

2023-2024

SAS SELF ADVOCATES

LEADERS IN ACTION

CREATING CHANGE THROUGH
POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS



A YEAR IN REVIEW

ADVOCATE
RECOGNITION (P.5)

IMPACT IN NUMBERS (P.6)

MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH
THE FUNDED SUPPORT OF

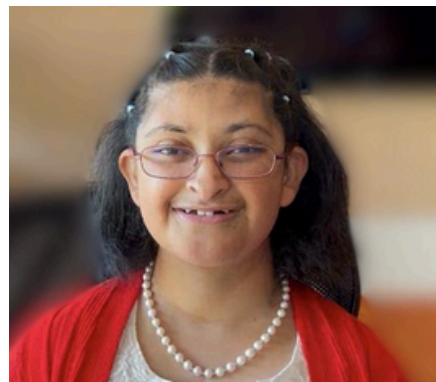
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A WORD FROM THE CO CHAIRS

Ends Consult

Self Advocates are essential in the UNITI Ends Consult, from start to finish. This year, in addition to consulting on the ENDS delivered to the UNITI Board of Directors, Self Advocates also took part in the filming process. Jeevan Basra, Akshay Sachdeva, Krista Milne, Jen Glover, Jen Utendale, & Madison VanOene were all vital in this process. SAS Co-Chairs Jeevan Basra and Michaela Robinson are powerful leaders within SAS. They take on extra responsibilities to help all the self



A word from the SAS Co-Chairs

advocates in their success. They plan and direct meetings, interview new self advocates and meet with the Program Coordinator to ensure SAS aligns with their mission "Create Change Through Positive Relationships."

"As a part of SAS, I have learned to advocate for those who don't have a voice." - Jeevan Basra



Michaela Robinson



SAS BRAINSTORM

The SAS team consists of 25 volunteers that meet from September to June. Self Advocates start in September by creating shared goals for the upcoming year. Self Advocates determine the focus of events, fundraising goals, and advocacy themes. New Self Advocates are interviewed in August and start the SAS year as a team.



LEADERS IN ACTION



Jeevan Basra

Jeevan Basra was nominated to the CLBC Accessibility Committee & honored with a Top 25 Under 25 Award from the Surrey Board of Trade.



Akshay Sachdeva

Akshay Sachdeva was nominated to the CLBC Board of Directors, drastically expanding his community impact.



Lauren Simpson

Lauren Simpson, won the Social Trailblazer award as part of her work with affordable & inclusive housing in Surrey.



Danielle Burns

Danielle Burns was a successful nominee to the White Rock Accessibility Committee! She is an avid advocate for White Rock Beach Accessibility.

SURREY ACCESS WALK& ROLL



Even when it rains, Self Advocates and hundreds of local community members came out to take part in the Surrey Access Walk and Roll, hosted by SAS. Emily White spoke alongside Doug Tenant and Trevor Halford.

INCLUSION BC



NEW TO YOU CLOTHING SALE



SAS donated 100% of the funds raised from the SAS NEW to YOU Clothing Sale, 5,750\$ to The City of White Rock Pier Access Mat.

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

1000+ Volunteer Hours from Self Advocates

6,100\$ Fundraised for Coldest Night of the Year to Sources Foodbank

5,750\$ Fundraised Clothing Sale for White Rock Pier Access Mat

2,000\$ Donated to Surrey School Accessible Playground

500\$ Sponsorship Violet Richardson Award

Recognizing Community Contribution from young women in Surrey & White Rock

600 Socks for A Cause Socks Donated

10+ Ongoing Community Partnerships SFU - Community Leaders Igniting Change, GOGO's, Treat Accessibly, City of Surrey, Surrey Schools, Envision Financial, BCSALN, Silver Icing, Soroptimists SSWR, City of White Rock,

7+ Community Presentations SAS hosted workshops at Advocon, Mission Self Advocacy Retreat, Inclusion BC Conference, Surrey Schools for National Accessibility Week, University of Fraser Valley on Beach Wheelchairs, Soroptimists Dream It Be It Conference, Self Advocate Leadership Institute, & UNITI Board of Directors Ends Recommendations 2024

4 Professional Consultations Consults with City of White Rock, Community Living Services Advocacy Team, City of Surrey Integrated Community Safety & Wellbeing Strategy Roundtable Surrey Board of Trade, & UNITI Ends Consultations

7 Events Hosted Summer Film Viewing, Karaoke Night, Inclusion Movie Night, Surrey Access Walk and Roll, SAS New To You Clothing Sale, City of Surrey Workshop Hosts, SAS Christmas Craft Fair

20 SAS Meetings Co chairs additionally meet 30+ times annually to prepare & plan

3 Self Advocates Nominated to Boards & Committees

2 Self Advocates Awarded for Advocacy & Community Impact

1 Amazing Team of People 25 volunteer self advocates

VANCOUVER INCLUSION FESTIVAL

Krista Milne and Chloe Chum attended the Vancouver Inclusion Festival to represent SAS, and met with other organizations throughout greater Vancouver



SELF ADVOCATE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The Self Advocate Leadership Institute in Kelowna was full of learning opportunities, growth, and some very real world experience.





COMMUNITY, ADOVACY & FUN

Self Advocates attend a number of community events throughout the year, including the following.

Akshay Sachdeva and Jeevan Basra attending SBOT TransLink event, Stacey Kohler and Alex Mason attending the SBOT Business Excellence Awards.



SURREY BOARD OF TRADE CHRISTMAS PARTY

In addition to working hard, self advocates need to have some fun too! Pictured are self advocates Jeevan Basra, Lauren Simpson Natalie Raven, Stacey Kohler and Alexa Lehwald at the SBOT Holidays Mixer, attendees donate to Surrey Foodbank! "They had a hot chocolate bar!" - Natalie Raven



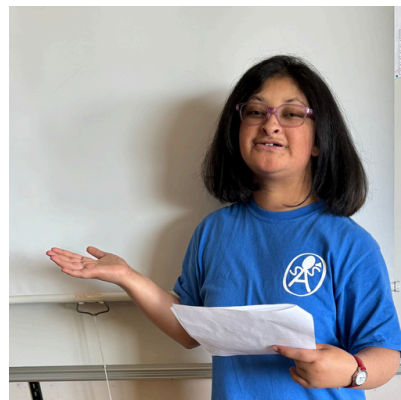
TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Self Advocates attended Rhythms of Resilience: Vibrations of Hope and Healing hosted by the Metro Vancouver YWCA to honor and celebrate survivors and intergenerational survivors while commemorating children who never made it home.



INCLUSION MOVIE NIGHT

Self advocates gathered on International Day of Persons with Disabilities to watch The Freedom Tour, a powerful documentary about the incredible journey of 16 self-advocates who travelled across the Prairie Provinces to raise awareness about life in an institution.



Top to Bottom, Left to Right:
ADVOCON, UFV Student
Presentation, SBOT Community
Safety Consult, CLS Advocacy
Consult, Surrey Schools
Presentation, WR Community
Consult, Mission Access Awareness
Day, Handydart Rally

ADVOCON

Weston Bosma, Danielle Burns, Jennifer Utendale and Chloe Chum attended ADVOCON as volunteers. Jeevan Basra presented, and Madison VanOene volunteered virtually for online sessions.

COMMUNITY LIVING SERVICES ADVOCACY CONSULT

Self Advocate Danielle Burns visited Community Living Society Self Advocates to discuss the challenges and benefits of developing a self advocacy group, and to connect with other self advocates.

SAS KARAOKE

SAS Karaoke night is a long lived tradition for self advocates to relax, unwind and enjoy some fun and a wild night.

"I like seeing everyone and singing!" - Natalie Raven



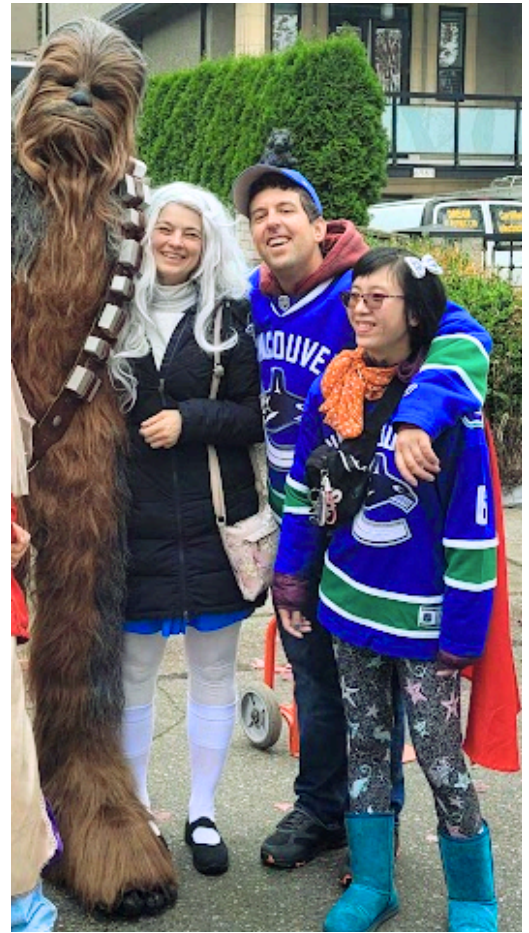
SOCKS FOR A CAUSE

Jeevan Basra's Socks for A Cause is a self advocate led initiative to collect and donate high quality much needed resources to the Sources Foodbank. This year Jeevan collected 600 pairs of socks from multiple businesses, with support of UNITI and other self advocates.



TREAT ACCESSIBLY

Self Advocates volunteered for Surrey's Treat Accessibly Halloween Village. They hosted a table and gave out Candy to children and families of all abilities throughout Surrey.



ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND DONATION

Self Advocates supported a local Surrey School accessible playground, with the funds from their 2023 NEW to You Clothing Sale. Self Advocates, research, consult and vote on each project they support.





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Self Advocate
Stacey Kohler
lead the Coldest
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COMMUNITY PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

Envision Financial Community Leaders Igniting Change (CLIC) is a grass-roots program that helps community members build their leadership skills and confidence as change-makers. This Year Self Advocates Jeevan Basra and Krista Milne presented on the impact of their role as CLIC Storytellers at the Inclusion BC Conference hosted in Nanaimo.



Jeevan Basra, Lauren Simpson, Alexa Lehwald and Krista Milne word as CLIC Storytellers this year.

Madison VanOene took CLIC this year, and found the experience transformative.

Pictured are the 2024 CLIC Graduates , Proffessor Kathleen Burke & Susan Byrom.





SAS HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO

As the SAS Program Coordinators, it is a pleasure to work alongside each self advocate. We deeply appreciate the hard work, dedication, and the opportunity to see self advocates grow and enhance their skills. SAS members are leaders and contributors in their community, and seen as having the capacity to make real changes to enhance their community. SAS is committed to investing in people they support to bring people together to create positive experiences. We aim to support a “Nothing About us Without Us” approach, so people we support can take their rightful and equitable place in the community. We aim to see community impact led by persons with developmental disabilities.



SAS is an unfunded program, made possible through the support of UNITI. Without their extensive dedication to self advocate leadership, and contributions from community & grants, SAS would not be possible. We deeply appreciate the support of all our community partners for their support of inclusion, accessibility and diversity in our community.

