

ANNUAL REPORT



2019-20



Curtis Slater
Executive Director

Organization Highlights

Accessed COVID-19 wage subsidies and grants to purchase new hardware and software licenses to build a new remote service delivery model

Transitioned to a new 10 week block system for all programs and streamlined our invoicing, scheduling, and administrative processes

Conducted our first online raffle, which raised \$20,000

Board approved a new budget cycle and structure, and PREP was able to meet our budget targets despite the challenges of COVID-19

Message from the Executive Director

This past year at PREP has been unlike any other. What started off as an exciting new chapter in PREP's history with expanded service delivery options for families, big events, and some amazing new staff, quickly turned into something no one could have anticipated.

In March, we were forced to stop in-person sessions and quickly implemented a new remote service delivery model. New fiscal challenges meant that we had to reduce our staffing, which impacted us all. We cancelled our Spring Celebration and all summer camps, and we couldn't host any in-person parent or teacher workshops. These were difficult decisions, and it meant that things at PREP didn't quite look and feel the same this past year.

That being said, there were a number of highlights during this time as well. When our fiscal future looked most bleak, we had major donors, most significantly the Wood family, step up in unexpected ways to get us through these uncertain times. Our PREP staff worked incredibly hard to create new remote options for students, which will likely remain as an extra tool in our toolbox for years to come. We also conducted our first online raffle, which raised \$20,000 for PREP families. Time and time again the PREP community rose to the challenge of COVID-19, and it has given me great hope for the future.

As we look ahead to the upcoming year, PREP will continue to explore new ways to meet the changing needs of our members. We remain committed to our vision and will work hard to ensure every child with Down syndrome has the support they need to be active and included members of their community. There will likely be new challenges ahead to overcome, but now more than ever I am confident that our community will be able to handle these challenges. It gives me hope that we will be facing this uncertain future together, because our students deserve the best support possible.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

2019-2020

Total Revenue = \$1,756,108

Government and Grants
\$1,173,897

Donations
\$280,386

Fundraising
\$168,661

Fee for Service
\$115,956

Other \$17,208

Total Expenses = \$1,303,712

Program
\$948,482

Administration
\$245,349

Operations and
Maintenance
\$63,294

Fundraising
\$46,587

EARLY LEARNING

Highlights

Added a 3rd class to support a total of 28 registered families

Provided individual phone support to every family during COVID-19

Provided families with remote Zoom sessions for therapeutic support and PowerPoint slides to parents

Our weekly parent-child classes for children ages 0-3 provide a warm and welcoming introduction to PREP. Parents value the opportunity to meet and share with other families who are also starting their journey of parenting a child with Down syndrome. Parents build a network of support as they learn through class time, workshops, and individual therapy consults. Children enjoy the structured play based activities designed to introduce skills, which will help and support them in their transition to ECS and preschool.

Funding by:



Enrollment: 28



EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

Highlights

Lead EAs visited each child's community preschool once a month

Created a bi-weekly digital resource package for parents during COVID - 19

Provided a workshop to community preschools on Down syndrome and PREP's role in the classroom

As an approved ECS operator, PREP supports every child's journey in an inclusive educational setting. The first year of the program is focused on learning what it means to participate in the classroom while introducing preschool concepts. The 2nd year of the program is focused on gaining independence and fostering social interaction with peers. Children also attend their community preschool supported by a PREP Education Assistant. PREP provides exceptional programming from our multi-disciplinary team of caring professionals, including a Speech Language Pathologist, Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapist, Therapy Assistants, and Music Therapist.

Funding by:



Enrollment: 17



SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPY

Highlights

Offered teletherapy options during COVID-19

Signed new contract with Calgary Catholic School District to provide speech-language therapy to members

Created streamlined administrative support to SLPs and families

Our team of Speech Language Pathologists provide individual and small group therapy sessions that adapt and modify strategies specifically for children with Down syndrome in grades K-12. An important part of our therapy approach is to work closely with parents and school team members to encourage speech intelligibility, vocabulary and sentence building, sequencing, and development of social communication skills to help students gain the skills to effectively communicate at home and in their community.

Funding by:



Enrollment: 80



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Highlights

Hired two OTs for first time in PREP history

Offered remote OT sessions and created digital resources for families during COVID-19

Expanded FSCD and K-6 programming for OT

Many individuals with Down syndrome benefit from receiving individualized services and support from our registered Occupational Therapists. These supports can focus on maximizing independence with many meaningful daily activities, including self-care activities (eating, dressing, toileting, etc.), independent living skills (cooking, chores), play/recreational/leisure activities, and school activities or readiness skills (crafting, printing, keyboarding, attention and organizational skills, etc.). OT sessions are individualized and based on family/students' needs and priorities.

Funding by:



Enrollment: 7



READING PROGRAM

Highlights

Expanded to 6 instructors with our largest registration of students

Offered more flexibility for families with new half-block options for students in grades 4-12

Offered virtual reading sessions and resource packages during COVID-19

Learning to read is an essential life skill, which is why PREP offers an individualized and personalized reading program designed specifically for students with Down syndrome in grades 1-12, with options for Kindergarten students to enter the program in Block 3. Our highly skilled reading team modifies each lesson based on the interests of each student and coordinates goals with families and teaching teams. Parents will also learn literacy strategies and work on reading goals at home using the resources and materials our instructors have prepared for each student.

Funding by:



Big Hearted
Mavericks



Enrollment: 50



TEEN PROGRAM

Highlights

Occupational Therapist joined the team

Celebrated with 7 graduates from the Teen program

Transitioned to remote learning and provided digital resources to teens during COVID-19

PREP's Teen Program takes a multi-disciplinary approach towards building life skills and independence and presents our teens with opportunities to socialize in a safe place where they can grow and learn with peers. Our Teen Program has a collaborative team of specialists, including a speech-language pathologist, occupational therapist, and therapy assistant. Teens meet 15 times a year to learn about and practice their speech-language skills and develop their executive functioning skills so they can be active and included members of their communities. Through our Teens on the Go program, teens also have the opportunity to practice their skills in real-world settings with the support of PREP staff and volunteers.

Funding by:



CHAS
SINCE 1908

Enrollment: 28



FAMILY SUPPORT

Highlights

Provided a socially distanced celebration for PREP graduates in parking lot

Hosted a February workshop with Shelley Moore and had 125 attendees

Provided individual phone support and hosted Zoom check-ins for families during COVID-19

Family Support services are available to any Family in the Calgary and outlying region looking for the knowledge, skills, and resources required to best support their child with Down syndrome from birth to 18 yrs old. Liaisons are also available to provide support and clarity as parents navigate complex systems. Workshops and webinars are offered to families who want to learn more about specific topics related to your child's journey and to learn from other families. Families have access to individual consults, home visits, mentoring, transition planning and much more.

Funding by:



Enrollment: 134



EDUCATION SUPPORT

Highlights

Provided professional development to over 100 educators, EA's and administrators

Created a new workshop "Exploring Behaviour for Children with Complex Needs in the Classroom"

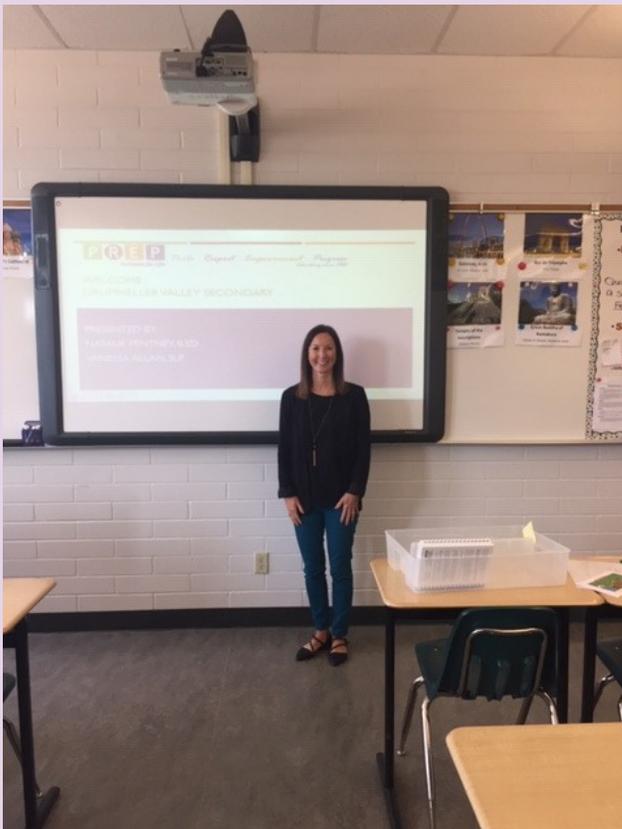
Facilitated over 20 educator visits to PREP

PREP offers supports to educators and families through our Education Support services to ensure everyone has the knowledge, resources, and capacity to create successful learning environments for students with Down syndrome. With the right supports in place, we believe that every individual with Down syndrome is able to thrive throughout their education careers. Thanks to funding from the United Way, our Education Support Coordinator works directly with families and teaching teams through consultations, workshops, professional development, webinars, and resource development.

Funding by:



Workshops: 9



Calgary City Teachers' Convention



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