



# ANNUAL REPORT

2022/2023





Executive Director, Marieze Tarr

## WHERE WE ARE

---

Finally, our work lives have returned to normal. We have been able to meet in person again, collaborate with other organizations, and attend in-person training. We are proud of the continued growth of our organization! In the last 5 years, the budget of our organization grew by more than one million dollars and we are still seeing growth in all of our program participation. Desert Sun truly has a very committed group of board members, staff, and volunteers working together to support our community members in need.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

---

**Expand our counselling services to another high school in SD53.** One of our strategic goals has always been prevention. We believe to prevent relationship troubles, domestic violence, lack of coping skills and resiliency we must start early. Five years ago, Desert Sun had one counsellor working in two high schools in our school district; today we have four. We are proud of the work that they do in our schools and the socio-emotional skills that they are teaching our children and youth. Desert Sun is grateful to SD53 for providing this opportunity to deliver this service.

**Secure a contract with Interior Health to provide Community Support Workers to Family practices in Oliver and Osoyoos.** Desert Sun submitted a Request for Proposal to Interior Health last summer to provide two Community Support Workers, one to Osoyoos family practitioners and one to Oliver family practitioners. We were successful in our bid, and we are excited to be helping to alleviate the pressures on our family physicians in the South Okanagan by providing support to vulnerable patients.

**" At the end it's not about what you have or even what you've accomplished. It's about who you've lifted up, who you've made better. It's about what you have given back"**

**-Denzel Washington-**

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR CONTINUED

---

The Community Support Workers aim to provide support and guidance to patients as they navigate local, provincial, federal, and other benefit programs that may aid in the well-being of “whole person care” - whether it be psychosocial, social, emotional, mental, financial, or physical in nature. Community Support Workers (CSW) work alongside physicians and other healthcare providers to provide team-based care to patients in need. The CSW's are the connection between patients in need and the services they need in the community.

## **Board participated in Board governance training.**

Last fall our mostly new Board made the decision to be trained in effective governance. We contracted Colin Sauer (The Governance Group) from Victoria, BC to learn more about effective governing and the roles and responsibilities of the Board and Senior Staff. The training made everyone more confident in their purpose and role in the organization and meets our goal of Enhanced Learning Opportunities for All.

**Fundraiser:** We were fortunate, again, to have our anonymous donor step up and donate \$25,000 to our organization on the condition that his funds were matched. We managed to triple his funds through the generosity of our community and our anonymous donor. We would like to thank every donor, large and small, for your donations. Your generosity enables us to go the extra mile for so many of our clients. This extra funding helps us provide extra (free to the community) counselling hours, outreach support to our most vulnerable community members, extra safe home support staff, and funding for our Community Kitchen. I would like to thank the Board for their support in the last year, never has the staff felt so supported and cared for! Thank you to each and everyone at the Board table for your ideas, support, care and compassion for the work that we do. Desert Sun has amazing staff members who go above and beyond, every day, to do their best for the most vulnerable in the communities that we serve. I want to thank each one of you for what you do every day. We are so fortunate to have all of you working to better our community.

Marieze Tarr



**"We are not a team because we work together. We are a team because we respect, trust and care for each other."**

# WHO WE ARE

---

## **ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM**

**Executive Director:** Marieze Tarr

**Executive Assistant:** Michelle Bell

**Finance Manager:** Jas Nahal

## **PROGRAM COORDINATORS**

**The Parent Connection/Community Kitchen/Community**

**Garden:** Nancy Aatelma

**Early Years:** Pavan Dhaliwal

**Parenting Skills Program Okanagan Correctional Centre:**

Marieze Tarr, Michelle Bell

**Roots of Empathy:** Brittany von Burg, Marieze Tarr

**Affordable Housing:** Michelle Bell

**Better at Home for Seniors:** Brittany Von Burg, Armelle

Garska, Jill Oakley

**Men's Shed:** Ariel Ozorco

**Computer Tutor:** Ariel Ozorco, Donna Morgan

**Therapeutic Activation Program for Seniors (TAPS):**

Bonnie Dancy, Donna Morgan, Alicia Osland, Lisa Lewis

**Youth Connection Program:** Brittany von Burg, Sherri

Havig

**Community Support Workers:** Laura Stokes-Craine, Julie

Rooney

## **COUNSELLING AND OUTREACH STAFF**

Rebekah Humphrey: Clinical Manager

Chad Teigen, Peter Kok, Tonya Sonai, Pavan Dhaliwal,

Jeremy Crowe, Lauren Ibaraki, Debbie Frechette, Nicky

Shaw, Rossana Garcia, Lisa Lewis, Tara Havig, Ashley

Frederick and Michelle Bell

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Board Chair: Rod Kitt, Rachel Cox

Treasurer: Gayle McConnell

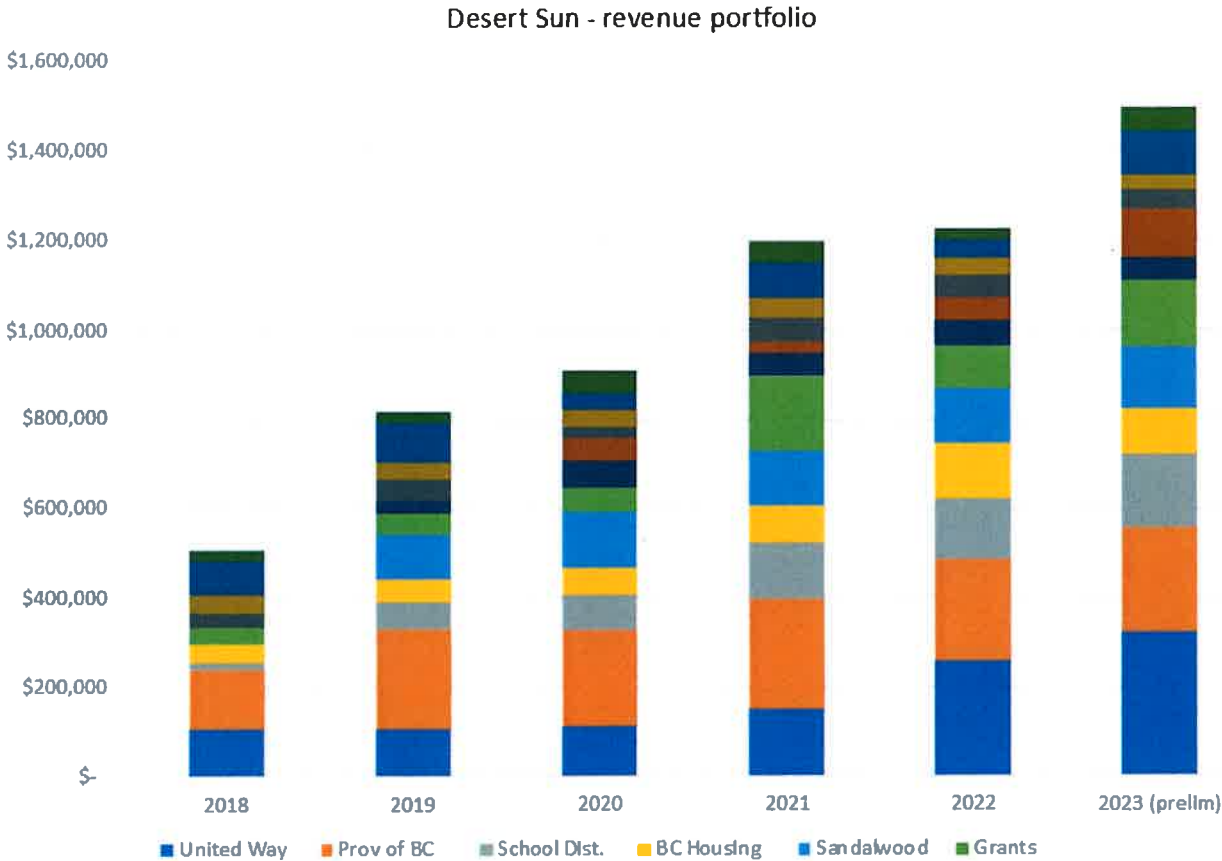
Board Members: Heather Andrews, Patricia Roberts,

MaryAnne Galey, Kyle Johnson, Marco Bosjniak, Maureen

Doerr

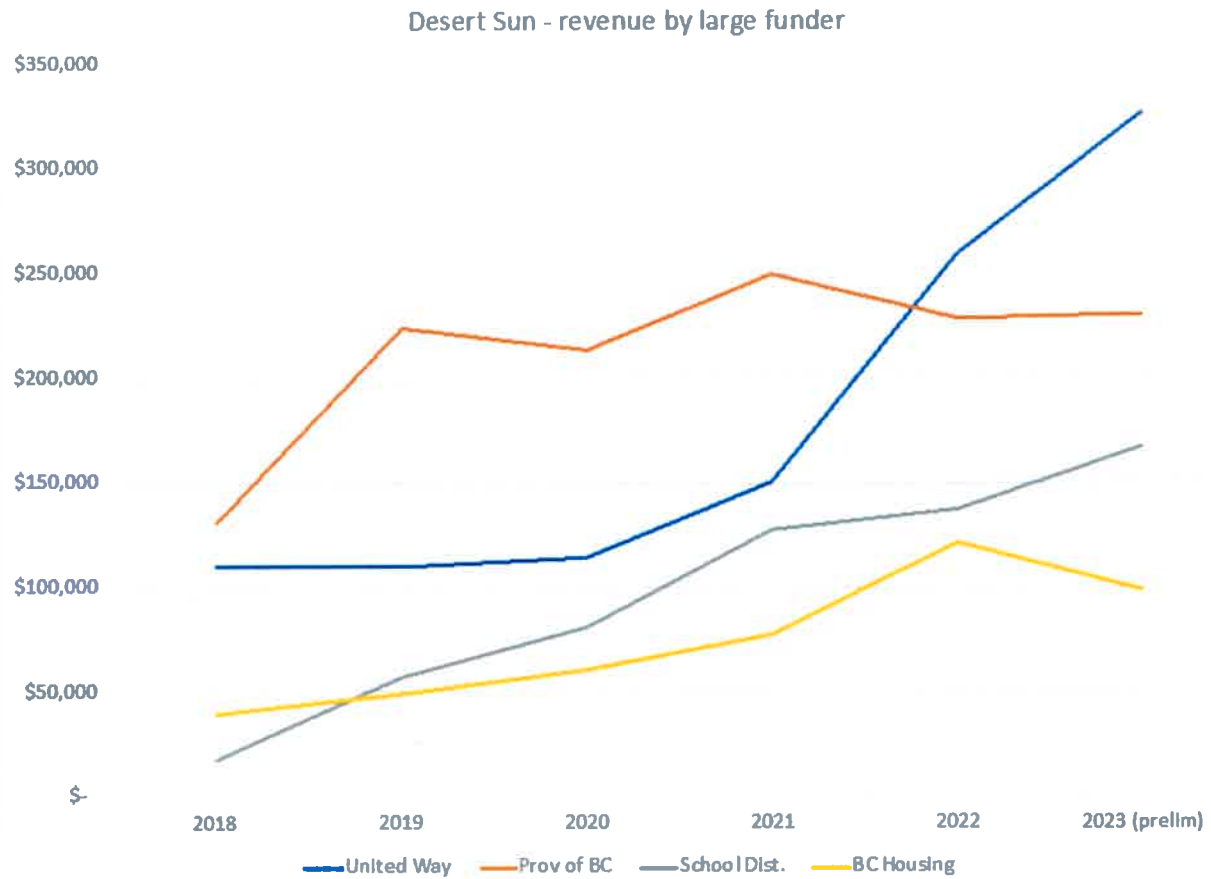
# FINANCIALS AT A GLANCE

## Desert Sun - Revenue Portfolio



# FINANCIALS AT A GLANCE

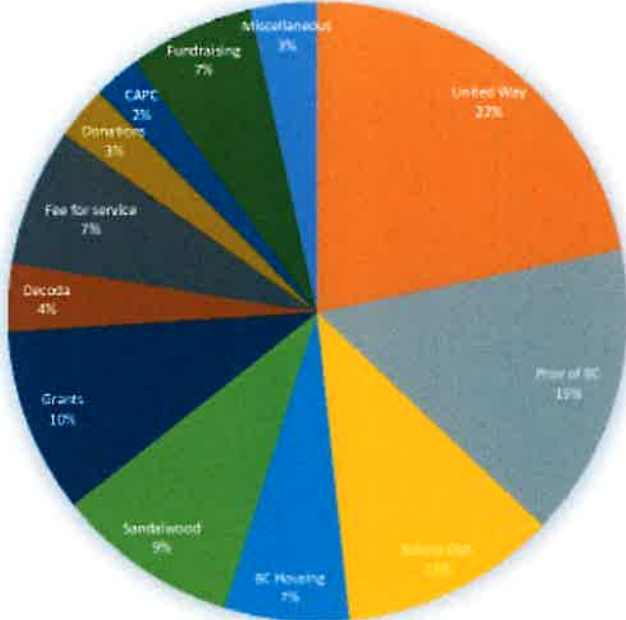
## Desert Sun - Revenue by Large Funder



# FINANCIALS AT A GLANCE

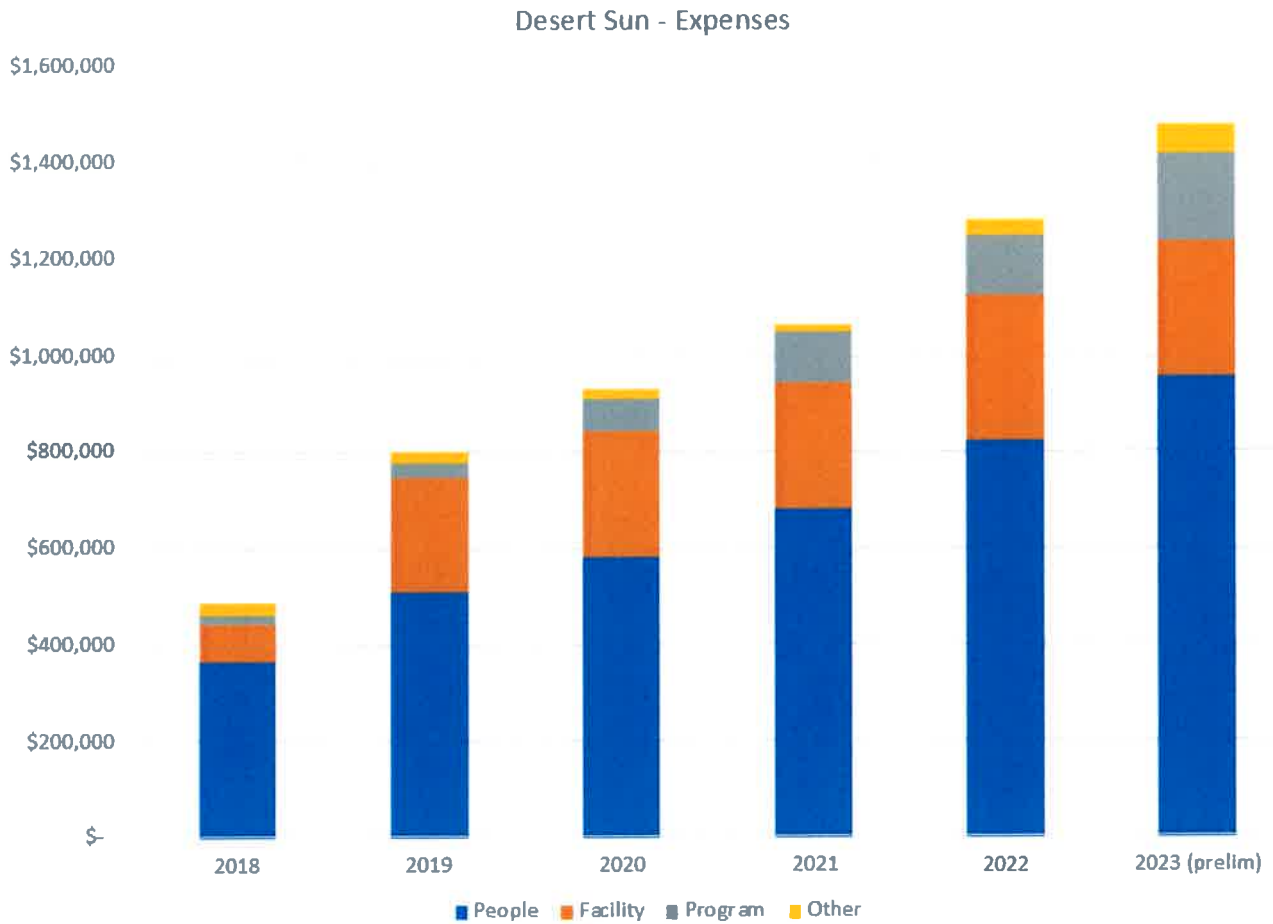
## Desert Sun -2023 Revenue Porfolio (prelim)

Desert Sun - 2023 Revenue Portfolio (prelim)



# FINANCIALS AT A GLANCE

## Desert Sun - Expenses





# FINANCIALS AT A GLANCE

## Desert Sun - Expenses

Expenses	People	\$ 365,963	\$ 508,637	\$ 582,009	\$ 682,440	\$ 822,211	\$ 954,750
	% total expense	75%	63%	63%	64%	64%	65%
Facility		\$ 79,521	\$ 236,991	\$ 259,564	\$ 263,043	\$ 303,892	\$ 282,485
	% total expense	16%	30%	28%	25%	24%	19%
Program		\$ 16,882	\$ 34,780	\$ 72,036	\$ 101,652	\$ 122,135	\$ 183,100
	% total expense	3%	4%	8%	10%	10%	12%
Other		\$ 25,522	\$ 20,899	\$ 17,270	\$ 17,183	\$ 32,224	\$ 56,949
	% total expense	5%	3%	2%	2%	3%	4%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 487,889</b>	<b>\$ 801,308</b>	<b>\$ 930,880</b>	<b>\$ 1,064,319</b>	<b>\$ 1,280,463</b>	<b>\$ 1,477,285</b>

# STRATEGIC PLAN



# YEAR IN REVIEW

---

20 Programs to empower people of all ages to experience an enhance quality of life

Board and staff embarked on a journey to develop a new strategic plan and a new vision and mission statement

\$76,000 raised with our virtual fundraiser. Thank you to our communities!

Community partners identified Desert Sun as a leader in providing services to South Okanagan and a community builder in the region.

48 students had 4000 hours of support and connection in our after-school youth connection program.

Desert Sun was selected by United Way to be trained in the evaluation of Social Programs. Four staff successfully completed.

88 women received support through our outreach program

42 children participated in our Roots of Empathy Program in SD53

\$45,000 grant from South Okanagan Community Foundation to provide support to vulnerable women.

Partnership with Interior Health to provide two CSW to Family Practices in the South Okanagan to provide team-based care to vulnerable patients.

Desert Sun Board participated in governance training.

6,125 people were referred and advocated for by our Desert Sun Office

78 Christmas hampers provided to families through "Share the Spirit"

\$25,00 received from United Way for Emergency Preparedness

# WHAT WE DO

---

We facilitate supportive programs to empower people of all ages to experience an enhanced quality of life in their homes, schools and communities, we at Desert Sun focus on the following service areas:

- Community Outreach: Referral and Advocacy
- Shelter and Crisis support for women and children leaving intimate partner violence and women at risk of homelessness.
- Parenting Education and Support, a Community Kitchen, one on one parenting support to at-risk parents, and the Parenting Skills program at the Okanagan Correctional Centre.
- Early Years Program
- Counselling for Women, Children & Youth, and Men
- Affordable Housing
- Support for Seniors wishing to maintain their independence at home (Better at Home)
- Men's Shed
- Therapeutic Activation Program for Seniors (TAPS), a program to address loneliness in seniors.
- Fearlessly Facing Forward Camp
- Youth Shelter
- Youth Connection Program
- Community Support Worker

It is our aim to positively affect the lives of our community members through preventative programs, parent support, ending violence, promoting healthy relationships, supporting early childhood development and seniors independence.

# WHAT WE DO CONT'D

---

## Referral and Advocacy

**Community Outreach**, assists individuals and families in connecting them with the appropriate services. We provide help with completing income assistance and other legal forms. We advocate on behalf of our clients to relevant agencies and organizations.

## Safe Home and Crisis Support

**The Women's Crisis Line**, provides emotional support to women who struggle with relationship issues and feelings of isolation. We provide information regarding community programs and we make referrals.

**Safe Home Program** provides food, clothing, shelter, transportation and advocacy to women and children fleeing from intimate partner violence, 24 hours a day, 365 days per year.

**Youth Shelter** provide shelter for youth who are fleeing violence or conflict at home and are at risk of homelessness.

## Parenting Education & Support/Community Kitchen

**The Parent Connection**, a place for parent/care givers to meet and share their parenting concerns. The Parent Connection is an interactive participant focused program, which offers a variety of supports for families. We offer: Mother Goose, Nobody's Perfect, Circle of Security, Baby Talk, tips on parenting, nutrition, and budgeting, information on community resources, gently used clothing exchange, car set lending program plus much more.

**Parenting Skills Program**, this program is facilitated in the Okanagan Correctional Centre to inmates who want to learn more about parenting. The intent is to break the cycle of intergenerational violence and trauma and to give inmates a better understanding of the affect of trauma on the developing brain of a child.

# WHAT WE DO CONT'D

---

**DS Cooks**, addresses the physical health and well-being of children and adults by teaching participants about nutritious foods, shopping on a budget and how to prepare food in nutritious ways. Information on preserving and freezing food is taught and pre/post-natal vitamins are available for pregnant and nursing women.

**Early Years Program**, provides support for parents of children 0-6 years old. This program is an outdoor based program to teach children and families the importance of play, nature and being outside unplugged from technology. We model positive parenting and provide parenting support. All the learning activities are play-based.

**Roots of Empathy (ROE)**, teaches students emotional literacy by using a mother and a baby in a specific classroom for the duration of the school year. Students become more self-aware and also see their own vulnerability in the vulnerability of the baby. They see empathy in action by watching the bond between a mother and a baby.

## Counselling for Women, Children, Youth and Men

**Women's Counselling** provides individual and group counselling to women over the age of nineteen who have experienced childhood abuse, in adult abusive relationships and/or experiencing sexualized violence.

**Women's Circle** provides women with a ninety-minute group session once a week. The Women's Circle is a safe place of support for women who are going through difficult times and the circle also provides support to women who are currently on the women's counselling waiting list.

**Children & Youth Counselling** provides individual and group counselling for children 3-18 years of age, exposed to intense family conflict/transition and/or abuse. Our counsellors also provide in school counselling and support to children and youth of all ages who are facing mental health issues.

**Youth Connection** -this program provides positive childhood experiences to our at-risk 9-12 year old's through connection with caring adults. This program is an after school program that was offered at one of our elementary schools this past year.

**Community Support Worker:** This program is in partnership with Interior Health. Desert Sun provides one CSW to each of the communities in Oliver and Osoyoos to work in local family practices to provide socio-emotional support to patients as part of the new team-based primary care network. The CSW provide outreach support (help with following treatment plans, psychosocial support, stabilizing vulnerable patients), help with completion of forms, assist patients and families with life skills support. The CSW's are the connection between patients in need and the services they need in the community.

# HOW CAN YOU HELP?

---

## Volunteer

We need volunteers to transport clients to and from appointments, volunteer administrative support and volunteer childcare.

## Fundraisers

We always need help with our fundraising events and then of course we always appreciate your financial support!

## Donations

We rely on the generosity of our communities and grants to offer the programs necessary to increase the quality of life for our community members. Without your support and our fundraising efforts, we will not be able to offer the many programs that we do. For your convenience, we have also added

**Planned Giving** in the form of a direct bequest in your will. For more information or to request a package please contact our office at 250-498-2538.



# THANK YOU!

We would like to thank the many businesses, private donors and service organizations that donate to our organization. without your support we would not be able to help all of the people reached in this snapshot below.

Government of Canada, Province of BC, Women's Shelter of Canada, Community Foundation of South Okanagan/Similkameen, Osoyoos Credit Union, Valley First, Interior Savings, Decoda Literacy Solutions, Town of Osoyoos, Shoppers Drug Mart, Royal LePage Shelter Foundation, BC Gaming, Quilting Guild of Osoyoos and Oliver, Dorcas Ladies, Women of Oliver for Women Society, United Church of Osoyoos and the Roman Catholic Women's League in Oliver are some of the organizations that donated to our organization in 2022/2023.

