour Plumbing
- Liquor Planet
- Liquor Plus
- Macaloney's Caledonian Distillery & Twa Dogs Brewery
- Marcia DeVicque Glass Works
- Market On Yates
- Mayfair Optometric Clinic
- Maximum Express Courier
- Milestones Bar & Grill
- Victoria Inner Harbour
- Monk Office
- Mount Douglas Golf Course
- Oak Bay Beach Hotel
- Oak Bay Parks and Recreation
- Ooh La La Cupcakes
- Pacific Coastal Airlines
- Pamela Williamson
- Peninsula Co-Op
- PNE
- Portofino Bakery
- Prince of Whales Whale Watching
- Proline Property Management
- Rascal's Pet Market
- Razzle B Photography
- Rogers' Chocolate Ltd.
- Sea Cider Farm and Ciderhouse
- Six Mile Pub
- Smugglers' Cove Pub
- Special Teas Inc.
- Sticky Wicket Pub
- Symphony Vineyard
- Teahouse at Abkhazi Garden
- The Keg at the Winery
- The Old Spaghetti Factory
- The Palms Restaurant and Lounge
- The Village Restaurant
- The Wooden Shoe
- Times Colonist
- Times Square Inn Suites Hotel
- Uptown Centre
- Vancouver Symphony Orchestra
- Victoria Bug Zoo
- Victoria Butterfly Gardens
- Victoria Symphony
- Water's Edge Suites
- Western Design Build
- Westjet
- Westshore Parks and Recreation
- Wilson's Transportation
- You Floral
- YWCA Hotel Vancouver





# CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

On Dec 5 2023, Lifetime Networks hosted a Christmas Craft Fair on the ground level. The tables were open to participants or staff to sell their wares and Lifetime Networks provided the space at no charge. It was a successful event with attendees enjoying a festive atmosphere and a variety of creations to purchase!



## WINTER 2024 SESSIONALS

**January 15 - March 25, 2024**

To register, please call 250-477-4112 or email [Tasia@Lnv.ca](mailto:Tasia@Lnv.ca). No late registrations will be taken after January 15, 2024.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>MONDAY SOCIAL COOKING</b>	<b>MUSIC ZOOM</b>		<b>ART STUDIO</b>	<b>FRIDAY SOCIAL</b>	<b>GALS' GROUP</b>
Jan 15 - Mar 25	Jan 16 - March 19		Jan 18 - Mar 21	Jan 19 - Mar 22	Jan 20 - Mar 23
3:30 - 5:00 pm	5:30 - 6:30 pm		6:30 - 8:00 pm	6:30 - 8:30 pm	10:30am - 12:30pm
<b>\$240</b>	<b>\$132</b>		<b>\$200</b>	<b>\$240</b>	<b>\$240</b>
10 sessions	10 sessions		10 sessions	10 sessions	10 sessions
Max: 10 people	Max: 12 people		Max: 10 people	Max: 10 people	Max: 10 people
*No session Feb 19*					
<b>MUSIC - IN PERSON</b>					<b>hang out</b>
Jan 15 - March 25					
6:30 - 7:30 pm					
<b>\$132</b>					
10 sessions					
Max: 10 people					
*No session Feb 19*					



# BEST BUDDIES



The Best Buddies Program has gotten off to a great start this year. There are currently 32 buddy pairs and growing! Matches are made according to interests and once matched meet once or twice a month out in the community to do something fun together. The executive team of student volunteers plans and hosts regular community events for all buddy pairs to come to. This year we have had the chance to gather a few times already. We hosted our annual welcome back Halloween Party where previous pairs reconnected and new pairs met for the first time. Our most recent event was a Bob Ross night!

We are always looking for new folks to join the program who want to be paired. All one has to do to get started is reach out at [BestBuddies@Lnv.ca](mailto:BestBuddies@Lnv.ca) or (250) 477-4112 and ask for Easton.

# EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM



We are thrilled to share the exciting news that our participant Joshua has embarked on a new journey as part of the GameStop team!

Joshua's enthusiasm for gaming, computers, 3D printers, and audiovisual technology is truly remarkable. He has cultivated this passion over the past five to six years, refining his expertise through self-directed learning and hands-on experimentation.

As an active participant in our employment program, Joshua consistently expressed his desire to align his career with his passions. During our discussions, GameStop emerge as the ideal choice. Despite facing initial challenges in the application process, he did not give up.

He kept sending resumes and visited the store to talk to the manager many times.

We are excited to share the news that Joshua's persistence has paid off, as GameStop has offered him a part-time position as a customer service representative. This success story highlights the significance of resilience and constant dedication when pursuing one's passion in the employment sector. We celebrate Joshua's accomplishment and eagerly anticipate his continued success at GameStop.



To all the family and friends who have donated to Lifetime Networks in memory of a loved one who has passed. All funds donated are added to the Pieter Van Rheenen Scholarship fund. To make a donation, or to inquire about leaving a legacy gift, contact Carlene at 250-477-4112 or email [Carlene@Lnv.ca](mailto:Carlene@Lnv.ca)

### AUTISM FUNDING

If you have Autism Funding, those funds can be used to purchase services through Lifetime Networks

### LET'S GET SOCIAL



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### THANK YOU!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 25th Anniversary Dinner & Dance - January 20, 2024
- Earth Day Clothing Drive - April 2024 TBA

[www.lifetimenetworks.org/events](http://www.lifetimenetworks.org/events)

## Note from OH&S

*Winter's cold embrace is upon us, and with it comes a flurry of frosty challenges.*

*It is crucial to recognize the potential hazards posed by icy sidewalks. Slippery surfaces can lead to slips, trips, and falls.*

*Awareness is the first step to keeping safe this season.*

Footwear Matters: Choose footwear with slip-resistant soles to enhance traction on icy surfaces. Boots with good ankle support can also provide added stability.

Short Steps, Wide Stance: Take short steps and maintain a wider stance while walking on icy sidewalks. This lowers your center of gravity, improving balance and reducing the risk of slipping.

Use Supportive Rails: When available, use handrails along sidewalks for added support. Test their stability before relying on them, and always be cautious when ascending or descending stairs.

*Remember, a cautious step today ensures a safer stroll tomorrow!*

## SCAN ME



## TO DONATE