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### Table Of Contents

Message from the CEO

Mission & Values

Flagship Programs

Sports Portfolio

Drug & Gang Education Portfolio

**Environment Portfolio** 

Counselling Portfolio

Mentorship Portfolio

Community Engagement Portfolio

**Employment Programs** 

Coming Together Gala - May 31, 2024

Angela Arora Golf Classic

**Testimonials** 



# Message from CEO

Many experts attribute the spike in youth crime to the increased number of street gangs-often the perpetrators of youth crime. Research indicates that youth seek comfort from those who welcome them and reinforce their sense of belonging. Unfortunately, some youth have no choice to turn to street gangs in order to satisfy their need for approval, belonging and selfworth. There is no consensus among experts on how to reduce youth crime. Crime involvement usually starts before the age of 15, with first time offences declining markedly once young people reach 20 years of age.

There is little evidence that punitive sanctions such as incarceration, community service hours, have been effective at reducing juvenile crime. There needs to be a balanced approach to dealing with young offenders. Some may need to be incarcerated, but many more need to be engaged in community programs that build character, increase self-esteem and develop life skills. Social development programs that provide youth with positive peer interactions,



opportunities to develop problem solving skills and a support adult help reduce the risk factors associated with youth crime.

Organized sports being used throughout the world as a dynamic mechanism for engaging youth of all races, genders, and classes. Organized sports programs are not the end all and be all solution to youth crime, however, they can contribute to reducing youth crime by giving young people a positive identity, feelings of empowerment and by helping youth acquire leadership, teamwork and self-governance skills under adult supervision. Although there is limited evidence of a direct causal relationship between youth sport and youth crime reduction, there are several rationales as to why youth sport reduces youth crime such as keeping young people busy and out of trouble, meet a need that youth have for excitement, make young people feel empowered, foster teamwork, and develop self esteem.

It is on account of these above mentioned factors that I have been running various sports programs on my own time and with my respective law enforcement agency. The bedrock and fundamental principle of all these programs is to establish a rapport with disadvantaged youth through the medium of sports. These initiatives provide the youth an opportunity to play in an organized sports tournament with the end goals being; building a bridge between these youth and adults in a constructive manner and providing the youth an opportunity to learn and develop sportsmanship, teamwork and leadership skills.

Sincerely,
Kal Dosanjh
Founder & Chief Executive Officer
Kids Play Foundation



#### OUR VISION

The vision at KidsPlay is to create young leaders within the community, and support the most vulnerable at their time of need. We hope to prevent young kids from falling victim to drug abuse and gang violence by providing them with positive constructive outlets at a young age - we are advocating for prevention.

#### OUR MANDATE

It takes a village to raise a child, we are that village. With a focus on at risk youth, by freeing them of financial barriers, and providing them with an abundance of culturally sensitive supports, we will see them succeed. Sports, Mentorship, Environment, Counselling and Mental Health, Drug and Gang Education, Community Patrol.. These streams are contributing factors towards reducing youth crime by giving young people a positive identity, feelings of empowerment and helping youth acquire leadership, teamwork, and self-governance skills under adult supervision.

1550+

VOLUNTEERS

355

**PROGRAMS** 

250,000+

**VOLUNTEER HOURS** 



# SUPER SOCCER AT BC PLACE



The BC Place Annual KidsPlay Cup happens every May, bringing in hundreds of children and giving them the opportunity to compete in a large-scale event. Many of the children that attend the event often come from minority and marginalized communities. Though not always the case, their coming from lower-socioeconomic backgrounds results in them having greater susceptibility to criminal activity. Through the BC Place KidsPlay Cup, we hope to provide a safe and supportive environment in which kids can break barriers, dedicate themselves, and learn from mentors.

The 1000+ kids in attendance. The appreciation of cultures and highlights of cultural diversity allow for the youth to break barriers between themselves and create long lasting bonds with not just new friends but with the concept of appreciating and understanding one another's cultures.

Throughout the tournament the students are given constant mentorship and support through the many volunteers and team members that come out to the event. This year we were happy to welcome a local high school class into the tournament as volunteers. Each and every one of those students made a difference that day alongside the rest of our volunteers. With the BC Place being one of our largest events, members of each of the six streams also come together to build a safe and supportive environment.

1100+ YOUTH 250+
VOLUNTEERS

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1100+ YOUTH 250+
VOLUNTEERS

# SPRING & SUMMER CAMPS

Each year KidsPlay hosts Spring and Summer Camps in the City of Surrey. These camps allow for students to adventure into learning outside the traditional classroom setting. KidsPlay aims to create new experiences for each and every student, pushing them to succeed and develop as leaders.

The camps are open for all students, with grades K-7 attending as participants and grades 8-12 coming out as volunteers.

The Spring and Summer camps also act as a support for many families, giving relief to the hardworking parents of the young participants. Many parents and guardians must still actively work full days during the breaks, the Spring and Summer Camps work not only as a fun event but also as a resource for parents to send their kids to. The safe and engaging environment creates fundamental memories that the kids nor the volunteers will ever forget.

120

VOLUNTEERS

415

YOUTH





### YOUTH KABBADI







Ever since 2017, KidsPlay has been sponsoring youth from Toronto to go and play at the Kabaddi World Cup, allowing the youth to utilize their energy in a positive manner. This year KidsPlay was proud to work alongside the New Canada Kabaddi Federation to host another free Youth World Cup Kabaddi and Wrestling Tournament at the Bell Centre Kabaddi Field, Kabaddi is a well known heritage sport from India and the Kabaddi Tournament held each year helps solidify a grounds on which youth can reconnect with their culture and create a sense of belonging. This year we saw what was highest caliber of elite performance we have seen in quite a while. The passion, dedication, and hard work done by each and every that participated phenomenal. Alongside the chance to play, participants were able to win award money from \$5,000 that day. This combined with the amazing support of referees, announcers, sports clubs, vendors, security and sponsors that made the event possible allowed all the youth to create meaningful and memorable memories. This amazing support not only gave these young athletes a sense of accomplishment for their hard work, but a sense of acknowledgement and belonging. The appreciation of their culture and heritage helped them establish even stronger bonds with their community here at home and has led them onto a path to be proud of every aspect of themselves.

#### MENTAL HEALTH FUNDRAISER





On May 5, 2023, Raj Jhajj and team presented "Coming Together for Mental Health," a fundraiser initiative in partnership with KidsPlay Foundation to raise awareness of the importance of mental health. Raj devoted this fundraiser to his cousin Rob, a cherished individual that was not only an active member of KidsPlay Foundation, but an incredibly positive person in the community. The fundraiser was highly successful, fulfilling the purpose of continuing the important discussion of mental health programs in the community. Over 750 individuals from the community gathered at Aria Banquet Hall in Surrey to come together for mental health!

750

ATTENDEES

55

VOLUNTEERS

\$127,455

**FUNDS RAISED** 

#### VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION NIGHT



Volunteer Appreciation Night is an elegant black tie event hosted to celebrate our hard working team of volunteers and to thank our amazing sponsors & community partners. Over 55 youth were recognized for their volunteer service. Full time students, working night shifts to support their families, and spending days mentoring young kids at our programs - this team works tirelessly all year long.





### SPORTS

KidsPlay Foundation aims to help kids grow, learn, and develop key teamwork skills through the teaching and participation of sporting events. Children are able to connect and reflect with teammates, learn from mentors and coaches, and connect with the community, all while having an amazing time. Our sports program ranges from basketball camps and softball games to more culturally connected sports like kabaddi. This year, KidsPlay was delighted to be able to host many sporting events like the Spring Basketball Camps, Ball Hockey Tournament, 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament, and many more. The intention KidsPlay hopes to serve with these sports programs is to build and reinforce positive relationships within the community - to allow kids to not only get involved and engaged but create a connection with sports. Sports are not just composed of physical components but mental, spiritual, and social ones too. The amazingly dedicated kids that come in and go through our sports program learn this through the teaching of self motivation, discipline, respect, teamwork, and responsibility. All of this in turn creates an environment where children don't feel pressured by the lures of the drug and gang lifestyle and instead can develop and grow into leaders.





1000+

KIDS

250+

VOLUNTEERS

23

PROGRAMS/EVENTS

# DRUG AND GANG EDUCATION





Drugs and gangs have had a significant impact on youth in the Lower Mainland. The presence of gangs and drug activity can create a culture of fear and violence in a community, which can be particularly damaging for young people who may be more vulnerable to the influence of negative peer pressure. Gang involvement and drug use can also lead to criminal behaviour, which can have long-term consequences for individuals and can further contribute to the cycle of violence and crime in the community. It is important for youth to be aware of the risks associated with drugs and gangs and to seek out positive and healthy alternatives for themselves and their peers. According to studies, the majority of young people who join gangs have a history of criminality, violence, and illegal drug use, and others tend to follow their example. The ultimate objective of KidsPlay is to create a community free from gang violence for many generations to come. Together, we can address the expanding youth gang issue.

For this reason, our organization holds drug and gang forums to lead the youth on the right path. Many speakers with experiences in this background come to share their stories. This allows the youth to feel personal connections; the speaker has direct knowledge of the negative effects of drug and gang involvement, making the message more relatable and impactful.

As well as this, youth may be inspired by the resilience and determination of the speakers who have overcome their problems with drugs and gangs, motivating them to make healthier life choices. These programs provide a place where kids can have a sense of belonging and thrive to be a better person or leader in our community.

Read more about the program here https://kidsplayfoundation.com/drug-gang-education/

### ENVIRONMENT

The Environment team consists of a group of young people passionate about protecting the environment and taking climate action. In their communities and beyond, they have demonstrated leadership in these areas and are inspiring others to do the same. The KidsPlay Foundation Environment Portfolio - Operation Green - has inspired hundreds of youth to take action and create environment related campaigns. Our Operation Green team runs multiple environment programs all year long - overseeing thousands of youth each year - planting thousands of shrubs and trees, cleaning and adopting streets, bottle drives, after school mentorship programs, hosting partnership projects with various cities and much more! We run monthly and bi-monthly programs to engage young kids and to empower them to become stewards of the earth. One of our 11 year olds planted 16 trees! We are so proud of our team, youth and little ones for spending hours on the ground ensuring each tree was planted with lots of love and care.

700+
TREES PLANTED

10+
STREET CLEAN-UPS





### COUNSELLING

Art and Play Therapy improves the lives of individuals, families, and communities by looking to sociology, aesthetic theory, social action and critical theory to encourage children to be more aware of themselves in the therapeutic frame. Through active art-making, the creative process, applied psychological theory, and human experience within a psychotherapeutic relationship, the holistic wellbeing of children attending this program is fostered. Taking all these aspects in hand, the program looks to make an enriching experience for our volunteers and participants. Since the program's launch, KidsPlay Foundation has held over 100 hours of sessions. With an average of 20 participants in our weekly sessions.

In October falls Mental Health Day, a day surrounded by bringing awareness to the importance of mental health issues. This year KidsPlay Foundation brought together 50 people in our community, including families, volunteers, and speakers; to have a seminar discussing the importance of recognizing mental health. The purpose of this seminar was to focus on breaking the stigma surrounding the topic, and bringing a more positive perspective around activities like therapy. Specifically in correspondence with the organization, the subject of therapy with children was heavenly addressed. Along with bringing a more welcoming mentality surrounding mental health into the household, and acknowledging its importance in the parent-child dynamic.

Through initiatives like the Art and Play Therapy Program and the Mental Health Awareness Seminar, KidsPlay Foundation has been able to create visible progress working one on one with families. And, reach out to members in the community about being conscious of family dynamics and bringing the importance of mental health acknowledgement into their households.





100+

ART THERAPY SESSION HOURS COMPLETED

20+

YOUTH AT EACH SESSION

### **MENTORSHIP**

Mentorship plays a critical role in supporting the aspirations of youth through guiding them down the right path, to make the most of the best opportunities out there for the youth's growth. Our mentorship team is committed to providing this means of support and resources to youth-in-need all across the lower mainland. This mentorship can take place in the form of 1-On-1 mentoring sessions where mentees are paired with highschool or university students/mentors or weekly after school programs in specific schools in the lower mainland. Currently, our team is running mentorship programs in 4+ schools in both Surrey & Langley, BC. Alongside these in-school programs, it is crucial for us to provide opportunities for youth to receive hands-on education. As such, each year, our team ensures that each student is able to attend a few field trips and have experiences that will help them develop a more holistic world view. All in all, our volunteers and team have designed this portfolio to assure youth that there is an outlet for them to access, someone they could rely on, and a safe place to belong.



517

MENTORING SESSIONS COMPLETED

2122

**MENTEES** 

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The key role of the KidsPlay Community Patrol team is to keep the community safe especially with the increase in gang violence in the lower mainland. Patrolling within the community provides a sense of security, prevents crime, allows us to identify and address community issues, and build stronger bonds with the community. Our primary goal is to increase visible presence to deter criminal activity or any suspicious activity.

Our Community Patrol Program operates weekly throughout the year. Patrolling takes place at heavily populated areas such as Surrey Central, Newton exchange, Scott road/ 72nd Ave and Bear Creek park and Holland Park. Every volunteer patroller has received training in Naloxone Administration, taking notes, and how to identify and report suspicious activity. We also interact with the community to educate the public about KidsPlay, informing them about how they can engage in our programs and access free resources for their youth. This is done through campaigns where patrollers give out informational pamphlets or simply engage in conversations with the public. In 2023, we had over 100 Patrollers who played an essential role in the safety of the community - majority being high school students who promote the interest among the youth in the community to volunteer with the Kids Play. Together, our team contributed 900+ volunteer hours towards community engagement and safety.

#### **ENGAGEMENT EVENTS**

Surrey Fusion Festival - Run Surrey Run - Canada Day Celebration - Kabaddi Cup - Newton Spook-takcular - Summer Camp - Soccer Tournament - Hockey Tournament - Canadian Blood Services - Still Moon Art society - Vaisakhi Parade - ICBC campaigns - Indian summer Festival - Tree Planting - Adopt A Street







900+

PATROLLING/ENGAGEMENT HOURS

100+

**PATROLLERS** 

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT







The KidsPlay Foundation team was proud to work with the City of Surrey at the Canada Day event and the Fusion Festival to engage youth with positive activities! The medley of diverse international foods, cultures and languages truly made this a world class event.











#### YMCA INTERNS

This year's Summer Camps were an astounding success, with hundreds of children being able to attend and connect with the amazing volunteers. Among our volunteers we were able to welcome 3 interns from Quebec into our KidsPlay Family on account of the YMCA and their support through the YMCA Grant which we received during the summer. These interns stayed here in BC and worked side by side with our team for a month and a half, helping with the organization of the Summer Camps and putting their absolute all into ensuring every kid had a memorable experience.



#### WORKBC INTERNS

We received a grant from Work BC. With this grant KidsPlay was able to hire hardworking and passionate interns that dedicated themselves to coming out each weekend and getting involved in each and every one of our programs. Our 10 amazing interns have helped us spectacularly, from engaging with the kids at Art and Play Therapy, to working side by side with our team to ensure events ran smoothly.

#### CANADA SUMMER JOBS STUDENTS

Each year KidsPlay was given the opportunity to work with Canada Summer Jobs and hire team members for our Summer Camps in the City of Surrey. These members are paid throughout the summer and are key organizers and helpers during the Summer Camps and are important role models to every child in attendance as well as our own volunteers.





# Gala-May community. To each and every single one of you that made the time to attend the event, I am grateful from

he Coming Together Gala was absolutely amazing. "I am grateful to all our remarkable sponsors, partners, and the

my heart. The love and respect you bestowed on us is mutual," says Kal Dosanjh. The evening was highlighted by our awards ceremony. I also congratulate all the award recipients. Special thanks to our speakers, So-

nia Sunger from Global BC as our evening MC, music superstar legend Malkit Singh and the Vancouver Police Pipe Band. Last, and most importantly, thank you Raj Jhajj, Priya, Kiran Toor, and all of our remarkable KidsPlay Foundation volunteers!

IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A CHILD, WE ARE THAT VILLAGE







The Coming Together Gala is an inspiring evening dedicated to fostering unity, understanding, and celebration among professionals. This special event is designed to offer an unforgettable experience, featuring stimulating conversations, a delicous dinner, vibrant dancing with first class entertainment, and exceptional networking opportunities.

Our focus for the night is to extend support to various esteemed foundations committed to mental health initiatives. These organizations play a crucial role in providing vital services such as free counseling, therapy programs including art and play therapy, and other supportive measures aimed at enhancing mental well-being for those in need. These programs are spearheaded by skilled clinical counselors, ensuring professional and compassionate care is accessible at no cost.

This gala serves as a poignant tribute to the lives we have lost to mental health challenges and addictions. It's a call to action for all of us to stand together in the fight against mental health issues, honoring those we've lost by contributing to a brighter, more supportive future. Let us unite for this cause, as we strive to make a significant impact in the realm of mental health, ensuring support and care are within reach for everyone requiring assistance.

Thank you for joining us in coming together with your support,

Raj & Priya Shajj

#### MAY 31, 2024 AT ARIA BANQUET HALL

Sponsorship package shared via email.





#### **ANGELA ARORA'S STORY**

I started golf at the age of 5, my dad used to play with his friends and he used to take me with him. I liked the sport right away. On my dad's days off and after he would come from work in the summer we would go play. I was competitive right from the start too. I was always up for putting competitions with my dad. Fast forward to when I was 10 years old, my dad took me to watch the CP Women's Open at Vancouver Golf Club. This was a prestigious LPGA Tournament that consisted of the world's best female golfers. When I was there I was mesmerized. My dad and I followed the group of Lexi Thompson, Inbee Park and Paula Creamer. Watching my idol Lexi play made me fall in love with the sport. Getting that exposure made me want to play golf professionally like those ladies. After the round Lexi signed her golf glove and came up to me and said "Thanks for watching!" I was over the moon. Seeing my passion for the game, my dad got me coaching and started enrolling me into golf tournaments. This is how my journey started.

I started off playing Junior Linkster tournaments, which are one day tournaments for kids who have just started. It was a great way to get exposure to tournament golf without feeling overwhelmed. The next step after that was MJT and CJGA tournaments, for more advanced juniors. After winning a few of those I started playing provincial championships. I won my first provincial at the age of 13, the 2017 BC Bantam Girls Championship at Christina Lake. After that I started playing national and international events. At the age of 15, I was selected to Team Canada. Now, alongside those I play golf at the NCAA Division 1 level at the University of Tennessee on a full golf scholarship and am currently in my 5th year representing Team Canada. I also had the honor to play in my first LPGA tournament this past summer, the CPKC Women's Open, the same place where it all started. The journey from playing with my dad at the age of 5 to representing my country and the University of Tennessee has been surreal. But I am not done yet. No where close. I am working hard for the childhood goal of playing professionally on the LPGA Tour.

My whole journey started because of the exposure my dad gave me to golf, the constant support of my mom and the way my idol Lexi Thompson gave me encouragement. Her action of giving me her signed golf glove was like she was giving me the baton, to the next generation in women's golf. This action of hers gave me my life of golf, while I am constantly working on accomplishing my dream, I want to pass the baton over to more young girls and boys. I have volunteered at junior golf camps, to start the process of encouraging kids and help them gear towards sports, specifically golf. Golf is an amazing sport that has taught me more than just about athleticism, it has taught me independence, confidence, social skills, work ethic and more importantly it enabled me to dream big and have a life goal.

### **ANGELA ARORA'S STORY**

•	Played in the CPKC Women's Open (First LPGA)
•	Champion – Clover Cup (NCAA) (2023)
•	T10 – Collegiate Invitational at GCC (NCAA) (2023)
•	2nd – Pacific Northwest Women's Amateur Championship (2022)
•	Champion – NextGen Pacific Championship, fueled by JOURNIE Reward
	(2022)
•	Champion – CJGA Western Canadian Championship at Mayfair Lakes
	(2022)
•	3rd – Dixie Women's Amateur (2021)
•	T3 – Canadian Women's Amateur Championship (2021)
•	Champion – The Glencoe Invitational (2021)
•	T3 – Canadian Women's Amateur Championship (2021)
•	Medalist and Quarterfinalist – PNGA Women's Amateur Championship
	(2021)
•	Champion – B.C. Junior and Juvenile Girls Championship (2020)
•	4th – B.C. Women's Amateur Championship (2020)
•	Selected into Team Canada Junior Squad (September 2019)
•	T20 at the World Junior Girls Championship
•	Champion – 2019 Future Links, driven by Acura Ontario (2019)
•	T4 – B.C. Women's Amateur Championship (2019)
•	Champion – BC Bantam Girls Championship (2017)

### **Testimonials**

"Hi Akansha - I think I may have seen you but we haven't officially met. I wanted to thank you for including my girls in the leadership event this weekend. We can't stop raving about the amazing speakers. And how their hardship & hard work resulted in ultimate success. The girls caught me tearing up at some of the stories, i should have brought some tissues. Being a single mom myself, being private & reserved I'm glad we found an organization that embraces with absolute inclusivity and doesn't judge. Thank you again"

"I have seen kids play events, being a non- profit organization they still arrange the events very professionally and have events running throughout the year. Art therapy runs mostly every Saturday and many kids have benefited through this program Kiran and Kal you guys are doing very good job showing volunteers and kids right path."

"I went to see event in Newton on Saturday and got to know about this organization. The volunteers were welcoming us warmly especially Nafees Feroz who explained us how this organization helps youth to engage in different sports activities and keep them away from drugs and gangs."

"All I have to say is that so many kids have been impacted by kids play in a positive way. I've seen the volunteers consistently showing up when no one else has that same level of commitment. Unfortunately some people in the community like to poke at I negative and make everything about that. When my child is older, I hope she volunteers for an organization like this. We need to support organizations like this so kids have an outlet and a strong sense of community to be a part of. Keep it up kids play. I pray for your continual success."

"KidsPlay Foundation is really wonderful for coming generations it's so important for children to take in positivity because in this foundation children learn many things regarding humanity's even empathy and sympathy which is part of our life KidsPlay has five streams: Sports, Education, Mentorship, Counselling and Environment; these are contributing factors towards reducing youth crime, drug abuse and addiction, and gang violence by giving young people a positive identity, feelings of empowerment and by helping youth acquire leadership, teamwork and self-governance skills under adult supervision."

### Case Studies

#### Case study 1: youth with autism

The evening began with the child running behind other kids. Restless at seeing the others continue to run away from him, he gets frustrated and sits down. When asked by his mentor as to why he may think the kids are keeping away from him, he answers with an anxious voice "because they are stupid." Then she proceeded to ask if he had ever been chased before, he told her about being chased in school by the other kids. "Do you enjoy it when you are being chased," asked the mentor, and the answer was a simple 'no' but full of realization. The group was instantly drawn to his behavior and began to talk to him. The child now continues to come to the program, and has presented signs of gradual psychological and physical improvement. KidsPlay Counselors are involved in assisting the development of this youth.

#### Case study 2: sexually exploited youth

A young girl visited the office with her halfway house staff. She was anxious and showed signs of uneasiness when she saw one of the male staff at the office. She proceeded to follow him and went on to hold him from the back. Startled, the male did not know how to respond and brought this to the management's attention. The helper from the halfway house explained this girl feels the need to present herself to males as she feels that is how she can stay safe. From that day onwards, character and identity development in a positive setting has led her to doing better academically, socially, and working on building herself back up.

#### Case study 3: early involvement in gangs

A 12 year old was found with weapons at his school. From the day that event took place, to now eight months later, this child has transformed completely. His home life is not stable which has contributed to finding 'home' outside in a gang setting. He has since found his 'home' at KidsPlay with his big brother and mentor. A lot of work has been put into place to ensure this child can return to a sense of belonging whilst working on strengthening his identity.

#### Case study 4: young children losing their mum

We were called to a school by the school counselor to meet with a grandmother who lost her daughter in law and has her kids in her care. The 12 year old son witnessed the mum's passing of a brain aneurysm. The 9 year old daughter was asleep at that time. Six months of constant support by the school and community at large helped this family back on their feet. We were called to add another layer of support. The two kids are regular attendees of our Art Therapy program and seek counseling and additional support through our mental health team. The 12 year old has gone absolutely quiet and has made tremendous strides over the last year, he now laughs, makes jokes and is welcoming to new kids. The little girl is as bubbly as ever, not knowing how to acknowledge the loss of her mother.

Case study 5: Two souls healing one another.

"Everyone is snowed in and programs are running virtually. One on one mentorship is provided both in person and virtually. While doing my rounds, I was going into different virtual calls. I witnessed a ten year old tell her mentor that her dad has gone in for 'alcohol treatment' - she was referring to detox. This child's family has been with us since 2020, they were referred to us during the pandemic after the loss of a parent. Her mentor, who is now 16, came to KidsPlay as a 14 year old at risk youth who was abandoned because of his father's substance addiction. He asked her how she felt about this, and she said she hopes she doesn't have to baby her dad from now on. And they both shared a laugh. This boy who lost everything is healing this little girl, and unknowingly, she is doing the same for him. These two amazing kids gave me a moment to reflect and be grateful." - Kiran T, President

Case study 6: Drug and Gang Expert on KidsPlay Education Team - Sumit Ahuja has changed thousands of lives by sharing his story. He goes into classrooms and shares with kids what trauma can do to them if they don't ask for help, how it can ruin their lives. Not addressing it will catch up to them sooner or later. He lost his father at 12 and continued to push forward to support his family and graduated from UBC Law School with honors. Unfortunately, as time passed and he developed an addiction to cocaine to numb his pain. While KidsPlay gave him speaking opportunities to share his story, Sumit helped many kids from falling victim to drug abuse, he gave the kids and children a positive contructive outlet. B.C. lawyer addicted to cocaine and alcohol talks about stepping back from the edge - BC | Globalnews.ca

Case Study 7: When Stan Price was dealing drugs, he butted heads with VPD member Kal Dosanjh, but now through the KidsPlay Youth Foundation, they're working together to keep kids from joining gangs. <a href="https://www.straight.com/news/1338271/ex-gangster-stan-price-and-cop-kal-dosanjh-find-common-ground-help-metro-vancouver-kids">https://www.straight.com/news/1338271/ex-gangster-stan-price-and-cop-kal-dosanjh-find-common-ground-help-metro-vancouver-kids</a>

