

 **ZAJAC
RANCH**
FOR CHILDREN



2022

CAMP REPORT

EMPOWER. EMBRACE. EXPERIENCE

2022 – GETTING BACK TO THE PROGRAM

Zajac Ranch for Children was excited about the return of "the new normal," for Summer 2022. Finally, after two years of waiting, we were able to greet our campers back with open hearts! While adapting our health and safety precautions in order to run a safe camping season, we can say with pride that our children and young adult camps were a huge success.

With regular programming back in motion, this summer's camp session was one to remember! We were able to run a full season of camps, from June until the end of August, and delightfully welcomed back 218 campers this season. Everyone was excited to experience camp and reconnect with each other and nature once again.

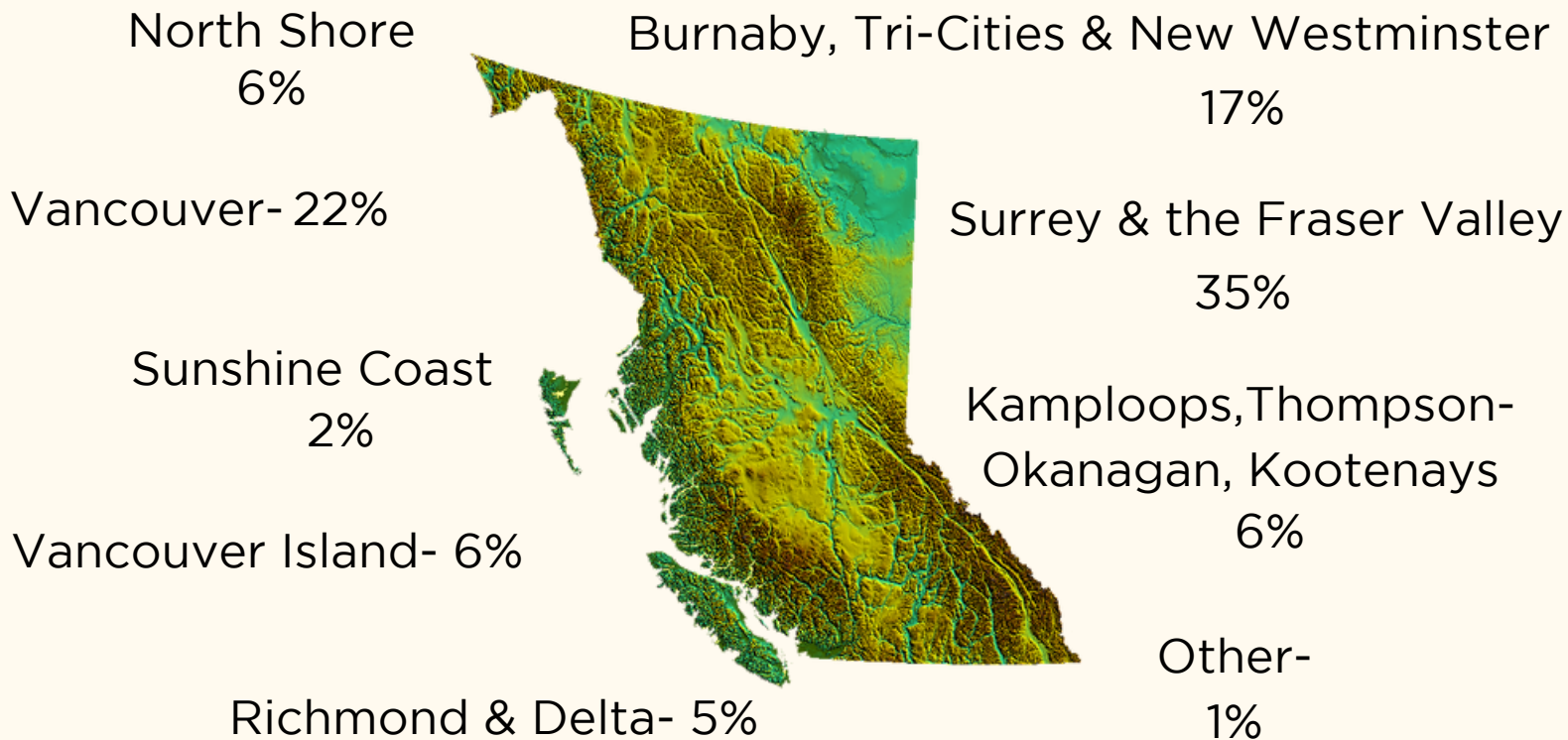
Campers rode horses, paddled kayaks – even soared above the ground on a high ropes course – while their special medical needs were cared for at the OK Corral, our 24-hour medical centre. They met other children who shared similar challenges and learned that a wheelchair, special medication, or a condition does not have to keep them from having the time of their lives at summer camp!

For almost 20 years, Zajac Ranch for Children has provided the most innovative and inclusive facility to help create memorable experiences in a space that provides joy and happiness for campers. They develop life-long skills and build lasting friendships. Truly, aren't fun and laughter the best medicines of all?!

On behalf of the children, and everyone at the Zajac Ranch, we thank you for your ongoing support. YOU are what makes summer camp an exciting possibility for our incredible campers who otherwise may not have the chance to participate. Summer 2022 came with fresh opportunities for kids to be themselves and enjoy the fun and wonder of Zajac Ranch for Children. THANK YOU!



In 2022 Our Campers Came From...



Giving Campers The Chance To Embrace All Experiences & Their Unique Selves



" Since Covid started, there has been nothing for our son to do where we live (remote coastal community). He has been bored and missing friends from our previous city of residence. Being able to get out and meet new people and kids like him has been very important for his social learning. Seeing what others can do may help him want to do more. And to try new things he hasn't been able to do in a nurturing environment... Everyone should be able to have a chance to go to camp.

– Autism Spectrum Parent, Camp 2022

Your Generosity in Action

Guiding Values:

RESPECT and appreciation for the diversity we represent

COMPASSION, empathy, and concern for well-being of others

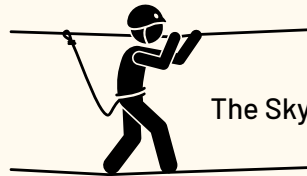
INCLUSIVE opportunities that welcome all participants

INTEGRITY and consideration for one another

FUN FACTS

Our Campers identified these aspects of Medical Camps as their favourite in 2022

Making new connections and friendships with peers



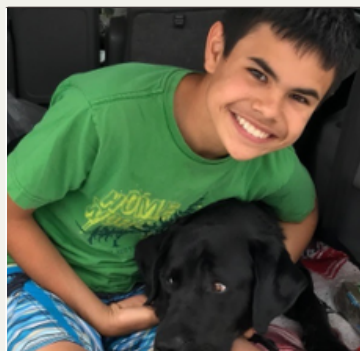
The Skynet, High and Low Ropes course is always a favourite!



Horseback Riding was a camper highlight this season



Everyone is excited for camp!



Embracing Experiences!



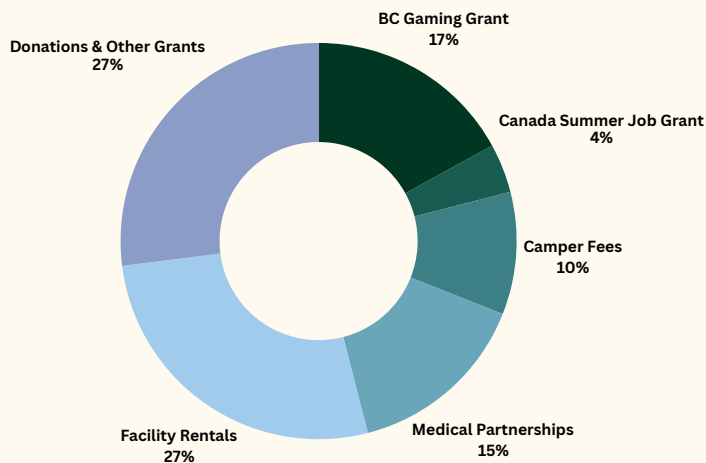
Making Memories at Zajac Ranch!

"I cannot begin to explain how amazing our experience with Zajac was. Our daughter has anxiety so I wasn't sure if we'd even leave the parking lot but to see her wave goodbye to us right from day 1 after meeting the friendly camp counselors, nurses and director she and I felt at ease. Half way through the camp I received a picture of her and a little update about how she was "doing great" and that she was excited for horseback riding the next day. This brought actual tears to my eyes to hear how she was doing and making the most of it. It was so cool to pick her up on the last day and to hear how she made 3 new friends with similar heart conditions. She exchanged contact info with them and looking forward to seeing them again next year! My only regret is that we didn't start her coming sooner."

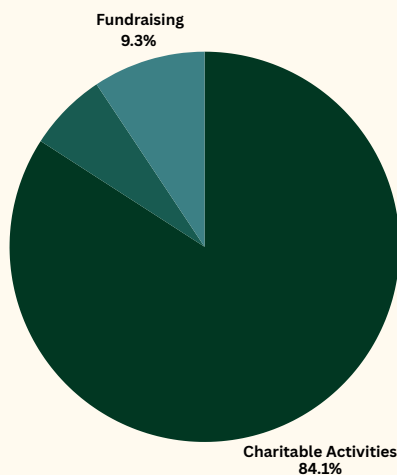
– Mixed Diagnoses Camper Parent, 2022

Stats & Figures

SOURCES OF REVENUE 2022



INCOME ALLOCATION 2022



"My request to supporters, your donations are important. Kids like mine don't get this opportunity and it's taken 15 years to get him into a program. Thank you for your support to help my 15-year old's dream come true."

– Autism Spectrum Camper Parent, 2022

Camper Spotlight

Meet Georgina



Georgina was born very prematurely with a heart problem and spent most of her early years receiving outstanding medical care at BC Children's hospital. While undergoing open heart surgery to repair the VSD in her heart, she was diagnosed with a partially missing chromosome, making her 1 out of 3 children that have this condition in North America. This diagnosis meant that, because of the unknowns of her rare diagnosis, support services and groups were not as abundant as other special needs interest groups and her family was mostly left to deal with the diagnosis on their own. Down syndrome, autism, and other well-known conditions have very active advocates and fundraising. Unfortunately, this is not the same for Georgina's condition, which remains unnamed and not really understood even 21 years later!

Georgina is a very happy girl and her enthusiasm for life is tremendous and contagious with everyone she meets. Amongst the challenges she faces is the inability to recognize that not everyone she meets may be friendly or as true-spirited as she is, meaning that her innocent trust could lead to problems if she is not in a safe and caring environment. Georgina is small in stature but big in personality, with the verbal and mental skills of a very young person around the ages of 4 to 6 years old. To keep her safe, her parents constantly monitor her social interactions.

Every day, Georgina's parents work hard to ensure Georgina lives as full a life as possible – with day programs, work experience, courses at Douglas College, active participation in Special Olympics programs in Coquitlam, Challenger baseball, and, her favorite activity, horse-riding at PRDA in Langley! As her parents age, they worry about what is going to happen next for Georgina but they are providing for her the best that they can alongside her loving extended family group.

Georgina's Experience at Zajac Ranch

Georgina and her family discovered the Zajac Ranch for Children summer medical camp program through a family friend whose daughter also attended the program. She has been attending both weeks of the mixed diagnosis camps ever since. Her favourite activity at Zajac Ranch is not surprisingly- Horseback riding! However, she is also very fond of her, "camp connections," with her peers and Zajac Ranch staff.

Georgina's Story

"At the first camp Georgie went to, she was very nervous to the point she didn't want us to leave her there, but, the excellent Zajac camp team soon got her over the first-night jitters. Now it has become the highlight of her summer and she asks repeatedly when can she go again! We are now at the point where she is almost waving goodbye to us as we drop her off. Clearly, Georgina loves the independence she has at camp, reconnecting with friends that she made on previous camps, making new friends with fellow campers, and staff members. The well-thought-out activities for all abilities and the excellent food Georgie also enjoys. She never would have tried rock climbing without Zajac and being the centre of attention at some of the get-togethers is where we have seen her grow as a person. The relationship with Zajac is great for Georgie and gives us as the primary family caregivers some time to ourselves as well for the week – although the house is very quiet without her and we miss her dreadfully!

It is important that Zajac Ranch for Children's donors and sponsors understand that their help could not go to a more deserving cause and community of children. After 10 years, we have made friends with other campers and their parents which has also brought us together as a stronger community, giving us much-needed support for what is a very challenging situation, as we bring up a child who is not as privileged as those in the mainstream. The Zajac organization is very well run from their communications, onsite medical care, to their accommodation for the diverse abilities and backgrounds of campers. The facility on Stave Lake is remarkable in its cleanliness, upkeep, and activity offerings. The Zajac Foundation truly cares about the services they provide to these children & young adults. The happiness and growth it brings to the campers cannot be overstated!"