



sara elizabeth  
centre

a program of  
BLUE VEIL CHARITY

Where everyone **shines** like a star!



ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022





## A message from our EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*The successes we celebrate from this past year are the results of the dedication of everyone involved!*

This past year, has been a year of learning, reflections, and adjustments. Despite the many challenges we have encountered, due to the pandemic, our commitment to inclusive programming for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families has not wavered.

In the pages that follow, we have highlighted the work we do and the programs we run for our young adults with special needs that allows them to stay connected to their community and to each other. During this past year, we have continued to expand our integrational and inclusive programs with the use of technology, and have implemented many new initiatives such as online school retreats with over 200 high school students attending virtually, a video miniseries called Fabulous Fantasy and a drama production of Peter Pan starring our very own SEC participants. With the help of an anonymous donor, we expanded our classroom space outdoors by creating an outdoor circle of friend's area and a green space garden. We also continue to acknowledge and address the accessibility standards for all our participants and with the help of a government grant we are currently undertaking the construction and installation of an elevator at SEC that will be completed by the end of the summer.

In the spring of April this year, we introduced an online fundraising campaign called, "Shaking Things Up". This fundraising initiative was very much needed since we did not host a fundraising event in February as we usually have in the past. The funds raised during this campaign helped us continue to provide accessible and inclusive programs for all. It allowed us to offer both adapted and integrated programs while also introducing new and exciting ones to our participants. The funds also helped us to maintain our program fees at a reasonable cost for many of our families who otherwise could not afford it.

We thank the many generous donors that contributed to our campaign and are truly grateful to everyone that helped us to reach more than 70% of our original goal. We couldn't have done it without your support and donation. Our entire staff, board members and participants thanks you.

We are proud to showcase our efforts over the last 12 months and are equally excited to continue our work towards changes that will make a real difference to the people and the communities we serve. Looking forward, SEC has some new, exciting and major projects lined up that will help our participants learn about the working world and to give them the confidence, experience and knowledge of what it takes to run a small business.

We recognize that our goals are sometimes ambitious, but we remain hopeful that we can inspire the hearts and minds of our ongoing supporters, to help us with our mission of "redefining the definition of disability through inclusive, accessible art-based programs that highlight and nourish the unique talents and abilities of every individual".

With gratitude,

Cris Smith, Executive Director



THUMBS UP FOR  
ANTOHER GREAT SEC  
SUMMER CAMP



**Our Heroes theme was filled with action and  
adventure.  
Everyone had a blast exploring their very own  
super powers.**



# SUMMER CAMP Heroes

We all had a blast exploring our very own super powers, creating comic book frames, having weekly music shows with Donny, our music director and Sienna, one of our summer students. and meeting some amazing community heroes.



We also connected with some extraordinary people on Zoom. A great big Thank you to all these Heroes for joining us to talk about the amazing work they do within our community.

sara elizabeth centre  
Where everyone belongs

Mike Yoshiki  
Firefighter

Bianca Lacanto-Mazzoli  
Lifeguard

Mario Vargas  
Microbiologist and Scientific Researcher

Amanda Di Luch  
Therapeutic Paws of Canada

Angela Roppo  
Pediatrician

Vince Galisto  
Police Officer

Colie Stevenson  
Autistic Artist & Entrepreneur

Ellen Giannoulas  
Registered Nurse

The Curic Family  
Musicians and Teachers







## Art in Action : EXPLORING EVERYONE'S TALENTS

### GREETING CARDS FOR ALL OCCASIONS

These talented young adults are the hardworking visual artists behind SEC's greeting card selection! Our artists create their paintings based on various themes throughout the year such as, Christmas, Thanksgiving, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Birthdays, Anniversaries Graduations, etc. As a way of showcasing all of our talented artists, these beautiful unique works of art are

made into greeting cards . Our greeting cards are 5" x 7" (folded) and include white-envelopes for mailing and/or gift giving. These all occasion greeting cards are great to have handy for life's special moments and are easily available for purchase on our website at our **SEC Store**. Visit our SEC Store at <https://sara-elizabeth-centre-store.myshopify.com/> to select your favorite cards and receive it within 2 - 3 business days.



**MICHELLE WINS PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD !**



### Congratulations to Michelle!!!

On September 26, 2021, our SEC Star, Michelle Turco was shining bright. Michelle was 1 of 13 artists whose paintings were displayed at the Studio at Assembly Park Inaugural Group Exhibition in Vaughan. After receiving over 900 votes, Michelle's painting, entitled, "Diamonds" won the People's Choice Award. We are all so proud of Michelle!

We'd like to thank all everyone that showed their support by coming out to the gallery and voting for Michelle's painting and a special thank you to Michelle's parents, Cathy and Bill, for sharing Michelle with us at SEC.

A great big thank you to our staff program instructor, Elizabeth Vargas, who worked with Michelle on her painting . Elizabeth was not only a mentor to Michelle but a guiding star in this whole process.



#1

# Arts BASED PROGRAMS ... WHERE EVERYONE SHINE LIKE A STAR!

Visual Arts – Culinary  
Drama – Dance – Music  
Videography

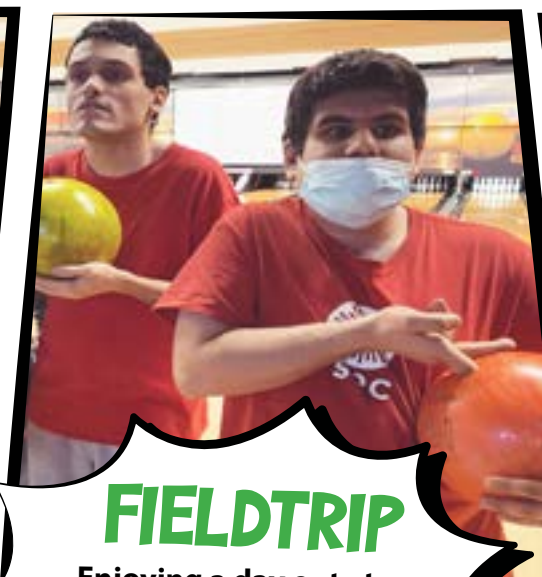




#2

# Arts BASED PROGRAMS

[Click Here to check out more of SEC's monthly News Broadcast and videos](#)



## FIELDTRIP

Enjoying a day out at Splitsville Bowling and SkyZone



## HAVING A BLAST AT SEC!

Celebrating March Break with a Blast from the Past ! Featuring music from every era.... and from slang to fashion and art we had a groovy time!





# WITH THE HELP OF GOV'T GRANTS !



**NEW FRONT ENCLOSURE**



**CANADA SUMMER JOB**



**... AND A ANONIMOUS DONOR !**

**OUTDOOR GREENSPACE GARDEN**



**NEW ELEVATOR**

# MAKING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



## ARTISTIC SKYLIGHT

SEC is honoured to make a community connection with Lora Bourk owner of Artistic Skylight and all her team. Not only did she make it her mission to replace and install two new skylights through an in-kind donation but was also instrumental in collaborating with her staff for a monetary company donation. This generous support truly reveals her heart and spirit along with her team members who make up Artistic Skylight! Our Sec family thanks you!



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

SEC is grateful for the support shown by the Knights of Columbus, the St. John Bosco Council 14327. As one of their three Charities of Choice we received a generous donation with funds raised during this years golf tournament. Thank you again!



## CULTURAL AND EDUCATION CENTRE

We are all so grateful for connecting with Ivana, who invites SEC for a visit at the Cutlural and Education Centre throughout the year. We are so blessed to have people who love SEC! We thank the Cultural and Educational Centre community for donating food baskets to SEC! God bless!.





**YES!** CONGRATULATIONS  
ARE IN ORDER!



**CONGRATULATIONS JUAN!**  
Winner of this year's **Volunteer Recognition Award** with the City of Vaughan! Thank you for all your hard work, dedication, and heart!

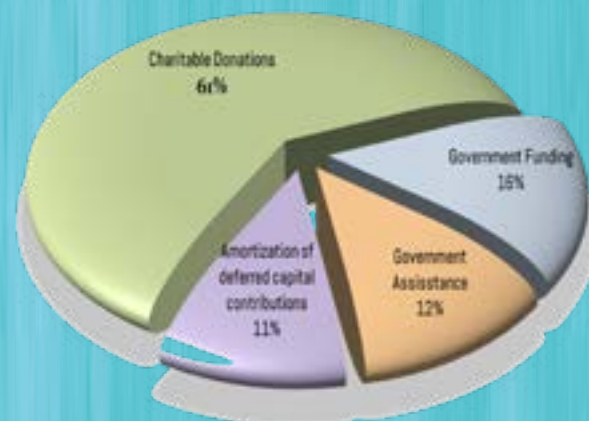


**MEET MICHAEL STANCO : aka POET**  
Using his gifted abilities in poetry writing, Michael completed a poem called "Now is the Time" which he wrote in honour of his grandfather. Working with Joe Smith, SEC videographer a story developed into a true message of freedom, family & hope. Check out Michael's newest poem in collaboration with @joecanon ! [Click Here to view the full video](#)



## FINANCIALS 2020-2021

### REVENUE



### EXPENSES



## SOME FUN FACTS!



500 likes

1000 followers  
30% increase



116,000 views



200 followers



**SHAKING THINGS UP!**

## FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN



Thornhill Square



## A Sincere Thank You

To everyone for your donations during these past few years. Because of your generosity, we were able to stay open during the pandemic and continue offering our programs to all our young adults with special needs. With your continued support, we look forward to growing and expanding our space and our programs for the good of all our participant.





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