

pets and friends

FEEL THE LOVE • PET THERAPY

IMPACT REPORT

FISCAL 2025/2026



Thanks to our donors, sponsors, and volunteers, we are bringing joy through pet therapy to vulnerable members in our community. Together, we are easing loneliness, creating connections, and improving health.

We couldn't do it without you.



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



As someone who is currently training her fifth pet therapy dog (the lovely Miss Molly), I know firsthand how gratifying our pet therapy visits are for people who love dogs (or cats or rabbits) but often do not have pets as part of their lives.

Our primary goals for our Pets and Friends continue to be to attract more volunteers and offer meaningful ways for them to volunteer with their pets. **There are so many underserved areas in our communities and we long to be able to serve all of them.** Every year, we grow our membership and with that growth comes increased demand from healthcare facilities, educational facilities, and front-line workers to name a few. Increasing awareness of what Pets and Friends does and the health benefits of pet therapy helps us to meet this demand.

We are so grateful to our supporters and generous sponsors who grant us funds, invite us into their workplaces to demonstrate what we do, and tell others about us. All of them help us to meet our revenue targets and so we can carry out our worthy mission year after year.

- Julie Case, President



ABOUT BC PETS AND FRIENDS (BCPF)

Established in 1982, a small group of compassionate caregivers at Shaughnessy Hospital took their beloved pets to work and observed the difference their pets made with the patients. The caregivers then approached the Vancouver Regional Branch of the British Columbia SPCA for funding to promote and expand the program. From there BCPF was born, and became a registered charity in 1986.

BCPF provides **free pet therapy visitations to health and educational facilities in the Lower Mainland,** such as hospitals, care facilities and universities. Our volunteer pet therapy teams provide a dose of warmth and love to patients, seniors, students, veterans, health care professionals and other community members.

Our pet therapy teams have **undergone screening for suitability** that includes pet screenings, criminal record checks, and vaccinations verification. Our members are volunteers that dedicate their personal time to share the unconditional love and companionship of their pet to those that would benefit from the healing power of pet therapy.

OUR TEAM

The BC Pets and Friends board is comprised of diverse individuals, volunteering their time and professional expertise. With some having hands-on experience as pet therapy volunteers, they bring a unique perspective to the success of BCPF.



JULIE CASE
President of BCPF, Julie is an owner at Drive Organizational Development Ltd. Julie is also a pet therapy volunteer.



LISA RANKEN
Serving since 2018, Lisa moved into her role as vice-president this year. Lisa is a CPHR and has her M.Eng.



STEPHANIE MCCULLOUGH
Manager of finance for the VCC Foundation, Stephanie has served as treasurer since 2017.



MARY MCGIVERN
Secretary for BCPF in 2026, Mary brings her MBA and 35+ years of experience in business and non-profit sectors.



MEL CHEESMAN
Joining in 2025, director-at-large Mel currently leads the corporate legal services team of at Metro Vancouver Regional District.



KERRY FAST
Current manager of revenue marketing at Integrated Planning for BC Hydro, Kerry joined in 2026 as a director-at-large.



CATHY CHIA
Cathy joined as director-at-large in 2026, lending expertise from her 15+ years in the provincial healthcare sector.



ANNETTE JOHANSON
A CPA with Nelson International for over 30 years, Annette became a director-at-large in 2026.

Our operations are run by our dedicated staff of part-time individuals, who bring energy and passion to BC Pets and Friends.



STEVE JONES
Executive director, Steve brought his wealth of experience from his years in the non-profit world.



RACHEL SCHWAB
Providing maternity coverage, Rachel oversaw our primary volunteer program as our wonderful volunteer coordinator.



KATIE OSTER
A part of BCPF for over 20 years, Katie is currently our incredible event coordinator, overseeing community, corporate, and awareness events.



ALANNA SUNDBERG
Focused on programs, Alanna leads our communications and volunteer program as our volunteer coordinator. Alanna was on maternity leave for the year.

PROVEN PET THERAPY BENEFITS

Our volunteers see firsthand the impact our therapy pets have on the people we visit - not only patients and residents, but health care professionals, support staff, and visitors as well. There are also numerous studies demonstrating that **animal-assisted therapy (AAT) provides significant mental and physical heath benefits**.

Physiological Benefits
Regular interactions with therapy animals is linked to lower blood pressured and improved cardiovascular health.

Mental Health Improvements
Pet therapy reduces anxiety, depression, and PTSD symptoms, providing emotional comfort and reducing loneliness.

Pediatric & Specialized Care
AAT improves communication and behavioural outcomes in children with autism.

Specialized Settings
In hospitals, therapy dogs reduce stress for patients, family members, and staff - improving the overall environment and increasing patient satisfaction.

Cognitive & Behavioural Support
Studies with dementia patients show that pet therapy can reduce agitation, increase engagement, and improve socialization.




256
Volunteer Teams
215
Program Partner Facilities
168K+
Interactions

OUR PET THERAPY PROGRAM

Pets are the heart of our organization. They bring joy through their tail wags, tummy rubs, occasional kisses, and unconditional love. We hear weekly about the smiles and happy tears they bring to the people they visit, uplifting them as they move through various challenges.

Our dedicated community of **256 volunteer pet therapy teams contributed almost 15,000 hours** to our primary pet therapy program - providing free pet therapy in an effort to improve the health and wellbeing of each individuals in educational and healthcare facilities.

Attending over 139 partner facilities, we estimate our teams positively impacts over 168,000 members of our community.

With over 70 more partner facilities requesting teams, **we are focused on growing our volunteer community**.



OUR EVENTS

This year, **BCPF and our volunteers participated in 99 events** with our therapy pets. Aligned with our mission to provide free pet therapy, we attended a total of 75 community events. These unique events include visiting BC Ambulance Services, a collection of universities, sharing the love with hospital staff, and others.

We also attended 24 corporate events, where organizations focused on employee wellness invite a group of our pet therapy volunteer teams for a visit. These visits allow us to give back to loyal supporters of our pet therapy program, while securing financial support.

Altogether, BCPF volunteers contributed a total of 538 hours to pet therapy events. The **demand for these unique visits continues to grow at a rapid pace**.



"A senior who has been going through a very difficult time came to the program! We haven't seen her participate in activities in a really long time!"

- Partner Facililty Feedback





"[My favourite thing about being a volunteer pet therapy team is] the look and smiles I get from residents who are literally not responsive to other daily living elements."

- Pet Therapy Volunteer

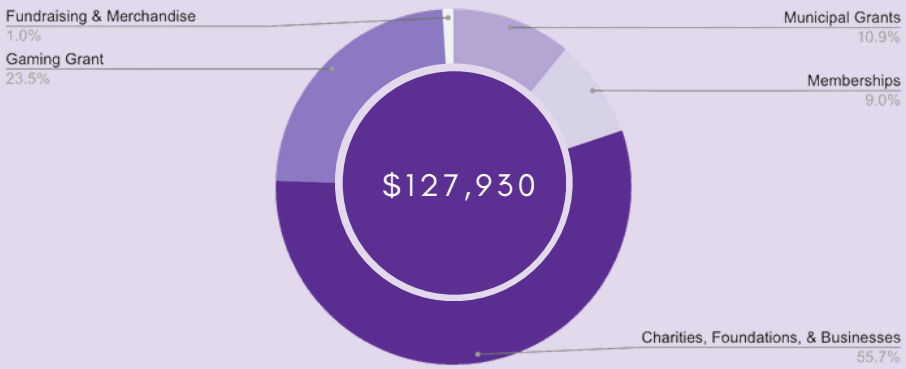
FINANCIALS

BC PETS AND FRIENDS BALANCE SHEET (JULY 31, 2026)

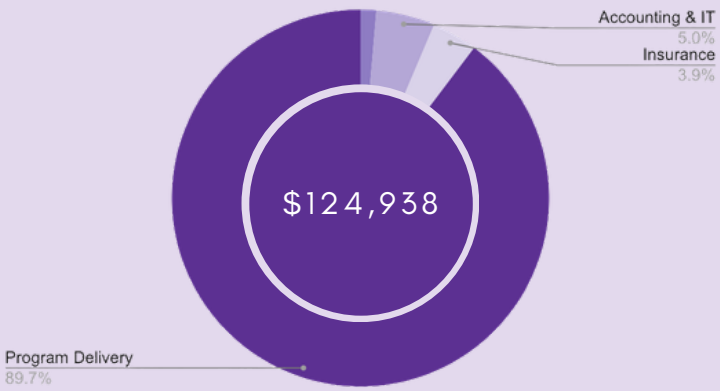
ASSETS	
CASH	$35,543
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	$4,919
PREPAID EXPENSES	$3,550
TOTAL	$44,012

LIABILITIES	
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	$582
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	$43,430
TOTAL	$44,012

OPERATING SUPPORT & REVENUE



OPERATING EXPENSES



OUR INCREDIBLE SPONSORS

CORPORATE SPONSORS

TMX Group
Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Mitsui & Co.
BC Net
Seapeak
B2Gold Corp
McCarthy Tétrault
The Amazing Brentwood
Oakwyn Realty Northwest
Nicola Wealth

GRANT SPONSORS

City of White Rock
City of Richmond
Gaming Grant, Province of BC
District of North Vancouver
District of West Vancouver
City of North Vancouver
Coquitlam Foundation
Richmond Community Foundation
Walmart Canada
New Westminster Community Grant
Golden Retriever Club of BC
KMC Foundation Inc.





To help bring joy through pet therapy, donate at www.petsandfriends.org.

pets and friends
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