



sara elizabeth
centre a program of
BLUE VEIL CHARITY

Where everyone *shines* like a star!

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ANNUAL REPORT

2019 / 2020

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Executive Director's Message

This year, we are especially proud of how much we have **grown** at the SEC. With the support and help from our staff, volunteers, individual and corporate donors, participants, and their families, SEC was able to continue to find ways to

bloom together, even during this pandemic. At SEC, we are always growing and developing our programs as well as implementing new programs that enhance each person's special uniqueness and "ability". Whether it is through our circle of friends, drum circle, music, art, drama, dance or broadcasting our monthly news video and commercials, at the SEC, we always focus on everyone's abilities, because we know that everyone has an individual way of accomplishing the same goal. That is what makes us each unique.

We began this year by embarking on a journey of the "7 Seas" by:

Supporting the unique talents and abilities of all our participants

Expanding our space and offering additional programs

Acquiring community partnerships and employment opportunities for our participants

Socially integrating our participants with students from various school boards through our coaching, workshops and retreats.

As part of our summer camp theme, "**SEC Goes Green**", our participants learned about green initiatives, composts and the basics of gardening such as; how to plant an herb and spice garden and how to maintain it throughout the growing season. During the fall season, our themes continued with, "**Treasures in Clay Jars**", "**Happy and Thankful**" to name just a few. In November, like every year, SEC staff and participants commemorated Remembrance Day with a minute of silence and a video, produced by SEC's videographer, Joe Smith and performed by our SEC participants, entitled, "**We Remember**".

In February 2019, we celebrated our 13th Annual Charity Gala with close to 500 guests in attendance. This year's theme was,

"**Diamonds**" a true testament to how everyone is a diamond, precious and beautiful, brilliant, and unique.

We are truly grateful to our generous corporate sponsors, community leaders and individuals donors for their overwhelming support and donations that enabled us to reach our goal. We also acknowledge and thank all our amazing volunteers and committee members who contributed countless hours of their time in planning this event. We thank everyone for making it such a special evening!

When SEC was forced to close its doors in March, due to the Covid-19 Ontario Government mandate, everyone at SEC worked tirelessly to transform our programs to a virtual classroom. Utilizing virtual learning proved to be remarkably successful for staff and participants. With this new learning platform and use of technology and social media, SEC staff were able to provide a new approach to teaching lessons and working on activities online as well as a new way of sharing and staying connected.

As hard and sad as it was to have to close for six months due to Covid, the blessing of this was that it gave us the opportunity to begin with renovations at SEC. Through the **Enabling Accessibility Fund**, we can now make SEC an accessible environment. We hope to have all renovations completed by our return to SEC in September 2020.

Although the past six months have proven to be financially difficult and mentally challenging for some, everyone at SEC remains positive as we plan to continue **growing**, in our space and in the number of participants and families we serve. We look forward to celebrating everyone's differences with many more creative ideas, new partnerships and a newly renovated Centre. With your continued help and support, we look forward to many more successes in 2020 – 2021.

Cris Smith,
Blue Veil Charity/Sara Elizabeth Centre
Executive Director

"Where everyone shines like a star"



AT SEC EVERYONE SHINES LIKE A STAR

Imagine a world that is rooted in love and acceptance, a world that recognizes the uniqueness of each person, where “differences don’t matter”.

At the Sara Elizabeth Centre, our mission is to redefine the definition of disability through thoughtful, inclusive, art-based programs that integrate our young adults with special needs with their able peers.

OUR INCLUSIVE PROGRAMS

highlight the unique talents and abilities of all our participants in a welcoming, friendly and safe environment.



GROWING STRONG TOGETHER

2019-2020 KEY HIGHLIGHTS

THEMES

SEC staff and facilitators continued to develop well-thought-out monthly themes for our day program. Through our art-based programs, our staff developed unique and interesting activities and events that were not only exciting but encouraged our participants to engage and interact with our theme.

In July and August, our SEC Summer Camp was blooming with our **“Going Green”** theme where SEC campers learned about green initiatives, compost and the importance of trees and plants. Everyone enjoyed learning a new summer camp song under the guidance of Donny and Nicole while also learning to play instruments such as the ukulele, recorder, guitar, piano and the xylophone.

In the Fall and Winter our themes continued with **“Jars of Clay”**, helped our participants learn all about making clay jars, exploring the various clay jars from around the world while also discovering in the theme of **“Treasures”** and **“Precious”**, that each one of them is a treasure to the world and more precious than any jewel and carried this theme over into our annual charity gala... as a true testament to how everyone is a diamond, precious, brilliant and unique.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

SEC continues to open its doors to our community and welcomes some new friends to join us in community collaboration and partnerships .

- We spent the afternoon singing songs, dancing and playing Family Feud with our **friends from Fr. Bressani CHS.**
- **Pilot Stu Atkinson**, helped SEC close off our **“Wings”** theme. We spent the afternoon learning about life as a pilot and our participants asked lots of questions.
- **Rachel Levy Sarfin**, freelance writer, for a featured article in the February issue of Neighbours of Woodbridge Magazine..

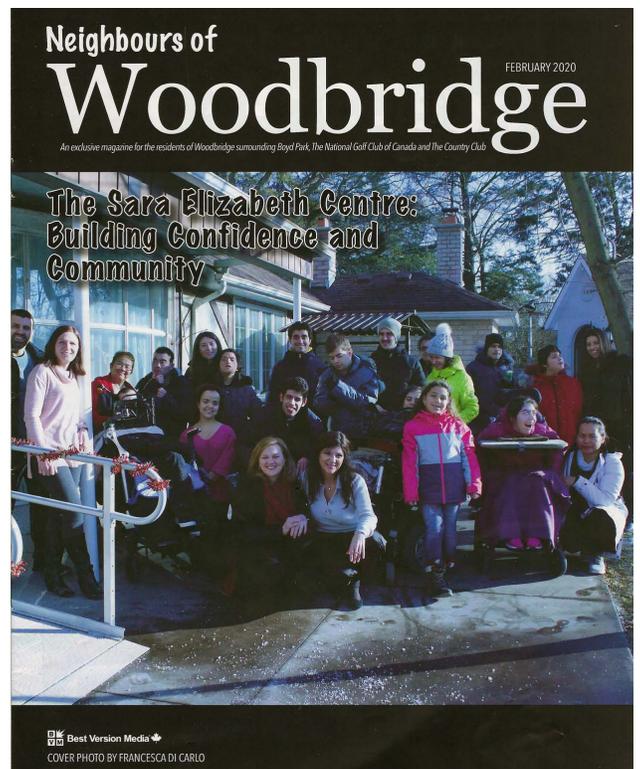




MOSAIC ART PIECE CREATED BY SEC

GUEST VISITORS

- SEC welcomed our friends from the Dufferin Peel Catholic School Board and presented **David Amaral**, Associate Director of Education and his team of Instructional Superintendents with a beautiful mosaic piece of art that was created by our very own SEC participants under the guidance of our art instructor, Adina. entitled, **“Infinite Source of Light,”**
- **Steven Vitale** from UPS joined SEC for Circle of Friends and presented us with a generous donation.
- **Francesco Sorbara**, Member of Parliament for Vaughan, visited the Sara Elizabeth Centre to congratulate SEC employees Elizabeth, Sarah, Vanessa, Nadia, Matthew, Jonathan and Isabella for being selected as SEC recipients of the Canadian Summer Job grant.





BLACK CREEK PIONEER VILLAGE

FIELD TRIPS

SEC participants and staff are always ready to venture out and experience a fun day together. Everyone at SEC enjoyed our field trips to Skyzone, staying active, jumping on trampolines, and playing dodgeball. Black Creek Pioneer Village was truly a blast from the past. Everyone learned all about the village life in the 1860s and had the chance to say hello to some friendly farm animals. We also had a blast getting lost in the corn maze, taking a wagon ride through the farm and picking out pumpkins at Downey's Farm, in Caledon, ON. And a day at the Movie Theatre to watch the Lion King movie was enjoyed by all. But the highlight of the field trips was going down to watch Raptors Game and meeting all the Toronto Raptor players in person.





GM SPORTS NEWSCAST WITH GIANMICHAEL

VIDEOGRAPHY

Our in-house videographer, Joseph Smith continues to make our participants shine. Passionate about his work, Joe records all live events and video productions for SEC. He works with our participants in creating short films, commercials, broadcasts, and documentaries. Under the guidance of our SEC videographer/director Joseph, we are proud and excited to see how our participants' talents and gifts are captured and developed in this field of expressive art! Here are just a few examples

- Marco Greco shines as a presenter for SEC Weekly Breaking News Broadcast.
- Gianmichael hosts his first official Sports Newscast called 'GM SPORTS' at St. Jean de Brebeuf CHS, interviewing his very own school coach Mr Marini
- Michael Stanco and Matthew Marini complete the latest stop motion animation called "How Neko Jira got his Wings".
- SEC Commercials :
 - "Going Green" ,"Starmugs"
 - "SEC TREASURE Halloween Dance",
 - "Yet Still, We Live"
 - "We Remember" Nov 11, 2019
 - "The Box" Cover song recorded by Jeff Smith
- Charity Gala Special Video
 - "YOU are God's Diamond, Precious and Beautiful"

To view all SEC videos visit our Youtube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/SaraElizabethCentre1/videos>

VISUAL ART

Painted and decorated paper cutouts of jars to resemble clay jars from around the world

- Decorated individual glass jar.
- Created Thanksgiving cards using card stock and coloured toothpicks
- SEC artists Melissa Morris and Michelle Turco worked on new addition to Christmas card collection
- Michelle Turco completed new painting of a pearl for Charity Gala
- YOUTUBE - "YOU are God's Diamond, Precious and Beautiful"



GROWING STRONG ONLINE

MARCH - JUNE 2020 - SEC-Online Resources

During the Covid-19 closure, SEC introduced online resources for our participants and invited anyone from the community who wanted a creative outlet to join us as well.



THEMES

- "The Power of Words"
- "Rainbow"
- "Eggs-ordinary"
- "Branching Together"
- "People who Perform"
- "SEC Toolbox"
- "ACCESS-Ability"
- "Social INCLUSION"
- "SEC Tools- "The Art of Storytelling"

DANCE

- Dance with Ayana
- Guests, Ayana, Rosa & Miguel

LIFE SKILLS

- Life Skills with Sarah D
- Guest Nurse Monica & Milena
- Guest Jeff Smith
- Guest Rosa & Bertha "Sewing Tools"
- Gardening Tools with Guest Don
- Setting a Table with Camilla

CULINARY

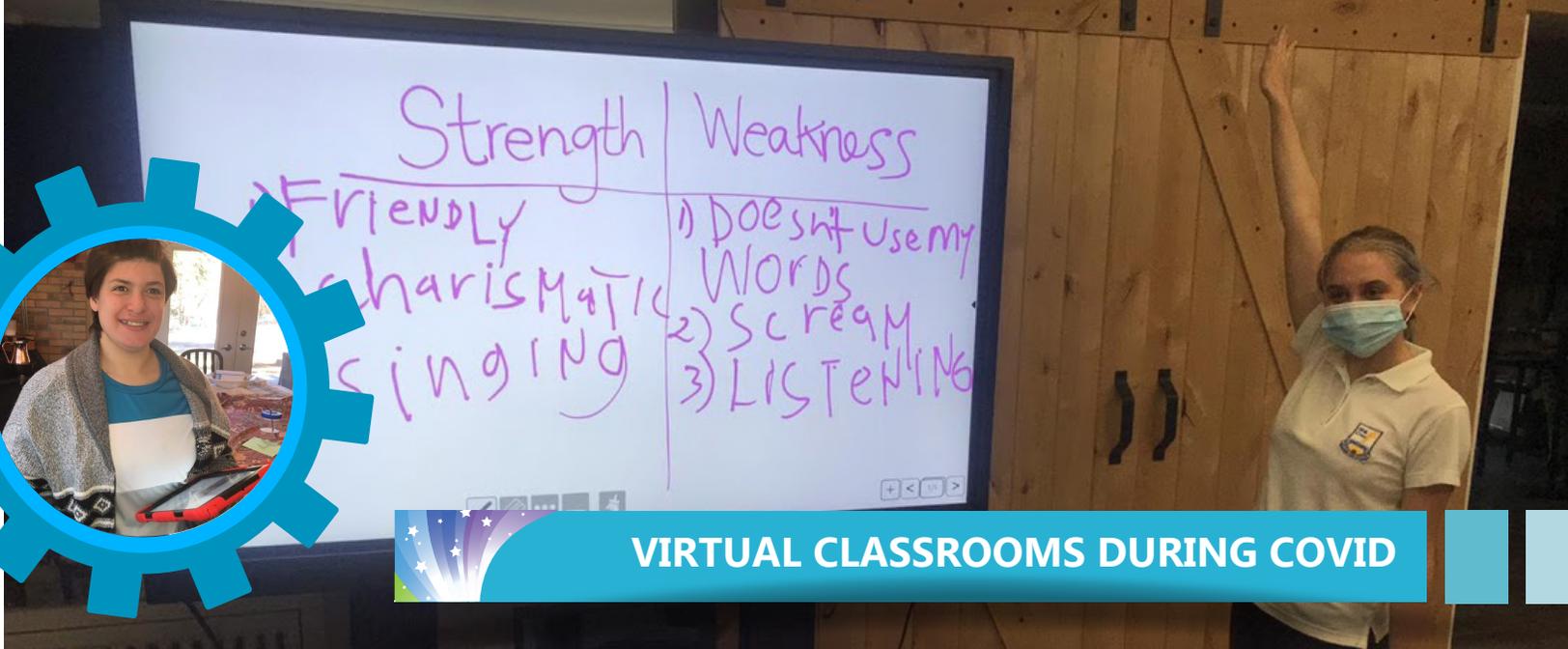
- Filo's Culinary "Rainbow Jello"

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- SEC joined Façade Academy in the Rainbow Trail Initiative by submitting an art piece entitled "Rise Above"

LITERACY

- Sarah' M Literacy "Power of Words"
- Nicole's Sign Language, "Somewhere Over the Rainbow"
- Literacy with Sarah D
- Tools with Sarah M & Sarah D
- Story Time with Guest Matteo



VIRTUAL CLASSROOMS DURING COVID



MUSIC

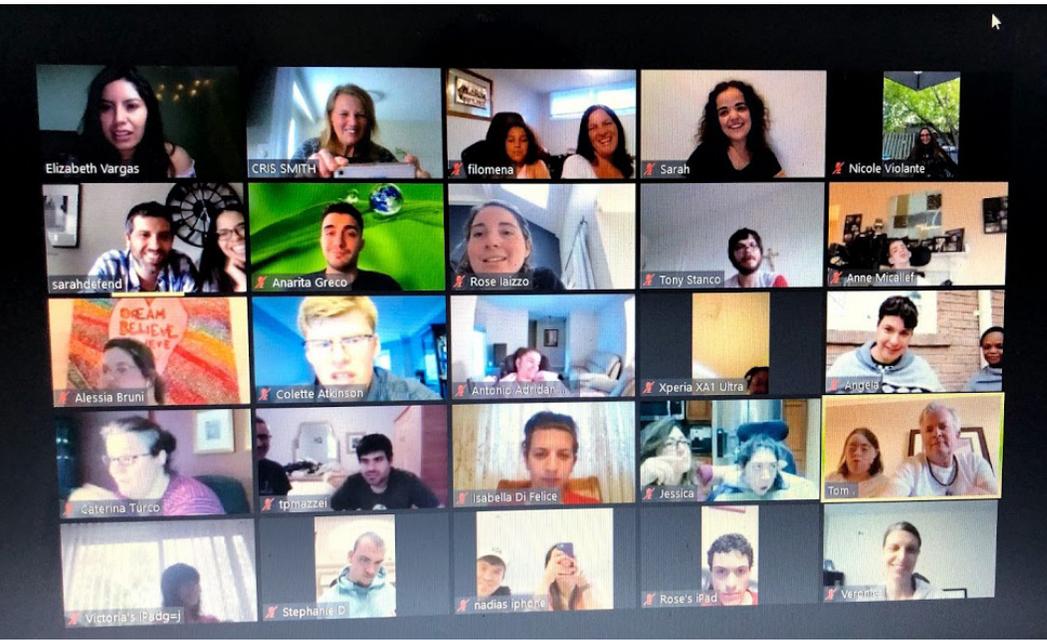
- Donny Music "Some Where Over the Rainbow"
- Music with Donny "What a Wonderful World"
- Smith Family sing "Brother" by Need to Breathe
- Music with Guest Adrien

VIDEOGRAPHY

- Cinematic Arts with Joe

VISUAL ARTS

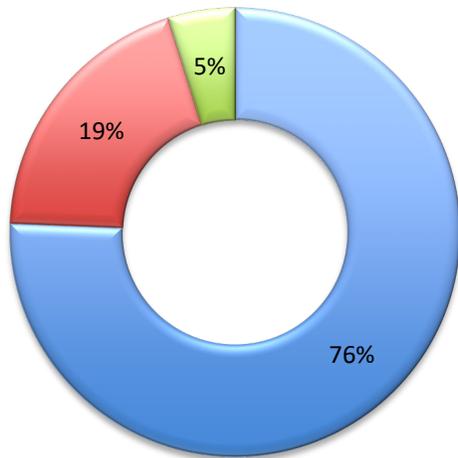
- Elizabeth's ART "Pointilism"
- Collage "Rising Above"
- Scrapbooking with Sarah M



YOU'RE INVITED TO
ONLINE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS!
 VIA ZOOM
MAY 31 @ 7PM
 Stay tuned for the Zoom Meeting link!

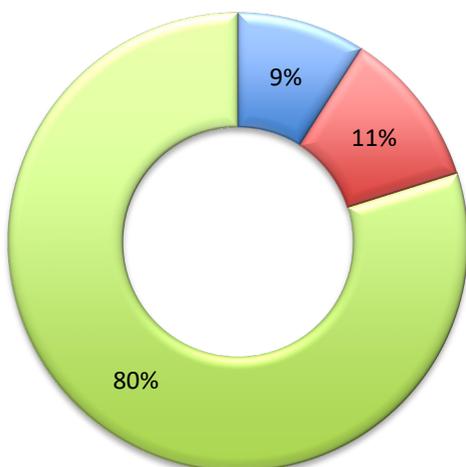
FINANCIALS

Revenues



- Program revenue
- Charitable donations
- Government funding

Expenses



- Management & Administration
- Fundraising
- Charitable programs

LOOKING BACK & MOVING AHEAD

REBRANDING SEC LOGO AND WEBSITE

SEC officially launched its new logo and website in February 2020. A special thank you goes to

Paolo Rinaldi, Graphic Designer and Phill Smith, Frozen Lemon Media, for making SEC shine bright!



CHARITY GALA 2020

This year's gala theme was "DIAMONDS" You are Precious ". Participants prepare a dance routine with ribbons and movements. It was another successful event and we Thank you for supporting Blue Veil Charity/Sara Elizabeth Centre. It is through the help and generosity of people like you that we are able to continue our work. Your compassionate support truly makes a difference!

NEW ACCESSIBLE ENVIRONMENT

Thanks to Local MPP Michael Tobola, the Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant (OTF) and Enabling Accessibility Fund (EAF), SEC will now have a NEWLY Accessible Environment for the upcoming year. Renovations include a back and front ramp and a new concrete patio and railing., a new entrance, with automatic doors, upgraded washroom and main area. WE hope to have all the renovations completed by Sept. 2020.

NEW PROGRAM FOR SENIORS

SEC will be launching a **FREE** phone based, intergenerational and inclusive telephone program called "*Circle of Friends for Seniors*". Seniors who join our telephone program. will have the chance to connect with our community, relax, and have fun in the comfort of their own home.

SEC STAR SUPPORTERS



CORPORATE DONORS & SPONSORS

Arista Homes
Averton Homes
A. L. Plumbing & Heating Ltd.
BMO/Nesbitt Burns
Boston Pizza, Stouffville
Casa Loma
Cervini Painting and Decorating
CIBC - Thornhill Square
City of Vaughan
Concord Steel Centre Ltd.
Curbside Construction Inc.
Demna Inc.
Dineen Construction
Fresh Foodie
Future Fine Furniture
G4S Secure Solutions Canada (Ltd)
GP Services
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Rizmi Holdings Limited
Rosehaven Homes Limited
Royal Pine Homes
Sherwin Williams Paints
Shoppers Drug Mart,
Stouffville
Shoppers Drug Mart Vaughan
Silver Carpentry
Steeles Paint & Decorating Centre Ltd.
Sudev Charitable Foundation
Vaughan Vacuum
Vincentina Meats
Wings Auto Service Centre Ltd.
Woodbridge Painting/Concord Painters

A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

The **Ontario Trillium Foundation** and **Enabling Accessibility Fund** grants will help to transform SEC into a new accessible environment that will increase the availability of our day and after school programming for young adults with developmental disabilities, while also addressing and focussing on the safety concerns and wellbeing of all our participants.

Everyone at the Sara Elizabeth Centre wishes to share with them our gratitude in helping this renovation project become a reality. Acquiring the much needed funds to increase accessibility and space at our Centre will make such a huge difference.

Ontario
Trillium Foundation



Fondation Trillium
de l'Ontario

An agency of the Government of Ontario
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

Ontario



This year once again, SEC was chosen as a recipient of the **City of Vaughan, Mayor's Spirit of Generosity Fund**.

We thank the Mayor, Hon. Maurizio Bevilacqua, for his continued support in the meaningful work we do in our community and beyond so that we can continue to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

HELP US IMPACT THE LIVES OF YOUNG ADULTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.

We envision living in a world where **"differences don't matter"**

Your support to the **Sara Elizabeth Centre** will not only help us meet our vision...
...it will benefit every young adult with special needs.



Learn more about getting involved or making a donation at: blueveil.org



500 likes

707 followers
64% increase



200 followers



60,000 views
63% increase in uploads
55% increase in views



DAY PROGRAM

AFTER SCHOOL

SEASONAL CAMPS

SATURDAY SOCIAL