



ENABLING ABILITIES

The number of people that identify as having a disability is growing. In fact, this group has been identified by the UN as the 'world's fastest growing minority.' In BC, the ratio of persons with disabilities is one quarter of the population – or almost 1 million people. That is a significant population that should not be overlooked.

All too often it is assumed that people with disabilities have limitations, but we know this is not the case. It's simply that they have more barriers to their progress – in education, in the workplace, and in the community. With the help of the Lions Clubs, Easter Seals is breaking down these barriers because we know a diverse community is a healthy community.

Easter Seals Camps are a special place

What makes us unique is the fact that we accept persons with all diverse abilities – intellectual and physical. A summer camp tradition for over 50 years, there have been more than 35,000 children, teens and adults with diverse abilities who have experienced the magic of Easter Seals summer camp – one of the best nature-based, outdoor summer camps for children and young adults with disabilities.

Easter Seals House - Opened In 1955

When the Lions Clubs formed Easter Seals and the BC Lions Society for Children with Disabilities, they recognized the need for people to have access to affordable accommodation when they traveled to Vancouver to seek medical attention for their children. Funds were raised and in 1955 the first Easter Seals House was built. **Because of this amazing project, over one million people have had a place to stay!**

Did you know that the total number of people with disabilities in BC aged 15 years and over is 25%?



Almost one million British Columbians over the age of 15 have a disability and this number continues to grow.



Easter Seals House hosts more than 12,500 guests each year who travel from all over BC and the Yukon.



More than 35,000 children, teens and young adults with diverse abilities have experienced Easter Seals Camp in BC.



It costs \$3,600 to send one camper for a week to an Easter Seals summer camp.



It costs \$300 to send one camper for a day to the City Adventure Day Camp Program.



It costs \$100 to give a family a nights stay at Easter Seals House.

Sign up for Lions Club Newsletters at www.eastersealsbcy.ca

The Magic of Camp

EASTER SEALS CAMPS

Easter Seals Camps are a place where we help campers realize their abilities, without focusing on their disabilities. It is a place where children, youth and young adults are given the opportunity to participate and belong, which helps build their confidence, and teach values like teamwork, resilience and independence. They begin to imagine a brighter future and learn the skills to make it a reality.

Easter Seals Camps is a program dedicated to ensuring children, youth and adults benefit from the experience of camp, so they can improve their abilities, become advocates of their own rights and be actively engaged in their communities today and into the future.

Camp at a Glance

- In summer of 2020, we welcomed **200 campers** aged 6-49, to a week of virtual camp, and filled **150 spots** of day camps in Vancouver & Victoria.
- In fall of 2020 we began an Online Class & Camp program.
- In 2019, we welcomed **192 campers** aged 6-29 years for week long overnight summer camps.
- **We train** more than 20 youth counsellors, program leaders and support staff each summer who become future advocates supporting inclusive communities.
- We provide much-needed **respite for families** allowing them to focus on their own mental health, ready to welcome their child back at the end of their camp experience.
- **We see an 80% return rate of campers.** Many return for multiple years throughout their childhood and into early adulthood.



Do you have an Easter Seals House story? We would love to hear from you.

Email us at:
info@eastersealsbcy.ca

Tag us at:
[#EasterSealsHouse65](https://twitter.com/EasterSealsHouse65)

A Home-Away-From-Home For 65 Years!

EASTER SEALS HOUSE

For 65 years, Easter Seals House has been a lifeline for thousands of families across BC and Yukon, that need access to Vancouver hospitals - helping relieve families of the stress and financial burden of finding somewhere to stay in an expensive, and unfamiliar city.

Offering affordable and comfortable short-term medical stays, Easter Seals House is a home-away-from-home and support network to approximately 12,500 guests (that's 30,000 bed nights) who stay here each and every year.

What sets us apart:

- 49 self-contained suites, each including its own bathroom and kitchenette means that guests with compromised immune systems have the reassurance they can be safe in their own space
- We are a 'house for everyone' welcoming individuals and families of all ages, all disabilities and all medical conditions

